Footloose-A great Success

Rose Bay’s major theatrical production brought together the talents of students, teachers and parents and received popular acclaim from the community.

Below are some comments from Debra Stathis, Associate Choreographer - Opening & Closing Ceremonies Sydney 2000 and from some of the students who took part.

The geometric and minimalist set design allows the entire company the freedom to break out, taking over the stage and the choreography is wild, pulsating, infectious and well rehearsed.

The costume designer has created a cast wardrobe that embodies 80’s “shabby chic” perfectly.

Something there from her own wardrobe I’m sure!

Credit to the directors who have given a wispy thin implausible story a renewed depth, sincerity and real heart.

All of the characters in this musical are real and believable and match the real people in the audience and in the suburbs and towns like Rose Bay and Bomont.

The musical director Helen Ranger and her musicians took us on a fantastic re-discovery of the music of the 80s.

The ensemble members proved to be all rounders with vocals, drama and choreography, yes I am talking ‘triple threat’.

From the seamless transitions (under the direction of stage manager, Zac Cherry) to the professional theatre foyer complete with cast Bios and rehearsal photos to the glossy programs this production is first class all the way.

There is no question that “Footloose” is a fantastic musical with a dynamic and incredibly talented Rose Bay Secondary College cast and crew. It’s family entertainment that justly deserves to be the “hottest ticket sales” through Ticketek.

Let’s hope that this is the first of many more musicals at Rose Bay Secondary College.

When Footloose first began all I wanted to do was play in the band, so I could rip it up with some funky 80s solos. Then Miss Alonzo, Miss Masterson and Miss Ranger all asked me if I wanted to be in the cast. I reluctantly sang a song and found out the next day that I was the lead. The last thing I wanted to do was be in a musical, let alone be the lead. I told the teachers I wanted to quit, but thankfully they were persistent and told me to watch the movie and give it a try. I watched the movie... and fell asleep halfway through. But I came to school the next day and met everyone who was playing a role. We tried out our songs and read the script right through. From then on Footloose became a great experience!

I met amazing people and really started to have a good time. We all became close friends and found a passion for Footloose and its success. We worked hard on our songs and learnt all our lines... kinda. All elements of the show started to grow: Miss Ranger taught us songs, Mr Tari showed us how to act and Miss Alonzo kicked off her Sunday shoes and showed us all how to cut foot loose! The stage and props began to emerge, lighting was rigged and everyone was given their extremely ugly costumes (which we all learnt to love). Everyone began to have such a good time that even rehearsing Wednesday, Friday and Saturday no longer became a chore, but instead grew into something that we all looked forward to. Work became fun and Footloose became our life. Literally we never did anything but Footloose!

We all worked hard, and there were some intense moments, like Miss Alonzo’s “spaz attacks” and Miss Ranger’s “friendly” threats to be quiet. All these times I’ll remember and miss.

I’d never been in a musical and didn’t know what I was missing out on: making friends, learning to dance, sing, act and most of all missing out on sharing the awesome feeling of entertaining people on stage. I’ll never forget the great times I had, the people I’ve met and the amazing times of performing in Footloose. I’ve grown so much from this incredible experience and can’t wait to try it again!

Erryn Blacklock

WORKING BEE: Sunday August 22

Wanted: Mums, dads, carers, friends, students, any professional gardeners

When: Sunday August 22, 9 am – 12 noon (& Sunday 28th November in term 4)

Your mission: Weeding and mulching lower field.

What you’ll need: Gloves, shovels, rakes, wheel barrows, weeding tools, sunscreen, drinks, snacks, lots of enthusiasm and energy.

Enter school by Reina Street gate (runs off Murriverie Rd)

More details:
My journey with Footloose the musical was one of the most amazing experiences of my life. I played the lead female role of Ariel Moore, the reverend’s daughter stuck in a small town just longing to get out.

We were all supportive of each other and we couldn’t wait to see who would play the lead role of Ren McCormack. All I remember is belting out part of Your World by the Little Mermaid and having Ms Alonzo tell me I was good and to get the next person. I have since learnt that as soon as I walked out of that room Ms Alonzo turned to Ms Masterson and said that they’d found their Ariel.

The last six months were filled with endless rehearsals and Saturdays spent at school, but I wouldn’t take any of it back. I have met the most wonderful people doing this musical and made friends that I’ll keep forever. I love them all so much and a select group of the leads I am lucky enough to call my “Footloose Family.” They are literally family now. We have all spent so many hours together and had so many good times and memories that I will certainly never forget.

The teachers always pushed us to our full potential, even if it took us hours. Ms Ranger pushed my vocals and widened my range by a mile and Mr. Tari helped me so much with my acting skills which I felt was my weakest point. We couldn’t have asked for a better director. Ms Alonzo is one of the most talented people I know and it is so amazing that she has done so many musicals including my favourite, Rent. She is very inspiring and the experience has made me consider it as a career.

Doing something like Footloose also has matured me in many ways and I feel I have a much better grasp on things. It showed me that if I stay dedicated I can do almost anything. If I had to chose I’d do it all over again, but I wouldn’t change a thing. I already miss Footloose and it has been the best experience of my life so far.

Lauren Walker

For nine months Ms Alonzo, Ms Ranger and Mr. Tari worked tirelessly to put on the best musical this school has ever seen. All students involved in Footloose rehearsed during sport and the cast stayed until 5:30 pm on Wednesday and Thursday afternoon. Rehearsals were also held during the holidays. I was the stage manager. My team, consisted of Samantha Webster, Debora Abulafia, Imogen Hubber, Hugh Cruickshank and Michelle Tye. They were also at the rehearsals during the holidays to practice with the sets and organize the stage. Walter Van Poppel came to school on the first day back to bring in all the lights for the show and that Wednesday was a late night for the lead actors, staying until 10pm to plot lights. As we got closer to show time, the stress levels for all involved had increased quite rapidly.

