

NSW SCHOOLHOUSE MUSEUM OF PUBLIC EDUCATION



SCHOOLS PROGRAM 2010

The NSW Schoolhouse Museum is located in one of Sydney's earliest surviving schoolrooms. It was the first building of North Ryde Public School, built in 1877 as a rural school.

Fully restored with stepped floors, raked ceiling and long toms, the schoolroom provides a glimpse of school days from the past. Students can step back in time by re-enacting reading, writing and arithmetic lessons.

A varied collection of exercise books, texts, craft work and teaching resources fills the adjoining 1910 rooms. Students can explore the displays and use early toys, technologies and teacher tools. In winter, bread is toasted over the glowing coals of the log fire.



Objects from the past hold stories and memories and what better way to discover these than through a hands-on approach.

A visit to the NSW Schoolhouse Museum gives your students the opportunity to:

- **Experience** 1880s school lessons sitting at long-toms by the crackle of firelight
- **Examine** artefacts and discuss the stories they hold
- **Explore** exhibits of old objects and consider changes over time
- **Look** at early crafts and work samples treasured through generations
- **Write** with slate pencils on slates and Copperplate with pen and ink
- **Study** early photographs of school children and discover life in the past
- **Use** early technologies such as rubber stamps and jelly pads
- **Dress** in pinafores and sailors' collars
- **Dance** around a maypole
- **Practise** drill using wands or dumb bells
- **Play** with knuckles, marbles and spinning tops
- **Enjoy** early playground games such as 'fly' and quoits
- **Compare** life of the past to that of today.

The focus of the program is for the students to interact with museum objects as much as possible.

SESSIONS

No. of classes: 2 - 3 classes, max. 90 students (With 3 classes, the second part of the outdoor session is teacher-led.)

Duration: Approx. 3 hours including recess **Cost:** \$8.00, no GST **Bookings available:** Mondays and Wednesdays

We ask that two parents accompany each class in Terms 2 and 3 to assist with the toasting activity. Grandparents are welcome.



LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Activities at the NSW Schoolhouse Museum provide first hand experiences which support HSIE syllabus heritage content and these COGs and BoS units:

Stage 1—*Our Stories; Our Families; The Way We Were; Families: Past and Present*

Stage 2—*Effects of Growth and Change, Then, Now and Tomorrow; Australia: You're Standing in It*

Stage 3—The schoolrooms provide an authentic setting for Federation studies in *Traditions and Heritage* and *Interconnecting Growth and Change*.

School anniversaries—The NSW Schoolhouse Museum rooms are furnished to represent three periods of education: 1870s—1900s, 1910s—1940s, 1950s-1960s. It is an ideal venue to visit as part of your school's anniversary celebrations.

The visit program can be tailored to your unit, local context or class work.

A typical visit includes three sessions:

Lesson in the 1877 room—seated at original long toms, the students undertake aspects of daily lessons to gain a first-hand understanding of schooling in the past including writing on slate boards and using pen and ink. Aspects of daily life, attitudes and discipline are integrated into the session.

Activities in the 1910 rooms—students engage with artefacts in a series of 'work stations'. These include hunting for treasures, using rubber stamps and a jelly pad, examining contents of school cases, examining photographs, playing with early toys and, in winter, toasting a piece of bread over the fire.

Outdoor activities—dressed in pinafores and sailors' collars, the students learn maypole dancing and military-style drill. They also participate in early games such as clapping, circle games, skipping, 'fly', bowling hoops and quoits.

BOOKINGS

Cost: \$8.00 per student. Accompanying adults free.

Bookings available: Mondays and Wednesdays

Information pack: Visit plan, risk assessment, background notes and photographs will be sent before you visit.

Booking your visit: Contact the NSW Schoolhouse Museum on info@schoolhousemuseum.org.au or phone/fax 9805 1186.

School _____ Contact person _____

Contact person email _____

Postal address (school) _____

Phone No. _____ Fax No. _____

Preferred visit dates: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Grade/s _____ No. of classes _____ No. of students _____

Arrival time _____ Departure time _____

Purpose of visit / unit of work _____

Cancellation policy: Any confirmed booking that is cancelled within 14 days of the visit will incur a \$50 cancellation fee.

Each visit is staffed by a qualified teacher and experienced facilitators. Visit fees fund staffing, collection management and conservation works. The DET owns the building and provides some staffing support. The collection is owned and managed by the NSW Schoolhouse Museum of Public Education Inc.

Our office is staffed two days a week but emails are checked daily. Schools usually book about a term ahead and bookings are taken in order of receipt.

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