



Demonstration . . . students re-enact women's suffrage meetings-

Suffragettes recalled

NORTH Shore students recently revisited the issue of a woman's right to equal education, advantage and privileges with males.

At a mock public meeting recreating the women's suffrage movement of the early 1900s, 60 Year 9 students dressed in period costume to re-enact a public meeting for a new education kit on federation.

Students from North Sydney

Boys' and Girls' High Schools took part in the meeting basing their speeches on newspaper reports of the time.

"The students portrayed their roles with panache capturing the manner and style of speech during the period well," said the Education Department's Maria Hill, who observed the performance.

The performance was recorded and, along with a simu-

lation of the Constitutional Convention of 1897, will form the cornerstone of an education kit on federation.

Ms Hill said student simulations were the best tool for other students to emulate in their own schools.

"The kit will provide a diverse and interesting source material for students to use in the preparation of their own re-enactments," she said.

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SUFFERING SUFFRAGETTES! IT'S THE 1990s

On June 4, 1900, a crowded meeting in Sydney's Protestant Hall was sensing victory. It was the eve of Federation and another historic event was soon to take place – the right of women to vote. Jump forward to 1999 and the Jubilee Room in Parliament House is the scene for a reenactment of that meeting. Not surprisingly, the proposition that women get the vote was once again strongly endorsed, amidst some vocal opposition from a few not very new-age males! The part-reenactment, part-creative interpretation was designed to invoke the period and its attitudes and was conducted by suitably costumed Year 9 students from North Sydney Boys and Girls High Schools. Pictured above, South Australian suffragette Catherine Spence addresses the rally. The video-taped rally will form part of a kit on Federation which is being developed by teacher Maria Hill.