Canberra Excursion 2010
Written by Jakeb 6T

Let me set the scene for you:

It was 5:45am Monday 26th July pitch black and freezing cold, 43 beaming, excited and bright eyed students, copious amounts of bedraggled parents, two experienced battle hardened teachers and two nervous, unsuspecting, nail biting volunteer parents all gathered together in front of the school.

What has brought this group together? It is, of course, the Tuncurry Public School, Year 6, 2010 annual pilgrimage to Canberra!

A roar of the engine, a squeak of brakes and before we knew it our bags were stowed below, travel partners and seats chosen and we were off waving excitedly to our sleepy parents.

We had a few stops along the way and finally, after 9 long hours and a few DVDs, we arrived at our final destination – Canberra.

It took me two hours and forty seven minutes to tell my family about our whole trip, but due to time restrictions, I will just give you guys the highlights.

First visit was the War Memorial which included a guided tour of some cool dioramas of war scenes and some awesome life-size replicas of fighter planes. We then headed to the Carotel where we would spend the next two nights. We unloaded our gear, grabbed some dinner and were off again, this time to the Australian Institute of Sport. Everyone enjoyed the skiing, skateboarding and rowing simulators. We called it a day and bedded down for a late night chat.

Tuesday morning we were up and off bright and early to the Electoral Education Centre which was followed by a trip to old Parliament House where we all got involved in acting out the Franklin River debate. Next stop was the awesome Telstra Tower, also known as Black Mountain Tower or God's Toothpick. We all travelled up in the lift to the observation deck to check out the view of Canberra. Those who were brave enough were allowed to go one deck higher.

The next highlight was the CSIRO where the scientists carry out the study of Entomology. We were fortunate enough to be able to hold some alien-like stick insects. This was followed by the Royal Australian Mint where we learnt how money is made. We then departed for Parliament House for a guided tour of where our country’s leaders gather. Our dinner venue for that evening was the Botanic Gardens where we also enjoyed a twilight adventure, spotting possums and other wildlife.
Wednesday dawned bright and early for another fun packed day. First stop was the National Museum which was really interesting and then off to a destination we had all been looking forward to – Questacon!

What a great place to run wild and burn of some energy. I think most would agree the main attractions were the track attack and the freefall, although some of us didn’t get much of a turn because that was Miss T’s favourite as well!

We were then back on the road and headed for Cooba Sport and Education Centre where we would spend the next two nights. After a batch of activities designed to wear us out, we were off to bed to charge up for our next day of fun in the snow.

Thursday morning started with a flurry of activity as we were all fitted with our snow gear. A bus trip to Perisher and a chairlift ride that froze our faces, and we had arrived. Snowball fights and sliding down hills on our bellies was great until the cold set in. It was awesome to wrap the day up with a hot chocolate! Our last night away was spent dancing to the latest tunes at a disco.

Friday morning saw everyone scrambling to shove things back into suitcases – well the girls packed and the boys shoved. The bus was loaded and we began the long 10 ½ hour trip back home.

We arrived at the front of the school at ten to seven, that night; pitch black, freezing cold with a bit of rain thrown in, 43 bedraggled students, two worn out teachers, two relieved volunteers and copious amounts of beaming, excited and bright eyed parents to greet us.

On behalf of the Year 6 students that attended I would like to take this opportunity to thank the adults that made this all possible, the teachers, Miss Taylor and Mrs Atchison, the volunteer parents, Mr Dimarco and Mr Visser, the bus driver Lance, and of course all of our parents, who I am sure would agree, their money was well spent.

Jakeb 6T