

This document will inform you and your students about what you need to know before, during and after your excursion at the Hurstville Museum & Gallery.

For teachers - Duty of care

- The duty of care owed to students for the duration of the program cannot be delegated from the school to parents, caregivers, volunteers or external organisations.
- Teachers will be solely responsible for the care and safety of their students for the duration of their involvement in the activities provided.
- Hurstville Museum & Gallery will not be held responsible for accidents involving the use of materials or equipment while children are under the supervision of their teachers.
- There must be at least one teacher per group to supervise, in the ratio of at least:
 - 1 teacher per 10 students for primary groups and
 - 1:15 for secondary groups.

What to expect during a program at Hurstville Museum & Gallery

Hurstville Museum & Gallery offers an array of engaging opportunities for exploration and enrichment during your school's scheduled visit. On arrival you will get an introduction and your group might be split into smaller groups (please see 'Arrival' on page 3 for further information). It is important that the group follow instructions while visiting the Museum & Gallery.

How to behave in a Museum & Gallery

Teachers must:

- Actively supervise students at all times.
- Engage with the programs to help facilitate learning.
- Explain the code of conduct to students prior to arriving at the Museum & Gallery.

Students must:

- Not run inside the Museum & Gallery or in the adjacent courtyard, stay in your lines and walk calmly through the space.
- Listen to your guide and to each other and put your hand up if you have something to say.
- Treat all collection objects and equipment with care and respect.
- Refrain from touching any objects, artworks, costumes, mannequins or furniture in the Museum & Gallery. You will be instructed on when you can touch an object by your guide.
- Refrain from eating or drinking inside the Museum & Gallery, unless you have a designated area agreed during the time of your booking.

Arrival

Aim to arrive 15 minutes prior to your program so that you have time to organise the students and use the toilets if necessary. On arrival a Museum & Gallery staff member will brief the group with an Acknowledgement of Country, introduce Hurstville Museum & Gallery and the program. Please ensure all students and accompanying adults attend this short introduction.

If you have booked an educator-led excursion and your group is larger than 20 students, we will split them into smaller groups and rotate between modules. This will be discussed at the time of booking. Please refer to 'Duty of care' on page 1 for teacher/student ratios.

Please note: If a group arrives late for an educator-led excursion, the duration of the program will be cut down accordingly to accommodate time constraints.

If you have booked a self-guided excursion, we recommend breaking the group into smaller groups for easier access to the spaces. Each group must have at least one teacher supervising the students.

Bags, belongings and lunch

There may be available space to leave bags and belongings while visiting the Museum & Gallery. Please advise staff prior to your visit if you require space to leave bags and if you would like to arrange a space for break*. If your session is scheduled with breaks please confirm these times with the Museum & Gallery staff upon your arrival.

** Please be aware that Hurstville Museum & Gallery has limited space. Therefore, unless these arrangements are discussed and booked during the time of booking, Hurstville Museum & Gallery has no obligation to provide a space for these activities.*

Photography

Students and teachers are welcome to take photographs to record their excursion. There may be some photography restrictions for special exhibitions; however Museum & Gallery staff will advise you if this is applicable.

About Us

Hurstville Museum & Gallery is one of the many services provided by Georges River Council. The Museum & Gallery is housed in an old Tudor style building located at 14 MacMahon Street, Hurstville. The building has a colourful history beginning with Dr Crakanthorp who built the house in 1929. He used it as a doctor's surgery and the residence for his family.

In the 1960s, 14 MacMahon Street became the new club house and recreational centre for the St George Rugby Union Club. St George Rugby players, families and friends, the opposing teams and referees would meet after Saturday home games at the clubhouse.

From the 1980s onwards, 14 MacMahon Street became a succession of restaurants and a reception venue. Many local residents still have vivid recollections about important family celebrations or casual get-togethers in one of the restaurants.

By 2003 the St George Regional Museum had outgrown its home in the 'Centennial Bakery', a small corner building on Forest Road and Bridge Street. On 6 February 2004 the Museum & Gallery officially opened at 14 MacMahon Street, changing its name to Hurstville Museum & Gallery in 2009.

The permanent exhibition: *St George stories: people – places – community*

Housed in two rooms, the exhibition is arranged thematically. Students will learn who has shaped this region from the earliest people to present day communities and how life has changed over the years.

In Room 1, students learn about the complex history of the regions local Aboriginal people, their dispossession and what effect this has had up into the present, through the perspectives of contemporary Aboriginal residents. Early colonial history is explored, with a focus on place naming. The room also highlights the multicultural nature of the area, looking at the early German and Chinese settlement in the region, and culminates with the diverse community of St George nowadays.

Room 1 also has a changing display named 'Spotlight Display'. It presents aspects of community history, both past and present, from the Georges River area and changes every three to four months. It provides an opportunity to tell local stories, often developed in conjunction with residents, groups and organisations. Cultural material from our extensive collection of over 6,000 objects is also exhibited to reflect the many unique stories, history and events from our region.

In Room 2, domestic objects from different eras allow students to make in-depth comparisons between domestic life now and then, whilst also learning about early industries in the area, Hurstville's development and other themes relevant to daily life.

In the hallway, students can uncover the history of the development of transportation in the St George area.

