

Dear Kylie

compiled by Carolee Miot McIntosh



Kylie

Dear Tayla,

My name is Kylie. I'm 13 years old and from New Hampshire. I love sharing my pen pal letters with the readers of *FACES*. I am excited to talk to you about your life in Australia.

I love to travel. I have been to Mexico, the United Kingdom, several of the United States, the Dominican Republic, and Canada. I hope to make it to Australia one day because it seems amazing. What are some things you would recommend seeing in Australia?

I'm excited to hear from you. Thanks so much for helping.

With smiles,
Kylie

In this "big" issue, Kylie chatted with Tayla about all things big in Australia. Kylie learned that not only does Australia have some naturally big things, but they also like to fill their country with large man-made objects.

Dear Kylie,

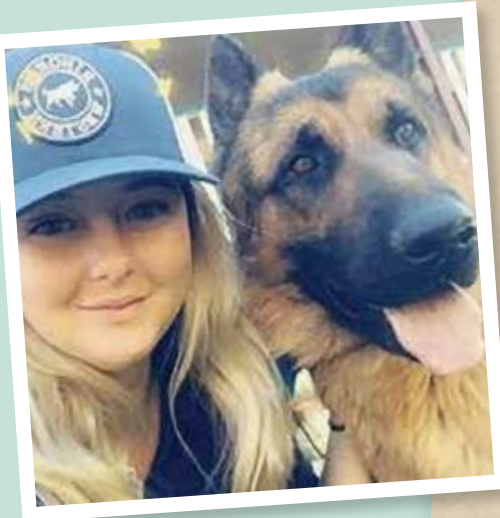
Hello. As you already know, my name is Tayla and I am 25 years old. I'm from Aramac, Queensland, Australia. I work as a specialist teacher in schools, mainly specializing in the teaching of health and physical education.

Because Australia is so far away from nearly everywhere else, I travel mainly within my own country. However, I have traveled to New Zealand, and of course to the United States where I met Anna (a friend of Kylie's sister) while working in a summer camp in Maine.

Something I would highly recommend seeing in Australia is a true Australian Outback sunset. Many tourists who visit Australia don't seem to travel far enough inland to see the true Australian Outback. I am so fortunate to live here and experience these amazing and spectacular sunsets.

I hope this answers some of your questions. Feel free to ask more.

Tayla



Tayla and Anakin

Dear Tayla,

The sunset picture you sent was gorgeous and I hope that one day I'll be able to see it in person. We have pretty sunsets in New Hampshire, but yours is much more orange.

For this issue, we are talking about anything big, such as big mountains or big spaces. I know that Australia is the largest country in the region of Oceania and the sixth largest in the world by size. I was wondering what sorts of big things you could share about Australia?

Here in New Hampshire, we are a rather small state, but we have the big White Mountains. At 6,288 feet, Mount Washington is the highest peak in the northeastern United States. It is known for its crazy weather. It can snow throughout much of the year up there, and winds speeds have reached 231 miles per hour. My family likes to vacation at the Mount Washington Hotel, where we once went zip lining down a nearby mountain. It was quite thrilling.

I imagine the Australian Outback has lots of big open space? Are there big landforms such as canyons, mountains, or anything? What is the Outback like? I have never been, but maybe I could go one day.

With smiles,
Kylie



Hi Kylie,

We are famous for big things in Australia. There is Uluru, also known as Ayers Rock. Uluru is a huge red rock right in the middle of Australia. It is a very sacred place to the Aboriginal Australian people. In the past, tourists climbed it. However, Uluru is now protected as a sacred site and climbing is no longer permitted.

Australia is also famous for big land icons such as the big banana in Coffs Harbour, the big prawn, the big mango, the big apple, and so many more. These big statues celebrate their namesakes and are constructed where the actual items are found or grown.

Generally, Australia is a very flat country. We have lots of open plains. Where I live, the nearest town is an hour away by car. In between this space are large farms we call properties (similar to ranches in the United States). We are one of the largest sheep and cattle producing countries in the world. I pass six properties on one side of the road on the drive to the next town. In good seasons, each property can support 500 to 3,000 cows, or the same number of sheep. Unfortunately, we are going through one of the longest droughts ever recorded, and the properties are suffering.

I hope this gives you some ideas about 'big' things in Australia.

Tayla



Uluru

Dear Tayla,

Wow! Australia certainly is filled with big things. Uluru sounds very fascinating. Do you have a picture?

New Hampshire is called the Granite State. We have many interesting rock formations that create scenic waterfalls, viewing spots, or even mountains. Glaciers moving through left many of these big rocks or boulders behind.

I think it is so cool that Australia has all these big fruit statues. It seems like a lot of fun to have things like that around, and they would make people smile. I didn't know that Australia had many sheep and cattle.

I would love to own cows but my mom says no because we don't live where there are plains like you. Before I moved I had a backyard that was about 3.5 acres, which could have held a cow or two. It must be an amazing view to see across all of that flat land, maybe like when I look out over the ocean.

Thanks so much for taking the time to share big Australia with us!
With smiles,
Kylie



Kylie on a hike

Dear Kylie,

I hope you have enjoyed hearing a bit about Australia. I certainly have learned more about New Hampshire. Great talking with you!

Take care,
Tayla

