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## Reflection on Australia

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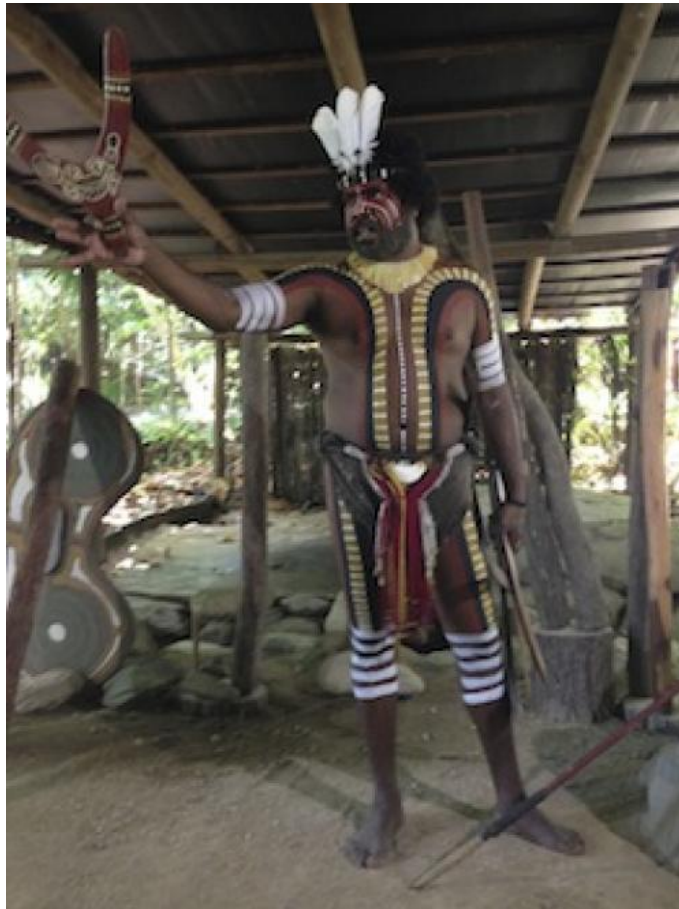
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## Reflection on Australia



*Demonstration of hunting boomerang by Yirrganydji member*

I have been home from Australia for one week and I am starting to settle into my life back home. It was great to be back in Oregon for Thanksgiving and I have loved catching up with family and friends. Since my arrival back home, I've had plenty of time to reflect on my study abroad experience. Although I have learned a lot during my time abroad, I would like to focus on three things: independence, cultural awareness, and appreciation for travel.

Prior to studying abroad, I had never taken public transportation by myself and I rarely travelled alone. While abroad, I navigated busy streets, traveled on the bus alone (and ended up at the correct location), and journeyed to Australia alone. In my previous entries, I discussed how I was the only Linfield student to be at James Cook University this fall. Although it would have been wonderful to experience this trip with a fellow Linfield Wildcat, I am happy that I was able to make the trek to Australia by myself because it forced me to branch out and take opportunities I may not have otherwise. Leaving all familiarity in Oregon was very intimidating, but very rewarding. Since studying abroad, I have a new sense of confidence and independence.

Although Australians speak English, I learned that doesn't mean that their culture or entire language is the same as mine. I learned a lot of Australian slang and phrases that are very different from American English. The Australian culture is also quite different from American. They are more laid back and take

each day as it comes. In general, Americans live in a fast-paced environment that involves meeting deadlines and constantly working. Australians, on the other hand, understand the importance of relaxing with their “no worries, mate” attitude. Through my study abroad experience, I was exposed to a new culture and learned a lot about people while in Australia.

I now have an appreciation for travel and culture since studying abroad. I made lifelong friends from all over the world such as New York, Chicago, Boston, Denmark, Norway, Germany, and Australia. Meeting these people has made my world seem a little smaller and my heart a little bigger. Studying in Australia has sparked an interest to travel and I hope to continue traveling throughout my life.

Thank you Linfield for this opportunity to travel!

Hannah