



Turn-about Is Fair Play: Thailand to Australia

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In my job as Volunteer and Intern Coordinator, I make all the arrangements for people coming to Chiang Mai from Australia, Canada, the UK, USA, Indonesia, Viet Nam, Laos, Singapore, everywhere! I help them with their visa applications, make sure they have information about their accommodations and trainings in Thailand and greet them and help them get settled when they arrive here.

But in February, someone else made arrangements for me! I was surprised when Prof. Col McCowan of Queensland University of Technology (QUT), with the support of AusAID, invited me to come to Australia -- and I was very happy and excited to accept! I was also very nervous. I would be the extern leaving my country for the first time. I would be the one going somewhere where people do not speak my language, where I would be far from family and friends and where, much to my surprise, it would be difficult to find Thai food.



Prof. Col from QUT was my host in Brisbane and he invited me to join his program with Bhutanese lawyers. The Bhutanese study the Australian legal system by visiting the courts and doing research in the library. I went with them to Family Court, where we listened to a divorce case, and also visited the police prosecutor's station and heard a presentation on criminal investigation procedure.

The next day, Prof. Tina Cockburn of QUT took me to the Caxton Legal Centre, the largest in Queensland. We had a meeting with the Director, Scott McDougall and Camielle Donaghey, who is the Publications and Volunteer Coordinator. We talked about what our organizations do. Caxton has about 200 volunteers working there, including law students and volunteer lawyers, and they cover many areas of law: credit and debt,

neighborhood law, employment law, discrimination, insurance, family law, domestic violence and guardianship law. The centre provides social services help, as well as free legal advice.

On my last night in Brisbane. I got to experience the famous Australian food called "barbecue" with Tina and her family. We ate outside and had beef and corn cooked on the grill and I had tuna, because I don't eat beef.

Moving to Melbourne

The next day I flew to Melbourne, two hours south of Brisbane. Prof. Helen Yandell met me at the airport and took me to her home outside the city. Then, she took me to a restaurant where we could watch the sun set... at 8.30pm! I wish we had that in Thailand!
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