



MINISTRY  
OF EDUCATION  
MALAYSIA



## **“DKLS LINGUISTIC AMBASSADOR AWARD” PROGRAMME**

**GOLD MEDALLIST’S STUDY TOUR  
TO AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY  
13-19 FEBRUARY 2020**

**by  
SITI HANISAH BINTI ABDUL RAZAK**



**Prize Presentation Ceremony  
Friday, 20 September 2019  
Ministry of Education, Malaysia**

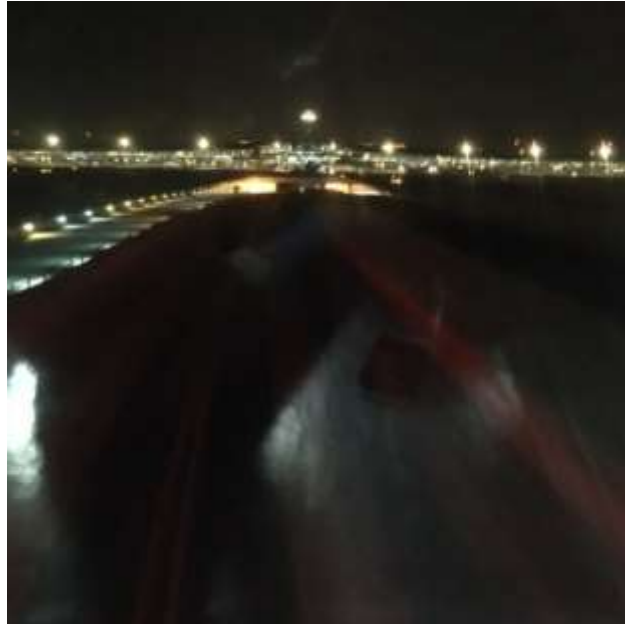
## DAY 1 - 13 FEBRUARY 2020

The journey began on February 13. My family and I arrived at KLIA at 8:51 PM. We did not waste much time and went straight to the check-in counter, where we met Nicole, the DKLS representative chaperoning us. We had a little chat and before you knew it, it was finally time for my mother and I to bid goodbye to my father. We took a group picture and said our goodbyes.

Then the three of us – Nicole, my mother and I boarded an aerotrain to get to the departure terminal. It was my first time on an aerotrain so it was a wonderful experience for me. Witnessing the view of the airport at night, all lit up somehow made me feel all warm and happy inside. I really enjoyed the ride but before I could blink we had already arrived at the departure terminal. We decided to have a break at Starbucks for a while. Nicole briefed me on my itinerary. A few more chitchats later and it was finally time for us to enter our boarding gate, C32. Everything went smoothly though the queue was undeniably long. Our flight departed at precisely 11:50 PM.



