

The Home Front

March 2020

AHN

Australian Homestay
Network

WELCOME TO Q1 2020

The beginning of 2020 has certainly been a difficult time for us here in Australia and for those who are part of the international student community. From fires and floods to the ongoing challenges posed by the coronavirus (COVID-19), we know it has not been easy and we are grateful for the support you have shown to your guests and our local teams.

In addition to the information provided by the Australian government departments, each state government has been issuing its own advice and education providers enforcing their own safeguards. Managing all this while working with education partners, hosts and students to coordinate homestays during one of the busiest intake periods of the year continues to be a massive undertaking for our offices across the country. We have had a remarkable response from hosts who have been extremely accommodating in working with us through the cancellations, changes, delays and other demands these situations bring. What's more, the comfort and reassurance you are giving your guests is invaluable to those who may be feeling anxious while far from home, whether they are from China or elsewhere. Families that are not currently hosting also play an important role in supporting international students within the local community so they feel welcome and safe. AHN has issued a [press release](#) highlighting the exceptional contribution of our host network and the positive impact the homestay experience has for students as they first arrive in Australia.

The COVID-19 outbreak is a constantly evolving issue. We will continue to prioritise communications and updates for students and hosts directly affected, and encourage all our homestay participants to remain up to date on the Australian government's information relating to the virus, its symptoms and safety advice via the [Department of Health](#) website.

From the entire AHN team – THANK YOU!



WANTED: AHN Host Ambassadors

We're looking for AHN Homestay Ambassadors to showcase the homestay experience! Our ambassadors will provide current and prospective hosts – as well as students and their parents – with an insight into homestay life.

We know how many different aspects there are to the homestay journey, and we want to see what you and your students get up to together. It's *so* easy to take a quick video while you're doing your everyday activities, you can even get your student to do it for you! We're looking for authentic host and student experiences. Examples of topics you could cover are below.

GENERAL HOMESTAY UPDATES: VIDEO

- Student arrivals
- Student departures
- Student pickups
- "How was your day?"
- Meal ideas / cooking with your student
- House tour
- Bedroom overview – what's included

EXPERIENCES WITH STUDENTS: VIDEO

- Visiting attractions
- Where to shop
- Eating an iconic Aussie food
- Showing them how public transport works
- The student's first trip to school
- Trying new foods for the first time
- Reading the AHN Aussie Slang Dictionary together

OTHER:

- Answering FAQs submitted by other hosts (questions provided by AHN)
- Why you love to host with AHN in 20 words or less
- The best things about hosting in 30 seconds
- Interviews with students
- Written articles including photos e.g. Study Tour overviews
- Photo submissions with caption (must be related to homestay)



'HOW TO' VIDEOS:

- Upload a room to AHN
- Send AHN a system email
- Mark a student as arrived
- Check your ledger
- Prepare Aussie food:
 - Make a milo
 - Eat a pie
 - Spread Vegemite

Give **students** an idea of what to expect when they arrive into homestay.

Show **parents** why homestay is a safe and positive environment.

Encourage **agents** to recommend AHN homestay to students.

Let's show everyone **WHY** we have the best hosts in Australia.

Help us, help you, attract more students to homestay.

Selected host ambassadors will receive a \$100 Visa gift card for their efforts.

VIDEO CONTENT WILL BE FAVOURED.

The more content you send through, the higher the chance you have to be chosen as our Host Ambassador. You can send your content to socialmedia@homestaynetwork.org. More details [here](#).

