

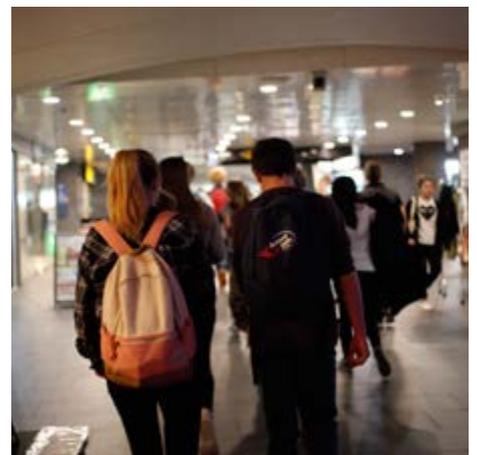
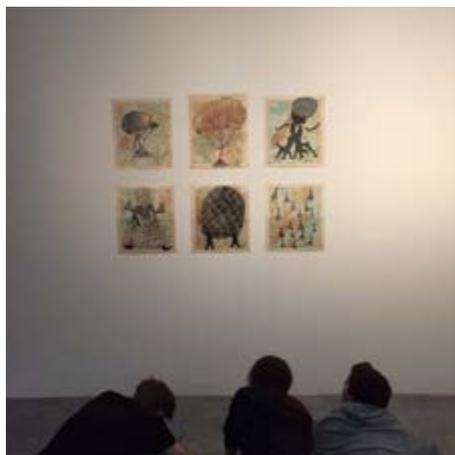
rites of passage

ISSUE 37: TERM 3, JULY 29, 2016



“we may not have completely found or reformed our identity, but we had certainly been given a freedom that has long been there but only exercised in certain brief experiences....”

Rites of Passage video



Before heading out on our three week city adventure, Ms. Tregenza told us 'Rites Of Passage' will be about three things; identity, friendship and perseverance. I think I can speak on behalf of at least some of our year when I say that when we were told this we were all too excited to think about how the trip would strengthen any of those things. After going through tiresome days and perspective-altering activities where confiding in your friends was all you had, it was impossible not to get a stronger sense of all those things. During the three weeks we were pushed outside of our comfort zone, we were forced to do things that would later become a passion of ours, we were supported by our teachers and peers and we truly bonded as a year group. It was an experience that every Year 9 will look back on with love and smile at in the years to come.

Izzy Moore (Year 9)

From the perspective of our Year 9 students, Rites of Passage is an exhilarating week of fun activities that let them explore Sydney, free from the routines of school. They are having too much fun to realise just how hard they are working. The Rites of Passage programme is a carefully crafted set of learning experiences around the theme of Identity and how we construct our individual and collective narratives about who we through science, the media, our cognition, music, drama,

heritage, ethnicity, built and natural spaces and mathematical data. Friendship connections and trust are enhanced within the group through a series of shared peak experiences such as climbing Sydney Harbour Bridge, camping on Cockatoo Island and speeding about the Harbour on a Jetboat. Students' sense of personal competence and independence is built as they learn to use Sydney's public transport network, becoming used to reading schedules and signage on the station, wharfs and bustops. They also master a range of Apps to plan journeys, find bus stops and track their progress as they travel. The Rites of Passage trip takes students onto campus at Macquarie University, Sydney University, University of Technology Sydney and University of New South Wales. They also study at National Institute of Dramatic Art and The Australian Film Television and Radio School. By the time these students are selecting courses of study in Years 10, 11 and 12, they are thoroughly familiar with the layout and facilities of all of these major tertiary institutions and have completed classes, taught by the academic staff and post graduate students. After Rites of Passage, students see the Higher School Certificate, not as an end in itself, but an exciting pathway through which they access the future beyond.

By Browyn Tregenza, Rites of Passage Coordinator



Highlights

Rites of Passage 2016 was an experience like no other. It was a chance for everyone to discover themselves and develop stronger relationships with their peers. The thunder jetboat ride and harbour bridge climb were two great experiences to share with one another, however I feel cockatoo island was also a significant adventure in itself. It was a place many memories were created and many friendships grew. Cockatoo island was the best bonding experience of all.
Sophia Dummer

Highlights

One of the many memorable experiences on rights of passage was the privilege of attending a workshop at NIDA (National institute of Dramatic Arts). We met two very talented acting coaches who showed us what it was like to attend NIDA by participating in some of the performance games and showing us the campus. The few hours we spent at NIDA were very beneficial, it opened eyes for potential actors and definitely brought us closer together as a group.
Skye Holmwood

Which was your favourite University and why?

My favourite was Macquarie University. It was a very natural-based campus with lots of greenery and very good facilities. I particularly liked the library, which was designed to be of little detriment to the environment. It used recycled water for the bathrooms and used little heating or cooling due to the innovative moving window panels.
Sienna Knowles



[Rites of Passage Blog](#)
Password: adventure



Would you like to live in Sydney when you are older?

After three weeks in the bustling big smoke, I fell in love with Sydney. Everyday we would leave our hotel to travel to new locations. The city was always buzzing with life and excitement. I am sure that not only me but many of the Year 9's who went on Rites of Passage would agree that it would be a great place to live! I can definitely see a future of early morning chai lattes, late night walks through the city, the sound of opal cards being scanned and N2 ice creams. I do want to thank all the teachers especially Mrs Tregenza for an amazing three weeks.
Savannah Sandilands

What would you say to next year's Year 9?

1. Be open minded about all the experiences. You never know what you will learn.
 2. "Seize the day" - Make the most of everything you do. Before you know it you will be back at your desk at school.
 3. Use the opportunity to find out about the people in your year. That person that you see catching the bus but never bother to talk to could turn out be the most exciting person you've ever met!
 4. Be flexible - things don't always go to plan.
 5. Make sure you get a good night sleep!
- Lucie Drysdale

Are you more independent now?

Rites of Passage at its core, contains the process that starts at dependence on parents, friends and teachers, and finishes at independence and the ability to function without excessive intervention from others. The question is, has Oxley been able to create a programme that succeeds in this criteria?

On Rites of Passage we navigated the city, attended tours and lectures at reputable universities, we spent time in our rooms and time with each other, with limited interference from teachers. By the end of the programme, it became apparent that even though some were tired by the constant interaction, and some still exhilarated by the freedom they had been given; we may not have completely found or reformed our identity, but we had certainly been given a freedom that has long been there but only exercised in certain brief experiences.... Did Oxley succeed in the criteria of independence? It may not have been newfound, but Rites of Passage certainly did help us exercise and expand its perimeters.
Layla Ross

“in the end we would pull through and come together to work out our differences and overcome any obstacles put in our way”

