

BYWONG TOWN

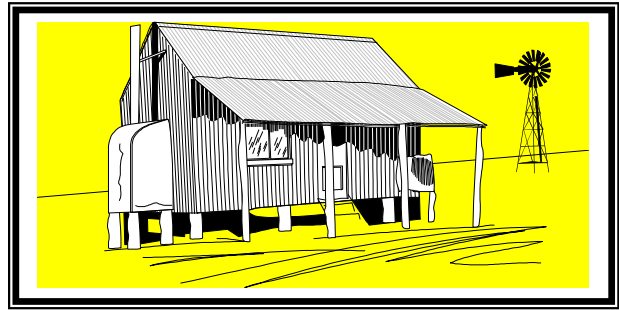
HISTORIC GOLD TOWN

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BYWONG TOWN – HISTORIC GOLD TOWN

Bywong Gold Mining Town is a unique educational experience set on an authentic site, a town which existed from 1895 – 1906. It captures the hardship of our early settlers and effectively demonstrates the ingenuity and courage that developed this country.

Time spent at Bywong is as much of a hands-on experience as we can safely make it. The children will work in the blacksmith shop, pan for gold, turn the tiny stamp mill [which other children did, to survive at the turn of the century], operate the ‘whim’ and see the machinery that extracted gold from the ore out of the mineshafts. They will walk through the 1890’s village, viewing it as it was in those days, and wonder how people survived in the makeshift structures that they called home. Topics covered are - social history, geology, mining, bush building techniques and blacksmithing.

The tours are fully guided and times are flexible. A maximum of 38 students is set for each guided group forming part of each tour, up to a maximum of three groups. The groups move between different activities both before and after lunch.

Bywong has good picnic facilities in a natural bush setting. Lunch, usually a sausage sizzle, morning and afternoon tea can be catered for with prior notice, but tour groups are invited to provide their own, and local groups usually do so. Tea, coffee and soft drinks will be provided as part of the tour.

Worksheets for a class question and answer session on their experience are provided. Each student receives a miner’s ‘licence’ and sample from the gold panning exercise to take home with them..

If we are not catering for your visit, please ensure that each child has adequate food and water with them.. As we are an outdoor venue, hats, sunscreen and mosquito protection are essential, along with appropriate clothing for the Canberra climate. The students will probably get dirty so old clothes are best, with some schools dressing in period style for the visit. The town is located in dry eucalyptus forest, and toilet facilities are basic, with watertanks and taps for hand washing.

Bywong Town is located 32 kms north of Canberra City, 5 km from the Federal Highway, making it an ideal location for the first or last stops of coaches approaching from the north. Bywong provides the perfect contrast to some of the more formal visits experienced in Canberra.