Group photo with my parents



View from the aerotrain



My boarding pass



Fellow passengers

## DAY 2 - 14 FEBRUARY 2020

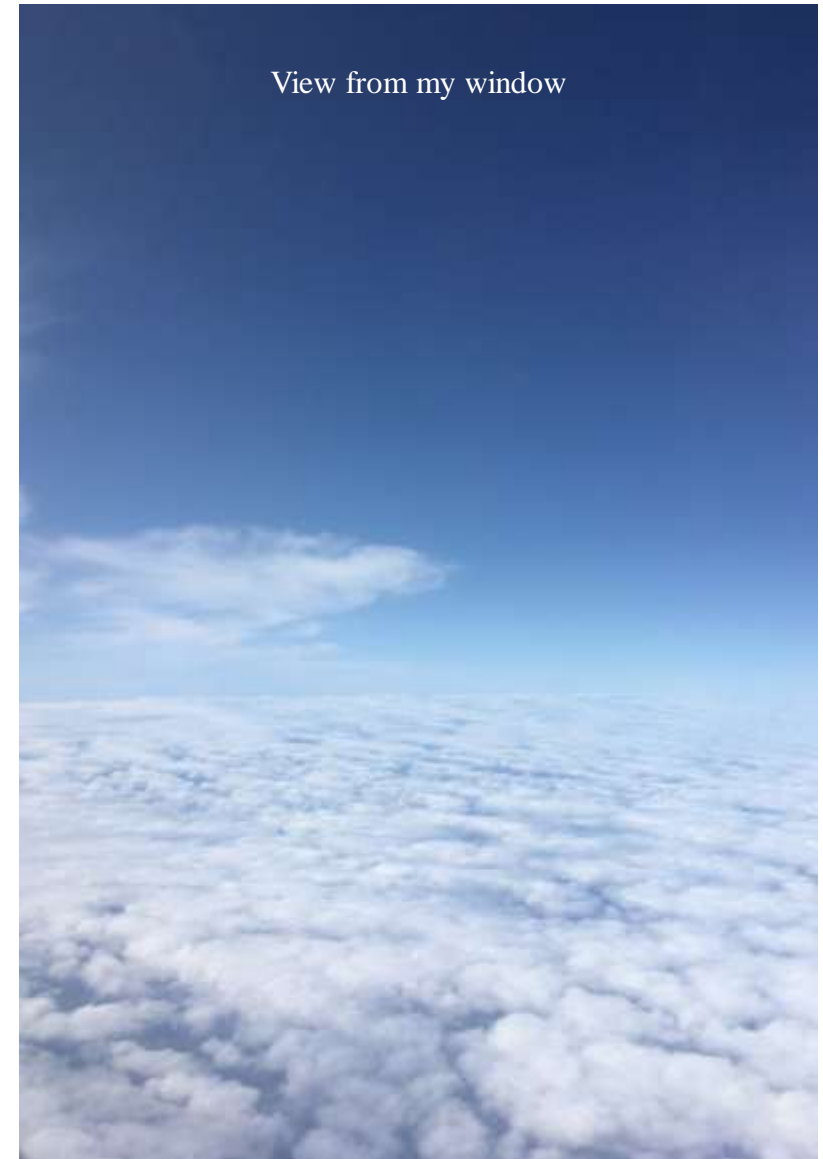
We were now on board, more than 30,000 feet up in the sky, hovering above the clouds. For supper there were two choices – mushroom pizza and scrambled eggs. I chose mushroom pizza with a cup of Coke to replenish my energy while listening to some music on my phone (which had been set to airplane mode, obviously.) Every once in a while I peeked out the window, taking in the darkness of the night that now seemed so eerie and ghostly. Time passed pretty fast and soon enough it was already morning, the blue sky now visible, rays of sun slipping through the clouds shining over the window. At around 9:25 AM we were served breakfast and I decided to have nasi lemak with tea. The other choice was scrambled eggs with sausage which was the one my mother went for. Throughout the flight I did nothing, just looking around while still curling up in the blanket they provided (it was still cold for me even though it was already morning!). I managed to have a chat with one of the stewardesses when I was in line for the lavatory – just casual talk, asking me what were my travel plans, that kind of thing. Flight attendants never fail to amaze me – their alertness and friendliness, flaired with their beauty – I’ve always admired them for those qualities.



My mother and I onboard



My breakfast – nasi lemak with fruits, low fat yogurt, plain water and bread



We safely landed in Sydney Airport at 10:55 AM and went straight to the immigration. We were required to fill up Incoming Passenger Cards (IPC) with our personal details such as our names, passport numbers and our purpose of visiting Australia. It was such a long wait because there were so many people queuing... We finished our business at the immigration at around 12 noon and immediately made our way to Sydney CBD Hotel by cab. The whole journey I was just marveling at how beautiful Sydney is – it was my first time there, after all. Along the way I took some pictures of things that attracted my attention like the signboards (it felt amazing to finally see signboards like the ones you see in movies) and the scenery. We arrived at the hotel at 12:32 PM, checked into our room and took a short break. All three of us were worn out by the long flight and the lack of sleep we experienced so we decided to have a short nap. I didn't sleep though – the whole time I was on my phone, checking all the latest updates from my friends (or lack thereof, since it was a school day and they were at school) and getting all excited about the complimentary biscuits I managed to grab from the reception counter earlier. Then at 2:51 PM we went downstairs, walked to a restaurant nearby and ordered takeaway food. Mine was fish and chips with an iced caramel macchiato (wrong choice, I'm not a coffee drinker but why did I still order that??)



