

A LIFE – CHANGING TRIP

My name is Kha An, and recently had the incredible opportunity to participate in a short-term study trip to Mallacoota – Australia. Thanks to the valuable support of Mekong Organics, the short trip to Mallacoota, Australia became one of the most memorable and meaningful experiences for me. I sincerely thank the Rotary Club for sponsoring me on this trip. Thanks to Reclink Australia for supporting and giving me the opportunity to participate in sports activities.

Thanks to Mallacoota P-12 college for welcome me and providing such a friendly and open enviroment. I am deeply grateful to Phil and Kate for opening their home and their hearts to me. It was not only an opportunity to explore a new land but also a journey that helped me immerse myself in a completely different learning environment, challenge myself and expand my worldview. During my time in Mallacoota, I was able to attend a local school. There, I not only continued with Maths — my favorite subject — but also experienced many new activities and subjects. I joined a Judo class, learning basic moves and imbibing the spirit of discipline and patience.



I played basketball, practicing health and team spirit. I tried sewing, learning how to be meticulous and persistent in every stitch.



I also attended drawing classes, opening up a new and inspiring creative space. Outside of class, I often went to the community house to play Rummy-O with everyone — a game that is both strategic and fun and bonding.



My days in Mallocoota taught me many valuable lessons. I learned how to adapt more quickly to changes in lifestyle and culture. I understood more clearly the importance of communication: listening carefully, asking questions and expressing my thoughts clearly, even though my English was not really fluent. I also learned to be open-minded — willing to try new things that I never thought I would do. What I loved most was living with Phil and Kate — two wonderful people who opened their doors and hearts to me. We ate together, talked together, and shared stories of our lives. Their warmth, patience and affection made this place feel like a second home to me.

The biggest challenge I faced was the language barrier. Although I can communicate, I realized that I have not yet made the most of the opportunity to practice English. This fact motivates me to try harder when I return. This trip not only brought me knowledge, skills and beautiful memories, but also a turning point that helped me grow up. I am extremely grateful to Mekong Organics for creating the conditions for me to have this valuable experience, and to everyone in Mallocoota for giving me such a warm welcome. I will carry all the things I have learned, these memories and these feelings with me throughout my life.

