

BYWONG TOWN

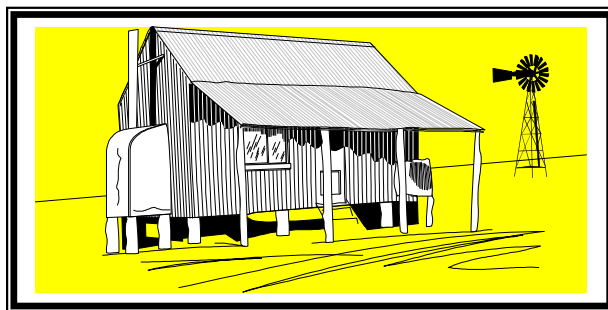
HISTORIC GOLD TOWN

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Bywong Town runs tours for schools which we call **Gold Tours** lasting 2 hours and 4.5 hours. Topics covered are – social history, geology, mining, bush building techniques and blacksmithing and the history of gold mining at Bywong in the Gundaroo gold fields. Interstate schools are invited to discuss their own timing with us or their coach or tour company, to fit **Bywong Town** into a Canberra tour schedule using the shorter version of the tours.

GOLD TOUR 1

Tours are conducted in groups depending on student numbers The programme might run as follows for a typical local school tour of [say] 60 students, divided into two groups.

Tour time [4.5 hours] 10am to 2.30pm

Arrival, greetings and recess 10 to 10.30am

Group 1 –

Gold Panning

10.30 to 11.15am

Students will learn how and why the miners crushed their rocks, and pan the dust for a ‘colour’ of gold.

Mining compound

11.15 to 12.30

The walk around the mining area shows how to identify the rocks and likely spots for gold deposits, introduces the student to reef mining in shafts and an open pit, demonstrates how the miners extracted the rock by windlass and the horse drawn ‘whim’, the use of the stamper or battery for crushing the rock, along with the process for extracting the gold and introduces the tiny children’s stamper. The history and methods of mining at Bywong and viewing of historic buildings are also part of this walk.

Group 2 –

Village walk

10.30 to 11.45am

A conducted tour of the historic village site., including instruction in the blacksmith’s workshop, viewing the old structures once called home, huts and other buildings.,and the government well. Tales are told of the difficulties and hardship faced by residents and intinerants, and how they overcame them.

Gold Panning

11.45 to 12.30 pm

LUNCH

12.30 to 1.00 pm

Group 1 – Village walk

1.00 to 2.15pm

Group 2 – Mining compound

1.00 to 2.15pm

A departure time of around 2.30pm allows some flexibility, time for purchase of souvenirs [when available] and closing conversations. Local bus companies sometimes have school bus run commitments at 3pm necessitating a departure time of 2pm

GOLD TOUR 2

Tour times – variable from 9am to late afternoon [during daylight saving], Two hours duration.

This tour includes both the Gold Panning and Mining Compound and is intended for use by those schools which have time constraints brought about by an extended visit to the Canberra region. Some of the social history of Bywong is discussed during the tour, but a walk through of the Village area is only undertaken if group size or time permits.

An additional half-hour must be added for lunch or barbeque.

The tour guides welcome the assistance of teachers in monitoring student interest and behaviour, ensuring that everyone enjoys the visit and gains the greatest benefit.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Bywong Town is also open for groups of 10 or more for a variety of activities. Children's birthday parties, clubs and associations and families can select from a number of activities which might include some or all of :

- Gold panning and blacksmithing
- Treasure hunt
- Damper making
- Yabbing [in season]
- Photography eg Vintage car clubs

For instance: children's birthday parties usually include – gold panning, treasure hunt, games, damper making, yabbing and visits to the mining area and village and bookings are 4½ hours.

Groups must remain under the supervision of a tour guide at all times. Costs may vary according to the level of activity. Consult the price list for a indication, or contact us for more information.