The signboards

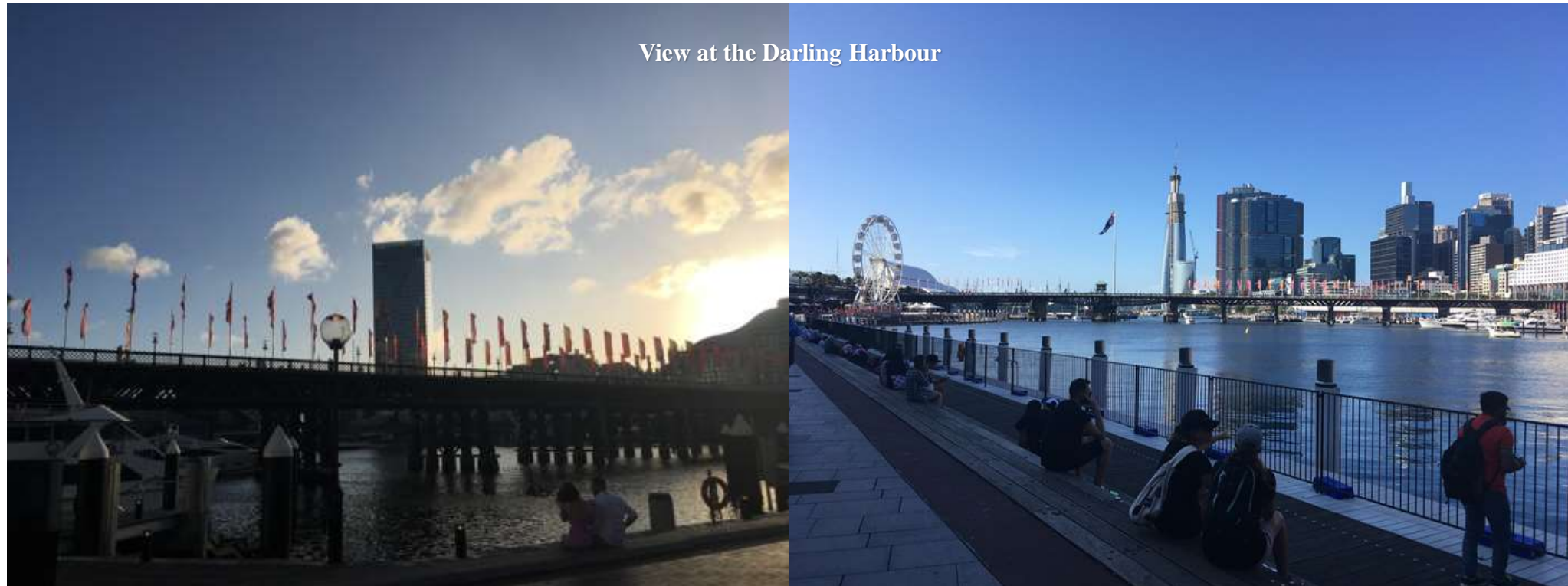


Complimentary biscuits



My drink - caramel macchiato

At 5 PM my mother and I met up with Nicole and we walked to Darling Harbour which was not far from our hotel. We took a stroll down the harbour and I was amazed by the ambience of the place that captivated me – the busy nature of the harbor, people walking around having chats, the colourful flags lined up perfectly swaying with the wind, the evening sun that shined upon us – it all resonated with me. Darling Harbour was apparently the centre of many tourist attractions like the Sea Life, mini zoo, Madame Tussauds and a variety of cafes and restaurants that were alive with joy and laughter. We walked further down the harbour and I took some pictures while admiring the beauty of it all. Then we went to the Harbourside Shopping Centre where I bought some souvenirs for myself and for loved ones back home at this one shop named Kangaroos and Koalas. After that we went to Typo (a stationery shop) and I couldn't resist the cuteness of the notebooks there so I bought three really cute notebooks. I also managed to have a little chat with the staff there, she was really jovial and made me feel at ease. Then I got a rainbow ice cream - it was so cute (and delicious too!) We did some more shopping and took some more pictures (just a bunch of tourists doing what tourists do) Later on we caught a cab to a Malaysian restaurant named Mamak, located in Chinatown for dinner.





