



## Fact Sheet — Education

Sydney Olympic Park offers a diverse range of education programs in environmental sustainability, arts and sport, utilising world-class facilities, venues, parklands and wetlands for learners of all ages.

### Snapshot

- Currently over 500,000 school students attend school events, excursions and activities at Sydney Olympic Park annually. More than 38,000 school students participate in Sydney Olympic Park Authority's curriculum based environmental excursion activities and education events.
- In 2014, a unique set of 35 hands-on curriculum based excursion programs were offered at the Park by the Authority for Kindergarten to Year 12 school students.
- 90% of Sydney Olympic Park's school excursion programs are outdoor wetland-based excursions relating to geography and science.
- Accredited/professional development workshops are conducted for groups of teachers and wetlands professionals.
- Sydney Olympic Park Authority is using video conferencing technologies and live web streaming to deliver education programs into rural and regional schools and provide communities across NSW and around Australia with access to learning opportunities at the Park.
- In 2014, the Authority brokered live and interactive video exchanges around sport and environmental issues, connecting Australian students directly with classes in South Korea, Indonesia, China, Japan, New Zealand, USA and Malaysia.
- Customised Technical Insight Tours offer 'behind the scenes' access to the Park's venues, operations and staff. More than 600 delegates participate in these programs each year from China, Japan, Singapore, London, South Korea, the United States of America, United Arab Emirates, New Zealand, India, Iran, Vietnam as well as a range of domestic groups.

## Partnerships

- Sydney Olympic Park Authority has hosted the Youth Eco Summit (YES) annually since 2011. YES is a major school education event focussed on sustainability. The event and related video conferencing exchanges have brought over 20,000 students and teachers from 500 schools together with community agencies, industry, government organisations, TAFE Institutes and leading universities. YES has won State and International recognition for youth engagement in sustainability, including a Regional Centre of Expertise Award from the United Nations.
- In 2014, the Authority developed and delivered Virtual SportsFest - An exciting range of 'virtual excursions' showcasing many of the teams, codes, personalities and major sporting events which call Sydney Olympic Park Home. The festival connected students and teachers with sports education resources and opportunities to get active. These interactive video events were anchored from the Sydney Olympic Park Authority's education studio, with guests and representatives from various sports joining in live from fields, courts and venues.
- In a ground breaking international video conference series the Authority (in partnership with the University of New England, AFC Asian Cup Organising Committee) facilitated four connected classroom sessions involving 20 schools from Australia, Korea, Japan and Indonesia sharing football themed projects.
- The Authority partnered with NSW National Parks and Wildlife to livestream secondary student environmental project presentations as part of 2014 World Parks Congress activities.
- The Authority facilitated a sustainable agriculture forum between University of Western Sydney's Youth 'Agvocates' live at the 2014 Sydney Royal Easter Show and peers in Maine USA.
- In 2014 Sydney Olympic Park Authority and the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW developed the Engagement with Agriculture Toolkit (EAT) a series of Teacher Professional development activities commencing with a live Google Hangout involving NSW teachers, a Darwin based crocodile farmer and Louisiana based alligator farmer talking about engaging students with sustainability .
- Sydney Olympic Park is home to a number of annual exhibitions featuring student work through partnerships with government and non-government organisations including Operation Art, Designing your future, and the largest regional ARTEXPRESS exhibition.
- Through 'Parklands 4 Learning' and onsite partnerships such as the GWS Giants' Learning Life Centre the Authority provides a range of subsidised programs for disadvantaged student groups.
- The Sydney Olympic Park Lodge, managed by the YMCA, is an accommodation facility in the heart of the parklands catering for up to 100 people, providing a camp style environment to suit all ages for students and groups to use while on excursions to Sydney Olympic Park.
- Sydney Olympic Park Authority, in partnership with Ausgrid, delivers a cutting edge excursion program around renewable energy. In a first of its kind for Western Sydney, the excursion combines interactive learning with mobile technologies at the Ausgrid Energy Efficiency Centre and practical field work activities at historic Newington Armory.
- Sydney Olympic Park Authority is the facilitator of a cluster of Park businesses participating in the Office of Environment & Heritage's Sustainability Advantage program. This program is designed to help organisations understand sustainability, successfully manage for a better environment and add business value.

## Other Educational institutions

- Major educational institutions at Sydney Olympic Park include the NSW Institute of Sport, the Australian College of Physical Education, S P Jain School of Global Management and the Universities Admissions Centre.