

# Trinity Bay State High School



Feedback from international student (Norway) *Otilia BRAENNSTROEM*, Trinity Bay State High School Years 11/12, Semester 2, 2017 – Semester 1, 2018.

I choose Cairns for my study abroad because it is so different to home. In Norway it is cold and dark, I wanted the opposite. I found out Cairns was hot, sunny and tropical which made Cairns the perfect destination for me. We also hear a lot about the famous Great Barrier Reef and the rainforest in Norway, all which are in Cairns and makes it an exotic destination.

Trinity Bay offers a large variety of subjects. I am very interested in social science, the community and how it works therefore some of my most interesting subjects have to be Study of Society and Social and Community Studies. The subjects give you an Idea of how society is built and make you see the people and the world around you in a different way. I also have memorable and more “fun” subjects such as Home Economics where we learn about nutrition and food culture and cook delicious recipes. There are a lot of subjects to choose at Trinity Bay which normally would not be offered in most schools in Europe. Marine Science, Outdoor Education, Music, Dance and Drama, Arts and Film and Television are all subjects that are not offered in most schools in Norway. At Trinity Bay there will be no problem finding subjects that suit you and what you want out of your exchange year.

The host family I am staying with is just amazing. They have showed me around Cairns and Tablelands and taken me to Sydney which was all wonderful and memorable. But the part I will remember the most about my host family experience is how they welcomed me with open arms and took me in as a part of their family from the moment I met them at the airport. Staying with a family you don't know for 3 months, 6 months or a year is scary and can be hard but my host family made me really feel at home and which has made my year abroad truly amazing. I feel like I have gotten a second family and I will never forget them and all that they have done for me.

There are many experiences I have enjoyed about being in Cairns. One of the experiences I really enjoyed was sailing camp with the Outdoor Recreation class. We camped up at Tinaroo and learned how to sail for three days. It was really fun and an experience I will never forget. The Formal and Diving at the Great Barrier Reef are also experiences that I will never forget. The experiences mentioned above were great, but the small things like going to the beach with friends and just enjoying the sound of the waves and feeling the sun on your skin are also moments that makes your year abroad memorable and amazing. You really learn to relax and enjoy life in Cairns.

This year abroad I have experienced ancient rain forests, the beautiful Great Barrier Reef, elegant and fabulous TB formal, Sydney's city life, seen Australian culture first hand, learned things about myself and others and made friends for life. Life as an exchange student can be hard at times, but I would not change a thing and I am so grateful for everything and everyone that has made my time in Cairns incredible. It really is true what they say; “an exchange year isn't a year in your life, it is a life in a year.”



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Feedback from international student (Italy) *Francesco CURAGI*, Trinity Bay State High School Years 11/12, Semester 2, 2016 – Semester 1, 2017.

Basically I choose Cairns because I've already been here three years ago with an Italian school program for three weeks in an international school and also because by choosing a one year international program, I would like to be familiar with the place and the host family. But overall I choose this place because the first time I came here I fell in love with it after few days and I promised myself to come back.

Studying in Trinity Bay State High School is easier than studying in a regular Italian High School. One of the reason why this school seems easy is because the Australian school is a much more comfortable place in terms of teacher and school structure. The work in class is a lot and for that reason, generally, we, as students, don't have to work much at home. My favourite subjects are the Science subjects because they are more interesting than the Science subjects in Italy. There are also a lot special subjects for every kind of student interests; for example Recreation Outdoors, PE, Outdoor Aquatics, Home Economics and a lot of manual arts subjects for the student who chooses a TAFE program.

Talking about my host family; the most enjoyable parts were the food, their behaviours and every kind of lesson that they taught me. Talking about Cairns as a city: is a beautiful city with a lot of beautiful beaches with a lot of different activities that everyone can afford. I can say that Cairns is a beautiful place to study and chill at the same time.



