TOP EDUCATION INSTITUTE

SYDNEY GOVERNMENT HOUSE

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Government House is the Official Residence and Office of His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd) 38th Governor of New South Wales and Mrs Linda Hurley. His Excellency is the 27th Governor to occupy this Government House and has held the position since 2 October 2014.

In 1788, soon after a British settlement was established at Sydney Cove, the first Governor of the colony of New South Wales, Governor Arthur Phillip, laid the foundations of Sydney's first Government House. This building was located in Bridge Street (on the site of the Museum of Sydney). After nearly 50 years of serving as the colony's political, ceremonial and social centre, the building had become worn and dilapidated and many submissions were made to the British government for permission and funding to construct a new building.

In 1836 construction finally began on a new Government House. The new building was influenced in its location and architectural style by the existing Governor's Stables, completed in 1821 (now the Conservatorium of Music located at the main entry gates to Government House). Locally quarried sandstone was used for the construction.

The building was designed by Edward Blore, architect to William IV and Queen Victoria. Blore had recently built the British Houses of Parliament in an Elizabethan Gothic style, expressing the continuity of government by constitutional monarchy. Blore had also worked on Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle. The new Government House was built in the Gothic Revival style characterized by castellated towers and other medieval features.

After years of delay and budget overruns, the House was completed in 1845 when Governor Sir George Gipps, 9th Governor of New South Wales, and his wife took up residence.

Over the years the building has been extended, refurbished and modernized to suit the tastes and needs of successive Governors. Today, the House holds a significant collection of portraits, furniture, decorative arts and gubernatorial memorabilia as a result of Vice Regal patronage.

TODAY'S ITINERARY

9.30am

Depart from Central

11.00 – 12.00pm

Government House tour

This will be a guided tour of the House.
Students will get the opportunity to learn some interesting facts
about the architecture and the history of the Governors.

12.30pm

Lunch at The Pavilion Kiosk

2.00pm – 4.00pm

Art Gallery NSW guided Tour

This will be another guided tour of the Galleries.
Students will get the chance to learn about the historic building itself
as well as some interesting facts regarding some art work.

4.00pm

Depart

NSW ART GALLERY

Established in 1871, the Gallery is proud to present fine international and Australian art in one of the most beautiful art museums in the world. The beginnings of the Gallery date back to the 1800s. In the 1870s an Academy of Art was established in Sydney 'for the purpose of promoting fine arts through lecture, art classes and regular exhibitions' and, with funds made available by government, acquired the first artworks for the Gallery.

The collection as it developed had several homes but in 1885 it was moved to the present site. The façade and old wing of the building we know now were built between 1896 and 1909, with new extensions opened in the 1970s and 1980s. But the history of the Gallery is much more complicated – and interesting – than that...

1870 was a year of violent unrest in Europe. It saw the start of the Franco-Prussian War and a revolution in Paris which lead to the proclamation of the Third Republic. Italian troops occupied Papal Rome, making the ageing Pius IX a prisoner of the Vatican. These turbulent events set off a ripple of sensation even in faraway Australia. At the first 'Conversazione' or artistic soirée of the New South Wales Academy of Art on 7 August 1871, much of the talk was of recent European turmoil. The Louvre, used for a time as an arsenal, had suffered a dreadful fire. Eliezer Montefiore, a founding member of the Academy, passed around photographs of the shattered ruins of its buildings on the evening of the Conversazione. The animated rhetoric of the night touched on the possibility of a young Australia having to carry the torch of culture, even as Europe degenerated into chaos. It is a theme which has been rehashed throughout Australian history. These events fuelled a budding local resolve to establish an Academy of Art "for the purpose of promoting the fine arts through lectures, art classes and regular exhibitions". Yet cultural idealism was only one contributing factor to the series of events which lead to the foundation of the Art Gallery of New South Wales.

SYDNEY BOTANICAL GARDENS

The Domain and Royal Botanic Gardens are some of the most important open spaces in Australia's urban landscape. The 29 hectares of gardens are surrounded by 51 hectares of parkland including the Sydney Domain. They were officially recognised as a botanic garden in 1816, while only becoming 'Royal' in 1959. The site is one of the world's oldest colonial botanic gardens and one of the most important botanical gardens in the Southern Hemisphere (only Rio de Janeiro is older).

The area attracts around 4 million people a year. As well as enjoying its natural beauty, visitors can gain an appreciation of the history of the city and the changing aesthetics of public gardens. While the gardens have long hosted many of Sydney's important cultural institutions as well as being the site for big open-air concerts and operas, their value as historical assets is becoming more prominently acknowledged.

The Botanic Gardens were the site of the first government farm in the colony of New South Wales in 1788 (and called the Governor's Farm in 1792). Governor Phillip ordered the cultivation of 20 acres in 1788, with that area part of Governor Phillip's private reserve.

The organisation of the gardens illustrates their associations with the 18th century European scientific world of Sir Joseph Banks, Sir William Hooker and others. They are Australia's oldest scientific institution (1816) for botany and horticulture. In 1821 Superintendent Charles Fraser, a botanist, was appointed to develop the gardens along scientific grounds for the first time. Fraser accompanied John Oxley on his inland journeys and brought back plant specimens. In 1825 Governor Brisbane extended the garden west of Farm Cove for an experimental garden designed to acclimatise both Australian plants for export and others being imported. Colonists were interested in 'exotics' and brought many of them with them to be added to the garden plant collection. In 1829 grape vines were planted. These became a foundation of the Australian wine industry.

SYDNEY BOTANICAL GARDENS
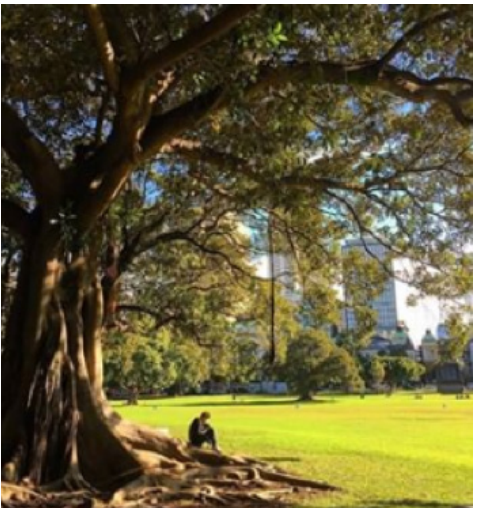
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Sydney Government House
Sept 2017
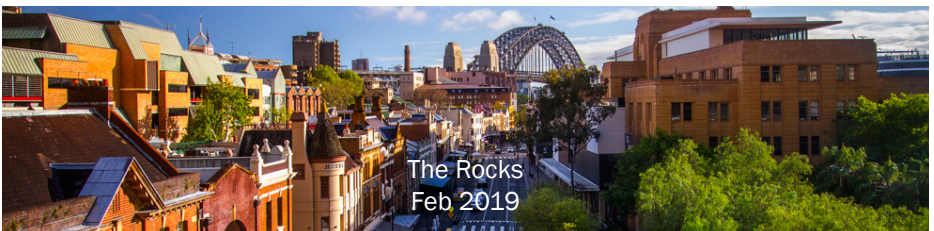

Cockatoo Island
Dec 2017

Elizabeth Bay House
Feb 2018

Quarantine Station, Manly
April 2018

Koala Park Sanctuary
October 2018

Bare Island Fort, La Perouse
Dec 2018

The Rocks
Feb 2019

NSW ART GALLERY

For more information on Sydney Government House, please visit their website:
https://www.governor.nsw.gov.au/

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