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Person to Person in Australia

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Recommended Citation

McCarrel, Alexandra, "Person to Person in Australia" (2015). *2014-15 Field Notes*. Essay. Submission 11.
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Mid-Semester Assessment, IDST 031

Alexandra McCarrel
Australia
4/10/2015

The person I interviewed is named Nick Weigner. He is a first year student at James Cook University and is majoring in Wildlife and Ecology. From his interview, he explained that Australia has a much more relaxed attitude and lifestyle. People walk around barefoot in public all the time, to the grocery store or to the doctor's office. Mothers with children will walk barefoot everywhere, as well as business men. People in Australia don't think that going in public without shoes is seen as dirty or trashy. People wear less clothes here, like men not wearing shirts out in the city and women running errands in their bikinis. People are much friendlier here. For example, if you pass a stranger in the street, people will say Goodday and ask how you are. Strangers will strike up conversations on the bus and ask questions about yourself and what you are studying when you mention you are a student at JCU.

Nick and I share a liking of the same movies and TV shows. American shows are extremely popular in Australia and people like to go to the movies. They are much more expensive in Australia though. Overall, everything in Australia is more expensive. For example, an average meal out will cost you 12-15 dollars. Drinks, like cocktails, are usually 15 dollars, and movie tickets are 17 Australian dollars. Today, the American dollar is stronger than the Australian dollar, so everything is 20% off. The food is pretty much the same as in America, though meat pies are very popular as snacks. Indian food is everywhere, and food is called different things here in Australia. For example, French fries are called chips and cookies are called biscuits. Sweaters are called jumpers and school and its homework is called uni. People here take school here much less seriously than in America. University is more of an option here and not so much of a necessity to get a good paying job.

After the interview with Nick, I realized that Australians shorten a lot of their words, like shortening afternoon to arvo. They drop the r's when pronouncing words. I realized that America and Australia are much more similar than I previously thought before I came to study abroad here. However, Australian people have a much more relaxed attitude in their dress styles, education, and general mannerisms. The biggest difference in Australia would not be the culture or the people, but the climate. It is hard to get used to the constant humidity and warm weather. We are experiencing the end of the wet season, which are frequented with cyclones. Soon the weather will be dryer and cooler, though still hot.

Person Interviewed: Nick Weigner, first year student at James Cook University

Interview Date: April 10th