

## Anika Stanic to Taiwan – Report April 2020



This month has been a pretty standard month in Taiwan, I've fallen into a habit with school now although the long days do get to me still at times. This month I've been on a lot of mountain trails with the parents and grandparents and I've taken some great photos I'll share at the bottom. I've visited some beautiful places that I can't actually pronounce but I've tried my hardest too. Throughout this month I've started using more Chinese even though it might be very broken, I can understand what people are saying if it's spoken to me but you find it difficult to understand in a big group of people at times. All I can say is my listening is definitely better than my speaking over here.



This month all exchange students in my district had a 2-week quarantine lockdown session. The rotary over here said there was a predicted spike in cases and just to keep us safe we were to stay inside for the duration they deemed safe. So I didn't have to go to school for 2 short weeks and during this time I had to do my



Chinese lessons over a phone call twice a week, it was very weird to get used to and I'm glad I didn't have to do it for more than 2 weeks. The main questions and problems I encountered on lockdown were 'how long is it socially acceptable to stay in my room and in the same clothes?'

Or 'when is it ok to not change out or to change out of my pjs?'. I had to really balance it out but after I was getting the hang of it it was time to go back to school and get back into routine.

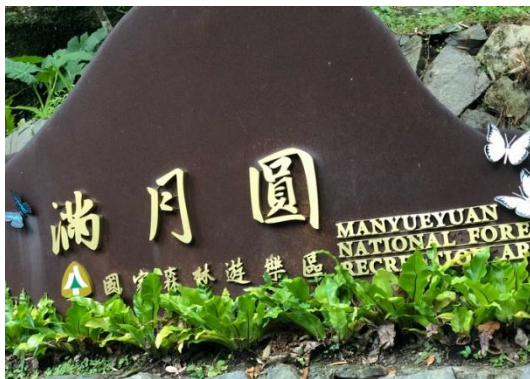


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This month I also went to a university in Taichung (台中) for the host brothers application there and I got to see a squirrel for the first time ever. As you can imagine I was quite shook when I saw it run past me and up a tree. The brother must have seen my confusion and amazement as he asked why I was so excited to see a squirrel so I had to explain to him that we don't have squirrels in Australia so I've never seen them before. I also went to some famous waterfalls and I got to write on and light a lantern with the family and I even got a mini lantern to celebrate the day. We went to a town that is famous for its lanterns and it was such a pretty town I can't wait to go back. I got to see fireflies near the town as well and they were so very pretty I almost fell in love with them. They were smaller than what I expected though, and I was attacked and sabotaged by one as it flew into my bubble tea as I was drinking it so I had to throw it out.

I've made my friendships better with the people in my culture class and we all get along really well now and I'm going to be so sad when they leave. Last week we went to Taipei Science Museum and week played in the ball pit (meant for under 7's) for almost 2-3 hours and it was so much fun I got a bruise or two but it was so worth it and I'm so lucky I got to go and experience it with them.



Hosted by the Rotary Club of Hsinchuang Central Taiwan- Sponsor Club Taree