**By sending us this content, you agree to AHN sharing your experiences via our social media channels using the hashtag #AHNhostambassador.*

INDUSTRY NEWS

- [Queensland records decade-high growth in visiting students](https://www.miragenews.com/queensland-records-decade-high-growth-in-visiting-students/)
<https://www.miragenews.com/queensland-records-decade-high-growth-in-visiting-students/>
- [Getting foreign names right matters, psychology study shows](https://www.miragenews.com/getting-foreign-names-right-matters-psychology-study-shows/)
<https://www.miragenews.com/getting-foreign-names-right-matters-psychology-study-shows/>
- [49% of international students in Australia hurt by foreign transaction fees, new research finds](https://mozo.com.au/international-money-transfer/articles/49-of-international-students-in-australia-hurt-by-foreign-transaction-fees-new-research-finds) <https://mozo.com.au/international-money-transfer/articles/49-of-international-students-in-australia-hurt-by-foreign-transaction-fees-new-research-finds>
- [Australian academics debate long-term impact of bushfire crisis](https://www.timeshighereducation.com/news/australian-academics-debate-long-term-impact-bushfire-crisis)
<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/news/australian-academics-debate-long-term-impact-bushfire-crisis>



#WINNING



Yufan is doing great and we're both very happy with the placement. I took Yufan to some places over my holidays that he really enjoyed and showed him how Australians celebrate Christmas haha.

He also purchased a bike and cycles the 50 min bike ride to and

"Nine years ago, our first homestay student came to live with us. We understood that she had come to Australia to learn, however **we did not appreciate how much we would learn as well** - about them as people, their cultures and also about ourselves. Since then, we have had many students come into our lives. All of them have made a mark. We have made new friends, not only with our students but also with some of their parents as well. **We consider some of them to be family**"

Brad and Claire, Brisbane

"I received this gorgeous message from my student:

Life in Australia was really beautiful because of you. I stayed with you just only one month, but it was my

from uni to try to get a bit fitter and loose weight which is great. I always encourage him to get more confident and cook a bit healthier for him to help.

Luke, Brisbane

first one month in Australia. I didn't have anything and I was quite nervous. But I met you and you helped me a lot. When I stayed with you I totally felt safe. **You are my best friend in Australia.** Time flies and I went back to Japan. I miss you my life in Australia. But missing something means that **I enjoyed so much and I got beautiful memories and people.** See you for a while. I will visit you someday. Hope your all happiness. Thank you so much!!!!

Valderez, Gold Coast

#whatsfordinner

Keith from Melbourne was the winner of the \$250 Visa Gift Card in our November Recipe Book Competition.

Thanks to everyone who entered the comp. There were so many delicious meals entered! Our students are lucky to have such amazing cooks as their hosts!

Recipe:

Indonesian baked fish - Balinese style

- 1 Get a whole fish Snapper or Barramundi
2. Remove scales and make 3 cuts slantwise to both sides of fish
3. Rub fresh lime juice mixed with olive oil ,salt pepper,ginger paste garlic paste and fish sauce completely around fish
4. Cover with foil and bake inside oven for 30 minutes at 180 degrees fan forced
5. Cut into small pieces tomato, red onions, capsicum green and red , mix with three teaspoons of fish and soy sauce three teaspoons and keep ready.
6. Remove the foil off the fish inside oven after 30 minutes reduce heat to 120 degrees and keep for ten minutes .
7. Take out fish from oven and place in a large oval dish and garnish with the already cut tomato onions and capsicum pieces.
8. Place a few Kaffir lemon leaves for additional aroma and flavor beside fish and it is ready for eating.



Want to share your thoughts?

Leave a review of your experience on [Facebook](#) or [Google!](#)

OUR LATEST BLOG

Arriving in Australia

As we know, settling in to a new country can be very daunting for students.

They're adjusting to living away from family, finding their way around a new city and trying to make new friends. So we've put together a few tips for you to share with them.

Banking, homesickness, beach safety and wellbeing are all covered in our new blog that can be found [here](#).

There are also resources listed regarding working as an international student while in Australia, as well as support services should your student have any concerns about their education provider or mental health.



Our other blogs can be found [here](#)

POLL: The main reason you host international students is...

To experience different cultures

Select

I like to show people my city

Select

Homestay payments

Select

My child/ren have moved out

Select

Language exchange

Select

To help my child/ren learn about the world

Select

If your students would like to contact us on WeChat, show them our QR code so they can get in touch!

Our Wechat ID is: GHNSupport



info@homestaynetwork.org



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