THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH’S INTERNATIONAL AWARD

OUR ADVENTUROUS DUKIES

Our Dukies have been very busy in the past few months, planning, organising and going on their Adventurous Journeys. These journeys are an opportunity for The Duke of Edinburgh to push themselves out of their comfort zones, to set big goals, to go somewhere they have never been before and to do it independent of their families! These journeys are both hut and inclusive of our comprehensive, DELA, needs which they will complete in many hours looking at all aspects of their trip to ensure that everything runs smoothly and with minimal risk of incident. Well done guys on planning and executing some fabulous Adventurous Journeys!

JYE’S JOURNEY TOWARD INDEPENDENCE

I live in Maryland, up in the Hunter region, I chose to do my Adventurous Journey (Practice Journey) trip to Sydney to experience being independent and being away from family.

Whilst I was there I also tried to navigate public transport independently and met up with friends who live in Sydney. I felt that I achieved every goal from my Independence Journey for my Duke of Edinburgh’s Award, Silver Adventurous Journey.

On the 18th of April this year I had the great opportunity of going to Auckland in New Zealand for my Duke of Edinburgh’s Award, Silver Adventurous Journey.

Blake Wills, who is one of our amazing camp counselors, came to my house to stay the night before so we could leave straight away in the morning for our Virgin Australia flight (code shared with Air New Zealand) leaving at 10.50am. We got up, got ready and headed to the airport.

At the airport we checked in, said goodbye to my family and boarded the plane ready for the 3-hour trip to the Land of the Long White Cloud. On the plane we watched movies, ate lunch and talked about what we thought we would do whilst in New Zealand. All the while being looked after on our flight by our Air New Zealand crew. The flight landed at about 3pm New Zealand time (2 hours ahead of Sydney). When we got off the flight we collected our bags, went through customs and found the Sky Bus terminal where we caught a bus to Auckland CBD, 15 minutes away from the airport.

For the rest of the day we did some grocery shopping, cooked dinner (chips, chops and vegetables), then relaxed in order to get ready for a very hectic 6 days ahead.

We stayed at the CityLife Auckland which is part of the Heritage Hotels chain. The next day we visited the Domain where we saw many exotic plants in greenhouses and spent time looking at the nice view of the city. For dinner we had a meeting with the staff to discuss activities we do at MDNSW such as the camps and the Duke of Edinburgh Award, which they sound very interested in starting themselves. The meeting went for a couple of hours. That afternoon, as Ambassador for MDNSW, I had to make a speech about the Duke of Eid when I talked about my experiences and completing the Award. It was interesting to chat to people from another country, share experiences and get to know our two organisations together. That night Melissa, Blake and I celebrated by going out to dinner to a fabulous steak restaurant where the steaks were half the size of the entire bull!

Day 5 we got up and headed out early to catch the bus to Auckland Zoo. At the zoo we saw many animals and the best part was seeing the cheetahs walked around the zoo by their keepers. Included in the admission price, we almost saw a young child eaten by them, the parents weren’t watching the child run directly into the cheetah’s path. For dinner that night we cooked chicken schmuck with what was delicious but tasty.

Our last full day we spent at the Auckland Museum, Tamaki Rangene Hira. We saw many Maori artefacts including the traditional houses and watched Maori dancing. It also doubled as the War Memorial where we saw planes, the Hall of Remembrance and saw a model of trench. For dinner that night we went to a restaurant to celebrate our trip and thank Blake for all his assistance, care and friendship.

The next day we got up early, cleaned out the mini bar and waited for the medical equipment to be collected. Then we checked out, headed to the airport and got ready to board our Air New Zealand flight home. We arrived back on Australian soil at 7pm Sydney time. I had a great time and can’t wait to return, hopefully in the near future, to renew all my new-found friendships.

I will never forget the New Zealand hospitality, all that I have learnt about Maori culture and my incredible (and humbling) Maori welcome. Thanks to Blake, Mel, Duke of Edinburgh Australia, MDNSW and MCDANZ for making this happen.

Now, it’s onto my Gold Journey. Where to next? Stay tuned.

Kia Ora,

Scott Green
16yrs, DMD

JACK’S EPIC SYDNEY ADVENTURES

Earlier this year I was nominated by my school, Ungarie Central School, in central New South Wales to participate in the Technology Week (15th-20th May) in Sydney organised by the Rotary Clubs of West Wyalong and North Ryde. Five students from across NSW attended this trip. I was the only one in a wheelchair.

I decided that this was the perfect chance to combine a great opportunity with my Adventurous Journey for my Bronze Duke of Edinburgh’s Award. Some of the activities we were organised to be able to undertake this trip were; booking my train ticket, hiring a shower chair, booking and organising the timetable for a carer, discussing my needs with my host family, booking the accessible train to fit in with the organised business visits, presenting to the Rotary Clubs at the end of the week and lots more.

I left Ungarie on Sunday on the Translink bus. At Cootoomundra I boarded the train for Central Station in Sydney with Jason (my support for the week). We were hosted by a Rotary family and a carer from Just Better Living. It was a long day, coming home and night with my personal care.

For the rest of the week we used accessible taxis and trains to visit many businesses and places of focus on IT. This was the first time I had caught a city train in my power wheelchair. It worked really easily and I was even given the confidence to do it again. The places we visited included Optus, Oracle, Coles Distribution Centre, University of Technology Sydney, Cisco, Google, Macquarie University, Konica Minolta, Microsoft, IBM and the Powerhouse Museum.

