



Beechworth
Historic
Precinct

EDUCATION PROGRAMS
2025-2026



More than
a museum





Beechworth Historic Precinct

The Burke Museum and Historic Precinct are the heart of historic Beechworth, carefully curated to tell the stories that make this north-east Victorian town famous. The heritage-listed Historic Precinct consists of the Burke Museum, Historic Courthouse, Telegraph Station, Chinese Protectorate Office, Gold Warden Office, and Sub-Treasury Building.


Each building has a story to tell, with its contents adding layer upon layer of fascinating detail, providing an authentic learning context for stories of colonialism, governance, immigration, and cultural repatriation. The Burke Museum is one of the oldest in Australia and boasts a collection of over 30,000 items, many dating back over 150 years.

Our excursion activities are interactive sessions delivered in and around these historically significant locations, using primary sources and museum collections to provide a rich, immersive learning experience for your students.



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**program available for booking from Term 2, 2025*



How Granny Lived

Explore objects Granny used from the collection of the Burke Museum. Examine objects from the past and try washing clothes with a washboard!

This interactive program held in the Burke Museum allows students to view rarely seen objects from the collection that "Granny" used.

Students engage in critical and creative thinking to make suggestions about what these items might have been used for and consider how they have evolved over time. Students are encouraged to develop an understanding of similarities and differences between their lives today and the lives of their grandparents and ancestors.

