



THE 2008 YEAR 7 TOUR OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

At Scotch we are always reflecting on the content and delivery of our educational programs in order to assess how effective and interesting they are for the students in our care.

An exciting proposal from Mr Gavin Kilpatrick and Mr Marty Coombe (Year 7 Home Group Teachers) to incorporate a five (5) day excursion to Canberra into the Year 7 Study of Society and Environment course, has been accepted enthusiastically by the members of that faculty and the Senior Teaching Executive.

The organization of this tour of our national capital and the many and varied places of interest to visit, such as Parliament House, the Old Parliament House, the Australian Institute of Sport, Black Mountain Tower, the Australian War Memorial, Questacon Science Centre, the National Gallery and Mount Ainslee, is well under way. So, as you can see, the trip provides educational experiences in History, Politics, the Arts, Technology Sciences and Sport Science – wow!

We have been very mindful of the financial implications of a trip of this type. Mr Kilpatrick has exploited his excellent knowledge of Canberra and its environs (having run like excursions many times at his former school), to arrange an action-packed stay at the most reasonable cost possible. Gavin and Marty have investigated the best deals over the past month and believe they have found them.

We are waiting on the costing of one venue (for a fun night) and a finalization of student numbers but we are confident the trip will cost under \$850.00 per student, which is astounding, given that a like trip cost \$790.00 four years ago! The transport, accommodation and buses and all the places of interest have been booked to take place from Monday 1 September to Friday 5 September 2008 inclusive.

We do intend to fly the children return rather than have them suffer the very long road trip in a coach. Whilst this raises the overall price, Mr Kilpatrick is adamant flying is the better option as it maximizes the time that can be spent touring Canberra and the children are fresh and enthused to begin with, rather than arriving exhausted and tetchy.

The four Year 7 classes will be accompanied by their Year 7 Home group teachers. Additionally, I have invited our Chaplain Scott Magann and our new Head of Information Services, Ms Nicola Stewart, to join the tour.

We may also have two spots for grandparents! So, if you are fit (as the tour is physically demanding), love the company of children, have an interest in the nation's capital and perhaps some knowledge and expertise to share, we would love to hear from you. Please contact me directly at hmacpherson@scotch.sa.edu.au.

In order to spread the cost, families will be able to pay by instalments in cash or by cheque. An account for this purpose has been set up. Simply write "Canberra Trip 2008" 43064 along with the child's full name on the back of each cheque.

This will be a memorable experience for your child. It is a marvellous, once in a childhood opportunity!

Yours sincerely,

Howard 'Mac' MacPherson
Head of Middle School