

From Tina (Mother) :

" As parents to Ryan Tham, 10...we found this ISSE program to Langwarrin very successful for him. It has been a great experience for him to learn to be independent and to learn about another culture.

As this was the 1st time Ryan was away from home, we were not sure if he could handle it initially but he had shown courage and strength plus he had a fantastic "foster family, the Lowe's" to guide him and to ensure that he had a great time.

Since coming home, we have seen some positive changes in him....Ryan seemed more matured and more responsible in his daily life. He has improved on his school work too. He talks about his experiences often and he keeps in touch with the Lowe's.

Even his foster parents had so many good reviews on him.

We thank the ISSE for this opportunity and would not hesitate to participate it again if given the chance. "

Ahem, still got one more daughter mah!

Thanks again,
TINA

From: Melissa Lowe and Family(Foster family) :-

Hi All

We have all settled back into our usual routines but now find it all a bit boring.

On the weekend we were telling friends of ours all about Ryan and the wonderful things we did while he was here. Alex misses him terribly and hopes that when he is in Grade 6 he can take part in the ISSE program and stay with you all then.

I have said to the boys to save their money and hopefully in 2010 we will be able to visit you all in Malaysia (this would be my first overseas trip). Mathew wants to stay at Sunway Lagoon and has mentioned that Ryan will be really good at swimming by then so they will be able to join in all the activities together and won't need to be supervised.

The school had a meeting the other day to note down all the things that went right and those that didn't work so well. There were only some minor problems (cell phones) but the majority was very positive and was an experience that both the Australian children and their parents will remember forever. Also the teachers and the other parents were so impressed with Ryan and how he behaved whilst he was here. Apparently they were a little concerned as he was so young but he won them all over very quickly (as he did with us). The parents also mentioned how nice Derrick was also. It was a pleasure to meet him and have him show us around Melbourne.

Hopefully we all get to meet again soon. You are all very welcome at our house anytime.

Melissa Lowe