

Year 5's Excursion to Sydney **Written by Ben Hart and Year 5**

Wednesday, 14th September 2022

Year 5 woke up to a delicious breakfast with pancakes, bacon and toast, overlooking the breathtaking Collaroy Beach. Collaroy Beach is located on the lands of the Curingai Aboriginal people.



We then got on our coach and faced the traffic of Sydney. When we finally got to the pylon of the famous Sydney Harbour Bridge, our tour wasn't for a while so we took a rest, and watched the hustle and bustle of the city. The city of Sydney is located on the lands of the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation.

Next, we walked along the pedestrian path of the bridge to access the top of the pylon. Then the treacherous journey ascending up the pylon began... There were an astounding 200 stairs on which we had to climb to reach the top. An amazing view of Sydney Harbour is what we found there, where we could take in the whole of Sydney Harbour. We could see for kilometres! During an information session, we learned that the bridge builders didn't have any safety gear which resulted in 16 fatalities.



The Rocks Walking Tour was our next stop. There, we split up into 5R and 5P. In The Rocks, we found out about the convicts that were set free for cooperating with the rules. Some of the highlights of the walking tour was when we could see the remains of the old houses, found out about the violent gangs that lurked in the alley ways, and that people would breed and make money from 'handing-in' rats to the government during the bubonic plague period.



When our walking tour concluded, we went to Circular Quay to have our lunch in front of the Museum of Contemporary Art. Soon afterwards, we boarded a catamaran that showed us around the populated headlands and picturesque harbour. We were given lots of



information about what we saw over a loudspeaker. Standing at the front of the boat with the salty sea breeze in our hair, made us feel like we were passengers on the Titanic. It was such a calm day that we were lucky enough to venture out between North Head and Watson's Bay headland. Our tour guide told us over the booming loudspeaker that we had passed the eastern edge of Australia. How exciting!

After the fun cruise, we walked over to a grassy spot where we could rest in the Royal Botanic Gardens. We even managed to beg our leaders of learning enough to take us to purchase refreshing ice cream before the Opera House tour.

As time went on, we were ready for our next stop at the magnificent Sydney Opera House. When we started, our guide, Nic, took our bags and gave us headphones and a radio box so we could individually hear him. Our first stop was a room that has built-in 360 degree projectors that showcases all the creative events that the Opera House provides. Another stop was a state of the art concert hall that Nic said had recently been renovated. We were one of the first people to experience it. Our first outside stop was on a balcony high up with lots of wind. When we looked down, there were sailboats that Nic said were the inspiration for the building. Another outside stop was in the middle of the Opera House sails, which on closer look is not one shade of white; it has a pattern of whites to stop the sun glistening too much on the sails. Once this was all done, it was time to head back to the Collaroy Centre for a movie and a good night's sleep, ready for the excitement of the following day.

Thursday, 15th September 2022

We woke up early to get ready for a fun day at Taronga Zoo. We quickly went to the dining room for a hot breakfast and cereal. After that, we went on the now very familiar bus, and travelled for approximately an hour to get there. When we arrived, we collected our lunch and went to the giant gorilla statue. The gorilla was called King Nyani. We took a class photo and headed to the reptile exhibit.

The reptiles were slimy, scaly and sleepy animals. On showcase were: venomous and nonvenomous snakes, lizards, frogs and turtles. We all went to the crocodile enclosure and then to the chimpanzees. This visit was very eventful as Cooper nearly had a heart attack, as a chimp jumped at the glass as it was trying to open a coconut. Some of the other animals that we were fortunate to see were: giraffes, bird walk, capybaras, meerkats, elephants, seals, penguins, lions, tigers and more!

5R and 5P took turns at the Animal Encounter guided experience. We stroked an echidna, and got up close and personal with many birds, reptiles and arachnids. What a wicked experience!

In the afternoon, we got back to the Collaroy Centre and started our challenge course. We split into two groups and completed different activities. Group 1 tried their best to guide their blindfolded partner through a

maze using coded words for directions. Other challenges involved teamwork to land on an abandoned island, balancing an imbalanced seesaw, wall climbing, and the birthday balance beam, and orienteering.

We wrapped-up our final evening with a talent show, and boy, do Year 5 have talent! Show stopping acts included dancing, singing, acting, stand-up comedy. Lots of laughs were shared!

We had a fantastic time in Sydney on our Year 5 excursion. Thank you so much to our parent helpers, Simon Kong and Samantha Hart. Our excursion wouldn't have been possible without you generously volunteering your time!