



Newsletter # 7 Term 4 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; **practical 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

Duke of Ed Gold Urban Odysseys – New Itineraries – Bush to Bustle

Our Gold Odysseys were launched 5 years ago for schools wanting something **different** to encourage a strong participation at the **Gold level**. Our Odysseys do just that – a journey enhanced with urban flavour, city settings and cosmopolitan flair! We have recently updated them to be even better! On Odysseys students carry full rucksacks and complete (and satisfy the Dukes effort requirements) a **'bush'** hike enjoying coastal and harbour views before progressing to the CBD for their **'bustle'** stage. Teams use public transport during the bustle phase and participate in an 'amazing race' finale. Like our school-year programmes the Odyssey is facilitated by text messages and internet login, student responsibility for monies, travel, etc



Night Owls – Eating-out, Bowl-o-Rama and City Lights

The city at night is spectacular – lights, urban hum and action! Our Teams enjoy their days to the full extending into evening activities, meals and night discovery.

Bowling Blitz – a tournament run by the Game Master! A great way to get some, or all, of the Teams together for a **friendly, but serious competition**.

Dinner Delights – a variety of evening meals – from pizza to spring rolls to masterchef cook-offs – **delicious, metropolitan dining**.

Nocturnal Encounters – Sydney is alive with **colour, lights, entertainment and ambience**. Rest assured there is a curfew - with all Teams back in their accommodations by 10pm!

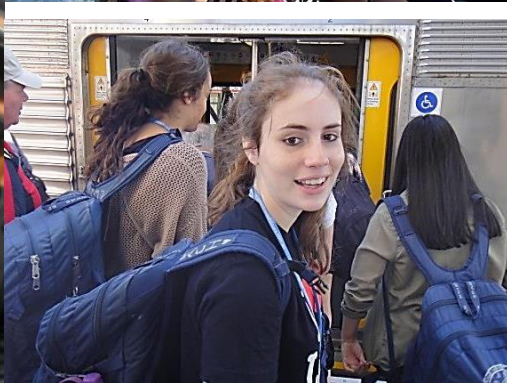
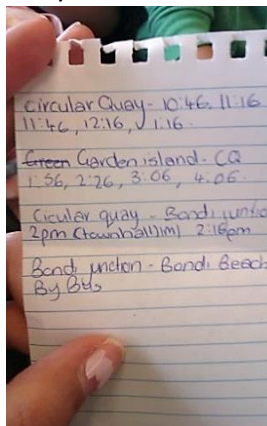


Ferry Fun, Train Tracks and Bus Basics!

The Urban Challenge provides all students and teachers with a **travel-pass** for use on trains, ferries, light rail and buses!

Students plan all their own travel arrangements to move from place to place and activity to activity.

A great chance for students to learn **timings and connections** – the Manly Ferry does not wait if you're late!



Staff Profile **Katie**

Katie one of our full-time Urban Challenge Guides



Katie has been a Guide on our Urban Challenge team for 2 Seasons.

In her free time Katie enjoys keeping fit - paddling ocean skis, jogging and coaching.

Katie has previously studied a variety of subjects from Anthropology to Spanish to Outdoor Recreation.

Katie is also a Group Leader for our sister company Camp Somerset, and prior to this worked at a Salvation Army camp working with various groups, including youth at risk.

Katie is a fun, bubbly and capable member of our team 😊

Students Take Charge – Roles and Responsibilities!

The Urban Challenge is centred on the students taking **responsibility** and **accountability** for their experience – students are **in charge** of their travel arrangements, all their money for the programme, their timings, their catering, their hostel check-ins, their photography, their gear, etc. Each student in the the Team is given an area of responsibility – Photographer, Web Master, Caterer...

The **independence** afforded to each Team and each individual is wonderfully beneficial – life experience, social interaction, confidence, and of, course, FUN.



Blog Highlights

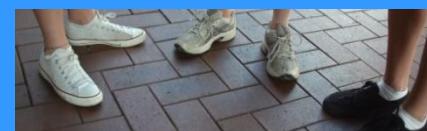
A parent limerick and Team poem from a recent Killara Gold Urban Odyssey Test.

**Team four from Killara are funny
Every one of them is missing their mummy
But they're up for the challenge
They've been on the scavenger
And tonight it's luxury- a real dunny!**

At Cowan station our quest began,
Walking all day getting a T shirt tan!

Once we reached Brooklyn station
the walking had adjourned,
After one night in Patonga the
tables had turned.

From Palm to Mona touching
every beach on the way,
We gave it our all on that hard
long day!



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

