

LEARNING ABOUT AUSTRALIA

Emily Eitmann is a freshman at Treynor High School. This past summer she was selected to join other students from Iowa and Nebraska to form a Student Ambassador group of the People-to-People program to visit Australia. Emily explained the People-to-People program was started by former US President Dwight Eisenhower and is now continued by his daughter. The main program objective is for greater understanding among peoples of all nations by direct interaction and exchange of cultural information. During the trip to Australia, Emily stayed with a host family for a while to get a more intimate feel for life there. The rest of the time the group saw many features of Australia through planned tours and activities. Along the way Emily chose several souvenirs including currency, opals, boomerang, and didgeridu that she displayed. Opals are mined in Australia, Emily noted. The boomerang and didgeridu are Australian aboriginal developed items for hunting and music. The didgeridu is a hollow tube that is blown somewhat like a trumpet. The aborigines used a small tree trunk with a slight flare that had been hollowed out by termites to make the didgeridu. Club member KELLEY MCGOWEN demonstrated how to blow it. No one offered to demonstrate the boomerang. Emily described several natural features of Australia such as hot springs, mountains, and wild life she enjoyed observing. She noted that two animals in the world that can not back up because of their tails are kangaroos and wallabies. At one café she ate a meal while observing wildlife on the ground nearby, and she observed a snake eat a frog. Emily said her observations made her want to return to Australia. But, there were some experiences that were not so inviting. She does not want to sample Kangaroo steak again, after all she grew up on a farm and Iowa beef has no comparison.