All involved in Footloose had an amazing time and lots of friends were made with people we wouldn’t normally be friends with. I suggest everyone to get involved in the next school musical.

Zac Cherry

For nine months Ms Alonzo, Mr Tari and Ms Ranger worked tirelessly to put together what ended up as an amazing show. We all learned so much about ourselves and each other. New friendships were made and we all ended up with a whole lot more experience. When auditions started I barely knew most of the other people auditioning but now I’ve made so many new friends and discovered many new talents I didn’t even know I had possessed. My self confidence has grown and I’m now a lot more comfortable performing in front of an audience. Footloose was an amazing experience for all involved and if in future more musicals are done in school I would suggest that everyone stand up and get involved.

Gabe Leftwich
FOOTLOOSE
Congratulations to the students and production team for this fantastic musical event. It was a triumph of planning, organisation, rehearsal, and performance involving so many of our college community. A special thanks to Maria Alonzo the director and to all the wonderful student performers. Our school education director attended the last night performance as our guest. He sent the following communication:

To Jim, students and staff of Rose Bay Secondary College.

Last night I had the great pleasure of seeing a wonderful production of ‘Footloose’. It is a credit to you all the high standard of the production but even more important it was so wonderful to see young people engaged in a creative and productive performance that highlights the talents and the strengths of both the student and teachers of Rose Bay Secondary College. My congratulations goes not only to the talented cast but to all those involved in lighting, sound, makeup, props, stage production, front of house and all the other people it takes to make a highly successful production. It a great team effort that made ‘Footloose’ a great success.

Again a big congratulations and I look forward to next time.

THE GREAT DEBATES
Rose Bay students participated in the Sydney Region Indigneous Debating Series day held in Legislative Council chambers at State Parliament House on Monday 16 August. The day was a great success. Our team of 3 boys performed brilliantly and won their debate.

Our team consisted of: Jerroa Rovedi; Elliot Rovedi and Felix Salmon. They were exemplary ambassadors for the school. Our thanks go to Mr Cook for coaching the boys.

CAMPS
We have just come through ‘Camp Season’ at Rose Bay with Year 8 and 9 students enjoying time away at camp and a highly successful Ski Trip in the last holiday period. Thanks to the staff that organized these camps and gave up their time to go away with the students.

TRIAL HSC
The Trial HSC is now completed and students will be receiving quality feedback from their teachers. Year 12 students have been given a curriculum plan for the remaining weeks in the important run up to the HSC. Students must attend all classes. It’s often the last minute revision and tips that will make a difference to the final result.

SHOWCASE – HSC Students on show
Our highly talented Year 12 students have been on show recently with ‘showcase’ performance nights in Drama, Dance and Music. These nights were used as their trial HSC exams. The quality of the work is amazing.

On Tuesday 17 August I had the pleasure of officially opening our annual HSC Visual Art exhibition with a huge variety of high quality work from our students.

Jim Linton
One of the key motivations behind this was for the implementation of the 9 core values that the Department of Education has released to be demonstrated in schools. As you can see, the concept has truly evolved into a more encompassing model.

It presented the perfect place for Year 10s to consider their role, responsibilities and involvement now and over the next three years as many take on a leadership role. Over time the program, along with the Core Values, will become embedded into the school curriculum and culture.

The last three months have seen the development of:
♦ The Communication Project Team
♦ The communication plan: This has included the reactivation of the radio room. Mr Ray Payne (trained in broadcasting) and Keith (has a background in community radio) have kindly offered to work with students operating the radio room. This will include student interviews, music and content. The Year 10 Project Team Leaders have conducted auditions for any student interested in working on the school radio station that will be initially conducted twice a week during lunch times. Year 10 Students this week will interview the students to determine the type of music and content they would be interested in listening to during lunchtime. For the next three weeks the Year 10s will learn how to use the radio equipment and
broadcasting Techniques. The students have also had the opportunity with current broadcasters from FBI radio, Daniel Zilber, and Am Radio, Adam Rosenberg.

**The Environment Project Team.**

The communication plan: A mural competition with the theme – Our Future has been designed. The panel of judges will include Ms Lofts and Year 10 VVE Project team leaders. Prizes are currently being donated from local businesses and will soon be announced. Entry forms can be collected from the art department. The winning designs will then have the opportunity to paint their mural on boards that will be hung around the school grounds. Please note; Any parent reading this is welcome to donate a prize for the mural completion. The businesses who have donated prizes are invited to present their prizes to the Mural winners at the school assembly in late August. The aim is to reduce graffiti and the cost incurred in cleaning and to improve the look of the school the students have implemented a mural competition, where winners will have the opportunity to paint selected areas of the school.

1. The environment group has been involved in getting quotes for recycle bins that cannot be accessed by birds to reduce the litter around the school grounds. The students have also identified the need for shade to be erected and tables to be purchased.

2. The wider community has been incorporated within the Vision Values Education Program. There are two causes being promoted by the school. These are World Kindness Week of the 9-14th November 2010 and the Emergency Architects Australia as the recipient of the major fund raising for the school this year.

The Film Crew, was created to document the experiences and progress of the Project Leaders and the Vision Values Education Program. After meeting with the P&C, the students have also decided to create a video that will assist parents and students with transition into high school and the RBSC Community.

