

Back to My “home away from home”

Two years ago I joined my German Immersion class and the German mainstream classes on a trip around Germany and enjoyed a homestay period with my ‘German Family’ based in Munich; I loved the country and culture so much that I didn’t want to leave.

Last year, to my delight, I was lucky enough to represent Australia and Ferny Grove High School by receiving and taking on the Goethe Institute’s PASCH scholarship, based in Frankfurt. Making the most of my trip and being a keen Judo athlete I decided to go over to Germany a month and a half early and train with the German National Team in Munich, meaning the first month and a half of my trip was full of regularly walking 4 km to a Laundromat to wash a heavy bag full of clothes (including four heavy lots of Judo attire), staying in Youth Hostels, doing my own budget food shopping and worst of all eating my own bad cooking. Believe it or not (especially since I couldn’t make more than a half decent Spaghetti Bolognese) I wouldn’t change the experience at all, even if I had all of the money in the world.



Being a grade 12 student I realised that there is no scholarship that I can apply for or trip that has been organised by the school post school. That’s why I decided to take matters into my own hands, save up, ditch schoolies, and go back to Germany for another life changing experience in December this year. There I will be training once again in Munich and also Cologne with various state and National teams.



During this endeavour I will also be visiting neighbouring countries Ireland and a more distant neighbour of Germany – England. I can't wait to see my family, to further improve my German and Judo, but most of all I can't wait to experience the German and European culture once again. I can't wait to eat German food or walk past one of hundreds of bakeries to buy a fresh 50 cent Brezel. Or to go into a city centre and watch two German Football teams play live on a huge TV with the rest of the city. I

even look forward to being able to dress in winter attire, and going out in snow! The list could go on and on but I'll leave it at that.

So thank you Ferny Grove High School, for giving me the chance to go over to Germany twice in two years and for giving me the drive to want to experience it again.