

Name: Spencer

Hometown: Petaluma CA USA

My School:

In Australia I am attending Kirwan State High School in Townsville, North Queensland. My first days at Kirwan were a bit of an awe factor. It took a bit to get used to life as a student in an Australian school. It was quite different to what I was used to as a student in California.

Now, however school is nothing out of the ordinary and really quite nice. Kirwan is a laid back tropical style school. Some of the differences that caught my eye when I started at Kirwan firstly were the uniform requirements. Fortunately the Kirwan uniform isn't too bad. I manage to put on my button up shirt and shorts every morning. The kids at Kirwan have a lot of energy and are pretty active, with kids running around, jumping around, throwing the footy and it took a bit to get used to. For the most part though everyone at Kirwan is really friendly and pretty laid back and it's been a great place to enjoy myself while still getting an education in this beautiful place Australia.

My Friends:

Since I have been in Australia I have met some really nice cool people and made friends that I'll probably keep in touch with for the rest of my life. Not only Australians but a lot of the other International Students I've come to meet through the International Program at Kirwan.

The time I have spent with these kids have given me so many great memories and will certainly stay with me for a very long time. Not only at school is it good with friends. Plenty of times they have spent with me out adventuring and enjoying the beach. There are countless other things this country gives you to enjoy.

My Experiences:

It is pretty amazing how many amazing experiences I have had in the five months that I have been here. To share a few experiences that really stand out is the Whitsunday Islands and going there on a camp with the Kirwan International kids. Being out on the Islands was something - breath taking and more amazing than any postcard could represent. A few other things that were great experiences was the opportunity to interact with Australian animals like the kangaroo and koalas and visiting Brisbane, the Gold Coast and fishing on the Great Barrier Reef.

There really are countless things to do and see here and the hard part is fitting as many in while you are here because some of the opportunities available are truly wonderful.