

Field work in Australia, 2015

1. Aim: In Global Research I, to fulfill the research and carry out the field work in Japan and overseas.
2. Purpose: To research on world food problems effectively, and compare with Australian agriculture. To exchange the views on agriculture and food with Victoria University students.
3. Place: Melbourne, Australia
Time: Nov. 19-24, 2015
4. Participants: 10 students, 1st year, and 3 supervising teachers
5. Receiving side: Dr. Mark Vicars, Dr. Ligia Pelosi, and students from Victoria University, Melbourne, Australia.
6. Programs:

Day	Date	Schedule
1	Nov. 20	Welcome BBQ
2	Nov. 21	Queens Victorian Market and CERES Environment Park
3	Nov. 22	Eltham Farmers Market Edendale Farm Healsville Wildlife Ecological Sanctuary
4	Nov. 23	Eco-loving Centre Werribee Market Gardens

Day 1, Nov. 20

Because of the foggy weather at Akita Airport, we missed the scheduled flight at Narita Airport. VU students and Professors had a welcome BBQ for us. We enjoyed Australian food, such as Kangaroo meat. We compared Japanese food or recipes and Australian one. The students had a great time with them.

Day 2, Nov. 21

AM: Taking the tram to Queen Victoria Market, which is the largest market in Melbourne. The students joined the foodie's tour. The excellent tour guide, Jenny, explained about the market. They stopped by each store and had a little tasting such as Kangaroo meat, tomatoes, strawberries, cheese or chocolate. Each student interviewed to Jenny or about their own theme in English.



PM: Research at CERES Environment Park. Alice, the park guide explained the food production system. About 30 years ago, this park area was a garbage dump. The students learned about the cleaning up project and the sustainable farming in the park. They kept records of their observations on the vegetables in their outdoor workshops.

DAY 3, Nov.22

AM: Research at Eltham Farmers Market. About 30 shop tents were in the market. Each student visited tents and ask some questions about their research theme with positive attitudes.



PM: At Edendale Farm, Ms. Rachael Bishop had a lecture about food mileage. The students investigated environmental impacts of food choices by looking specifically at food that has travelled great distances compared with food

produced more locally. After the lecture, she took them on a farm tour. It was to look at (and feed) some of the animals whilst learning about their products and the impact that farm animals have on the land and how land is managed: composting and worm farming. The students could draw some conclusions about how their food choices can impact the environment.



After Edendale Farm, they moved to the Healsville Wildlife Ecological Sanctuary. They observed some indigenous Australian animals.

DAY 4, Nov. 23

AM: Eco-living centre-meet facilitator, Bronnie Walsh at the St Kilda Botanical Gardens.

Session 1 Energy/Gardens/Water use

- tour of the House looking at sustainable features
- use energy meters to look at energy consumption of typical household appliances
- light meters to check light in different rooms
- tour of the garden, looking at different rain gardens, vertical gardens and community garden
- sample bush tucker indigenous plants



Session 2 Marine Animals/Waste

- Litter audit analysis on way to the beach, making connections with drains and the Bay esp mention global issues with balloons, other circular litter
- Tour of the Little Penguin Colony and look at litter issues with urban wildlife



PM: Werribee market gardens, one of the growers to speak
Mini tour of the farm which featured: The packing sheds including cool rooms, sewing room, nurseries. A walk around the farm to demonstrate the different develop stages of growth e.g. plant stages all the way through to cutting stage.



(Comments)

The students had a fulfilling schedule for 6 days. The scheduled flight was cancelled because of the foggy weather. They struggled with Australian English accents, but they tried hard to speak English and asked a lot of their questions. Besides their research subjects, they had many experiences, such as flight changes, temperature difference in day, 4 seasons in one day, differences in English and ethnicities. This field work was worthwhile for each student.

Special thanks to Dr. Mark Vicars, Victoria University for taking the initiative. He also gave some meaningful advice for the field work programs for next year.

The schedule was very tight on this field work. We need to arrange the schedule to be more flexible for next year.

We will keep in touch with Dr. Vicars via Skype to report on this field trip and receive special instructions for presentation of their achievements at the exchange meeting in February.

(Feedbacks from students)

-It was a very precious time for me to grow up. I learned it was important to speak actively to the Australians. After talking to them, my fear disappeared.

-My most impressive activity in this field work was that I could speak up and ask questions in English.

-I should speak directly about what I think.

-I thought my English was poor, but I could communicate with Australians. I got strong confidence. I want to go abroad to communicate with the local people in English.

-Everything that I saw and did were new for me.

-Seeing is believing. I have decided to study English more and more.

-Surprisingly, I could ask questions in English actively. Not only learning from this field work, but also I will do my best on my report.

-I could see the city view and the lifestyles of Melbourne. I enjoyed talking to local people.

-I wanted to make the most of my experiences in field work.