

My Canberra Diary

SUNDAY

Today, I did last minute checks of my luggage and my backpack before arriving at the airport. The plane ride was pretty turbulent but it was fun talking to Dylan and Sarah. When I arrived, the group drove up to Mt Ainslie and we saw a panoramic view of Canberra. It was good settling into my cabin with Ebony, Anneka, Alex, Lily and Makayla. The beef stroganoff was really tasty and I had a relatively good night sleep.

MONDAY

Today, Bus 1 headed to Electoral Education where we watched a video about voting history through-out Australia. We also completed activity sheets on democracy and voting. At the National Archives of Australia, we completed a test that non-white immigrants would have to get 100% on to enter the country. My group saw a whole wall dedicated to old Australian photos and some of them would today be considered horrible. After that, we arrived at the National Portrait Gallery where we drew Ned Kelly's death mask and saw some inspirational portraits of significant women. Our last stop was the Museum of Australian Democracy where our group sat in the old House of Representatives. Dinner was good, we had chicken schnitzel with vegetables. We then went to Questacon which was so fun! I loved seeing the spiders even though I'm really scared of them and it was cool being in a simulated earthquake.

TUESDAY

The Mint was one destination I was really looking forward to visiting. We saw ancient coins and the old one and two cent pieces. We saw circulated coins being made and limited edition coins being made as well. We then travelled to the High Court where we learnt about what each court is used for. Looking at the earthquake recordings at GeoScience was really interesting. Seeing the recordings during an earthquake was very scary considering the big quakes didn't happen here, they happened overseas and Australia was picking them up! Amazing. At the Glassworks, we saw glass being blown and we got to make our very own glass tile and I was almost pierced with a shard of glass in the process.

WEDNESDAY

Today was our formal day. First of all, we visited Government House where we watched a short film about the Governor General and we saw the Federation Guard performing for the arrivals of the Ambassadors. The inside of Parliament House was so beautiful and modern, a lot nicer than I thought it would be. We visited both chambers in Parliament. I loved seeing all the portraits of former Prime Ministers and going up onto the roof. Visiting the War Memorial was very interesting as the battle of Long Tan was being commemorated. It's amazing how 50 years ago, we televised the Vietnam War. Later that night, we went to the Dinosaur Museum. It was fun learning about the periods of time when the dinosaurs lived and being able to touch real fossils.

THURSDAY

Today, I probably got the earliest start I'd ever had but it was worth it because it was snow day! The bus ride was pretty tedious but it was nice seeing the landscape and watching the movies. We stopped at a snow gear shop called Rhythm where we rented out snow gear which was really heavy. When we arrived at the snow, people grabbed toboggans and headed to the slopes. My first time going down was awesome! Ebony and I, made snow angels but mine looked like a dog's breakfast. When we arrived back, we all wanted to go and have a shower. I slept really well that night, as well.

FRIDAY

Today was our last day in Canberra and I was really sad to leave. Our first stop was the AIS where we all learnt about sport and played it too. My favourite activity was the European Handball because it's played in the Olympics. We then saw some beautiful paintings and sculptures in the National Gallery. Off to the Airport we went, it was a little boring waiting for the plane but that's ok. The plane ride was quite smooth and I discovered that I really like the sour cream and chick-pea chips they served us. On the bus ride back to school, I was pretending to be a saleswoman, selling things in my backpack to my friends but they didn't want to buy anything! I was really happy to see my parents and to sleep in my own bed.

By Olivia Mulcahy