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Feedback from international student (Norway) Jonas TRONTVEIT, Trinity Bay State High School Years 11/12, Semester 2, 2017 – Term 1, 2018.

I selected Cairns for my study abroad program to experience something different and exiting, and to learn English more fluently, or should we say 'the Aussie slang'. I found out about Cairns through travel agencies back in Norway, and used EQI (Education Queensland International) to choose a school. The most interesting subjects I have are: Physical Education and Maths A with Mr. East! Physical Education is both a theoretical and physical subject with a lot of activities for those who like sport. Maths has never been fun until I met Mr. East; he taught me the science behind maths and also some funny stories which led me to finally like Maths. Trinity Bay SHS provides many subjects, but the biggest difference must be second language subjects. Here you can choose between Chinese and Japanese, back home we normally choose between: German, French or Spanish.

The most enjoyable part of my homestay would be our opportunity to travel and exchange cultural differences, and how polite and nice they have been to us. Highlights must be: traveling, diving, gym, the beach, and the beautiful creeks of Cairns. Best school experience must be the swimming carnival.





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Feedback from international student (Norway) *Ela TRONTVEIT*, Trinity Bay State High School Years 11/12, Semester 2, 2017 – Semester 1, 2018.

Exchange is about expanding your horizons. To find the joy of different perspectives, sharing knowledge with others and witness various cultures. I have gained a broader perspective, become more independent and learnt how to cope with different challenges that I would not have encountered if I only studied in Norway.

So far this year have I experienced everything from self-doubt to delight. I have seen different parts of Australia. I have spent hours after hours in the car with my host family travelling down south. We visited Airlie beach, 1770, Bundaberg, Gold Coast and so on. Considering all the traveling I have done in the past, I can say that this road trip is the best excursion I have ever been on. My host family has also showed me Cape Tribulation, Melbourne and Kurrimine beach.

The list of what I have liked about this year so far can go on and on, but the good environment at Trinity Bay SHS and the people I have meet has to be on the top. I have gained so many good friends, both Australian and International students, and made heaps of memories that I will never forget!



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Feedback from international student (Germany) *Clara JUNGE*, Trinity Bay State High School Years 11/12, Semester 2, 2017 – Term 1, 2018.

I wanted to go to Cairns because there is so much to see and to do in Cairns. I can go to the beach, to the rainforest, to the Great Barrier Reef or just hang out in the city. I ordered a book from my agency where all the schools of Australia were listed and I found out about Cairns. I think my most interesting and memorable subjects are Dance, Drama and Marine Science. There are so many subjects that I don't have in Germany... eg Introduction to Film & Media, Dance, Drama, Photography, Marine Science or Outdoor Recreation...

The most enjoyable thing about my home stay were the Christmas Holidays. We went on a road trip down to the Gold Coast and we saw so many things and places of Australia! The trip also helped me to get even closer with my host family and we had so much fun! I really enjoyed the Diving Course. I saw so many fish and animals like sharks and turtles and I even touched one. But I enjoyed every single day, even though nothing really happened sometimes and I just sat in the city for the day. The best thing about my time here are all my new friends. They are friends for life and without them I couldn't enjoy being here.



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Feedback from international student (Germany) *Antonia MAMEROW*, Trinity Bay State High School  
Years 10, Semester 1, 2018.

Hi. I am Antonia, I am 14 years old and I am from Germany. I am in grade 9 in Germany and in grade 10 here.

I always wanted to go to Australia, and my parents had their honeymoon in Cairns, that's the reason why I came to Cairns. The school is very different to my school in Germany, but I actually like it more here. My favourite subject is Drama and Film and Television, because I never had subjects like that before and I like the teachers. The school system is very different because the teachers here help you when you don't understand something.

My host parents got a puppy, and he is so cute ☺ But another highlight was the diving course at the reef! We saw turtles, sharks and jellyfish. But also the school is a new highlight every day, because I always have fun with my friends and laugh with them. I am happy that I met them and I know that I am going to miss them.



