

EDUCATION WEEK JULY 27-31

ADVERTISING FEATURE

# Rites of Passage for Oxley Year 9



OXLEY COLLEGE gave Year 9 students a chance to be local heroes recently when their Rites of Passage program was incorporated into the school curriculum.

More than 50 students from Year 9 were given the opportunity to experience life through the eyes of various cultures and lifestyles by attending various venues and lectures in Sydney for three weeks.

Headmaster Michael Parker initiated the idea for the program with the belief that children who grow up in regional areas need to experience city life and what it has to offer.

Convenor Browyn Tregenza said it was the opposite of what pupils from large cities would do. "We offered Year 9 the chance to travel, look, see and learn in Sydney to broaden their horizons

and education," Mrs Tregenza said. "City children will visit the bush to learn survival skills - we take our country kids and let them learn in the city."

Staying at the Sydney Harbour YHA and the iconic Woolbrokers Hotel in Pyrmont, students were exposed to various stimulating environments and talks such as a trip to Surry Hills police station where crime patterns and risks in the city were discussed.

Coming from a regional area the Oxley College students learnt how vulnerable they could be to crime and they were taught to adopt behaviour patterns that could keep them safe.

They also enjoyed a walk after dinner to look at the Vivid Light show which took them through the city up Macquarie Street to Hyde Park and St Mary's Cathedral and to Darling Harbour.

Visits to the Australian Film Television and Radio school, St James Church, NSW Gallery, Bridge Climbs and attending a live Q and A recording at ABC studios made for some exciting experiences and gave students an appreciation of life beyond their Southern Highlands world.

An entire day at Macquarie University allowed students to sit in on lectures and visit science laboratories.

Mrs Tregenza said everyone has remarked as to how mature the students seemed on their return from this three week educational trip.

"It's a common phenomena to see a spike in maturity in Year 11, but our Rites of Passage trip seems to have fast-tracked the children into a much more advanced state of learning and understanding."

"The program idea dovetails with leading educator Michael Carr-Gregg's belief that 15 yr-olds need emancipation, strong friendships, vocational direction and personal identity."

"The Rites of Passage program offered that and much more to our students and we have all benefited greatly from this trip."



Oxley students enjoying their Bridge Climb and the lessons they learnt during the Rites of Passage tour.

Enlightened academic rigour and care for the whole child.



**Oxley**  
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