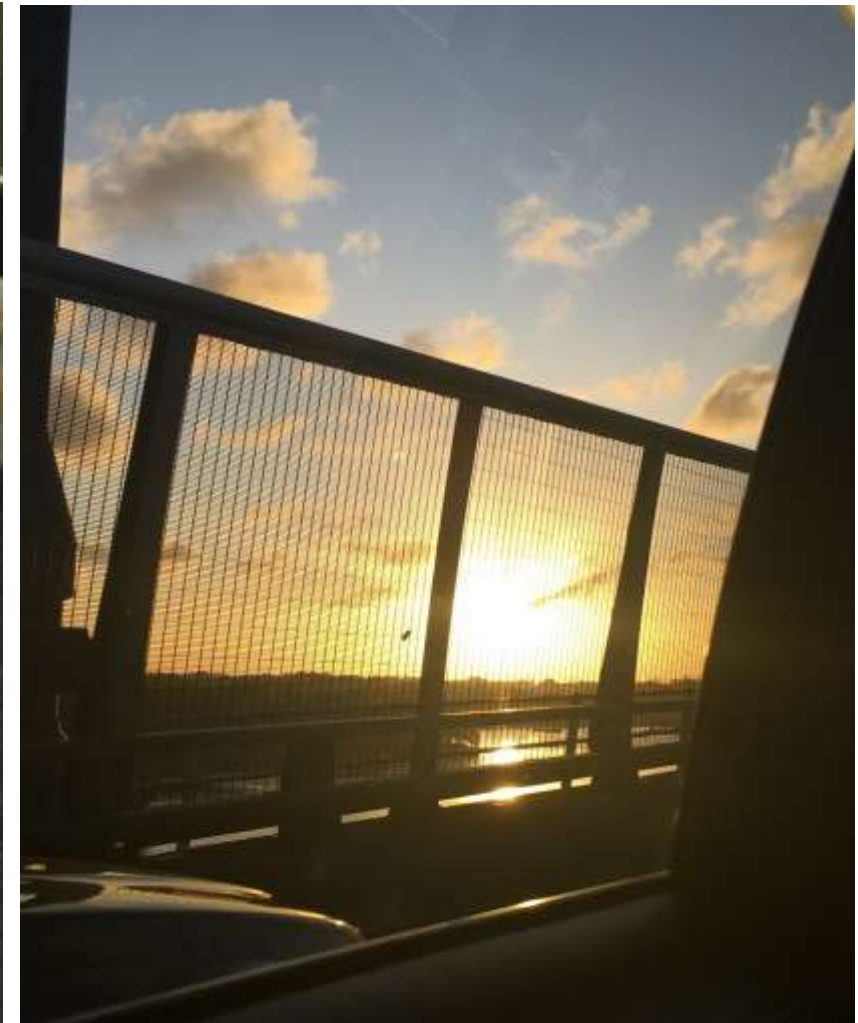
Darling Harbour



Me at Kangaroos and Koalas



Rainbow ice cream!!



Sunset from the Anzac Bridge while on our way to the Mamak restaurant



**Mamak restaurant's menu – felt like home for a little bit**

## DAY 3 – 15 FEBRUARY 2020

It was our third day in Sydney. At around 10:30 AM we left the hotel, walked down Darling Harbor straight to Paddy's Market to buy some things. My mother and I walked around, checking out the myriad of souvenirs, clothing items and many more things they sell there. I noticed that there was quite a diversity among the sellers – many of them were immigrants from Asian countries such as Indonesia. We bought some more souvenirs – keychains and paintings for people back home. My mother bought a luggage bag and I got a new leather backpack. We then went back to the hotel at around 12 noon, cleaned up and rested for a while before going back downstairs at around 4 PM to buy lunch at a halal kebab restaurant across the hotel. At 7 PM the three of us went to a convenience shop downstairs and I bought some snacks and ice cream for the night.



My mother and I on our way to get lunch



A Reese's chocolate bar I bought at the convenience store

## **DAY 4 – 16 FEBRUARY 2020**

It was now our final day in Sydney. We woke up at around 7:30 AM and got ready to leave. At 8:00 AM we checked out of the hotel and began our walk to the bus station. It was quite a long walk. A dash of fresh air and the bustling environment of the city even as early in the morning made the walk enjoyable. We stopped at Oliver Brown for a while to have breakfast and continued our walk to the bus station.



Last breakfast in Sydney – cookies and cream drink with a piece of chocolate brownie

We arrived at the bus station at around 9 AM and boarded the coach bus to Canberra at 9:32 AM. The bus ride was an awesome first time for me because I got to witness the beautiful scenery along the way – trees standing tall and proud, animal farms spread wide, the sky all blue and clear. We arrived in Canberra at 1 PM and checked in at QT Canberra Hotel. In the evening we went to ANU and walked around the residential house area (we were supposed to go to the campus area but we entered the wrong entrance...) Then we went to Lemongrass Thai Restaurant at 6 PM for dinner (late lunch, actually) I had fried rice with chicken and though it was good but the scorching heat of it burnt my tongue (I was hungry and did not think of cooling it down first!!)



