Canberra Camp 2013

It all started on Monday the 19th of August. It was cold, dark and too early in the morning to be waiting for a 10 hour bus ride. We got on the bus half asleep, then after 10 hours we finally made it to The Bush Capital Lodge. We settled in and had dinner, then slept for as long as we could (which wasn't very long, seeing's though we got woke up at 6:00am).

In Canberra we had the chance to visit many wonderful landmarks and tourist attractions and here is a snapshot of a few.

Top 3 Landmarks/destinations -

1. QUESTACON -

Questacon was one of the highlights of the camp for most of the teachers and students. With its variety of science activities it was very enjoyable for everyone. There were heaps of interactive activities (the drop slide, 360 swing, earthquake house) and many more. Although the interactive activities were fun there were also many other interesting and fact filled games and activities for all ages. We travelled through the building, slowly but steadily to get through every fun and interesting room or game.

2. AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF SPORT (AIS) -
Once we arrived at the AIS, we could understand why it is so popular for tourists. We toured through the majority of the courts, rooms, gyms and pools etc. We had a chance to watch women and men practicing volleyball on the indoor courts. They were very, very tall and looked extra strong (especially the men). Our tour guide had told us that the floors of the volleyball court were 1 million squash balls with the material that they used for the Olympic volleyball on top.

3. TELSTRA TOWER AND PARLIAMENT HOUSE-

We couldn't choose between The Telstra Tower or New Parliament House for number 3. They were both too good to choose from. First the Telstra Tower. As we waited for the lift to reach the top of the tower, some people (CHRISTOPHER TURNER) got a little scared by the height of the massive tower. Once we reached the top everyone breathed out a sigh of relief from getting out of the squished lift. But others didn't want to get out of the lift due to the fact that they were plain scared. The views over Canberra were spectacular. We could see all the lights shining from 870 metres from the bottom of the mountain. Everyone enjoyed going up to the outside level of the tower even though it was freezing cold. New Parliament House was outstanding. We had tour guides who showed us around the massive building. We got to sit in the viewing areas of the Senate and the House of Representatives. We also got to take part in a small
reenactment of passing a bill. We learnt about all the stages of passing a bill and how to make it official. Unfortunately, we didn't see or meet any major politicians or members of parliament.

After all it turned out to be a fabulous, exiting and a fun filled camp. We had so much fun as well as learning lots of different things at the same time. We enjoyed this camp and would definitely recommend this to other schools.

By Mali M and Zoe P
Canberra 2013

It was a cold winter’s day on the 19th of August and the air was filled with excitement, the year five and six students of Warranwood were going on a camp to the nation’s capital, Canberra. As we boarded the bus still half asleep we gave a final goodbye to our family, it didn’t take too long after we left for everyone to become wide awake. So the 8 hours that it took to drive to Canberra were filled with laughter, shouting, children taking ‘selfies’ to savour the moment and teacher Mr Christopher Turner telling jokes which were so funny that students haven’t slept since. All the students were discussing what fun things we would do and learn in Canberra about sport, politics and how Canberra became the capital of Australia.

Here is a rundown on some of the activities we participated in.

New & Old Parliament House
We visited the Old Parliament house first, as this is now an exhibit we had to wear gloves which were really uncomfortable. We had to wear them so we couldn’t damage the objects on display. As we walked through the place we saw the offices of previous Prime Ministers and other Ministers. We did a role play in the Senate where we learnt about the role of the Governor General. Australia’s Parliament House was very different to Old Parliament House which is now a museum; it was a lot nicer and more modern. Yet again we got a tour but this time we were not allowed inside the House of Representatives or the Senate.

AIS (Australian Institute of Sport)
For many Warranwood students the AIS was the place they most wanted to visit. We started off at the souvenir shop. The things they had on offer were pretty pricey but worthwhile. Luckily for us we went on a tour and were able to see the training facilities of the institute, like the technology swimming pool one of the most advanced in the world if not the most advanced. We were super keen to see where champions of Australia are trained and seeing potential Aussie champions at work training and preparing for the Commonwealth and the Olympic Games. Luckily for us we were able to see the men’s and woman’s Volleyball teams practice which was amazing. Most of us were surprised to see the height of some of the players and the power they put into the ball when they spiked it.

National Art Gallery
Most of the Warranwood kids weren’t too interested in the art gallery at first but once we explored the ginormous place we soon discovered it had very unique and interesting exhibits which we found quite fascinating. For example MR. Christopher Turner’s group were able to see two series of the Ned Kelly collection by Sidney Nolan. There were about 24 paintings in the series and they were amazing. My groups’ favourite one was when Ned was captured at Stringy Bark Creek in Glenrowan, the detail and the emotions he was able to capture in a still picture was extraordinary.

Questacon was yet another contender for the most exciting place. Most of the Warranwood students went in the Earthquake Simulator with was so real and an
amazing experience because most of us had never experienced the tremors of an earthquake before. Also we enjoyed the drop slide which was yet another thrilling experience. We had to hang in the air then drop although we spent ages lining up for only a couple seconds it was definitely worth it. Also, Thomas Mortimer went on the three sixty degree swing and although lots of other Warranwood kids also went on it he was the only successful one and was able to do three rotations which was crazy.

National Museum of Australia
It wouldn't be truthful to say that everyone was excited to go here because of Phar Lap's heart because according to the teachers and scientists the reason Phar Lap was so successful was because he had a huge heart and they weren't lying when they said his heart was huge! We also saw some unique Aboriginal artwork, Torres Strait Islander artwork, spectacular to see.

Telstra Tower
This was one of the many places where the majority of the students and teachers (Christopher Turner) feared. The Telstra tower had a spectacular view of Canberra. The nation's capital looked beautiful at night when the lights lit up the city creating a peaceful atmosphere. Many people conquered their fear of heights that night.

In conclusion the camp was absolutely fabulous. It was educational but entertaining at the same time. We were able to see famous artwork, sporting achievements, Phar Lap's heart and what it feels like in an earthquake. We hope Warranwood will continue to do the Canberra camp so younger students will able to experience what we have.

This recount was written by Ashleigh and Hannah of 5/6 RP