After months of planning and preparation the 2015 Sydney excursion was a wonderful success. Highlights included visiting the Hyde Park Barracks, the Australian Museum, Sydney Sky Tower, War Memorial, and exploring the Endeavour at the Maritime Museum. To top it all our students joined in with over 700 students from around the state to sing in an evening concert in the Sydney Opera House. What an evening it was, a night that the boys and girls will remember of a long time to come.

Thank you to everyone involved, Mrs Groves for your tireless efforts to prepare the students, Mrs Shanahan for ensuring that all bookings and events were planned and prepared in advance, Mr Shanahan and Mr English for your fantastic help down in Sydney and of course to Mr Bernie Baker for taking us safely down and back. Thank you also to all of the parents and carers for your support, time and effort to ensure the excursion was a success. Finally, I would like to thank all of the students for their wonderful behaviour throughout the excursion. Time and again the boys and girls from Hill End Public School showed great pride, responsibility, manners and good nature towards their friends, tour guides and everyone we met in Sydney. Well done boys and girls.
My name is Richard William Hamilton. I am married. I live in Australia but I used to live in London where I was a school master, until I stole a horse. Do you want to know why? Listen to my story:
It was boring being a school master so I went to my house to pack my bags and thought that if I wanted to get away I would need a horse. So I looked round and spotted a horse tied up. I am good with knots and horses so I undid the knot and jumped on. The police found out and were on my horse’s tail (well the others guy’s horse.) I jumped cliffs, dodged objects and even jumped people who were mad enough not to move. But I wasn’t lucky! I came to a cliff that I couldn’t jump so I was taken to court.
To my annoyance the judge said, ‘transportation for life’ I was shipped to New Holland, now called Australia. The ship was called Sesostris. Below the ship it was stinking hot, smelly and dirty. Phew! It took a year to get there (which seemed like ten years to me). We were not fed very well either - dry biscuits, salty water, yuck! But the worst bit for me was when the storms broke out. We were shut up below deck with something I did not like - my worst nightmare - vomiting! We went up for fresh air, yay!
Then we saw our destination, Australia! I sighed in relief, I had had enough of ships for one year!
Now here I am... a convict. Emma Y3

My name is George Worthington. Seven years ago I was sentenced to Botany Bay for my crime. This is my story. I was born in Ireland in 1803 but my life as a child was not happy. I always had to help my dad in the paddock doing hard jobs and my family did not have a lot of food. When I was 23 I got married and had two children. Their names are Lucy and Rosy. Rosy is 2 now and Lucy is 1. I worked in a mine. One day I got into a fight with Barry Jones, my boss. I got really angry and murdered him. I dragged his body and put it in a rich man’s house. I dragged the body up the stairs and opened the bed room door and chucked the body on the floor. I stole his money too. After a few weeks the police found the body and I had to go to court. I got sentenced on the 3rd of March 1831 for seven years. I was sent to Australia in a ship called the Exmouth. The first night we were shut up below deck and there were lots of other convicts and most of the convicts were sea sick and spewing all night. In the morning we went up on to the deck. We had to eat stale biscuits and salty water. Half of the convicts would not drink the water. After eight months we were nearly there. The journey was rough and most of the trip we were shut up below deck. Finally, we heard the captain yelling to get the convicts up from below deck. We made it to land and arrived at Botany Bay on the 28th of July 1831. Then the guards put iron chains on our ankles and they hit us with whips to get us off the boat. There were hundreds of us, all chained together.
There I spent seven years of my life as a convict. And that is my story of how I became a convict. Grace Yr 4

My name is Richard Booth Wilson. I was born in 1796 and I lived in York in England. I am married and I have four children. I am a bird-stuffer. My family was cold, hungry and poor. I tried to feed them but there nothing I could do, so I decided to steal. I sneaked into people’s houses. I stole shoes and unfortunately one night the police caught me. I tried to run away but it was no use. The court sentenced me to transportation to Australia for life and I knew I would never see my family again. The police took me to a ship which was called the Exmouth.
When I got below deck there were about 250 people inside. When we were at sea I was cold and hungry. All I got to eat and drink was dirty milk, water, rotten fruit, rotten meat, dirty biscuits and bread. It took eight months to get to Australia. Marines gave us clothes but we only got wet holey socks, holey pants, and a holey, old wet shirt. About 64 people died before we reached Australia. When we got off we all had a job. I had to build houses and gaols. We had no break times and we had to drink dirty water, Eight months later three hundred more convicts came to the Hyde Barracks where I was working.
I died that year because there was too much work and not enough food. Allen Y3
Excursion Highlights

Going to the Sky Tower
My favourite part of the Sydney excursion was going to the Sky Tower. When we got on there we went to a 4D cinema about Sydney. The film was short, it was amazing and fun. When we were finished we took an elevator to the top of the Sky Tower. When we got on top we could see Sydney, it was awesome, I could even see the Sydney Harbour Bridge. After that we went to the souvenir shop. I bought a boomerang and a tiny Sky Tower, then went back to the YHA. **Allen Y3**

Sky Tower
My favourite part was the Sydney Sky Tower. When we were at the bottom of the tower we saw a 4D film, it was awesome. The lift took only 39 seconds to get to the top floor. When we were up the top we saw all of Sydney up to 80km away, there were lots of people taking photos and just looking at the amazing view like we were. After looking at the fantastic sight we went and looked at the souvenir shop. Mr Shanahan bought a Wallabies jumper and I can quote what we both said, “Go the Wallabies!” I loved going to the sky tower out of all our activities. **Harrison Y6**

Anzac Memorial
Of the things we did in Sydney on our excursion, my favourite part was going to the ANZAC Memorial. When we got to the front of the Anzac Memorial we had to take our hats off to respect those who have died in the war. When we got inside there was a statue of sacrifice. After that we went upstairs, we could see a better view of the statue of sacrifice. On the roof, on the inside you could see stars, They represented all the people who died in the war. **Grace Y4**

Sky Tower
One of the things we did on our Sydney excursion was that we went to the Sydney Sky Tower. It is the biggest tower in Sydney. Before we went to the top we went to a 4D cinema. The screen was 3D and you could feel water on your face and the rumble of the ground. After that we went up the lift to the top of the Sky Tower. It was very fast but you could not feel anything and it took half a minute to get there. When we got to the top we saw the whole of Sydney. My favourite bit of it was looking at Sydney at the top of the Sky Tower. **William Y5**

Sky Tower
The best part of the Sydney excursion was the Sky Tower. First we went into the bottom of the Sky Tower to the 4D cinema, it was awesome. If you haven’t heard of a 4D cinema before it’s because it has all the effects of 3D, but if there was a water scene you’d feel the water too! Once we got to the top you could see 80 kilometres of Sydney in any direction, and there were also little telescopes you could look through. **Ronald Y5**
Dr Marj Colvill (Colley) visited us last week. Marj is a former student of Hill End Public School. She enjoyed looking around the classrooms and grounds and was happy to have a photo with some of the current students.