View from our hotel room in Canberra

## **DAY 5 - 17 FEBRUARY 2020**

It was the first day of my study tour at Australian National University. In the morning we met up with Ms Helena Woods, ANU representative and Avneet, the Student Ambassador guiding me for the tour in front of the Harry Hartog Bookseller shop located in the campus. Ms Helena briefed us on my study tour details and then I was left with Avneet for the tour. She brought me around the campus to important buildings and landmarks and along the way we chatted about university life, the degree she's studying and a little bit about ourselves.

First she brought me to the ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences where I met Chloe who exposed me to double degrees, life at ANU and her own personal experiences studying at the university. After that we went to the Faculty of Law, Bruce Hall (one of the residential colleges at ANU), Marie Reay Teaching Centre and the Chifley Library. After finishing the tour I was left to my own devices so I roamed around the campus and made some new friends. I also took the opportunity to go to the Harry Hartog Bookseller and bought two novels.



**With Ms Helena Woods**



**ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences**



**Faculty of Law. (left: the hall, right: the library)**



**The view from Marie Reay Teaching Centre**



**The library**



**Inside the Harry Hartog Bookseller**

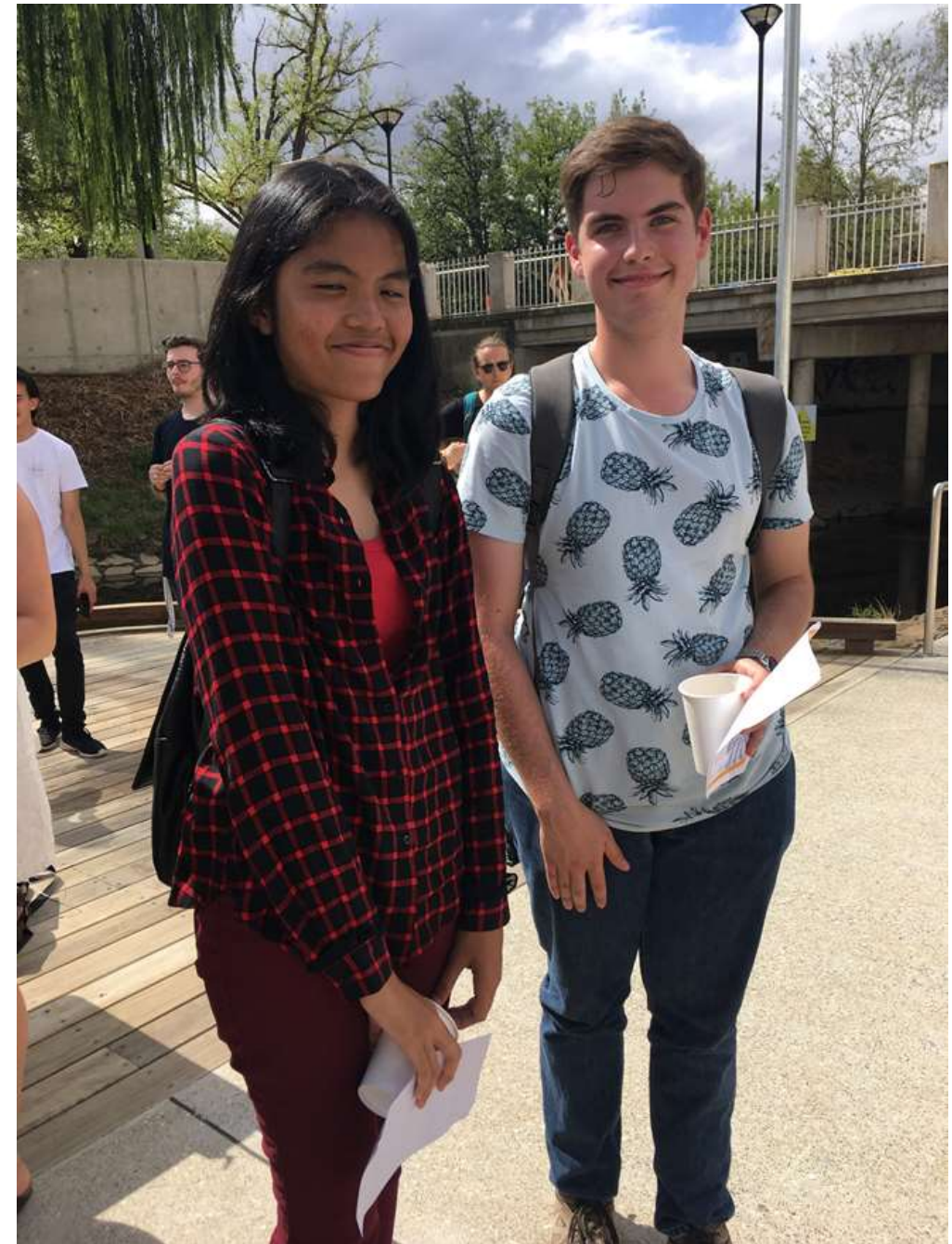


This was after the study tour – was walking around and grabbed the chance to take a picture with one of the students there 😊

The students and staffs there are very nice and helpful and are always ready to help with any concerns you may have (directions, etc).

It was already afternoon which meant that it was time for me to join the Feast of Strangers event, held at the open amphitheatre of the university. I went to the venue with some other first year students. We took our places and waited in anticipation while trying to resist the heat. After about an hour, the event finally began. Feast of Strangers is basically an open event that is not only limited to first year students but also the seniors. The event pairs two or three strangers together for rewarding conversations. We were divided into two groups – Destiny and