



Newsletter # 6 Term 3 2014



The Urban Challenge is.....

Outdoor Education with a twist....The Urban Challenge is an innovative, adventurous programme developed to engage students in the urban landscape, **to work as a team and to have a fun, exciting and real world experience**. Our programme breaks new ground in innovation, enjoyment and value. - The Urban Challenge is a **unique unfolding adventure** across the city, with students solving riddles, completing challenges and engaging in a range of exciting urban flavoured activities along the way.

There are countless benefits from The Urban Challenge; **real world independence**, discovering **new skills**, taking **responsibility** for themselves and the group, skills transference, **confidence**, discovering new places and the list goes on. The best bit is the students don't realise they are absorbing all this, as they are just having fun. To engage the students, **the adventure reveals itself over time**. Each night after uploading their daily blog and photos, they download the next day's programme. Even then, some details are left as a surprise, creating moments of pure unexpected joy along the way.

The **blogs and photos** are a great way to engage the parents - they love being involved - both seeing and reading what their child's team has been up to. The parents find they have a better understanding of their child's camp experiences because of these blogs and pictures.

...the exciting alternative to traditional school camps!



Breaking News

Our New Programme Coordinator

A Very **Warm Welcome** to Helen – our new Programme Coordinator and Game Master Extraordinaire. Helen has settled in well and cut her teeth on a St Ives High programme at the beginning of August.

Helen lives with her family in the **CBD** so she is very familiar and **very passionate about all things urban!** Helen is readying for a busy end of Term 3 and is finalising details for our **newly improved** Duke of Ed Gold Urban Odysseys which will run as **popular** open journeys in these upcoming Holidays and for 4 Teams of Killara High students in November.

The Salvation Army - OASIS – Youth Support Network

A new dimension – a visit to the Oasis centre in Surry Hills to learn about youth homelessness and how 16 – 24yr olds make up 42% of Australia's homeless. Students will **participate in a workshop** run by youth mentors to gain an awareness of how the slippery slope to living on the streets is easier to end up on than you might think and will learn how they might like to help with initiatives such as 'The Couch Project'. Students will gain a perspective and an appreciation of what they have and **may think more carefully** on their decisions and circumstance as they enter adulthood.



The OXFAM 100km Trailwalker

1 Team

4 Urban Challenge Staff

100km

From 9am Friday 22nd

Until 6.09pm Sat 23rd Aug

33 Hours and 9 mins

\$2000 raised

Challenging, Wet, Muddy
and Exhausting



The Urban Challenge and the Camp Somerset Teams undertook the Oxfam Trailwalker. The walk from Brooklyn to Mosman took a **gruelling 33 hours**.

There were blisters, sore muscles, smelly socks, wet shoes and chaffing but also resilience, **mateship, teamwork and fun**.

Other members of staff and family made up the **Support Crew** who met the Teams at checkpoints with much needed food and drinks, dry clothes and encouragement.

Well Done Urban Challenge and Somerset!



Why is The Urban Challenge Unique?

The Urban Challenge is so much more than just an outdoor programme in the city - it is **an entity in itself!** A dynamic, fun, exciting, relevant and real world, urban adventure.

As one of the **pioneers** of the urban programme The Urban Challenge continues to evolve, develop and break new ground. We continue to expand – now providing *the* urban experience to over 35 schools.

The Urban Challenge will **offer your students** a taste of life in the city, a sense of responsibility, an acknowledgement of their increasing maturity, the ability to adapt and be self-reliant and an awareness of how self relates to others. **Call Us!**



Staff Profile Kim

Kim is our
Urban
Challenge
administrator.



Kim works tirelessly in our Waitara office liaising with schools, booking hostels and activities, readying clues and ensuring all is tickity-boo for upcoming programmes.

Before joining us at Urban Kim worked as a PA and in radio – and gained unique skills here!

Kim is a loving mother of 2 and enjoys cheering on their sports, gardening 'I am always happiest with secateurs in my hand!' and relaxing at a northern beaches café with friends.

Blog Highlight

Filled with anticipation. Group 1 was keen to embark on the Urban Challenge!

"The cool touch of the bubbling whitewash, Calmly caresses the unblemished pale sand. The warm sun beats down welcomingly on our backs, Locals giving a friendly smile as we pass through, Eyes peeled wide for clues as we skip along the beach"

We boarded a bus to Dee Why, and were a little bit cautious at first to enter the water for an afternoon surfing lesson. I think I can safely say however, that by the end, everyone was wishing we had longer in the water! The instructors were awesome, the water was perfect, and everyone got the knack of it pretty quickly. We then walked up the hill to a beautiful view from the headland, before arriving at our hostel in Collaroy, all very excited to get into our rooms and chill out for a bit after such a fun filled exhausting day.

Keen to see what tomorrow brings! xoxo

*Hunter Valley Grammar Yr 9 Team 1
Day 1 Blog, 2014*

2015 and 2016 Dates – Book Now



We are currently locking-in our **dates for 2015 & 2016!** If you are interested in The Urban Challenge for your students please **contact us now** for more information. Suited to Years 9 – 12 we have 1 – 4 day programmes available that we can tailor to meet your school's outcomes.

Don't let your students miss out - hear from you soon!

9483 9333

info@theurbanchallenge.com.au

www.theurbanchallenge.com.au