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Feedback from international student (Germany) *Michel FRECH*, Trinity Bay State High School Years 10/11, Semester 2, 2017 – Term 1, 2018.

So, why did I choose to go to Cairns for my exchange Year? Well first of all Cairns is a really beautiful City in Australia especially with its beautiful reef. The people here are so kind and laidback. The landscapes in and around Cairns are just breathtaking. And the school here is so much more fun than in Germany. There are so many classes over here you can't take in Germany. I participated in subjects like Outdoor Recreation and Photography which was really nice to experience. Last but not least there was my lovely host family. I had so many great moments and so many great trips with them. They were like a second family! These 9 months were the best time of my life!





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Feedback from international student (Austria) *Lina STEINER*, Trinity Bay State High School Year 11, Semester 1, 2018.

Hello, my name is Lina. I'm 16 years old and from Austria. The moment when I knew that I want to go to Australia was when I found a book about it in my first year of school. I was really amazed by the pictures of the colourful nature and variety of animals I saw. The fascination has never let go of me, luckily. Because otherwise I wouldn't have made all the memories and friends here. To live in such a beautiful city as Cairns so close to the reef and forest is incredible and also the reason why I chose to go to Cairns, and it was definitely the right decision. Even though I have already been here for more than 3 ½ months it still doesn't feel real.

Talking about the reef, experiencing how it is to breathe under the water, pet a turtle and see a shark, even though it wasn't the great white one, is definitely something I won't forget. Also my Safari Outback Tour during the holidays made my stay even more exciting. I enjoyed it to visit Uluru, sleep under the stars and make new friends. There are so many more things I highly appreciate here like my diving course, all the trips with my host family, Photography (the most interesting subject I have ever seen) and of course spending time with my friends.

To come to Cairns was a big and scary decision but it was worth it. I learned new things about myself, became more independent and confident in making decisions. Australia changed me in a good way and I have a completely new life here so I can highly recommend it to everyone to make the big step and study abroad.



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Feedback from international student (Japan) Riri YOSHIDA, Trinity Bay State High School Year 10, 2018.

The subject that I like very well at this school is Aquatic Practice and Marine Science. It is because I don't have it in my high school in Japan so I can learn new things and experiments which we do not do in high school in Japan.

My memories outside school life are went to a waterfall and island with my host family and I hung out with my friends. On the island, we saw a lot of beautiful fish. It was a very valuable experience to see fish very close.

My best positive thing is being able to make many friends with people from various backgrounds.



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Feedback from international student (Thailand) Yanisa SOPA, Trinity Bay State High School Year 10, 2018-2020.

I selected Cairns for my Secondary Schooling Program because my Aunt lives in Cairns and I want to improve my English to prepare myself for university. Cairns is a city with similar weather to my home town in summer and a little colder in winter, making it easier for me to adjust. I attended high school at Trinity Bay State High School because it the one of the best schools with an International admissions system in Cairns. The special things of the school in Cairns that are different from the school in my hometown are that here I can choose subjects that I am interested and I like to study. My most favourite subject is Chinese, because I am personally interested in Chinese language and the Chinese have a grammar that is easy to understand when compared to my language. I think the language is important. If I can speak and understand more than 3 languages, that would be good for me.

I live with my aunt, uncle and my cousin. My aunt was a chef of a Thai restaurant and absolutely, what I most enjoy about homestay is eating my aunt's food. One of the experiences that I enjoyed was the Daintree Excursion with my school. I really enjoyed doing the activities with my friends for 5 days. We did snorkelling, jungle surfing, soldering and more. I have seen colourful coral and fish in the sea, wallabies, cassowaries in the forest and other animals. This is the first time in my life that I didn't have rice for 5 days! But the food provided did taste very good. However, I loved all the experiences on this trip and this trip will be an unforgettable memory. The next science excursion I'm looking forward to is the Canberra trip.

