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Person to Person in Australia

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Living The Australian Way

I interviewed a classmate from Australian Vegetation Class. I was surprised that genders-mixed accommodation is an option here. This is never a thing in the United States and China. At most, females and males live in one building but not one apartment.

The second thing I was surprised is Kangaroo is not a protected animal. People can eat it. As known, kangaroo is the symbol of Australia; I thought its position in Australia the same as the Giant Panda in China. I tried kangaroo meat in a restaurant then. Kangaroo meat is more expensive than beef but not as tasty as beef. People here do not have to pay tips, which is great. Also, Chinese restaurants here are almost as good as the restaurants in China, while Chinese restaurants in the US are so fake! Super fake!

Australian English is quite lazy. Australian people call Breakfast "Brekky" or "Brekkie," Kangaroo "Roo," lipstick "lippy," etc. I have no idea what they talk about if they speak Aussie English. As a member of the British Commonwealth, Australia has adapted some British norms, such as driving on the left side and celebrating the queen's birthday. However, they think they are not a part of the British Empire, only a member of the Commonwealth. Australia is safer than the United States as the Australian government has way better control over guns and drugs. In terms of racial discrimination, Australia does better than the US. Australia has no such thing called "political correctness." Australia's pluralistic society is much more harmonious than America's.

It is ok to walk on the streets at night. However, not many people go out at night. This is because stores and shopping malls close very early in Australia. Compared to shopping malls and stores

usually closing at 9 pm in the US, Australian opening hours normally last until 7 pm. In addition, online shopping in Australia is inconvenient, especially Amazon. Amazon is so useless here. Many goods have to be shipped from other countries, so you have to pay high shipping fees.

Australian life is relaxed. People here have a thing called “stress leave.” How wonderful! However, tax here is high. Income tax is about 30%. The sun here is very strong because there is an ozone hole above Australia. Ultraviolet rays cannot be reduced. In order to prevent skin cancer, SPF50+ sunscreen is needed.

As a Chinese, my three meals a day must be hot while she, an Australian, may have some cold food, mostly cold milk, salad, and sandwiches. Australians, like other westerners, will ask questions or directly express their dissatisfaction. Chinese are more likely to avoid trouble, tolerate, and tend to express their opinions in a roundabout way. Australians, like other westerners, are very confident; on the contrary, the Chinese pay attention to the humble and modest attitude.

I had a quite good interview with Chloe Mackenzie. She told me some things I had not noticed such as taxes and stress leave. Also, she made me feel all western people are kind of the same. In the end, I think Australia is a good place for retired life. Its environment is well protected. The infrastructure is more developed than the US. The most important, Chinese food here is so much better than in the US. It is comfortable to live in Australia.