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A New Perspective in Australia

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A New Perspective in Australia

I chose to interview my friend who goes by the nickname JT. From the moment I met him he was someone who I saw as being very laid-back. He is also an international student as he was born in Papua New Guinea. He does not see himself as being a guest in Australia but rather views it as his home. He went to boarding school in Australia and fell in love with the country. He looked into universities and found that James Cook University had a business degree that he could pursue. I think that one of the biggest differences between myself and JT is our overall perspective on life. He is a very live-in-the-moment guy while I tend to find myself worrying about what is going to come next: whether that is making plans or overly worrying about school. By being around JT I learned that I should try to appreciate small moments and live in the present. Especially during all of the chaos and stress that was occurring during the coronavirus confusion, I could always count on JT to be my rock. With all of the uncertainty and chaos it was great to go up to his apartment to just hang out with him and get a good laugh or advice if I needed it.

Whenever I would go out anywhere with JT, he would always see someone he knew. This comfort and familiarity spoke a lot about his culture and also how friendly of a guy he is. There is a very large presence of people from Papua New Guinea in Australia, specifically, in Cairns and at James Cook University. Once, after JT saw a friend at the local mall, I asked him how he knew everyone. He told me that there was a very great community of all the people in Cairns who are from Papua New Guinea. He told me that whether they were someone he

considered a friend or just a familiar face it was a community and group of people he could rely on. He said since it was a large but very close-knit community, he always felt that he had a group of people that he could rely on and find for entertainment or support. The need for a community was something that JT and I quickly bonded over. I came in knowing no one at my apartment complex and I met JT early on. Family and friends are very important to us and was a common ground that we established and it felt that he took me under his wing.

Overall, the interview was very relaxed and more of a conversation rather than me just asking questions. My interview with JT was a couple days prior to my departure and gave me a lot of appreciation for the friends and community that I created during my short time in Australia. Though my experience abroad did not turn out the way I wanted it to, I know that I have met some good people that I will go back and visit.