



Connections through Cooking

A day in the life of a tuckshop volunteer: **Tserendolgot Nanzaddorj (Uka)**

On my first day volunteering at Scarborough State School tuckshop, I met *Connections Through Cooking* Project Manager, Astri in front of the school at 9am. After signing in at the school administration office, we went to meet the manager of the tuckshop, Lisa.

My volunteering started at 9:15am and I was first tasked with making the bacon and egg sandwiches. Lisa gave me great instructions and showed me how to make them. Astri helped me as well, encouraging me and commenting that my English is very good. This slowly broke me out of my panic.



I made 13 bacon and egg sandwiches, one cheese and tomato sandwich, one serve of Vegemite toast, one serve of jam toast, as well as the batter for apple and berry muffins. I then helped to pack the orders and put them into the class baskets. The school has first and second break. All orders for the first break must be ready at 11am.

After preparing the first break orders and cleaning utensils and appliances, we started making the second break orders.

I like that most of the food is homemade and still hot. I loved the staff and volunteers, who were lovely and friendly people.

The tuckshop has some important rules, including to always wash your hands and don't put the knife in the sink.

At first, I was nervous, and kept thinking, "I will do something wrong and what will happen if I do?" Fortunately, no one will judge you there. Everybody is friendly, answers all your questions, and tries to support you. They encourage you to "just do your best!"

I learned a lovely new recipe for cupcakes. Now I can make cupcakes for my son because I know how to.

Other benefits of volunteering included:

- Excellent practice to improve your English speaking skills through communication with others.
- You will make more acquaintances and friends, and you'll learn more.
- Finally, the smiles of many little children, their curious questions, and the children's noises kept me busy thinking about things, taking me back to my childhood memories for a moment, giving me energy and making me feel love. As soon as I found this, I happily walked to my home with a song in my mouth. This is how volunteering gave me another happy day.

Thank you for the support Astri!

