

CANBERRA CAMP

On Sunday, Nov 19th, 37 secondary students and 4 staff members boarded a Virgin aircraft and headed off to Canberra to take in the many sights and attractions.

We were met by Larry, our joke telling coach driver who stayed with us for the week; keeping us on schedule, accessing a few 'extra special' places as a bonus to our trip and regaling us with stories and facts about Canberra each day.

We were accommodated at the Canberra Student Lodge where students and Mr Gerrard and Mr Garner shared dorm style rooms. Mrs Garner and Miss Hibbit had the luxury of the 'staff quarters' (aka the device charging and medication room).

The itinerary was very full! We went to:

The National Capital Exhibition—where we learned there was a competition to design and name Canberra. We had a chance to do some town planning while we were there and took in the massive model of Canberra. It was a good orientation for the week.

The War Memorial - (a favourite of the majority). We started with a walk up ANZAC Parade to view some of the many memorials then embarked on a 'Strange But True' facilitated program. Quite honestly, could have stayed all day!

The Mint - with a guided tour. There were some amazing coins and a few people even got to make their own!

The Museum of Australian Democracy- 'Our Voices, Our Choices' program where we role played the debate of a bill in the senate in Old Parliament.

National Dinosaur Museum—this was a night tour. Not everyone was convinced dinosaurs are real! The exhibits were amazing!

Electoral Education Centre—we learnt about the history of government and how the electoral system works.

Canberra Arboretum—we had fun running down a massive hill, viewing the bonsai display (the oldest was 133 years old) and playing in the playground before choosing one of three walks to further explore the many plants grown here.

Parliament House—Tour and refreshments and, thanks to Larry we even got to go on the roof, which is grass, to check out the view. The flag that flies there is the size of a double decker bus!

Embassy Drive-through - All the embassies are in one place and it was very interesting to drive past and see the different styles of houses and level of security. The American Embassy is huge!

Australian Institute of Sport - We had a tour and saw some athletes training. There was a volleyball camp underway. We then had an opportunity to try out a lot of different sport related activities.

Cockington Green Gardens—this was a self-guided tour of a huge miniature village.

Questacon - It's like Scitech but SO much better. There are 7 different levels and we managed to keep Miss Hibbit under control (she was a little bit excited!)

Mt Ainslie Lookout—we went about sunset and got to appreciate the view and lights looking over Canberra.

Ice Skating—this was a big hit (for some literally—on the ice!). It was great fun and there was a full range of abilities. Other schools were there too so some new friends were made.

Government House - Although we couldn't do the full tour because the Governor General was signing Bills for parliament, we saw the dining room, grounds and Governor's formal occasion car (a Rolls Royce).

High Court - our session was about the court and the constitution. We got to sit in one of the courts where decisions related to Mabo and QANTAS were made.

National Library of Australia - our tour included the staff area where many artifacts are stored and saw the old vacuum communication system in action. We also got to look through the Sport exhibition and saw one of Don Bradman's bat and other pieces of history.

National Zoo and Aquarium - although a relatively short visit, students had a good look around the aquarium and then chose their own path through other exhibits.

National Museum of Australia - Our 'Meet the People' tour showed us snapshot of Australian history with the guides sharing some interesting stories. Another place where it would have been great to have more time!

We also learnt that:

- Plane travel isn't that scary
- We can survive without our phones
- When we take the time to get to know others, EVERYONE is actually nice!
- Boys like facials too!
- Mr Garner (aka Dan) isn't too bad on the guitar and it is surprising what songs students of the 2020's request!

THANKS MRS METCALF and MRS LEE for all your work getting Canberra organised. We wish you could have come!



WHAT'S ON?

Dec 6	Regional First Lego League Fun Day
Dec 6	Graduation Dinner
Dec 11	K/PP Reward Day
Dec 13	K/PP Christmas Party (1:30pm-3pm)
Dec 13	Presentation Night (6.00pm)
Dec 13	Reports Out
Dec 14	Students Last Day



SCHOOL SNIPPETS



Together We Strive