Fate. Each of the groups were given different flyers that comprises the topics that we could use in our conversations such as our favourite colour, a book or movie we would recommend and our favourite travel destination. It was such a fun event, getting to know people from all over the world, talking about our hobbies and interests and learning more about the student life at ANU. It was an interesting event and a good exposure for everyone who had just begun studying at the university.

**Me and Austin, one of the ‘strangers’ I had a conversation with**



## DAY 6 – 18 FEBRUARY 2020

Second day in ANU – my first event, a talk about fake news and evaluation began at 10 AM, located at Marie Reay Teaching Centre. It was a workshop on how to evaluate and choose the right information for research, conducted by two university librarians, Terra and Imogen. They taught us a quick yet precise method of evaluating an information source which is T.R.A.A.P (Timeliness, Relevance, Authority, Accuracy, Purpose). The method covers all the crucial aspects in choosing the best source to cite when doing a research, such as determining the type of audience you want to pertain to and examining the accuracy of the content. The workshop was very informative and helpful and I would definitely use the method they taught in the future.



**Me with Terra and Imogen**

Then at 11:30 AM, my second event for the day began in the same place as the fake news workshop earlier, which was an international students event designed to introducing international students to life at ANU. The workshop was conducted by Tess Snowball. We were introduced to the ways of life in the university and got some questions answered (e.g. “Do we really have to buy textbooks?”) I found the workshop very helpful and beneficial for international students who had just come to the university since life at a new place can be quite terrifying and overwhelming, so having a community that can relate to you is amazing. I met some nice people during the workshop – some were exchange students from various countries of the world such as the Netherlands who were there for about a week or so. The event further convinced me that life away from home can be exciting if you have a supportive community whom you can depend on at all times.

