



# STUDENTS HEAD TO JAPAN FOR EXCHANGE TRIP

Ten Dubbo teenagers will soon be packing their bags and heading abroad to Dubbo's Sister City, Minokamo, as part of the Sister City Exchange Program run by Dubbo Regional Council.

Excitement levels are high for the departure date of Sunday 24 September, when the students and their two chaperones will leave Dubbo for Minokamo in Japan.

Abigail Pearse attends the Central West Leadership Academy and is one of the students participating in the exchange program.

"It's my first time to Japan, and I'm really looking forward to being part of a family and experiencing the daily life of a completely different culture." Ms Pearse said.

The students visiting Japan will spend one week living with their host family, attending Minokamo Agricultural High School with their host student and visiting local tourist attractions. Side trips organised for the group include visiting Tokyo and Tokyo Disneyland.

Sister City Officer Daisy Wang said Tokyo is a city of around 37 million people, so the students will have a different experience in city life.

“The students are excited to meet up with their Japanese friends who visited in August. Alongside attending school, the exchange student group had a packed itinerary, including art workshops and visits to Taronga Western Plains Zoo, Old Dubbo Gaol and Wellington Caves.” Ms Wang said.

“There were many tears shed at the farewell dinner however, now it’s time for the Dubbo exchange students to step outside their comfort zone and experience Japanese culture and customs,” she said.

Central West Leadership Academy student Noah Randall is keen to see what it is like to live abroad.

“I’m really excited. This is a really unique opportunity to go and live within the Japanese culture.” Mr Randell said.

Ms Wang said the Sister City Exchange Program is a rewarding experience for both the visitors and the hosts.

“In preparation for their stay in Minokamo, the students have been attending Japanese language and cultural training sessions.”

“They are well prepared and very excited to put their learning into practice and immerse themselves in the traditions and customs of Japan.” Ms Wang said.

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