This has been a busy year, with much more planned for the future:

♦ Create the RBSC Vision and Vision Statement.
♦ RBSC continues working with a model for a whole school community approach to student learning where teachers will partner with parents and students to create the opportunities for our students to maximize their learnings and potential and create a fun and enjoyable environment for everyone.

An online survey is currently being developed, which will be sent out, in order to receive the necessary input from parents in building towards a strong partnership for our students’ benefit.

RBSC appreciates your continuing input into school life at RBSC. There has always been and will continue to be many opportunities for parents to become involved as we work towards creating a culture where the whole school community (teachers, admin staff, parents and students) becomes engaged and responsible for student learning as a team.
Sports News

School and Representative Sports
Congratulations to the boys 15 years basketball team for winning their game against Sydney Tech last Wednesday. They are now into the Semi finals of the Regional knock out tournament.
Congratulations must also go to the Girls 15 years basketball team who were knocked out in the quarter finals of the Regional knockout competition.
Congratulations to Ally Power in year 12, Olivia Bartold year 9 and Matthew Murray in year 7 for making it through to the State Athletics Carnival.

Wednesday Afternoon Sport
Many students still have not paid for their Term 3 sports. This money was due in at the end of Week 3. Students still owing money for their Term 3 sports will be taking part in theory until this money has been paid.

Fishing - $50  Cheerleading - $80
Fit Lab (Yr 10 only) - $50  Table Tennis - $20
Fitness First - $50  Ten Pin Bowling - $180
Kayaking - $150  Tennis - $160
Learn To Surf - $170  Representative Sports - $80
Squash - $180  Year 7 Sport - $80

Students stay in the same sport as what they participated in throughout Term 2. NO student will be allowed to change sports.
Costs for sports are:
If your sport is not listed here, then it has no cost.
There are still MANY year 7 students still owing money from Term 2 as well as term 3. Please have this money paid as soon as possible to ensure your child takes part in a well organised sports program.

Fundraising for Sport
A team of parents, students and teachers are having a BBQ fundraiser on Saturday the 21st of August - ELECTION DAY - here at Rose Bay Secondary College. We will also be selling cakes on the day, so any parents wishing to bake a cake in support of sport at RBSC, please contact Ms Broit via the school email or on 9301 0300. Come and vote at RBSC and have a sausage or a cake to help raise money for sport.

City To Surf Fundraising
Very early on Sunday over 50 students, parents and teachers assembled at Bondi Beach to assist with the organisation of this event.
Our task was to sort the bags containing the runners’ possessions which arrived by truck and then to distribute them at the end of the race. It was frantic work lasting about 4 hours with the occasional bad tempered comments from tired runners but everyone worked efficiently and cheerfully together.

We raised over $1500 which will be given to the three charities which we are supporting. Thanks to everyone for coming to help. It was great to see some parents take part.
Year 12 Drama Showcase Report

The Drama room was buzzing with anticipation ten minutes before the 7:30 start. The family and friends gathered were keen to see how the weeks of preparation would come to fruition. They were not disappointed. With a new black make-over (thanks to Ms. Cleary and her Year 11 students) the Drama Room looked like a brand new avant-garde performance space.

Once a year the Year 12 Drama students perform their Individual and Group Projects to an audience of their friends and family, in preparation of their upcoming practical examination in Drama. The night is also used as an internal assessment where the students are able to perform in front of an audience. It is the presence of the audience that adds the final (and most essential) element to the nature of live drama.

This year thirteen students are taking HSC Drama. They have been rehearsing throughout Term 2 and also the second week of the mid-year holidays to put the finishing touches on their performances. The Individual Piece needs to be a Dramatic Monologue between 6 to 8 minutes, while the group pieces need to be between 8 to 12 minutes in duration and be comprised of 3 to six students in the group.

The audience was involved in a roller-coaster through four group and ten individual pieces. One minute a group was selling us Magic Beans which could cure just about anything, next we were being taken through a guided tour of what it’s like inside the internet. Another group of ‘orphans’ showed us how they would survive when all avenues had been exhausted and another group gave us an insight into how an Elizabethan acting troupe dealt with being in purgatory. These group projects were all conceived and created by the students and were extremely diverse and creative.

The individual pieces were more varied in tone. Doron Bouskila had us cowering with his version of a control-freak orchestra conductor, while Kelly Hardaker took us into the warped mind of a struggling writer.

Annabelle Thomas explored the lighter side of ‘coming out’ while Jess Belle Keogh wrestled with the complexities of modern relationships and happiness. Winny Tang and Michael Brooke had more sombre pieces which gave the night a chance to reflect on war and families, while Alexander Dawes tackled a motivational speech to a group of gladiators. Emma Borron tackled some touchy female issues and the night was nicely rounded out by Jeromaia Detto thinking fast on his feet to get out of a sticky situation and Jasmine McLean who played a slightly creepy lady reflecting on past glories.

On the whole, the night was thoroughly enjoyable, with many audience members singing the praises of the hard working students. It was a real thrill to see the students come out of the showcase absolutely bursting with pride and buzzing with positive energy. What a fantastic prequel to the HSC examination on the 26th of August!

Mr Tari
Recently we said farewell to Mrs. Jannot, teacher for the Support Class.

In the past few weeks with Ms Menzies, we have been focusing on learning about our local famous beach, Bondi. We have talked together about some of Bondi’s interesting historical happenings and we have especially enjoyed learning about how Bondi Pavilion has changed since its humble beginnings as a place to change your bathers.