Topics and themes covered in the exhibition include:

Room 1

Aboriginal perspectives

- **The First people of St George**
- **Dispossession & resistance**
- **New Aboriginal communities**
- **Living off the land**
- **Political activism**
- **Day of Mourning**
- **Embracing Aboriginal culture**
- **Stolen Generations – part of family history**

Pioneer experiences

- **Convicts & free settlers**
- **Laycock / Kingsgrove**
- **Townson land grants**
- **Suburb names**

Migrant stories

- **German settlers**
- **Chinese community**
- **Indian migration oral history**
- **Italian migration oral history**

Room 2

World war: the home front

- **World War One**
- **World War Two**

Hurstville's shopping hub

- **Economic growth**
- **Family business**
- **Early shops in the area**
- **Pharmacies**
- **The general store**
- **Sweet treats**

Sport and play

- **Early leisure activities**

Education in the early years

- **First schools**
- **Higher education**

Home sweet home

- **Early living conditions**
- **20th Century domestic living conditions**
- **Fashion and beauty**

Working the land and rivers: early industries

- **Changing landscapes**
- **Lime burning**
- **Oyster farming**
- **Timber getting**
- **Ship building**
- **Brickworks**

Sports in early St George

- **Fitness for women**

Local Government

Hallway

Transportation

- **Forest Road**
- **The Lugarno Ferry**
- **The Illawarra Railway Line**

Before the Excursion

For students

The permanent exhibition that you will be looking at explores the history of the St George area.

The information and artefacts are arranged thematically, from our first people and the early settlers to modern day migration. You will learn about early industry, transportation and the environment, and how it has shaped the area to what it is today.

When we think about the past and how people used to live and work, we try to imagine what it would have looked like. This area was very different then:

- Most of the buildings that you see around you every day were not built yet.
- Everywhere was forest and farmland.
- The roads were all dirt tracks that you would often get bogged down in.
- Houses were spread out, and all the shops were just along one main road.
- Not a lot of people lived here then; this area was a village, not a city.

You can start to imagine that, in many ways, life was very different to what we know now.

Museums like ours look after different kinds of objects, artworks, photos and oral histories so that they are available for future generations. We also use them to create exhibitions that help to tell a story about our past.

You can also view our digitised collections [online](#) as a pre or post museum visit activity.

Questions to ask students before their trip to the Museum & Gallery:

What is a Museum?

It is a place that collects and looks after a range of things like objects, stories, research, specimens, and photos. It is a place that helps us to learn about the past. People and groups use the information and collection objects to research and study different aspects of the past.

The purpose of museums is to collect and preserve the results of human achievement and evidence of the natural world and to use these collections to enhance human knowledge and understanding.

What is a Gallery or 'Art Museum'?

As above, but emphasise that an object could be a piece of art (a painting, drawing, sculpture, photograph, video or performance for example). Explore that concept with the different mediums an artist could use.

Do you think it is important to learn about the past? Why?

The past is important because it can help us to understand where we came from and why we do the things we do. It can teach us lessons and give us ideas for the future. It can make us really appreciate and be happy with our lives as they are today.

For some people their family history or their cultural history is a big part of their identity and something that they are very proud of.

It can also be fun to learn about the past. Some histories are great stories!

How can we learn about the past when it happened so long ago?

- Through words - stories and memories that have been written down or retold and passed down through generations (oral histories).
- Through photos – that capture events, places and people.
- Through objects – the things that people used and left behind.

- Through old newspaper, ads and books.

Historians use things they find, see and read to understand what happened in the past.

They call this evidence.

Do you know what special name we give to all of these materials that help us to know the past?

- Sources

Do you know what a primary source is?

- A source that was made, used or belonged to the time we are looking at.
- For example, we are going to look at artefacts which were made and used with 100 years ago. Are they a primary source for that time? Yes.

What about if I drew a sketch of one of the artefacts. Would that be a primary source?

- No. I wasn't around 100 years ago and I'm making the source today. These are called secondary sources.

So primary sources come from the time and secondary sources are after the time.

What museums do is collect and use primary and secondary sources to put together a story about the past, so that people today can enjoy, remember and learn.

Post Visit

In the classroom

Comparing new and old knowledge

- Ask each student to discuss their favourite activity and why?
- Encourage the students to make comments about what they learnt at Hurstville Museum & Gallery
- Did the information that the students found differ from what they understood before their visit?

Reflecting on the visit

- Have students discuss what item they found most interesting at the Museum & Gallery.
- How has this information and experience helped them to understand things about the past?

Classroom resources

We have free, easy to use resources that can be used in the classroom for extended learning as a pre or post-visit activity or as a lesson on their own for history and visual arts.

Check our [website](#) or get in [contact](#) for further details.

Museum on the Move Kits

'Museum on the Move' kits can be used as a stand-alone classroom activity or in conjunction with a visit to Hurstville Museum & Gallery.

The kits enhance students' experience of history through active study and interaction with high quality images, sources, museum artefacts and replicas.

Check our [website](#) or get in [contact](#) for further details and prices. Bookings are essential and it is the responsibility of the hirer to collect and return the kits from Hurstville Museum & Gallery within the four-week loan period.