Year 5/6 had a wonderful overnight excursion to Canberra. The first day involved a foggy view from Black Mountain, a visit to the Museum of Democracy at Old Parliament House and a trip to the Royal Australian Mint. At the Old Parliament House we used a great interactive display, had a look at the old House of Representatives and even had the privilege of a special peek into the office of former Prime Ministers Fraser, Hawke and Keating. Not many school groups get that invitation. At the Mint we saw a history of Australian coins and new coins being minted with the assistance of some very strong and sophisticated robots.

The following day after a quick bounce on some trampolines, students were able to see the place where Australia’s Federal parliament operates. We were welcomed by our federal member Dr. Peter Hendy and then visited the Senate gallery, passing a very old parchment of the English Magna Carta in the Foyer. Next we went to the Australian War Memorial and were amazed by the displays which ranged from 80 year old dioramas of trench warfare, made by veterans who had been there, to Peter Jackson’s three screen film recreation of a WW1 dogfight.

The School P&C and the Australian Federal Governments PACER grant system made significant contributions to the journey costs and are much appreciated.