Me with Tess Snowball

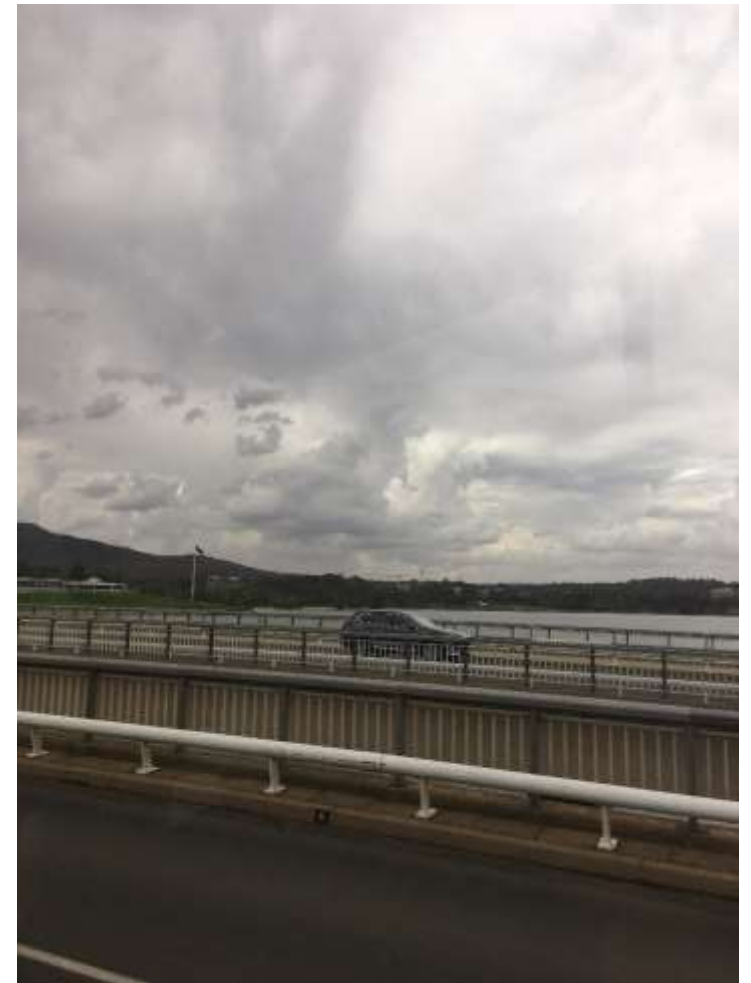


12:30 PM and it was time for one of the most highly anticipated events, Universal Lunch Hour. It was organized by the ANU Students Association, held at the open area near the entrance of the campus. There were two stalls – one was a BBQ stall and the other stall was a cookie and snacks stall. I decided to go for cookies so I went to the latter. The lady in charge of the stall was very nice and I really enjoyed talking to her. I bought two big cookies – one chocolate chip, one M&M for \$6.

**The stall I went to.  
The cookies were really nice!! 😊**



In the evening, my mother and I went on a culture loop bus. The culture loop bus is a free shuttle bus that transports us on a loop to some of Canberra's most loved cultural attractions and places of interest. Among the places that we stopped at were Parliament House, National Film and Sound Archive and Canberra Museum. The scenery was spectacular and though it was a bit cloudy but it was still an enjoyable ride.



**Some of the scenery.**

## DAY 7 – 19 FEBRUARY 2020

It was our last day in ANU. The event we went to was the university's Market Day which was basically an event that gathers all students societies and clubs available at the university where they set up their stalls and exhibitions along the University Avenue throughout the day. A student ambassador named Jasmine was assigned to guide me during the event. So we walked around together and had quite a conversation about the student life at ANU and she also introduced me to some of the people there. We went to various stalls – game stalls, food stalls – and it was quite a fun experience. It turned out that there are many student societies in ANU that represent their countries (e.g. Malaysia, New Zealand) so students can refer to their country's student society for any help or concerns. We also spun a wheel and won prizes – I won a hair tie and Jasmine won a notebook, which she later on gave it to me because she said she already had too many. We went to see the sports clubs' stalls such as the cheerleading team's stall and many more. To my surprise, there was an IndoMie package in one of the bags we got – it turns out that IndoMie instant noodles are very famous there and the students there absolutely love it. It was nice finding a piece of home in the midst of all the foreignity...





Me and Jasmine, my guide



The best part – free goodies! 😊



After the event, we went back to our hotel to retrieve our luggage at the reception counter before taking a cab to the bus station. We boarded the coach to the airport at 1:02 PM and arrived at Sydney Airport at 4:01 PM. We had lunch at a halal Thai restaurant in the airport and checked in at 7 PM. While waiting to board all three of us just lounged around, went to a few shops and just winded down for a little bit since the past few days had been tiring. Finally at 10:35 PM we entered the boarding gate and departed back home.



My meal



Flat-out Bears – so cute!



My boarding pass

**Overall, I find Australian National University very admirable – the environment, the student life, the size of the campus, the friendliness of the people there. Everything instantly captivated me and I aspire to further my studies there in the future.**

**I'll definitely be back soon!**



In front of the landmark

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Thank you to DKLS Foundation for making this trip possible.

Also thank you to Nicole for chaperoning us and guiding us there.

Thank you to Australian National University for the hospitality and friendliness shown throughout my stay there.

The trip was undoubtedly joyful and I was delighted to have been given the opportunity.