Program Details

Year Levels: F-2

Victorian Curriculum Links

History

Critical and Creative Thinking

Museum staff-led

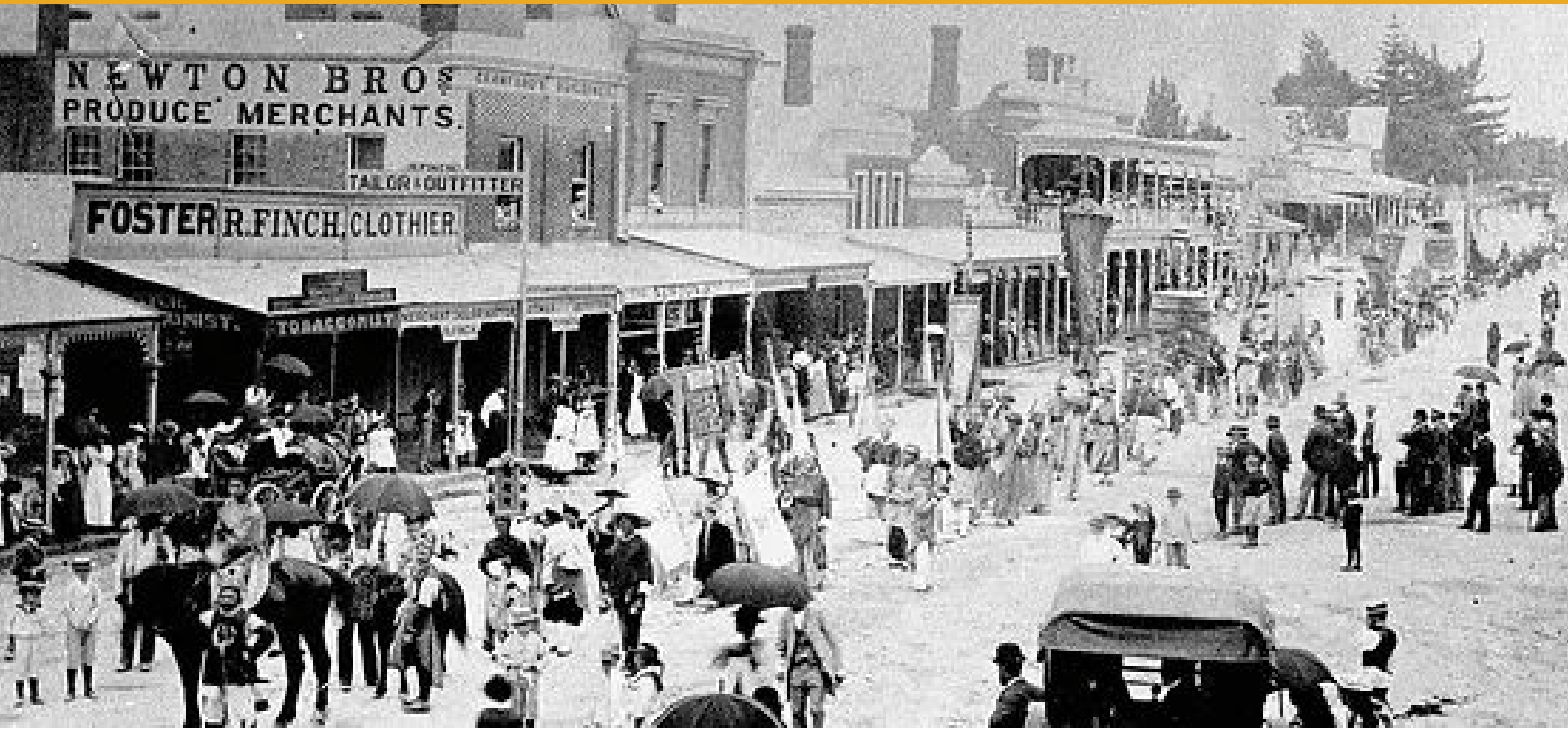
Burke Museum

45 minutes

Cost: \$7 per student OR included in \$20 student pass. Teachers and support are free.

Bookings and enquiries:

groupbookings@indigoshire.vic.gov.au
03 57288 067



Cultural Crossroads

Discover some of the different cultural groups living in Beechworth before and during the Gold Rush. These include First Nations, Chinese and European. Students will reflect on themes of identity, culture and respect.

Cultural Crossroads is an interactive program held in the Burke Museum. This session looks at some of the causes and reasons why people migrated to Australia from Europe and Asia.

Students are provided with the opportunity to learn more about the role that people of diverse backgrounds have played in the development of the local Beechworth community over time and the interactions between different cultural groups in early Beechworth.

Program Details

Year Levels: 3 – 6

Victorian Curriculum Links

History

Civics and Citizenship

Intercultural Capability

Museum staff-led

Burke Museum

45 minutes

Cost: \$7 per student OR included in \$20 student pass. Teachers and support are free.

Bookings and enquiries:

groupbookings@indigoshire.vic.gov.au

03 57288 067



Fools, Fortune and Folklore



Students will learn about and compare the lives of Beechworth citizens of the 1850's. Through several engaging games they will discover the surprising and absurd stories of some of the people who moved to Australia during the Gold Rush and settled in Beechworth.

By comparing the experiences of different people at each stage of their life, students will build an understanding of the push and pull factors of migration, the difficult living conditions and life experiences of many people on the gold fields, and how different lives can be even if they have very similar starts.

This program will run from Term 2, 2024.

Program Details

Year Levels: 5-10

Victorian Curriculum Links

History

Ethical Capabilities

Museum staff-led

Burke Museum

45 minutes

Cost: \$7 per student OR included in \$20 student pass. Teachers and support are free.

Bookings and enquiries:

groupbookings@indigoshire.vic.gov.au
03 57288 067



Evolving Ethics: Repatriation Matters

This program provides an insight into the ethics and morals which guide modern museum practices around the collection and management of First Nations cultural items.

Through examining items in the Burke Museum's collection, students will learn about ethical collection practices and the importance of preserving cultural artefacts. Students will gain an understanding of the museum's history and how the recent repatriation of a collection of cultural objects stored in the museum for over 150 years has led to building more positive relationships with their traditional owners.

Students will become Collection Managers examining primary and secondary sources to discuss and debate the fate of a group of objects.

Program Details

Year Levels: 7 – 9

Victorian Curriculum Links

History
Intercultural Capability
Ethical Capability

Museum staff-led
Burke Museum
45 minutes

Cost: \$7 per student OR included in \$20 student pass. Teachers and support are free.

Bookings and enquiries:
groupbookings@indigoshire.vic.gov.au
03 57288 067



Historic Courthouse Kelly Trials Experience

Remember the saying 'if these walls could talk'? Well, the walls of the Beechworth Courthouse actually do!

Students are immersed in a 270-degree, wrap-around audio-visual experience telling the stories of crime and punishment, governance, law, and the bushranger Ned Kelly. Students can then explore the rest of the courthouse and delve into more stories of the people who walked the halls – judges, barristers, defendants and supporters.

