

## ASEAN International German Camp 2,

**6 – 12 August 2015, Bangkok THAILAND**

On Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2015, Mrs Hudgton, Head of Department for Languages and International Programs at Ferny Grove State High School, accompanied seven German language students from Kenmore SHS and Ferny Grove SHS to an International German language immersion camp including a German Day of celebration at a large school (4,500 students) in Bangkok hosted by the Goethe Institute and financially supported by the German Government.

This international camp, in its second year, comprised participants from 11 ASEAN nations; Thailand (over 160 students on day 1), Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam, India, Philippines, South Korea, Japan, Malaysia, Indonesia and for the first time Australia and New Zealand. The group comprised a total of 63 international students plus their accompanying group leaders.

Lachlan Gilmartin, Lachlan Hamilton, Katarina and Phillip Armstrong from Kenmore SHS joined Kirsty McDonald, Teja Woon and Liam Willis from Ferny Grove SHS. The Australian cohort met prior to departure when Mrs Hudgton escorted the FGSHS students to a preliminary meeting at KSHS in the preceding weeks for a familiarisation session. One of the requirements of participation in this camp was a performance at the closing presentation demonstrating what it means to be *Australian*. Students were required to plan this in advance, take appropriate props and to deliver this performance on the final evening of the camp. From their first meeting our students worked collaboratively on-line to culminate in the production of a most engaging and very popular performance depicting life in Australia and what is important in our Australian culture.

The following entries are a collaborative record of the week's events.

### Friday 6<sup>th</sup> August

Our first morning in Bangkok was very exciting. We ate a wonderful buffet breakfast before a walk through the streets to "Triam Udon Suksa" the Thai school that would host "German Day". The school was beautiful with its own pond seen between the trees. We felt very welcome with the multi-cultural banners and flags of every nation present. Many students of the school and German camp welcomed us by asking for many photos.





The German Day took place inside the auditorium. There were distinguished guests from the Thai Government and GOETHE institute present who handed each participant ceremonial flowers which made us feel part of the culture. There were then competitions for German schools and universities to test their German abilities. Our Australian representative, Phillip Armstrong, came 2nd in the speaking round with only one point to spare!



We were then treated to Thai food, a red curry we become very fond of, and tried to acclimatise to the heat. Our first day fuelled our excitement even more for the rest of the week!





## Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> August

Day 2 of the trip to Bangkok was so much fun. We remained in the Asia hotel, in a large conference room and participated in group activities. The Groups were split into 10. Each station focused on a different macro skill of the German language.

Station 1 was a reading "Lies das vor". This station focused on Fairy tales.

Station 2 was listening "Hor gut zu" and we played Chinese whispers.

Station 3 was speaking "Sprich ein andere Sprache" we played Charades and spoke Tongue twisters.

Station 4 was writing "Schreib mal auf" where we had the opportunity to write our own story about our holidays.



Station 5 was the final station where we had more opportunities to have some fun whilst using more German language. Students played a Marshmallow game as a competition where two students from different teams were given a topic and had to say as many things as they could relating to it. In the Marshmallow game a person from each team was blindfolded.

The rest of the group then had to guide the student to the marshmallow calling out directions in German.

The first student to eat the marshmallow won. Stations 3 and 5 were very popular and the most challenging. These stations were a great way to talk and meet new people and make new friends.





### Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> August

Day 3 Today was the first excursion day! We travelled to Ayudhya and went to the Bang Pa-In Palace and the Floating Markets. We enjoyed a guided tour around the Palace in the morning and then went to the Floating Markets for lunch and the afternoon. On the way to the markets we stopped at some ruins of ancient buildings and took a group photo! The floating markets were a market surrounding a canal. There were plenty of traditional Asian food and clothing stalls there as well as many souvenir stalls. Many bargains were found! Upon return to the hotel, we finally had some free time. The Australian students decided we would go for a swim and spa before working on their Australian cultural presentation! Overall, the day was a great day! The palace and markets were amazing and we were all in need for a



sightseeing day!



