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2015-16 Postcards

Postcards from Abroad

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2-14-2016

## My First Days in Australia

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Natalie Stout Australia Townsville

My first days in Australia 2/14/16



*Me hanging out with some Kangaroos*

Hello all! It's so crazy to think that I'm writing this journal entry from Australia! I've been here for three days already, but it is still so surreal! Just from what I've been able to see in my first few days at James Cook University, Australia is so beautiful! The sky is always blue and sunny and the plants are so different from Oregon here! It's also been extremely hot here, but in a good way! It's been a nice change from all the rain.

My travel buddy and I arrived in Townsville Thursday afternoon and we have been so busy since! We spent Thursday just getting situated in our rooms and walking around the campus to orient ourselves.

On Friday we had our International Student Orientation that lasted most of the day. We met a lot of great people at the orientation from all over the world! JCU even had the nearby sanctuary bring some animals to the event and so I got to hold a baby crocodile! It was a lot mushier than I was expecting but it was such a cool experience. At the orientation there were also many booths with information all about the uni and city. Having all those booths there was so helpful! Josh and I were able to figure out lots of fun things that we plan to do throughout our time here and we were able to discover these great things to do with the new friends that we had made at the orientation. We spent the rest of Friday learning how the bus system works here (it's super easy once you get the hang of it) and we spent some time exploring downtown Townsville. Everyone we have been meeting is so friendly and so willing to help and talk to you if you get lost a few times like Josh and I did!

Saturday was another fun and busy day! This time we went to the city but not downtown. There is a mall about five minutes away by bus so Josh and I went down and explored that mall. It's so fun and interesting to see all the new brands that they have in Australia that we don't have in America. That night we had a BBQ with a few European friends we made at the International Student Orientation! We were all there on the beach for probably about four hours and we all had so much fun! All of the Australian Students are arriving tomorrow so I'm excited to be able to begin making friends with some Aussies! See you guys in my next post!

Natalie