The RSPCA Humane Education Team recently launched its STOP ANIMAL CRUELTY High School Tour. The tour ran over five weeks, delivering humane education seminars to over 8500 students across Sydney.

The tour involved a number of key guest speakers including Norm Hewitt (Former All Black and Winner of Dancing with the Stars New Zealand) who shared his story with students about growing up with violence and the challenges he was faced with, whilst holding onto his dream of becoming an All Black.

Our humane education seminars cover a number of topics such as The Role of the RSPCA, Cycle of Violence, Balance of Power, Respect and Kindness, Cruelty Definitions, Laws surrounding animal cruelty, and how to be an active, responsible citizen. The seminars also boast an array of audio-visual clips to show students inspector cases, shelter footage and celebrity support for our animals. Although there is some serious discussion about violence in the community, the seminars always conclude with a positive message and some video clips of animals doing funny things!

The RSPCA was lucky enough to have Hip Hop Artist ‘Israel’ on board for the High School Tour. Israel performed a 20-minute live set of songs from his new album The Legacy, including chart-topper music single ‘Freak Tonight’.

The students thoroughly enjoyed being part of the STOP ANIMAL CRUELTY High School Tour and the feedback from teachers was extremely positive.

“Pets cannot only reignite the capacity for one to love but also to care for others.”
Teacher; Links to Learning, Western Sydney

The RSPCA is aiming to run the next tour in early November of this year – book early!

We look forward to getting out there and spreading more awareness on animal cruelty issues – together we can make a difference!

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Fred Hollows Foundation promotes World Sight Day

World Sight Day is an international day of awareness, held annually to focus attention on the global issue of avoidable blindness and visual impairment. The Fred Hollows Foundation is encouraging schools to get involved in World Sight Day 09 (WSD09) to be held on 8th October 2009. This year the theme is Gender and Eye Health – equal access to care.

To commemorate WSD09, The Foundation is inviting students to contribute to VISION 2020’s international photo montage. All students have to do is take a photograph of two people of different genders (one of whom needs to be blindfolded) and then email their photos to communications@v2020.org – the extra challenge for this year is to include a tree or a plant in the background.

Alternatively, students can simply plant a tree on WSD09 to show their support.

Some statistics about gender and blindness:
- Nearly two-thirds of blind people worldwide are women and girls
- In many places, men have twice the access to eye care as women
- Equal access to eye care could substantially reduce blindness in poor countries*
- Simple and effective strategies can and do successfully address this inequity within VISION 2020: The Right to Sight.

Without effective, major intervention, the number of blind people worldwide is projected to increase to 76 million by 2020. In 2008, The Fred Hollows Foundation restored sight to 176,472 people but there is still a lot more to do. Raise awareness in your school community and help us achieve the VISION2020 goal of eradicating avoidable blindness by 2020.

Visit www.getfocused.org.au/worldsightday for details or contact Kate Morrison at schools@hollows.org tel (02) 8741 1933

Sanyo claims that its new PLC-WXL46 ultra short throw projector is the most powerful solution for classrooms, small meeting rooms and small training rooms.

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