Last term we took part in a short excursion to look at Bondi Pavilion and we were very interested in seeing the historical photos displayed in the foyer which document the changes that have taken place in this fascinating place. We also visited a new art exhibition, the Youth Art Awards. Bondi Pavilion is a great place for the community to see art and experience cultural events.

We have also talked about the wonderful mosaic mural that is found at North Bondi’s children’s wading pool. The class has enjoyed making our own painted and collaged artworks which are inspired by the Bondi mosaic wall and its ocean theme. Thank you to our Year 8 buddies for their help with drawings for our artworks.
Post HSC Information Evening: University, TAFE & Apprenticeships
Wednesday August 25 6.30pm-8.30pm

All Year 12 Students and Parents should attend.
Students from Year 10 & 11 Welcome.

6.30pm
► Applying to university 2011
The UAC 2011 Guide to be distributed to Year 12 students
Lecture Theatre

► Applying to TAFE
A519 How to successfully apply to TAFE for 2011

7.30
► Hall
TAFE
University of NSW
University of Technology
Notre Dame University
University of Sydney

► Apprenticeships & Traineeships
Sydney Training & Employment Company
Lecture Theatre

Scholarships

♦ Australian Veterans’ Children’s Assistance Scholarships
For the child or grandchild of a person who has operational service with the Australian Navy, Army or Air Force or has 3 or more year’s continued full-time service with the Australian Defence Force.
For full time study at university or TAFE
Application forms: 1800 620 361

♦ The Sir William Yeo Scholarships
For the children of all Vietnam veterans including allied countries.
To apply: see Mr Manganaro or Mr Bollard for details
RBSC debaters have finished competing in the Premier’s Debating Challenge. Our 4 teams from Years 7-10 competed against Sydney Boys’ and Sydney Girls’ High School.

Although we didn’t make it through to the next round, all debaters gained invaluable experience and enjoyed the competition. Debating training has also finished for the year.

Next year we are planning to expand our competition debates, but we would welcome the participation of more debaters. No experience is necessary, just enthusiasm and dedication.

Special thanks to the enthusiastic debaters who have attended every Friday after school, to the P&C and RBSC for supporting the program, and to Mr Dawson for his invaluable assistance and enthusiasm.

We look forward to another year of debating in 2011, with more debates and an expanded coaching program.

Debbie Dukes
Parent Co-Ordinator
Year 7 Camp

Daniel: The teachers and helpers were great and I had lots of fun.
Max: I really enjoyed the camp especially the activities,
Maayan: I think that the camp helped my face my fears, meet new friends and see people’s other side that I never saw before.
Matt: It was all pretty cool and I looked forward to it.
Annabella: I found camp very enjoyable because there were many fun activities and no homework!
Samarah: Camp was extremely exciting.
Ariella: Camp was the best thing that has happened this year. Camp was so much fun I wish I could have stayed there.
Reika: Camp was very fun and we had a great experience.
Amanda: It was a fun camp and a nice break from school.
Bentha: Overall camp was really fun and a new experience.
Minh: I enjoyed the year 7 camp beside the fact that it was freezing.
Christina: At first when we arrived at the camp accommodation, the ride equipments looked very bad and didn’t look fun at all. But then when we went on them it was heaps of fun.
Aron: The bus ride was a bit boring but when we got there it was worth it.
Valeska: I really enjoyed camp. There were lots of fun activities that you couldn’t do at home.
Gabby: The breakfast wasn’t good but I was excited for the adventure that lay ahead.
Zac: I enjoyed the camp because there were lots of fun activities.
The Ski Trip

The snow on our first day on the slopes was beginning to get thin and was in desperate need of a heavy dump of snow. The second day was no better; however the weather was forecasted to produce the snow needed. For once the weather man was right and the snow that had been predicted did come.

After lunch on the third day the advanced group split up and went skiing in small groups. Since the snow was so bad, one group decided to help out the beginners on the magic carpet. By the end of the day two of the beginners were already skiing down their first proper slope with a few minor stacks. There was a huge blizzard on the third day which provided the desperately needed cover for most slopes. Best of all it kept snowing throughout the night and, with the help of the snow machines, some new slopes were opened.

By the fifth day the combination of the early start in the morning and the lack of sleep began to take its toll. Many teachers showed little mercy during the nights and bed times were strictly enforced. The last day however proved to be the best with a record of 32 lifts open all over the mountain. Most groups headed over to Blue Cow using the ski tube but most people seemed to have the same idea which resulted in people being crammed into it like sardines. Only the lucky few who got seats had a pleasant journey. The snow machines were left on throughout the day but already in some places snow was becoming patchy. Towards the middle of the day the temperature began to rise and (because of all the layers I had put on) I was boiling under my ski jacket. As usual we broke into groups after our lessons and went skiing. I stayed with my brother and Mr Horrell. We went down lots of runs in Blue Cow but due to Mr Horrell’s eagerness to snowboard into the deepest snow, we spend lots of time waiting for him to pull himself out of it. The funniest time was when he attempted to get out of the thick snow (without taking off his snowboard) using an overhanging tree branch. His fruitless efforts left him out of breath and finally he agreed to take off his board and walk out.

Later on we met up with Mr Pickering’s group and had a race down the hill. Although he stacked numerous times, Mr Pickering still managed to beat everyone, with Mr Horrell bringing up the rear (he had crashed into a small tree while trying to get into the thick snow).

We arrived shortly before 12:00 at night where our bleary eyed parents attempted to look happy in seeing us.

One stack I must mention because it won “the best stack” award and was very funny. On the day of the accident Ms Davis received a phone call - someone had received a concussion. Everyone immediately jumped to the conclusion that the person had fallen badly. Only later were we informed that this person had slipped in the bathroom and hit his head. After this everyone was told to wear their helmets at ALL TIMES to avoid similar accidents.

