

Trip to Australia

Maine Track Club,

This past summer I received a \$100 contribution from your organization, which went, towards my trip to Australia. A thank you note is way over-due, so I thought it was about time I expressed my high amount of gratitude to the Board of Directors and all others who were involved in the contribution.

While I was in Australia, I competed in the Down Under Games and had the chance to view a beautiful county.

The races went well; with little practice (I had only been summer training for two weeks), I finished third in the 1500m and fourth in the 800m. Maine was also well represented with a group hurdlers, throws, vaulters and sprinters. It was great to see how well we all got along; everyone was very nice and had great work ethic.

Aside from running, all of the athletes got to sightsee very often. We had the chance to view culture and way-of-life on the other side of the world. The scenery was also very beautiful; from, the balcony of our plaza I could see for miles! Tons of palm trees were in sight, along with tall, uniquely shaped, well lit buildings. To top it off, there was an awesome view of the ocean!

The return trip was definitely bittersweet. I was very excited to see my friends and family again and tell them all about Australia, but I was also bummed about leaving. All of the Australian residents were extremely friendly and welcoming, so I was beginning to feel at home.

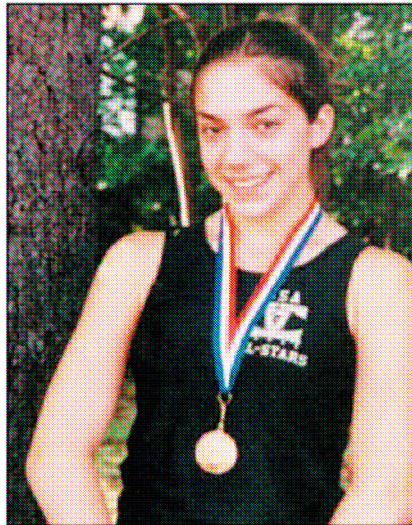
If I had the change to go back to Australia, I would most definitely return. I would make sure to sightsee even more than I did this past summer and take many more pictures. It was such a wonderful experience, and I will remember it for life!

Thanks for helping to make a dream come true.

Sincerely,

Melissa Gagnier

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Melissa Gagnier won the bronze medal for the 1500 m race in Australia this past summer.

Down Maine Track Club