

On Monday the eleventh of March the school captains, vice captains and prefects of St Ives Park PS arrived at Gordon station at 7:30 in the morning. These young leaders had trudged out of bed early because an exciting day was awaiting them. They were to go into the city at the convention centre in Darling Harbour for an amazing day all about leadership. National young leaders day. This annual event was attended by over one thousand students from all across New South Wales. All to listen to inspiring Australians give speeches. We started off the day by buying souvenirs. A halogen pin! A pin to remind us of our experience at national young leaders day. The halogen pin symbolises the image of a halogen light. As a daily reminder to thousands of young leaders all across the country. At 8:45 the doors opened and DJ Raf taught us a dance. Then at 9:15 it was time for the first speech of our memorable day. The first speech was given by Tim Diamond. He gave an empowering message to us all, telling us about his experiences being a leader. Tim Diamond is a renowned activist after starting the Cotton On Foundation. Whenever you go into Cotton On and buy a bottle of water, some mints, a bag, bracelets or any other item with a charity item stamp on your supporting this successful foundation. All the money spent on charity items in Cotton On goes towards this truly great cause. He started by telling us about his first trip to Uganda. At the time he was employed at Cotton On when the owner of Cotton On who had already been there a few times encouraged him to travel there. On his arrival in 2007 he entered a Ugandan school where he encountered an eleven year old boy called Paul. Paul walked over 2 Kilometers to school and had to look after both his siblings alone as he was an orphan. After countless visits Tim Diamond built a school called Kasumuthu. Where he also built a sustainable water tank, a kitchen to feed the hungry kids during lunch, a toilet block and a teachers block where the teachers lived to be close to school. The school now serves over five hundred kids. He also built another school in Africa and one in Australia. He has empowered many others and was very inspirational. He taught us leaders a lot. After recess we had our second speaker. Tamsin Janu. She was an Australian author and wrote *The Figgy* and *The World Series Plus Blossom*. Tamsin Janu was also very interesting to listen to. After she had graduated from high school she travelled to Ghana for a few months and lived there. It really inspired her and that's where she got the idea for *Figgy and the World*. She also travelled to the Northern Territory for some time. The third speaker was very inspirational. She was Cate Campbell. An Olympic swimmer! She's been to the London and the Rio Olympics and was 15 years old in her first. When she was little she used to be very lazy. And her younger sister Bronte worked hard. Bronte won loads of gold medals at the swimming carnival and she only won one a bronze one. Bronte used to carry them all around. So she hid them under her bed. However she got caught very soon. She then started working very hard for things. She taught us that to be successful you have to work very very hard. After lunch our final speaker was Holly Ferling, a cricketer. She taught us a lot. Her famous quote is scary but exciting! She told us that when she was our age she was at the Brisbane national young leaders day! She taught us to persevere and that setbacks will always happen. She taught us that you have to believe in yourself and there's more out of your comfort zone! We then finished our memorable day by hopping back on a train and going home. I think we'll remember this day forever!