Anna Jacobs
The saying ‘You learn something new everyday’, in my opinion definitely encompassed my first ever camping experience. The skills and independence I developed from the Duke of Edinburgh Award were very fulfilling and heart-warming to say the least.

The walk was quite excruciatingly steep and painful as the packs started to dig into my shoulders, my toes were numb from the steep pressure gradient and my knees felt like they were going to buckle underneath me as the steep contour lines from the map were becoming reality. It became so narrow and steep.

Then after our little walk, it was time to start the kettles and cook a well-deserved dinner. Some boys managed to make a hearty and warm fire in the central area of our campsite and further ahead many people were busily deciphering how to use their stoves to cook their two minute noodles and soups. As I walked around, the unique food ranged from kangaroo meat to pre-made sushi.

Ghost stories were then being told, with some people forgetting the juicy plot half-way through to everyone’s amusement! Then bedtime came before everyone knew it as time in the bush seemed to be suspended from all the commotion and excitement of the area.

Each group had to bring along a compass and a map which heightened our orienteering skills and made us aware that in the bush, people have been lost or even brought to death from the causes of dehydration, falling in a surging river or even not following their friends and going in another direction for short cuts. The bush is nothing to mess with, and the lessons I’ve gained will truly be kept in mind in the future if I decide to camp again.

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The journey uphill really surprised me as I am not athletic, a self-confessed klutz and danger-magnet in my friends’ eyes. However to my amazement, I managed to be one of the first people to reach the top of the hill. I thought the quicker I walked, the faster I would arrive, but that is not always the case as I nearly had heat stroke and almost developed a spasm in my calf muscles. Next time, I am going to walk at a moderate pace and take some photos while admiring the view.

Signing up for the Duke of Edinburgh Award was one of the most significant decisions I’ve ever made in my life so far. On a more symbolic level, it daringly tested and unearthed many qualities and abilities I did not know I held, such as climbing down and then up a loose gravel and terrifyingly steep rocky terrain down to trivial tasks like putting up a tent. I have no regrets about this camping experience and to a city girl at heart, the bush proved to be bucket loads of fun!

Samantha Wong
A few months ago my mum came into my room and said to me "Tadgh the Duke of Ed is coming to your school and I did it as a kid and I really think you should give it a go. " At first this didn’t really mean much but we ended up going to a few meetings and I got more and more interested so when the practice journey came around I was so happy that my mum convinced me to do it.

For me the Duke of Ed practice walk was a great opportunity to get into the outdoors and have fun; some of the highlights for me were being with my friends, talking to people who I usually wouldn’t talk to in school and also just enjoying being in nature.

Some of the challenges I faced were, hiking up the steep mountain ascent and also trying to evenly share out the weight of our items (gas cooker, food, tent) and also sleeping in the freezing cold weather. Although the walk was great there were a few things that I would have changed: We should try to keep the group together for both the ascent and descent because the Duke of Ed is all about team work. Also next time I would not pack so many clothes as I pretty much just wore the same clothes the whole time.

I think the teachers who came along were really happy to be out of the school environment and they acted differently to how they do in school. This was a good thing so thank you. I would like to thank my group members Allan and Francois who were the best people to be camping with.

Tadgh Kiely

About half way down the track Alex suddenly stopped. We all heard something and then we saw 5 goats running down the steep hill and it looked like they were falling.

We then put all of our things into the tent. This was our packs, the stove and our clothes. At that time we also unrolled our sleeping bags so we didn’t have to struggle to do it in the dark at night. Alex then showed us around the campsite. He showed us where not to stand (wombat holes), he showed us the boundaries of the campsite.

When we got back to the campsite everyone was talking about the walk down and their life stories and experiences, while Mr Bollard and Alex were starting a fire with the sticks, logs and branches that we brought back from our walk.

It started to get dark and it started to sprinkle. The teachers got the fire started-it stayed alight the whole night.

I was in the same tent as Ahren and we were talking all night. When I woke up I woke him up. I think I got up at least once every hour, as I was so uncomfortable and cold. I think it got down to -1 degrees Celsius.

We saw some baby kangaroos and stayed there for ½ an hour before going back to the campsite. On the way back to the campsite we saw one massive wombat.

Back at the campsite we packed our bags and got ready to leave. We all made a circle around the fire and we all had to say what we liked on the trip, what we didn’t like on the trip and what can be improved for the real journey.

For the hike back, I was near the front and for the first 20 minutes we were walking on flat ground until Alex made a wrong turn and took us up a very steep hill. He said we took a shortcut but in fact we were lost!

We had to go back down the steep hill and almost back to the campsite. We had to go up another hill that looked the same. We had to climb up this hill on all fours as this was even steeper than the last hill. When we finally arrived at the top of that hill, we had to wait for everyone before we could continue up the mountain to the bus. On the way, I stopped a few times and as a result of that I thought I got lost. I continued straight with Ben and we made it to the rest of the group. We had made it to the top.

What an amazing experience. I can’t wait for the real journey in September. At least the weather will be warmer, I hope!

Simon Spiro  Yr9
This practice journey trip for Duke of Ed was something that I had no idea about in terms of the conditions I would be living and hiking in. It was the first time that I had been hiking, camping and carrying around those massive bags that I only see backpackers at Bondi Beach wear on their backs. Besides the fact that I didn’t know what to expect, I was really looking forward to getting out into the wild and doing a bit of exercise.

