



SYDNEY WORK EXPERIENCE EXCURSION

Year 9 and 10 have just returned from work experience in Sydney. This was organised by Mr Currey and Kate McGown from Aspire, UNSW.

We left Ungarie on Sunday 27th of November and everyone was excited, if a little nervous about starting first thing on Monday morning. However after our first day at work, we had lots of stories to share with each other and the teachers.

After work we met up with students from Year 7 and 8 for dinner and other fun activities. Everyone had a lot of fun and really enjoyed the experience.

Below is an overview of the types of industries we were involved in:

Louise and Rebecca worked in reception at SEADU (student equity unit) and The Hub within the UNSW.

Matt and Mitchell visited a number of construction sites including the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

Tanikah worked with the Law Department at UNSW and went offsite some days.

Trent spent the week with the IT department at UNSW.

Brock worked at the gym on the UNSW campus.

Caitlin worked at the UNSW Library.

Renae visited an exotic bird vet clinic and the Bondi Junction Veterinary Clinic. During her time at Bondi she was lucky enough to work with famous TV vet Dr Chris Brown.

By Renae Bradley and Louise Hunter





SECONDARY EXCURSION TO SYDNEY

Monday

The first day of activities saw Year 7/8, Mrs Malone, Mr Currey & Mrs Jackson travelling by bus to Circular Quay, where they all dressed up in lovely purple ponchos and went for a hoon on the harbor in a jet boat. Nobody was safe, with everyone getting a good drenching. The



group then caught a water taxi across to Luna Park, where nearly everyone made the most of the rides and sideshows. Probably the most memorable rollercoaster with a moment from Luna Park was the very unassuming name that turned out to be fairly terrifying for a couple of teachers. The 7/8 group then joined up with 9/10 to head down to Coogee beach for a surf lifesaving talk in the clubhouse, followed by a dip in the ocean under the supervision of some lifesaving volunteers. Kurt Fearnley dropped by to introduce the group to Reed, a 14 year old from Queensland who was off to Dubai, on his own, to go about qualifying for the Paralympics. Getting to listen and talk to Kurt and Reed was a terrific opportunity for the students to see how someone their own age is dealing with his set of circumstances, and making the absolute most of the life he's been given. After saying goodbye



and good luck to Kurt & Reed, the group was back on the bus, ready to witness some extremely clever bus-manoeuvring by Mr Currey— he had to get the bus out of a very tight spot! The ASPIRE staff took the group out to a Lebanese banquet that night, which was interesting but had some mixed reviews from students (and staff). *ABOVE : At the University grounds taking a break on Sunday evening!*

Tuesday

The group set off for Darling Harbour with Mr Macmurray, Miss Imrie, Mrs Malone & Mrs Jackson, to tour the Aquarium for a couple of hours. Mr Macmurray made a beeline for the Dugong tank to take some photos, while the rest of the group gradually made their way to the Shark Tank to listen to an aquarist speak about sharks in general, and to watch the fish in that tank being fed. After finishing at the Aquarium, the group made their way up toward China Town, to join up with a Red & Gold Tour guide, who took us through China Town, concluding the tour in the very tranquil Chinese Gardens. Students got to spend some time enjoying the Chinese Gardens, before being set loose on the Darling Harbour playground to have some free time. The 7/8 group joined up with 9/10 and Mr Currey to head off into China Town, for a Chinese banquet tea at the Golden Sentry Seafood. The Chinese banquet was well received by everyone—though there were a couple of chilli-related incidents which saw Matt become a bit emotional. From China Town the group headed to Sydney Tower Eye, where we watched a 4D movie and got a bit damp (and seasick..). The group made their way up to the viewing area at the top of the tower, to take in the city lights.



Wednesday

Today was Taronga Zoo day. After travelling by bus and ferry to Taronga Zoo, the group met up with a member of staff from the Education Centre. This gave the group the chance to get up close and personal with some animals that they may be familiar with, coming from Ungarie, such as a shingle-back lizard, a children's python, a ring-tail possum and a very talented galah. After impressing the presenter with their knowledge, the group then were able to wander around the zoo, before meeting up to watch the famous Bird Show, which was very entertaining. After another chance to tour the exhibits, the group met up again at the Seal Show, and got to watch some very clever seals perform their various tricks.

The group then caught another ferry back to Circular Quay, and hopped on a bus back to Shalom College, for a quiet afternoon and evening.

**Thursday**

The 7/8 group joined up with the 9/10 group to visit the PowerHouse Museum, where 9/10 used photo's they'd taken during their time at work experience to create Scratch videos. The 7/8 group were able to explore the museum, taking in exhibits showing a good range of innovations and inventions. From the PowerHouse Museum, the group headed off to the NSW Art Gallery, to take a tour behind-the-scenes and to view the amazing pieces of art on display. The Art Gallery gave the group a sketch book and pencils to use while browsing the displays, and a few students made use of them to record their favourites. From the NSW Art Gallery, the group headed by bus to the SCG and SFS for a tour and a look at the dressing rooms and facilities. The SCG tour guide proved to be fairly entertaining, but probably the most entertaining part of that tour was watching Brock and Mrs Malone get to set foot in the Swans dressing room and holding the premiership cup... After collecting the Swans freebies, the group headed back to Shalom College. The ASPIRE team shouted tea for everyone—pizzas! Year 9/10 got a lovely surprise to make up for missing out on all the fun stuff that 7/8 got to do while they were at work... A tour of Sydney in a stretch hummer, which was enjoyed by everyone (probably a bit of an understatement!).



BELOW: The beach at Coogee Bay on Monday afternoon.





Friday

The last day was spent mostly on the University of NSW grounds. Students got to find out about uni life from some ASPIRE ambassadors, and see a 3D "movie" showing technology that is created/used by the uni, showing driving through Sydney, historical environments (e.g. Ancient Rome) as well as mining applications. After playing some oversized games of Connect4 and Jenga with the ambassadors, students enjoyed a uni campus lunch before the boys left for Bondi beach with Mr Currey and Mr Macmurray for some more lifesaving activities, and the girls headed off with Kate, Mrs Malone, Miss Imrie & Mrs Jackson to get a manicure in Randwick. Friday night, Year 9/10 students and UCS staff attended a cocktail party along with the ASPIRE team members, work experience hosts and several university dignitaries. Tanikah & Brock spoke on behalf of the students, Mr Currey on behalf of our school and Matt presented his Scratch video to the invited guests. Renae presented Kate with some flowers to thank her for all her hard work in organising the trip and work experience. Mrs Malone MC'd the evening. While 9/10 attended the cocktail party, 7/8 students were enjoying some food and drink of their own, all done up in their finery. Emma and Chloe helped direct guests to the cocktail party and another event being held in Shalom College that night. After their respective parties, UCS students and staff, along with Kate and Kathy from ASPIRE, sat down for a formal dinner, where Kate, Kathy and Mr Currey gave thank you speeches and gave out presents.



Clockwise from the top: Staff and students at the Chinese Friendship Garden in Darling Harbour; Outside the lifeguard station as seen on Bondi Rescue; Tanikah, Beverley and Trent enjoying a dip at Coogee; Staff and students in front of the members stand at the SCG.

