

### CANBERRA REPORT 2016

With great excitement and the usual bleary eyed expressions that accompany a 5.45am departure, our Year 10 cohort for 2016 set off for their History Excursion to Canberra on Thursday, August 25th.

On the first morning the girls were split into two groups visiting either the Museum of Democracy at Old Parliament House or the National Museum of Australia. Both groups enjoyed excellent programs provided by the relevant educators with the Old Parliament House group engaging in an exciting political debate and those at the National Museum discovering the story of a post-war migrant and connecting his experiences to the development of modern day Australia. Some of the students also got to peruse the collection in the National Portrait Gallery identifying many key national figures who had featured in our studies this year. In the afternoon session the groups were reunited at Parliament House and after making use of some incredible photo (selfie) opportunities on the rooftop and grassy slopes of the building, we were given a most informative and interesting tour. Finishing off with hospitality courtesy of the government we made our way in the afternoon to the accommodation and evening's entertainment. Who would have thought that the viewing of a film titled 'Suicide Squad' could keep the entire form transfixed? A great opportunity to take a break from History and relax.

Our second day provided groups with the reversal of Day One's morning events and was equally enjoyed by the participants. A short but fascinating visit into the National Archives was also provided for one of the groups and several students making the claim that it was their most enjoyable activity of all! Appropriately for the nature of the History Excursion our final destination was the Australian War Memorial. The girls took in the vast collection of material with enthusiasm and curiosity. Incorporating exhibits from all conflicts in which Australians have been involved, including WWI and WWII and the Vietnam War. The quality of the exhibits in this national collection is second to none and as always we find that it captures the attention of even the most disinterested classroom participant. Concluding our visit with our own brief commemorative ceremony and some time pausing by the Roll of Honour, marked a most fitting end to our little adventure in the National Capital.

The trip was made possible in part by the subsidy provided by the Federal Government PACER program. We are grateful to be able to have the opportunity to provide our students with this valuable experience in order to enhance their knowledge and understanding of the history and workings of our parliament.

I would like to thank Year 10 for their cooperation and enthusiasm on the trip and for the gratitude that so many showed to the staff involved. Without the support of incredible staff such an exercise would simply not happen and for their contributions I would also like to acknowledge, Mrs Dickinson, Mrs Knight, Miss McCleary, Mrs Crompton and Mr Dawes.