We also hold a public vote on a question posed around the Kelly saga and look at concepts of reliable sources, trustworthiness, and right or wrong. Students are asked to consider their position on the question, the vote is held, and then the results discussed, with students on either side discussing why they voted as they did.

Program Details

Year Levels: All

Victorian Curriculum Links

History
Critical and Creative Thinking
Civics and Citizenship

Historic Courthouse
45 minutes

Cost: \$10 per student OR included in \$20 student pass. Teachers and support are free.

Bookings and enquiries:
groupbookings@indigoshire.vic.gov.au
03 57288 067



Gold Fever

An interactive skills-based program that engages students in the skill of gold panning and develops a deeper understanding of the causes and reasons why people migrated to Australia

Students step into the shoes of a historical figure from Beechworth and try their luck panning for gold in our artificial creek. The program assists students in discovering the diversity of backgrounds and reasons why people migrated to Victoria during the 1850s.

Students will compare the average yearly wages of several different occupations with what they have collected from their gold pans to decide whether to stay in Beechworth or follow fortune elsewhere.

Program Details

Year Levels: 3– 9

Victorian Curriculum Links

History

Critical and Creative Thinking

Museum staff-led

Historic Precinct

45 minutes

Cost: \$7 per student OR included in \$20 student pass. Teachers and support are free.

Bookings and enquiries:

groupbookings@indigoshire.vic.gov.au

03 57288 067



History Mystery

An interactive skills-based program which engages critical and creative thinking to discover the identity of a fictional goldfields skeleton!

Students will become Forensic Archaeologists as they work in groups and consider the evidence before solving the identity of a mystery skeleton recently uncovered. During this program, students learn about conditions on the goldfields, quality of life, and health issues. They discover diseases prevalent during this time and learn about some common treatments. Students are also introduced to the many dangers of gold mining in 1800s Beechworth.

Students engage their critical thinking skills and learn new methods to solve this historical mystery!

Program Details

Year Levels: 7 – 9

Victorian Curriculum Links

History

Critical and Creative Thinking

Museum staff-led

Historic Precinct

45 minutes

Cost: \$7 per student OR included in \$20 student pass. Teachers and support are free.

Bookings and enquiries:

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03 57288 067



The Mystery of Morse

Students will learn about the history of Morse Code and explore the Beechworth Telegraph Station during this hands on program.

Students will engage in a discussion about the development of communication technology – from the importance of Morse Code in the 1800s to computers and mobile phones.

By comparing and considering these changes in technology students can consider the impact on our daily lives and worldwide communication.

Students can also test their Morse Code skills in an interactive session and examine and compare various telephones and communication devices.

Program Details

Year Levels: 5-10

Victorian Curriculum Links
History
Digital Technologies

Museum staff-led
Telegraph Station
45 minutes

Cost: \$7 per student OR included in
\$20 student pass. Teachers and
support are free.

Bookings and enquiries:
groupbookings@indigoshire.vic.gov.au
03 57288 067



Gold, Fortune and Felony Walking Tour

Visit the location of significant events and walk in the footsteps of historical figures in Beechworth's history.

This outdoors guided walking tour allows students to visit some historic locations in Beechworth while listening to stories from our local tour guides. Students will hear about the Gold Rush era and the way Gold shaped the town. They will also hear about famous individuals, including Elizabeth Scott, Ned Kelly, Ellen Kelly, Harry Power and Robert O'Hara Burke.

Teachers can choose to focus more on the Gold Rush, or Ned Kelly history; just let us know when you book.

Program Details

Year Levels: All

Victorian Curriculum Links

History

Geography

Museum staff-led

45 minutes

Cost: \$7 per student OR included in \$20 student pass. Teachers and support are free.

Bookings and enquiries:
groupbookings@indigoshire.vic.gov.au
03 57288 067



Education Prices

A Precinct student pass is \$20 per student.

This pass includes a Walking Tour, a Historic Courthouse Kelly Trials Experience, and your choice of one of the Burke Museum or Telegraph Station staff-led programs.

Individual session prices are marked on the program pages.

A self-guided visit to the Burke Museum is \$5 per student.

How to Book

For all education enquiries and bookings, please email groupbookings@indigoshire.vic.gov.au or head to our website for more information.

T: 03 5728 8067

E: groupbookings@indigoshire.vic.gov.au

W: <https://www.explorebeechworth.com.au/education>

We look forward to sharing our history with you.