As soon as we arrived at the start of the track, I was already uneasy. Getting the bus down to the entrance was nerve-racking enough because of the steepness of the gravelly road. The fact that the road was not wide at all and being on the edge of a wild mountain. However in saying this, the view was spectacular. You felt as if you were on top of the world when looking out from the balcony at the lookout point.

From the beginning of the actual journey I faced challenges. I was expecting a proper walk way. I felt so unsafe, as if I was going to slip and fall to my death down the mountain side. As well as the fear of falling, my tent kept falling off my bag and it got to the stage where I just let it flop down. Another challenge believe it or not was actually walking down the mountain itself because of the steepness. Your legs just kept buckling and by the time you were on flat ground, it was a feeling of relief.

The walk down the mountain was well worth it when the group got to the camping site. The nature was unbelievable as we were situated right on the river and let me mention that you can’t see this kind of beauty in the Eastern Suburbs. This is the part of the trip that I thoroughly enjoyed; the nature.

As well as the beautiful surroundings, I enjoyed making new friends. You see certain people at school in other grades and you hardly take a look in their direction but being all together in one area, experiencing the same adventure, really makes you closer and gives you a chance to bond. I also enjoyed the campfire which kept everybody sane and warm.

The best thing I think about the whole trip was the feeling you get when you reach the top of the mountain and your journey is finished. It’s the amazing feeling of accomplishment, like you are on top of the world. In my opinion after the trip, I think hiking has sorely been underestimated and I look slightly forward to the next trip minus walking down and slightly up the mountain.

Rebecca Lumbroso
For the first part of the journey we were walking along ridges and on either side of us there was a steep drop. From this high vantage point there were amazing views of the surrounding hinterland and the Shoalhaven River below (but sadly there was a mining site, which was an eyesore). Everyone was soaking up the incredible views, an added bonus to the trip which put us all on a natural high.

It is such a beautiful campsite, completely in amongst nature with trees and grass surrounding you in a soft green haze.

There was a great atmosphere around the campfire, the group morale was high and everyone was working together and having a really nice time.

Just before leaving, we all sat around the campfire and each person had to say what was the highlight of the trip, what was most challenging and what we would improve next time. My answers were; highlight – the trek coming down the mountain, challenge – dealing with the cold temperatures, improvement – going camping in another season, other than winter.

The return journey was consistently up hill and was physically demanding. I feel as though my body was prepared and I was quite fit, but it was definitely exhausting. But it reconfirmed my love for hiking, as I enjoyed every minute of being out in nature and testing myself, getting back to the basics.

Overall it was a really great trip which I thoroughly enjoyed, a nice way to start our holidays. Having now done the practice journey, we can see areas that need improving for the qualifying journey.

Another good thing about the trip was that we were not tightly controlled and restricted. Our teachers gave us quite a lot of freedom to roam and organise our team’s equipment, meals and preparation. This led to good teamwork and respect for our kind teachers who accompanied us.

The Duke of Edinburgh trip has really been a highlight of 2010 for me, as I got to know more about the people around me, had the opportunity to enjoy nature, work as a team and challenged myself physically and mentally with a sense of rich fulfilment and satisfaction at the end. I cannot wait for the Qualifying Journey.

Scarlett Stemler

The highlight of day one had to be the dinner. Our chef, Gregory Chernishov, made us tuna pasta which was somehow amazingly delicious (the walk probably made me hungry). As night approached, the weather got colder. My group (Roger, Peter, Julius Greg and me) spent the night playing cards (A weird Russian game, but fun.)

The sleep was horrible. Firstly it was freezing; secondly we had a small tent. I woke up about three times, but so did Greg who was sleeping in the tent. Next time, for the promotion walk, our group made the decision of bringing a bigger tent (one that we can all fit in). I just hope I can get a better sleep on my next journey.

I woke up at about 6am. Nearly everyone was awake by then huddling around the morning camp fire. I had a quick ‘Up & Go’ for breakfast, and waited till the most difficult and challenging part of the trip. The return journey upwards !.

I have to admit that the way back up was a body aching experience. This time, even though it felt like I have walked for more than half the way, it was still close to the start. It was impossible without a break. I had one nearly every 30mins. Halfway through the walk, my water ran out and had to walk the rest without water. I think that was the hardest part. With my desire to finish the trip back up, I was able to catch up with the group that was leading the way. This fastened my pace more and was able to finish the trip quickly. Yune Cho
Arriving at the campsite we claimed the higher ground, the miniature grass plain that separates the forest of casuarinas from the silvery gums. We planned to be organised, constructing our tents as soon as we arrive. The dull thud of Gabe’s and Illia’s opera of violence is heard, it is to become a constant in our short lives in the valley.

The flames spurt dancing fire flies as it is heckled by large logs. Distorting clumps of marshmallow congeal to blackened sticks. Lively chatter is accompanied by singing and a ukulele. Time escapes us and we decide to attempt sleep. As we return to our tents a cacophony of noise emanates from the black gorge, a twang and then a murmur of surprise. The ropes that ground the tents will have to be resecured.

Droplets of water glisten in the refracted moonlight, clinging to our tent ceilings, a constant picture in a sleepless night. The dirt on which our tent languishes has turned to mud. My hair is past damp and chills my head. Yet thankfully the tent is on the flat and water does not penetrate.