One of the highlights of my high school study in Cairn are the teachers and friends. There are teachers who understand the students. The teachers always listen to the reasons of the students and pay attention to teach all the students. All my friends are very friendly and lovely whether it be local students or International students. We hang out together. Everything that comes through my life is an experience and everyone who comes into my life are my teachers.



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Feedback from international student (Papua New Guinea) Elliot URE, Trinity Bay State High School Year 8, 2017-2022.

Because of the Education System, my parents decided to send me over to Cairns. By attending a showcase that was held in Port Moresby my parents and I then selected Cairns.

Manual arts really caught my interest as I enjoy wood work and also Home Economics which includes cooking and sewing.

I have enjoyed travelling the outback of Cairns to Mareeba, Atherton, Herberton and Orchid Valley.

I really enjoy playing for the School's Year 8s Rugby League Team and winning was unbelievable.





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Feedback from international student (Chile) *Laura SAAVEDRA CASTRO*, Trinity Bay State High School Year 11, Semester 2, 2018.

Hi, I'm Laura Saavedra and I come from Chile in South America. I chose Australia because my goal is to learn English, and Cairns because I love the type of climate and the landscape. I chose Trinity Bay because the subjects I had were very interesting and entertaining for my taste, for example the class I love is Visual Arts and Hospitality, I love the school I am very happy in it, people are great and school too, I have been here for one month and I feel that I have learnt a lot and I hope to continue learning.

I am in a great host family. They are all very nice people including my host sister from Brazil. So far I am very happy to be here in Cairns with this family and this school. I feel very grateful for the great experience and I feel like I'm achieving my goal.



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Feedback from international student (Brazil) *Amanda MIRANDA MICELLI*, Trinity Bay State High School Year 11, Semester 2, 2018.

My name is Amanda Micelli and I am Brazilian. I am participating in an exchange program at Trinity Bay State High School in Cairns. I chose Cairns for my Study Abroad Program because of the Great Barrier Reef, the deep study about marine science and the fact the Cairns is a small town, so I could further improve my English. I found out about studying in Cairns with my Brazilian agency, who helped me a lot during the whole process.

It is such an amazing opportunity to be able to know a different culture, local environments, people and also to be part of another family. The school also offers a lot of trips related to specific classes, as an example we will go to Orpheus Island for our marine science class. There are a lot of different subjects that interest of all kinds of students. I am still in my second month of exchange and I already don't want to leave Australia, it is an incredible opportunity and I couldn't have been more grateful.





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Feedback from international student (Germany) *Penelope CATTERFELD*, Trinity Bay State High School  
Year 10/11, Semester 2, 2018 – Semester 1, 2019.

When I expressed my wish to do an exchange year to my parents, everything went very quickly. At first I thought I would go to Canada but when I thought about it seriously, I decided to go to Australia. You have the good weather, the sea and the culture is so different compared to Germany. I choose Cairns, because it is so close to the Great Barrier Reef.

At Trinity Bay there are many subjects we do not have in Germany like Dance and Psychology. I took Photography and Marine Science and you also cannot find them in my school. It was good to study Marine Science for the amazing trip to Orpheus Island. But to be honest I loved the Rafting Trip, which I did in the beginning of Term 3. We camped next to the Tully river from Wednesday to Friday. On the first day we jumped into the wild water and on the next day we did the rafting. The thrill, the view and the water were incredible. That blew me away!

I really like my host family and I also found good friends.



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Feedback from international student (Italy) *Beatrice BARTOLI*, Trinity Bay State High School Year 11, Semester 2, 2018.

