

2015 Middle School Urban Camp Recount by Cooper F

On Monday 26th October we went to the gym to find out our bus groups. I was in bus 2. Then we all said goodbye to our parents. It was really hard and it made me really, really nervous. After, we got on the bus. Our bus driver's name was Steve. Then the 3 buses left, we were officially on camp!

Immigration Museum – Bus 2s first stop was the Immigration Museum. A man called Sam took us to a room and he showed us some PowerPoints from the 1970s where a lot of people immigrated from Vietnam to Australia (At the time the Vietnamese war was going on).

Sam also had a diary from the period of the goldfields. He told us about that and a lot of volunteers got dressed up about the girl's diary and how her brothers found some gold in a creek. After all of that, we got a little thing that looked like a little suitcase with 5 different pieces of coloured paper with the little activities on them.

Afterwards we hopped back on the bus and headed to the Polly Woodside! When we arrived at a carpark, we found the bus for Bus 1! We then had lunch on the bus. When Bus 1 finally got back, we jumped out and went for a big walk towards the Polly Woodside.

We went into a room and watched a movie. It was disgusting, horrible, gross and any word related to that, that you can think of. Then after stretching our legs, we walked on to the boat. We took our first step onto the boat with our right foot, because sailors always thought you would have bad luck if you left foot went on first. Then we felt like we were on the sea because the boat started moving! We ran from side to side like headless chooks! After we got our sea legs, we got taken for a tour of the boat in 2 groups. Our tour guide's name was Sarah. Sailors always slept on the 2 side top bunks, why? I can't remember. Sailors only got 8 hours sleep and would work for 8 hours too. If sailors didn't wake up when other sailors knocked on their bed, they would have their pay cut. If sailors went overboard, there were no lifejackets or safety donuts to save them so they were left to drown in the middle of the ocean sea. We then got shown a picture of people nearly at the top of the boat and pulling up the masts. All they had to stand on was a piece of rope, if they fell off, DEATH! Then we had our own turn, obviously not at the top of the boat. Only 2 people fell off and died out of the 4 groups. Obviously only pretend dead. Afterwards we went to the captain's cabin. It was very luxurious for those days. We then went upstairs and walked off the boat. We waited for the other group and then we went on a big walk back to the bus. We hopped on the bus and headed to our accommodation at the Melbourne Discovery Centre.

When we got to the Discovery Centre we were surprisingly the first ones there! We had to wait about 10 minutes for Bus 3 and then waited for what felt like forever for Bus 1! Bus 1 finally got back, we found out our cabins. I was in room 317 with Darcy, Wolky, Ethan, Max B, Denver, Kyle, Alec, Flynn, Lucas, Charlie, Brock and Will. We had a play on the roof then went down for dinner and dessert. For dinner we had lasagne and for dessert ice cream. We then went to Eureka Skydeck. When we went up the elevator, we went 88 floors in 20-25 seconds! Everyone's ears popped so it was hard to hear. At first it was hard to see because it was foggy. But as the night went on it got clearer and the view was perfect! When we went back down, we saw Bus 3 ready to go up. When we got back to the Discovery Centre, we went to the Beanbag Theatre and watched Night At the Museum 2. After the movie we went up to our cabins and fell asleep.

On the second day we woke up at 6:15 and got dressed and then we waited..... for the teachers to call us for breakfast. After 45 mins, they finally called us down. After breakfast we went back to our rooms and got ready for a big day. Eventually, after about 1 ½ hours, we got called that we were about to leave. So we got ready and 15 minutes later we were off to the Chinese Museum.

When we got there we were greeted by our tour guide, Jacob, and then we walked up some stairs that felt like we were doing the 1000 steps! When we had done the 1000 steps, Jacob took us to this cabinet with things about Chinese people at the Goldfields. He showed us the biggest gold nugget found in the goldfield and he also showed us a 62 year old Chinese wedding dress. At the end of the tour, he showed us the traditional Chinese dragon which was 62m long! When the tour was over, we headed back to the bus. Cooks Cottage here we come!

When we went to our first group, it was all about Cook's voyages. In the first activity we also learnt that it wasn't Cook's Cottage, it was actually his parents.

In the 2nd activity we had to hold pee (it was actually tea) and run up and down lanes, trying not to drop any. In the 3rd Activity we had to try and find some things around the cottage like stone things, memorial stones and the other different things. Afterwards we had lunch, then got back on the bus. MCG, here we come!

We got there a little bit early so we looked at some famous statues around the ground. There was Bill Ponsford, Betty Cuthbert and Shane Warne. We found our tour guide, Barrie and first he took us on the ground. When we went back up, he told us to look at the letters, tell him what one was missing and why. The missing letter I, why? Because it looks a lot like a 1. Barrie then took us on a massive tour around the 'G'. Afterwards he took us to the museum. I played the Score Review System. After we went to Game On! There were loads of different games there like Footy, Cricket, Soccer, Netball, Cycling and Archery. When we got back to the Discovery Centre, we had some downtime because after dinner we were going to MSAC! For dinner, we had Chicken Schnitzel and dessert, jelly and ice-cream. We got on the bus and we were off to MSAC!

We arrived at MSAC and waited for about 15-20 minutes before we got our wristbands, went to some seats, put our bags down and then we took our school clothes off and that revealed our bathers. We got sorted into our bus groups then went to our activities. My first activity was the inflatable. The first time I fell off half way through but the second time I made it through.... just. Afterwards we went into a warm pool and did whatever we wanted. After the warm pool, we went to a waterslide. I called it the Black Hole because it was pitch black and you couldn't see where you were going. We got 2 goes each. Following the 'Black Hole', we went to the wave pool. We had 1 load of waves. After we got changed then went back to the Discovery Centre, then went to sleep.

On Wednesday we woke up, got changed then waited..... for the teachers to call us for breakfast, but I had my medication. After having breakfast and packing our bags, we went to our River Cruise. We went under all the bridges then went past the landmarks of Melbourne, and don't tell anyone, but I had a little sleep. But the main highlight of the cruise was the start when the captain said this.... 'Hello boys and girls, my name is Jeff'. Everyone cracked up laughing.

When we arrived at The Shrine, we had lunch and then went in. We looked around the whole inside and outside, but it was very sad because I knew someone that died at WW1. We listened to the Last Post and watched a video clip of what it was like to go to war. When we left the shrine, we saw the Preps going back to their bus from the Botanic Gardens!

Wow, what a great camp!