In Year 5 we have been researching significant people and events that have shaped our nation. On 22nd August we were lucky enough to go on an excursion to help us with our learning. We travelled by bus to Darling Harbour to explore Madame Tussauds and the Maritime Museum. We enjoyed morning tea overlooking the water and then we visited Madame Tussauds where we ‘met’ some inspirational Australians. We were greeted by Olympic swimmer Ian Thorpe! Some of the other sports people we saw included Cathy Freeman, Lleyton Hewitt, Sir Donald Bradman, Rod Laver, Dawn Fraser and Layne Beachley.

We learnt about the achievements of some historical greats including Mary MacKillop, Sir Charles Kingsford Smith, Ned Kelly, Banjo Patterson, Eddie Mabo and Sir Henry Parkes.

Victor Chang and Fred Hollows are medical heroes who have changed the lives of many Australians as well as others around the world.

We were entertained by many celebrities such as Keith Urban, Kylie Minogue, Dannii Minogue, Delta Goodrem, Olivia Newton John, Paul Hogan, Bert Newton, Nicole Kidman and Barry Humphries.
Finally, we ‘met’ Madame Tissaud herself and learnt all about how she created wax models. We were amazed to learn that the wax models made today are also created by hand using similar techniques as used by the master herself!

Written by Laura Bechara and Jack Oliver

After enjoying lunch in the sun, we visited the Sydney Maritime Museum where we learnt about a significant Australian event – the Gold Rush. We discovered that it takes over 1,000 degrees Celsius to melt gold and over 2,000 degrees to boil it. There were many types of gold which the diggers searched for including gold nuggets which were easily found and alluvial gold which was very small and tricky to find. Gold in quartz was found in rocks and was the most difficult to find. The diggers searched for gold by panning and using rocker cradles. We were amazed to see a model of the largest nugget of gold ever to be found – ‘The Welcome Stranger’ which is worth over $4 million.

We had a great day learning new things in fun and interesting ways!

Written by Ryan Armstrong and Sam Diab