



G'day mate! Having spent half of the year in "The Land Down Under" provided us with many life lessons, even more hilarious moments, and new lifelong friends through this incredible journey. The previous sentence might sound very cliché to you since you hear it from everyone, but trust us, it is VERY true.

### **SURVIVING FIRST WEEK**

Melbourne is one of the most student-friendly and multicultural city we've ever been to, so us students would fit right in! You just have to get your guts out there to meet the friendly, laid-back Melbournians. Most often, the person in front of you is just another student looking for another friendly face.

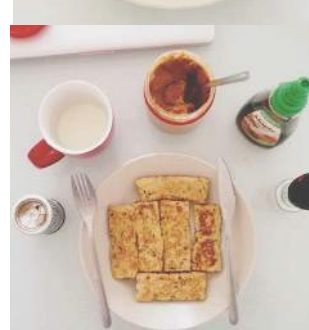
So surviving the first week, we had to get our transportation sorted out first. Melbourne has this transportation system which includes trams, trains and buses with one card, Myki. Us exchange students can get the concession card; check with the university if they can provide you with that, since it would save you half of the transportation fees! Which brings me to another important matter, Melbourne or Australia in general, is a VERY EXPENSIVE country, so financial management is very important. If you can cook, cook; buy fresh produce (fruits and vegetable) from the *market* and not the *supermarket*. It can save you a lot more money. In Melbourne, there is this famous market called Queen Victoria Market, which has been around for over a hundred years, so it is both a marketplace as well as a tourist attraction. The "VicMart" (short for Thais) is located at Queen and Victoria street and is very accessible via foot or public transportation. If you arrive Melbourne early and have some time to spare, roam around the city with public transportation and those free city tours book you can get at any tourist info desk. Melbourne has a lot to offer and has the little hidden treasures most people aren't aware of, so get on a tram/train and explore the most livable city in the world!

### **STUDYING IN AUSTRALIA**

Studying in Australia is a bit different than Thammasat in a sense that the classes have two segments to them; the lectures and the tutorials. The reason there are two parts is because the size of the lectures are usually big (mostly more than 100 students), so there must be separate tutorials to solidify contents learned in the lectures. Each tutorial size is approximately 20 students, and the tutorials are mandatory and considered as part of the class. In short, students must attend both the lectures and tutorials. We found that having tutorials helped us a lot in learning because of the smaller and more intimate atmosphere of each class which enables a lot of class discussions and exchange of ideas.

### **LIVING IN MELBOURNE**

Melbourne is a food & wine city, so there's a plethora of choices to choose from. One of the factors that made Melbourne so special is its diversity. In one street, you can find all types of cuisines you wish for, but there are each country's district as well; some of the biggest country districts are Lygon Street (Italian = spaghetti's and gelatos!), North Richmond (Thai & Vietnam), Little Bourke Street (China Town), and the list goes on and on. Melbourne is nothing without its coffee culture; you can say that the whole city is a



*caffiend* (noun; *Someone who cannot stay awake without caffeine.*) There are hundreds of nice cafés hidden in little alleys and streets all over the city. So make sure you visit those places. Some of the famous ones are Market Lane Coffee (Queen Victoria Market), Sensory Lab (Little Collins Street - behind David Jones Mall), Brother Baba Budan (Little Bourke Street). During the duration of your stay, if the schedule permits, rent cars (or book day tours if you don't drive) and go on a road trip. Other than that, just have fun during your stay!

PS. Most shops (e.g. Topshop) offer student discounts so make sure you ask for the discount!

## TRAVELING

Not only does Australia have an interesting culture, its nature and wildlife are also extremely diverse and different from any other countries you've ever been to. You will get the opportunity to see the strangest creatures like the Tasmanian Devils and white Wallabies. Whether you are looking forward to adrenaline rushing activities like jumping down from the clouds 14,000 ft above The Great Barrier Reef in Cairns (also known as one of the most beautiful places in the world for sky diving), skiing down the snowy slopes of Mount Buller,

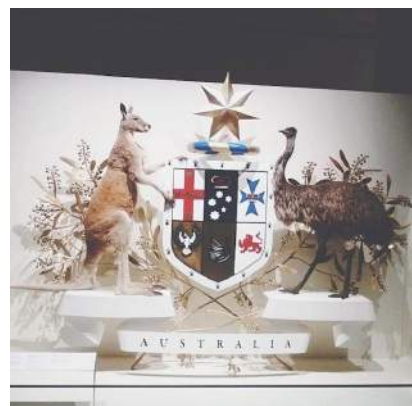
rafting down the crocodile infested Barron River, or more peaceful holidays snorkeling in the Great Barrier Reef, taking endless road trips through the desert, and watching the beautiful rainbow sunsets at the Byron Bay lighthouse, you can never be disappointed in this country.

The best way to get around Australia is by air. Tiger Airways and Jetstar are Australia's budget airlines that offers the best deals so be sure to keep updated by subscribing to their newsletters or liking their facebook pages because they run out incredibly fast! Traveling by air is very convenient and fast, however, you may miss Australia's gorgeous roadside sceneries, so road trips are highly recommended as well (they drive on the same side as in Thailand and you can use your Thai driver's license). One very cool website you can use to find cool accommodation is Airbnb.com. You can find accommodation that range from sofa-beds in a living room to chic beach houses. But you must keep in mind that Australia is as big as Europe or the U.S.A., so, if you do decide on coming to "Straya", make sure you plan your adventures very carefully and ahead of time as there are so many things to do.

*Anchisa Pimukwongchai*  
*Saralee Mahawanitwong*







Lilly Pilly Gully, Wilson's Promontory, Melbourne







Flinders Street Station, Melbourne

Floriade Festival, Canberra

