

Excursion Summary – 2016

Tour 1 - Life in Colonial Australia, A Complete Tour

4.5 hours

\$31.50 per student

Without Panning \$28.50 per student

Location – Bathurst Goldfields

This tour focuses on giving students a hands-on experience of life in early colonial Australia. Students will interact with personalities from the past and get their hands dirty building mudbricks, damper cooking, operating old machinery and panning for gold. Students will operate original machinery used on the goldfields and explore the contribution early migrants made to Bathurst and other colonial settlements. The tour has been designed around the new NSW Curriculum with a focus on identifying change, the struggles of various groups including early migrants, first contact with Aboriginal Australians and Bathurst's social and economic development. New stations are included in this tour consisting of crime and punishment, a replica bush cemetery and life in a colonial settlement.

Students will visit our onsite museum, entering the dark Platt where they will hear about the miner's spider and the importance of the talking timbers to the safety of miners.

In the museums geology room, students learn the difference between fool's gold, reef gold and alluvial gold. Students will examine the impact different forms of mining had on the natural environment.

Our museum history room presents an extensive collection of general household items that were used in the Victorian home, students will engage with historic artefacts to learn about the reality of life in a wealthy household and an average colonial household.

As students move around the colonial village, they will enter the Chinese Protectorate through the temple housing artefacts and a pictorial display of the Chinese presence on the goldfields. Students will hear of the problems and prejudices they encountered and are able to see how the Chinese work practises and lifestyle varied from the European miners.

Students will operate the horse drawn machines, including the Californian bucket pump, whim and poppet head.

The steam shed offers sounds and smells of the authentic colonial wood fired boiler. In the traditional blacksmith shop the guide's demonstration involves asking students to be apprentices for the blacksmith as they pump the bellows. See a piece of black steel rod transformed into a fire poker.

Over the course of two hours, students will move back in time as they are guided through the wattle & daub hut, rammed earth hut, slab hut and tent sites. Your tour guide will set the scene allowing students imagination to take a step back in time to the early settlement of Bathurst and the gold rush. The focus is on the role of women and children, how they arrived and established their homes on the goldfields. Students will hear of the chores children were responsible for, as compared to those today. Groups are divided into four and rotate so as to participate in mud brick making, damper cooking, bush games and putting up tents.

Students will complete a case study on the impact of GOLD on colonial Australia and on the colony of Bathurst. Students are able to complete various source investigations to gain a complete understanding of life in colonial Australia and on the western goldfields.

Afterwards, head to the ponds where your experienced guide will teach students how miners tried their luck panning for gold!!

Stage 2 & Stage 3

Resources and Activities: Students worksheets are available for this tour. Activities include recording key terms, dates and personalities, recording the use for machinery, creating a historical narrative and an empathy task about living in colonial Australia. These tasks can be completed during the tour or back in the classroom. Activities focus on the skills component of the NSW curriculum including comprehension, analysis and use of sources, perspective and interpretation, empathy and understanding, explanation and communication.

Excursion Summary – 2016

Tour 2 – Life in Colonial Australia – PART 1

2.5 Hours

\$21.00 per student

Without panning - \$17.00

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Tour 3 – Life in Colonial Australia – PART 2

2.5 Hours

\$21.00 per student

Without panning - \$17.00

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Tour 4 - Macquarie River Tour

1.5 hours

\$14.00 per student

Location: Bathurst Peace Park

Students will visit the site of the new and old Bathurst Flag Staff. The Flag Staff is the original location where Governor Macquarie proclaimed Bathurst as an official settlement. Two Flag Staffs are located in this area leading to a historical controversy- Which Flag Staff is in the correct location? Students will engage in various source materials to determine its true location. The local Wiradyuri Aboriginal community played an important role in the early history of Bathurst. Students will be introduced to the Wiradyuri Wars, explore the impact the wars had on the Bathurst settlement and discuss the ongoing relationship between Europeans and Aboriginal Australians in the Bathurst region. Students will also visit plaques commemorating the founders of Bathurst and learn about how individuals made a significant contribution to Australian society and the success of the inland settlement.

Stage 3

Resources and Activities: Students will re-enact the proclamation of Bathurst with Governor Macquarie leading the troopers. An interactive task will be completed on the banks of the Macquarie allowing students to engage colonial Bathurst. Student worksheets are available for this tour.