A mutual, unspoken agreement saw us tramping wearily through the cowering tussock grass towards the trees. We searched for a vantage from which to witness the sun’s entrance. It seems the looming guardians had other ideas. Through the haze a figure stands with placid grace. As our trampling footsteps approach an absently curious gaze meets our own. The figure turns her head every now and again assuring the presence of her Joey who resides sheepishly behind a tree. We follow for a time yet it seems we are not invited. The mother and child bound easily through the scraggly growth, their curiosity now satisfied. We suddenly realise our purpose here, the sun is already risen, yet we mind not the forest contains enough pleasures. A small flame flickers between the sheoaks. I wander to the river’s edge grasping a saucepan in numb hands. The treacherous shores of the Shoalhaven would have to be traversed in order to claim the river’s bounty.

The day was still early and a few risers murmur tiredly between themselves after a night of little sleep. Once the entire regiment has been woken either forcefully or of their own accord we head south westerly scouting for our future campsites. We return and reflect on our experiences, some of us reluctantly.

Bodies littered the side of the track faces, flush with exhaustion. The black bag pierced with sharp wrappers is slung precariously over my shoulder. The climb is steep and in complete contrast to our descent. Here our expedition is scattered and uncommunicative. Gusts of wind hail our conquer of the ridge. It gave us renewed strength. From the tinted windows one could see the mounded horizon flash orange. Through the dimness the last of our expedition trudged wearily on to the coach, all those seated were well pleased with their accomplishments and eager to share their exploits.

Alex Menyhart

The track was extremely narrow and quite steep at times, yet the scenery and group spirit made it very enjoyable. When I finally got to the top, I felt exhausted yet accomplished and proud.

Shira Samocha

I can’t wait for the qualifying trip in September and hope that the weather will be warmer than what it was on the practice journey. Overall, I loved the trip and had loads of fun hiking and trying new things as well as learning interesting things I did not know earlier and developing friendships.
My pack was pretty heavy but I managed to start at the front of the pack. That didn’t last very long because the pack started to get to me and everyone somehow started speeding past me. I eventually fell to the back of the whole group and started walking with Ms Tesoriero and Ms Wilson, who helped me gain confidence in walking more surely and to pass objects like tree trunks in the middle of narrow paths. They helped me a lot and I cannot thank them enough.

In the night, it was pretty bad. It wasn’t that I was cold or anything, it was just that my legs were aching because of the walk. I later asked Alex, the qualified hiker guy, about the aching of the legs but he said that it was normal and that I should get some momentum in them.

When I woke up the next morning, I could see a thin layer of ice on the river. It was such a beautiful sight. After some breakfast, we went on another bushwalk that was supposed to be easy. It was a bit hard because we had to climb rocks, take care of where we walked because of the slippery mud and rocks and travel across the river.

The most challenging thing for me was the walk down because I wasn’t too confident and that was my first time. It was also because of my heavy pack which made me unsure of the whole walk down and up. The thing I enjoyed most about the journey was the view of nature because it was truly spectacular and also the fact that I met some really nice people that I wouldn’t have normally spoken to at school.

Overall, I really enjoyed the experience and I really appreciate the fact that I had a chance to do the journey and also take part in the Duke of Ed. Even though I’m really nervous and scared about the qualifying journey, I know it will be great fun and that I will have an amazing time.

Michelle Tye

Being in a large group, everyone looked out for one another, telling each other what was coming up, whether or not to look out for certain objects obstructing the pathway. The scenery surrounding us was amazing, trees lining the path and the casual view of the river. When walking, there aren’t the extensive conversations that we normally have due to the fact that everyone’s looking at their feet or the person’s pack in front or making sure they don’t fall off the edge of the track.

As everyone had to carry their own equipment and food supplies for themselves and their group, the packs were approximately 15 kilograms or more. At the beginning the weight didn’t bother as much. But as time elapsed, the weight began to set in on the shoulders. Luckily there were many short rests that allowed us to take the pack off momentarily to free our shoulders from the pressure.

The trees that surrounded the riverside looked like soldiers guarding the campsite and many river shrubs growing near the shoreline.

Before the sun set, everyone cooked their dinner and relaxed. The large campfire was lit and everyone sat around roasting marshmallows, Mars Bars, playing the ukulele and telling ghost stories.

Being up in the open field was colder than being in the main campsite with the shelter of the trees, so we stayed as long as possible around the fire. By the time everyone was sent to bed, it was approximately 9pm. Despite the long trek down, no one appeared tired. So, most of us in the upper field went exploring the forest for ten minutes. Too scared to go too far, we stayed on a flat surface and played Red Light Green Light with the head-torches. Though in separate tents, everything can be heard. Voices travelled across the campsite well into the night as some tried to sleep. The open field made the night extremely cold and open to the rainfall. The clouds cleared up and the stars and moon were clearly seen. Unfortunately, the sunrise was blocked by the hills and mountains sheltering the campsite in the valley.

Before leaving, everyone sat around the dying fire and expressed their opinions on the whole journey. Everyone was happy to be going home, but the next walk will be even better.

Katy Sims
Dear Parents and carers,

On the evening of Tuesday 21st September 2010, Rose Bay Secondary College will proudly host their 12th annual inter-school student Video Festival. This will be screened at the Chauvel Cinema in Paddington. V-Fest is a non-profit student video festival, celebrating the phenomenal talent in the medium of video making. It was originally conceived in 1999 as a showcase for senior high school students whose work was only ever viewed by their class and parents. Since then it has taken off with last year’s competition attracting over 30 video entries from a number of public and private high schools across the metropolitan area. We hope that you can be involved in what promises to be our biggest V-Fest ever!

WE NEED YOUR ASSISTANCE!

You can support us by providing gifts and/or cash which will be used as prizes for the students. If you have a business, please include a business card and we will acknowledge your support in the programme.

