

## **Ballarat Grammar School- Ballarat, Australia**

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My experience in Australia was amazing. I went to a school called Ballarat Grammar School. It is in a small town called Ballarat in southern Victoria. For those who might not know where that is, it is 1.5 hours away from Melbourne. Ballarat was quite different compared to Montreal. Many of the students owned or lived on farms. Even though it was quite different, everyone was so welcoming and kind. It was interesting to live in a small town compared to Montreal.

Ballarat Grammar had some similarities and differences to LCC. Firstly, everyone carries around their books from class to class rather than bringing their backpacks to each class. The students also have many choices as electives. There was journalism, agriculture, sports, science, art, textiles, etc. They also have many language options such as French, Chinese, and Latin. The school also has boarding students. There is chapel once a week. At LCC, we focus less on religion. It was very interesting to be at a school where religion played a huge role, especially being of a different religion than the one that was practiced. There were also seventeen buildings, rather than three. There are a couple of similarities as well. At Ballarat Grammar, there are advisories and advisors. However, the advisories are not co-educational. The classes were very similar and that had a big impact on my experience.

While I was there, I visited Melbourne, Apollo Bay, and Phillip Island. Each weekend was so eventful thanks to my very generous host family! I learned so much from going on an exchange and being in a different culture. If I had the opportunity to go back to Ballarat I would do so without a doubt. I had such a great experience and I recommend it to everyone! I was gone for six weeks and I wish I had stayed longer so that I could have had more time with the friends that I made and the host family. I made friendships and memories that I will never forget.