My favourite activities were the visit to Macquarie Uni ICT centre where we each got to build a small robot using Lego Mindstorm EV3 kits and program it to follow a path on the floor and our time at the Powerhouse Museum where we had a go at controlling a replica of the Mars rover. We could then look on the model of Mars and see where we had driven the rover. At all the businesses employees spoke to us about their training and qualifications, what their company did and what their exact job was.

The week also included some social activities. We went Tempe Bowling, played Foosball, went out to dinner and spoke at a Rotary meeting about our project for the week. The other boys went to Laser Tag but this was the only organised activity I couldn’t participate in for the whole week as it had stars at the entrance!

This week was a great trip away and I would like to thank all the members of both the Rotary Clubs of West Wyalong and North Ryde for helping me to organise this trip and ensuring they worked with me to make sure I could participate in my wheelchair and have a great experience. I could never normally see by myself. I’d like to also thank Ungarie Central for nominating me to go and Jason for being my support person for the week. Finally thank you to MDNSW for supporting me and helping this to be a part of my Duke of Ed Award. I really enjoyed it and got a huge amount out of it. It will have an influence on my future when I leave school.

Jack Wason
15yrs, DMD

Making the most of sunny Sydney!

QUALIFYING JOURNEY BACK TO SYDNEY, WHERE I WILL BE PUSHING MY LIMITS EVEN MORE!

Jye Donkin
20yrs, DMD

SCOTT TAKES ON NEW ZEALAND

On the 18th of April this year I had the great opportunity of going to Auckland in New Zealand for my Duke of Edinburgh’s Award, Silver Adventurous Journey.

Blake Wills, who is one of our amazing camp counselors, came to my house to stay the night before so we could leave straight away in the morning for our Virgin Australia flight (code shared with Air New Zealand) leaving at 10.50am. We got up, got ready and headed to the airport.

At the airport we checked in, said goodbye to my family and boarded the plane ready for the 3-hour trip to the Land of the Long White Cloud. On the plane we watched movies, ate lunch and talked about what we thought we would do whilst in New Zealand. All the while being looked after on our flight by our Air New Zealand crew. The flight landed at about 3pm New Zealand time (2 hours ahead of Sydney). When we got off the flight we collected our bags, went through customs and found the Sky Bus terminal where we caught a bus to Auckland CBD, 15 minutes away from the airport.

For the rest of the day we did some grocery shopping, cooked dinner (chips, chops and vegetables), then relaxed in order to get ready for a very hectic 6 days ahead.

We stayed at the CityLife Auckland which is part of the Heritage Hotels chain. The next day we visited the Domain where we saw many exotic plants in greenhouses and spent time looking at the nice view of the city. For dinner we had a meeting with the staff to discuss activities we do at MDNSW such as the camps and the Duke of Edinburgh Award, which they sounded very interested in starting themselves. The meeting went for a couple of hours. That afternoon, as Ambassador for MDNSW, I had to make a speech about the Duke of Eid when I talked about my experiences and completing the Award. It was interesting to chat to people from another country, share experiences and get to know our two organisations together. That night Melissa, Blake and I celebrated by going out to dinner to a fabulous steak restaurant where the steaks were half the size of the entire bull!

Day 5 we got up and headed out early to catch the bus to Auckland Zoo. At the zoo we saw many animals and the best part was seeing the cheetahs walked around the zoo by their keepers. Included in the admission price, we almost saw a young child eaten by them, the parents weren’t watching the child run directly into the cheetah’s path. For dinner that night we cooked chicken schmuck which was delicious but tasty.

Our last full day we spent at the Auckland Museum, Tamaki Rangene Hira. We saw many Maori artefacts including the traditional houses and watched Maori dancing. It also doubled as the War Memorial where we saw planes, the Hall of Remembrance and saw a model of trench. For dinner that night we went to a restaurant to celebrate our trip and thank Blake for all his assistance, care and friendship.

The next day we got up early, cleaned out the mini bar and waited for the medical equipment to be collected. Then we checked out, headed to the airport and got ready to board our Air New Zealand flight home. We arrived back on Australian soil at 7pm Sydney time. I had a great time and can’t wait to return, hopefully in the near future, to renew all my new-found friendships.

I will never forget the New Zealand hospitality, all that I have learnt about Maori culture and my incredible (and humbling) Maori welcome. Thanks to Blake, Mel, Duke of Edinburgh Australia, MDNSW and MCDANZ for making this happen.

Now, it’s onto my Gold Journey. Where to next? Stay tuned.

Kia Ora,

Scott Green
16yrs, DMD

Making the most of sunny Sydney!

The hands on part was the best!

On the bus, ready to go! Scott & Blake admire the Sky Tower

What a view of NZ!

Outside, a great, cool and inspiring).

We headed inside and Maori culture and my incredible (and

I will never forget the New Zealand

hospitality, all that I have learnt about

Maori culture and my incredible (and

humble) Maori welcome. Thanks to

Blake, Mel, Duke of Edinburgh Australia,

MDNSW and MCDANZ for making this

happen.

Now, it’s onto my Gold Journey. Where
to next? Stay tuned.

Kia Ora,

Scott Green
16yrs, DMD

Making the most of sunny Sydney!

Qualifying Journey back to Sydney, where I will be pushing my limits even more!”

Jye Donkin
20yrs, DMD

Making the most of sunny Sydney!

Making the most of sunny Sydney!

Making the most of sunny Sydney!

What a view of NZ!

Making the most of sunny Sydney!

Making the most of sunny Sydney!

Making the most of sunny Sydney!

Making the most of sunny Sydney!