

# G'Day from Australia!



Hello Northern Middle friends!

My name is Gary, but my friends call me Gazza. It's an Aussie thing to change words around a bit, even if they don't make the word any shorter! Here are some examples:



*1 - Barbie - barbeque*



*2 - Tradie - tradesman, like a builder or plumber*



*3 - Macca's - McDonald's*





4 - Postie - postman



5 - Footy - Aussie Rules or rugby



6 - Muso - musician



7 - Firey - firefighter



*8 - Ambo - ambulance officer or paramedic*



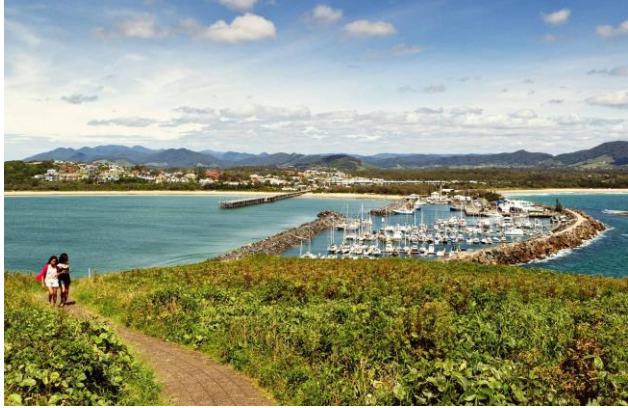
*9 - Chrissy - Christmas*

## Coffs Harbour

I am coming all the way from Coffs Harbour which is a city on the East Coast of Australia. About 77,000 people live here. The Pacific Highway runs through Coffs Harbour, heading south to Sydney and north to Brisbane. To the west are a long line of mountains, which make up part of the Great Dividing Range. To the East, all you can see is water, all the way to the horizon! I love living here.









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There is an island at the end of the Coffs Harbour Marina, called Muttonbird Island. Every August the muttonbirds, which are actually called wedge-tailed shearwaters, come to nest in burrows all over the island. They come all the way from the Philippines on an epic migration and amazingly head to the same nest every year! The babies leave the nests in April, and they migrate back to the Philippines for the winter!



From May - November, the humpback whales make their migration from Antarctica to the warmer waters off Queensland. Muttonbird Island and any of the headlands around here are perfect spots to watch the whales play as they swim by.





Australia is well-known for its BIG things. Look up the Big Pineapple or the Big Lobster if you don't believe me! Coffs Harbour's most famous landmark is the Big Banana. It was once a huge banana plantation and tourists could take tours around the banana hills on the back of a tractor! Now they don't grow so many bananas, and it has turned into a theme park with water slides, laser tag, ice skating, mini golf and more fun things.



Coffs Harbour is known as Australia's most liveable city. Our average winter temperature is 13 C (57 F) and average summer temperature is 23 C (73 F). Spending time at the beach is probably the most popular activity to do here, and there are stunning coastal walking tracks that take you along the beach and over the headlands.



We have a variety of unique ecosystems here so there is something for everyone to enjoy. The mountains rising up behind Coffs Harbour are home to a huge variety of plants and animals who call the subtropical rainforests home. There are excellent waterfall walks with creek crossings and if you're lucky you'll spot a lyrebird. Mountain biking is also very popular and we have some great tracks.









## About Our School

Our school, Coffs Harbour Christian Community School, has a junior campus (K-5), which is where I have come from. We also have a middle school (6-8) and a high school (9-12). This is not very common in Australia, as most schools here are primary (Kindergarten -year 6) and high school (7-12).





One of the great things about our school is our new library. We have a Reading Wall, which is a great place to chill out and read. We also have live insects and native reptiles to learn about and take care of.

Two blue tongue skinks: Chewy and Coconut.

Two baby bearded dragons: Rosie and Smashy.

One central netted dragon: Kermit.

Two giant burrowing cockroaches: Pearl and Peekay.

Six Cunningham's skinks.

Three hermit crabs that don't have names yet, and a whole lot of Goliath stick insects and spiny leaf insects, whose eggs have just hatched!

We also have a taxidermy dingo and kookaburra to study up close.











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## What are you reading?

One of our favourite questions at our school is "What are you reading?". Here are some books we have been reading this week!

