

SPIS 25th Anniversary – Homestay

For 25 years now, St Paul's School via St Paul's International School, has provided students with a 'home away from home' through our Homestay program! We all know that being a happy and successful student certainly doesn't only depend on what happens in the school classroom.

That's where our Homestay program really does make a difference. Not only does living in a homestay family provide an immersive English language opportunity but also provides the valuable individual care and support that our international students often do not have here, since they are away from their own families, friends and homes.

Fitting into a carefully selected Homestay family provides many benefits for both the student and the local family. Many homestay hosts tell us about the rewarding cultural experiences they gain from hosting their international students as well as the opportunities to make lifelong, global friendships.

Close and lasting personal ties are common in our homestay community. In fact, many of our homestay hosts have been to visit their old homestay students, in their countries, years later. Some have attended weddings overseas and even been to meet what they have called their 'Homestay Grandchildren' around the world.

These photos clearly demonstrate the important role of our Homestay hosts and the close ties that can form between them and our International Students.





Homestay providers also receive a generous nightly payment to cover homestay expenses. We invite our students to live in a safe, caring and supportive home environment where they can immerse themselves in study, practise English skills and develop lasting friendships with their homestay family. We offer

ongoing support and a Homestay Coordinator available 24/7 for emergencies.

For further information about becoming a Homestay provider, please contact Ms. Sharon Sutherland, Homestay Coordinator – s.sutherland@stpauls.qld.edu.au.

Photo Story:



One of our very first Homestay Hosts, Isabel and John Carlyon with their student Wai Yin (Ruby) Woo at her Valedictory Dinner in 2004?

Yr 12 Graduation Celebrations in 2005



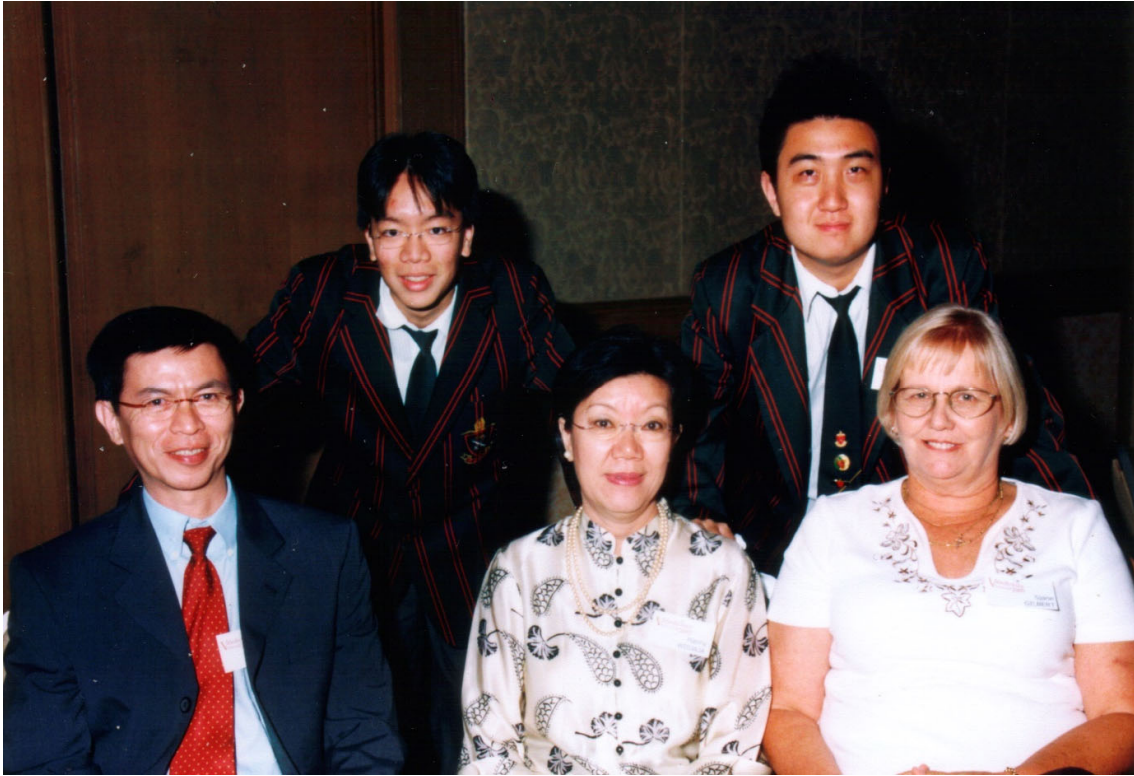
Homestay host Ms. Bronwyn Neil attended to support her homestay student Manjie (Mike) LUO (from China).



Homestay host Ms. Wendy Eustace with International Student **Resta Bunawan** (from Indonesia) at Resta's Valedictory in Dinner 2005.



Sara HAMANA (from Japan) was very pleased to have her Homestay 'mother' Ms. Sandy Simpson celebrate this milestone with her at the Valedictory Dinner.



Mother, Father and Homestay Host, Mrs Gilbert, together to celebrate with **Elbert MARANTHA (from Indonesia)** and homestay 'brother' Zi Hao (**Jeff) CHEN (from China)**.

Update: Jeff Chen (above back right) still calls Brisbane 'home' today. After graduating from SPS in 2008, he went on to study a Bachelor of Regional and Town Planning and followed this up with a Master of Development Practice, both at the University of Queensland. A great achievement!



YaNan LI (from China) with her Homestay 'parents', Mr and Mrs Winington, 2005.



Homestay 'parents' Judy and Bob Soden were proud to attend the Valedictory Dinner to support their homestay student, Yu (Luke) LI (from China), and celebrate this achievement with him.



Jinjie (Joel) WANG (from China) with his Homestay 'mother'. "This photo is about me and Nancy, my homestay. I think my homestay is very kind."

And here is 'Jack' – another important member of Joel's Aussie Homestay family!



Nancy also attended Joel's Valedictory Dinner when he graduated from Year 12 at SPS in 2019. Here they are together at this event.



Part of the Family! Homestay celebrating birthdays, births and having fun together:



Homestay host Cheryl Ivory making her student feel totally part of the homestay family. And attending his final SPS Assembly on gratuating from Year 12.





Runge (William) WANG from China holding Cheryl's newborn grandchild.

And again in 2017 with another valued homestay student, Chung Hang Jeremiah SER from Hong Kong.



Coming 'home' to visit! Here is Pierre HSU visiting his dear Homestay 'parents'. The relationship between homestay hosts and their students endures. Glenys and Ivan LEGG were homestay hosts for SPIS for many years. Although they have both passed away, they are remembered with deep love by many people, whose hearts they touched.