Please complete the form below and return to:
Rose Bay Secondary College
34a Hardy Street, Dover Heights 2030

------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

YES I would like to support the ‘V-FEST’ 2010 Video Festival.

Enclosed is $____________ and a business card for inclusion in the programme

I am able to provide the following prize(s) ________________________________

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Address: _____________________________________________________________

Phone: ___________________          Fax: _______________

NB: All cheques made payable to Rose Bay Secondary College

For further information please contact
Deborah Cave (Video Teacher) on 9301-0300.
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RBSC ON 9301-0300
Entry forms also available at
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SCREENING AT THE
CHAUVEL CINEMA
PADDINGTON
ON
TUESDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER 2010
AT 6PM
On Monday the 28th of June 2010, I attended Petersham TAFE, where I experienced a TAFE “taster” course in hairdressing and makeup. The reason why I picked the hairdressing and makeup course is that this is the career path I would like to do when I finish my schooling at the end of the year. I have always had an interest in hairdressing and beauty as it is something I enjoy doing and I feel quite confident in. It’s always been a passion of mine. The careers advisor here, Mr Manganaro, had once said that it is very important to do something where the passion lies, and hairdressing is where it is for me.

The lecturer at TAFE was talking to us about how she began her career and how one can achieve a successful career in hair and beauty.

I have been working in a hairdressing salon near where I reside, and they had offered me an apprenticeship. I will be starting my apprenticeship at the beginning of next year. I will be working in the salon four days a week and studying hairdressing one day a week at TAFE. My apprenticeship will take four years to complete in order to become qualified professional hairdresser, and maybe some day I may open up and run my own hairdressing salon.

Megan Sharratt

On the 29th of June we went to Enmore Tafe to do a Tafe taster where we were given a brief introduction to the study of Graphic Design. The teacher helping told us a little bit about the jobs involved in the area, what he had done before becoming a teacher and briefed us on the new technology that is used. He showed us this technological pen and pad that when you put to the electronic pad automatically comes out on the computer which makes drawing a lot easier.

He introduced us to about 4 or 5 programs a bit like Photoshop and we learnt how to draw 3D objects, create backdrops and make the object move from side to side, turn around and bounce.

Bella Fiorentino
Work Experience

Malabar Horse Riding Facility

My time at Malabar Horse Riding Facility was a great experience. I have been going there for 3 years prior to doing my work experience there, so I knew most of the horses, the owners and managers.

On the first day it was raining heavily so all the rides were sadly canceled. I learnt a lot of new things on the first day, like how to tie a horse up properly, and how to dress a horse wound. Also being bitten on the finger is not fun.

The second and third days were way better; it didn’t rain as much and I was able to go on a trail ride. I usually ride Stinky. During those two days I learnt how to safely bridle a horse and saddle. On the end day of Wednesday there was a lesson for people new to riding, I am able to jump pretty high so I was able to do larger jumps then others. A little girl learning to ‘fold’ over jumps tried to follow me over the higher jumps even though she got told not to and she fell. Thursday and Friday were wonderful as well, as I got to learn to saddle a horse.

My time at Malabar Horse Riding was a fantastic experience, as I got to do the thing I love the best and I learnt a whole lot of new stuff. One day all the things I learnt during my time there is going to help me in the future, when I get a horse.

Casey Marsden. Year 10.

Kittapong Leads the Way in Hospitality

Kittapong Malivong of Y11 Hospitality was selected to be the first workplacement student in Sydney to attend the high profile Bungalow 8 Restaurant at Darling Harbour. He has paved the way for more student workplacement weeks as he impressed the head chef, Ian Meadows with his skills, presentation and professional attitude. Thank you to Kittapong for representing our college so well.
Aviation Studies in High School
A flying start to your career in Aviation

If you are in Years 10, 11 or 12 this year & you are interested in a career as an Airline Pilot, RAAF Pilot or Air Traffic Controller then you need to attend our Sydney Information Meeting – bring Mum and Dad and maybe your Careers Adviser and learn all about Aviation Studies in High School

25th August 2010 @ 5pm, 6:30pm or 8pm,
Killara Inn, 480 Pacific Hwy, Killara
Or
26th August 2010 @ 5pm, 6:30pm or 8pm,
Bankstown Sports Club, 8 Greenfield Pde, Bankstown

RSVP by Monday 16th August, 2010 by
Call or TXT “Sydney, the date of the mtg & 5,6:30 or 8pm” to 0411 41 43 41 or email Brad Coombe at highs@ftpilottraining.com

Include your name, the number of people attending & your mobile phone contact details in the text or email.
Sydney’s Single Parents in the Eastern Suburbs.
Giving single parents the opportunity to meet people and make friends.

For more information phone 9554 3444

How to Contact a Teacher by Email
Send your email to the college email address: rosebay-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Put the name of the teacher who you wish to contact in the subject box.
In the body of the email write your message. Please be specific

TUTORING

Former student and school captain of Rose bay Secondary College, currently studying Law at the University of New South Wales.

Willing to coach students in Year 11 and 12 in English Advanced and Modern History up to and including Extension.

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Advertise in the College Bulletin
Rates are:
$100 for a half page
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Contact Paul Bollard:
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paul.bollard@education.nsw.gov.au

Honeywell Engineering Summer School
Sydney University
December 5-10 2010
Cost: $670 (includes accommodation, food & transport)
This event is conducted by the universities of Sydney, NSW, Westerm Sydney, Wollongong, Macquarie University and the University of Technology. It is sponsored by Honeywell and Rotary International.
See Mr Bollard for an application form.
More information: Aimee Najovski, Engineers Australia
94105613
anajdovski@engineersaustralia.org.au

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