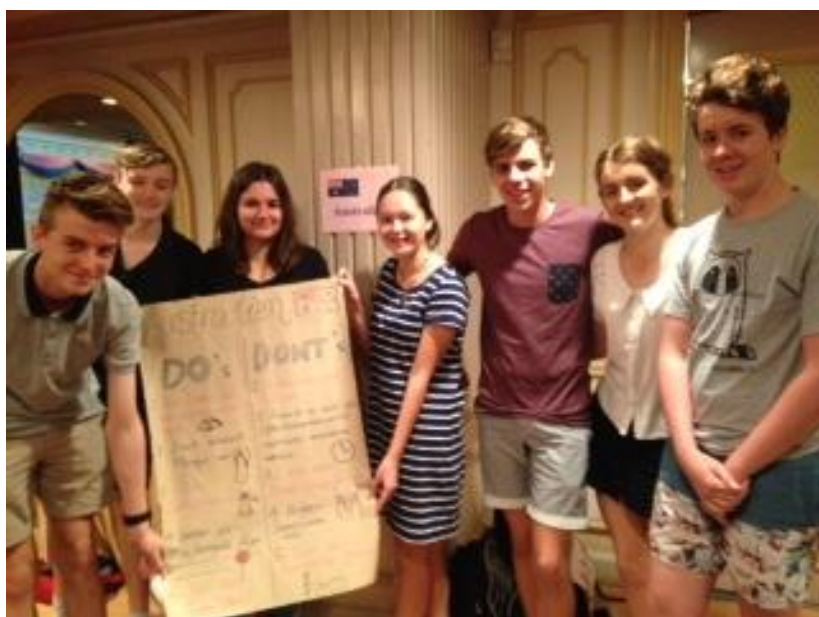




### Monday 9<sup>th</sup> August

Day 4, Monday was our second proper working day of the trip, though, instead of splitting up in our mixed groups, we stayed within our home countries for the first activity. In our teams, we made a list of 'do's and don'ts' of Australian customs and general lifestyle.

After each country had completed their lists, we were again split up into our original working groups and were allocated another country's list. We then 'acted out' our given country's 'do's and don'ts'.



In the evening the performances that were pre-prepared on our own countries began. That night, Korea, Thailand, Japan, Vietnam, Laos and Myanmar performed. Most of these performances consisted of a traditional dance or song with some information intertwined.

The day was overall enjoyable. The lessons and performances allowed information about the other countries to be shared and learnt in an entertaining and engaging way. The day proved to be educational without it feeling like work at all!

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> August

Day 5 Today was our final day of the German Program in Thailand. Our day began with a trip to the Grand Palace, which was followed by our cultural performance and the farewell party.



The grand palace included the temple of the Emerald Buddha, which is regarded as the most sacred Buddhist temples in Thailand. The temples were beautiful, with walls decorated with glass mosaic tiles, mythical guardian figures and inscribed paintings.

Upon our return to the hotel, we had an evaluation of the week where each student had to place 3 stickers beside different activities of the past week to express what their favourite aspects were.

After dinner, it was time for the Australian students to perform. Students had been practicing a role play which highlighted Australia's culture, animals, attractions and way of life. We thought it was a success, although it was very different to what every other country had performed. New Zealand, China, India, Malaysia followed Australia; most popular was the Indian's Bollywood performance because of their beautiful traditional costumes and dance.

After a small disco party it was unfortunately time to say goodbye. This experience has widened our understanding of many different cultures and allowed us to make lifelong friendships with new people. There were endless selfies, gifts and Facebook friend requests. It was an unforgettable opportunity and we were all so proud to represent Australia and be part of this experience.





## Wednesday 12th August

Day 6 Today was our last day in Thailand and was spent in various shopping malls and markets. In the morning some of the Thai students offered to take us to Pratunan, a popular market but soon the Aussie boys returned to another a local shopping market (MBK) for more bargain before returning to the hotel for the afternoon and enjoying the pool, before departing for the airport at 8:00PM (Bangkok Time) and boarded at 11:19PM (Bangkok Time). The plane left the Thai airport at 11:59PM (Bangkok Time) and we returned to Australia airport at around 11.20AM (AEST).

On behalf of the participating students and our schools, we would like to thank most sincerely the GOETHE staff and German Government officials and representatives who co-ordinated all the language learning activities and excursions and for providing such an outstanding international learning platform for our students. We look forward to continuing the fond friendships and school relationships we have forged through this camp.

Fi Hudghton, Lachlan Gilmartin, Lachlan Hamilton, Katarina and Phillip Armstrong, Kirsty McDonald, Teja Woon and Liam Willis.