Hi, my name is Beatrice and I'm Italian. I'm studying at Trinity Bay State High School for two terms and I really love it. I have an older brother that four years ago came to Australia with a study abroad program, just like me. He stayed in a small town in Victoria and his experience has always inspired me to do the same. When I actually decided to come to Australia, I asked his host family which cities they liked and they thought were a good place to stay in. They told me about Cairns and as I looked it up on the internet I completely fell in love with it. I found the most different place from Italy that exists and this idea was extremely exciting to me. Furthermore, here there's everything: the ocean, the rainforest, the wildlife and it's also a big city. In particular, I was super excited about the reef. I've been there a lot of times now and I'm completely in love with it. I think it's an amazing experience that not a lot of people can say they've done and I really think that people who live close to it and are used to it, should appreciate it way more.

I started looking for schools here and I saw Trinity Bay. I really liked all the opportunities that they had for international students and the school ground, so green and open, so different from my Italian school. The subjects here are very different and my favourites have been Dance, because I love dancing and I love the idea of being able to dance in school time, Photography, since I like taking pictures, and Marine Science, because we don't have reefs in Italy and getting to know about that was incredibly interesting. All of these subjects don't exist in Italy, so getting a chance to do something different and funny was really nice.

I stayed with a homestay family and I really loved it. The most memorable things were the road trips to Magnetic Island and Cape Tribulation. The landscape was very beautiful and I really enjoyed talking with my host family during the trip. Furthermore, my host mum is incredibly nice and I really enjoyed my time with her.

What I loved the most about living in Cairns were all the opportunities that I have here. I come from a very small town, so having a lot of different places to go to, like the beaches and the islands, was a new and exciting experience for me. Also, the restaurants and the fun stuff to do in town were really lovely.

The highlights of my high school study in Cairns were the trips to Orpheus Island and to Green Island. Studying and having fun in such wonderful places was just amazing. We were snorkelling all together and collecting data and it was really funny and interesting.

I love Cairns and I will always cherish the amazing experience that I had here.





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Feedback from international student (Italy) Margherita AGOGLIATI, Trinity Bay State High School  
Year 11, Semester 2, 2018.

Hello everybody, my name's Margherita and I'm from Milano, Italy. I am attending Trinity Bay State High school for two terms. Since I was a child, I've always been fascinated by the sea and the water generally speaking, and that's why I chose Cairns for my Study Abroad Program: the idea of being so close to the Coral reef for six months just made me super excited; I had no doubts that I would have come here. Fortunately, my Italian agency had this city as one of the destinations.

School here is pretty different from my normal school. First of all we can choose our subjects: I always loved Science, and here I can study a lot of scientific subjects, such as Physics, Chemistry and Biology. The thing I love the most here is the fact that there are some subjects that are not academic at all, they are just due to getting more in depth into things that you like, such as Dance, Music, water sports and Photography. One of my best passions is for sure taking photos, of places, of nature and people. It is a powerful way to catch a beautiful moment that I'm living, a way to remember it forever. It is really nice to have a professional photography teacher that gives you suggestions and explains you how to take better pictures. As I study the subjects I love, going to school is almost a pleasure.

In addition, my time with my host family is great. It is really nice the way they suddenly made me part of the family, going camping, visiting the city together and just spending time at home together. I truly found a second family here in Australia.

The city is great, and the beaches are just around the corner. With my friends I hang out every weekend and there's always something different to do, a new café to go to or a new activity to try. As I said before, the best thing about Cairns is, of course, the Great Barrier Reef, and I had the luck to fully experience it when I went on a school trip to the Orpheus Island National Park. On the island there's the James Cook University Research Station that hosted us for one week. During the staying, we explored different branches of Marine Science, my group and I, for example, we took care of sharks and stingrays, we collected data and analysed them in the lab. We went snorkelling a couple of times admiring the beauty of the coral reef, and the view was just amazing. I clearly remember that my friends and I used to go the beach during the sunset, because it was just amazing, and during the night just before going to sleep, as the stars and the constellations were really easy to see. I really consider these experience one of the best of my life so far.

I am really looking forward to going out to the reef other times, with my diving course, for example, and maybe with my host family.