Tour 5 - Building Colonial Australia

1.5 hours

\$14.00 per student

Location: Bathurst Court House & Bathurst Historical Society, Ribbon Gang Lane

Students will start at the impressive Bathurst Courthouse. They will investigate the history of law and order in colonial Australia using Bathurst as a case study. The Courthouse is an opportunity for students to explore the architectural significance of a key landmark and its connection to the success of shaping Australia. Students will visit the grounds of the courthouse, review its colourful history and hear some ghost stories associated with the Old Bathurst Gaol. Students will transition to the Bathurst Historical Society Museum. The museum requires students to complete an investigative task to locate and identify relevant sources to build a historical overview of life in Bathurst from its foundation in the 1800's through to the 1900's. Students brush shoulders with convicts, early medicine, meteorological technology and bushrangers. Source based investigations allow students the freedom to focus on an area of history they find personally interesting within the curriculum framework of life in Colonial Australia or Australia as a Nation. Bushrangers were highly active in Bathurst and the surrounding areas. This story begins at King's Parade and proceeds to trace the steps of Ben Hall and the Ribbon Gang. Students will investigate how these significant individuals and gangs threatened the development of Australia. Students will see Ribbon Gang Lane and explore the possible locations of the gallows where the Ribbon Gang were hanged.

Stage 3

Resources and Activities: Student worksheets are available for this tour. Students have the option of completing this task during the tour to assist in recording important narratives, personalities and events.

Excursion Summary – 2016

Tour 6 – Bathurst Cemetery

1.5 Hours

\$14.00 per student

Location – Bathurst Cemetery

Bathurst Cemetery is one of the oldest cemeteries in Australia. Many of the town's influential personalities that helped to establish Australia as a nation are buried in this cemetery. Students will be guided through the cemetery to discover the reason why Ben Chifley and his wife are not buried together, the reasons why infant mortality was so high and examine the difficulties people faced in colonial Bathurst without access to modern medicine. Students will look at stories from different migrant communities and families that shaped the Bathurst region and Australia.

Stage 2 & Stage 3

Resources and Activities: Student worksheets are available for this tour. Students will learn roman numerals, complete a rubbing of a headstone, record historic narratives, identify important symbols and develop mapping skills to navigate around the cemetery,

Tour 7 – Abercrombie A

4.5 Hours

\$31.50 per student

Inc travel time from Bathurst

Students will be taken by bus from Bathurst to Trunkey Creek then onto Abercrombie Caves following the footsteps of the Ribbon Gang and Ben Hall. Students will complete investigative tasks relating to flora and fauna in the Abercrombie Conservation Reserve as they descend Caves Road to Abercrombie Caves. Students will be guided through the largest natural bridge of limestone in the southern hemisphere to investigate and analyse features of a cave system. National Parks and Wildlife Guides will help students examine the impact of natural and human hazards including fire, flood, pollution and vandalism. This excursion is cross curricular covering science, geography, history and maths.

It is recommended that all schools take morning tea/afternoon tea and lunch organised by the Goldfields especially during peak winter and summer. Students MUST be provided with drinks throughout the tour in summer or after physical activity.

Stage 2, Stage 3 & Stage 4

Resources and Activities: Student worksheets are available for this tour. Students will complete tasks including water sampling, micro-bug identification, identification of invasive species, identification of geological formations and recording historic narratives. This tour has a cross curricular focus with activities requiring students to calculate cost, measurement, time, distance and direction.

Excursion Summary – 2016

Tour 8 – Abercrombie B (with Bushwalking)

5.5 Hours

\$39.50 per student

Inc travel time from Bathurst

Students will be taken by bus from Bathurst to Trunkey Creek then onto Abercrombie Caves. Students will complete investigative tasks relating to flora and fauna in the Abercrombie Conservation Reserve as they descend Caves Road to Abercrombie Caves. Students will be guided across the largest natural bridge of limestone in the southern hemisphere to investigate and analyse features of a cave system. Additional activities include bushwalking along the Grove River to examine the native wildlife including the elusive lyrebirds and falcons. National Parks and Wildlife Guides will help students examine the impact of natural and human hazards including fire, flood, pollution and vandalism. This excursion is cross curricular covering science, geography, history and maths.

It is recommended that all schools take morning tea/afternoon tea and lunch organised by the Goldfields especially during peak winter and summer. Students MUST be provided with drinks throughout the tour in summer or after physical activity.

Stage 2, Stage 3 & Stage 4

Resources and Activities: Student worksheets are available for this tour. Students will complete tasks including water sampling, micro-bug identification, identification of invasive species, identification of geological formations and recording historic narratives. This tour has a cross curricular focus with activities requiring students to calculate cost, measurement, time, distance and direction. Additional bushwalking activity will give students time to record evidence of fire management and invasive species. The area is a nesting grounds of an endemic bird species. Students will be required to find evidence that suggests the species inhabits the area and identify threats to its survival.

Night Time Activity – Colonial Music

1.5 Hours

\$8.50 per student

Students will gather around the campfire of an evening to hear some bush poetry, ballads and bush legends. Our expert musician and storyteller will play the guitar while tracing the history of early colonial farming. Students will examine the importance of the sheep industry to the establishment of colonial Australia and how poetry was an important component of farming life. This experience introduces students to the unique nature of early bush poetry including legendary Banjo Patterson's *Waltzing Matilda* and *The Man From Snowy River*. Students will learn a variety of traditional sheering songs and accompany our musician in singing and reciting songs and poems. This activity is conducted beside an open fire for students to develop an appreciation for Australia's colonial past.