



Fact Sheet

Visitor Information Services and the Town Hall

Echoes of History in Beechworth

No tour of Beechworth's Historic & Cultural Precinct is complete without a visit to the beautiful Town Hall building which today houses the Beechworth Visitor Information Centre.

The VIC's expert and friendly team will help with all your tour needs including advice on planning group itineraries as well as accommodation bookings. The VIC is well stocked with maps, information about a host of local attractions including walking tours, horse riding, abseiling, gold-panning, gem-fossicking, mountain-bike riding, 4WD possibilities and trail-bike riding. Enquiries can also be made here relating to local tour operators. The VIC also stocks postcards and a range of souvenirs to suit all tastes and pockets.

Screening regularly throughout the day in the Town Hall is the excellent short film, ***Echoes of History***. Running for a little over 10 minutes, this informative and educational video is a great introduction to your group's Precinct experience. It brings to life the history of Beechworth through the eyes of well-known local identities and touches on the influence of squatters and bushrangers and issues of law and order, multiculturalism and government in a short and action-packed presentation.



Dating from 1858, the grand Beechworth Town Hall was purpose built to house the Shire Offices.

Today, visitors to the building can also see the remarkable Beechworth Commemorative Tapestry, a 2.2 x 2.4 metre work completed by the Victorian Tapestry Workshop for the nation's Bicentenary celebrations in 1988. The tapestry features a collage inspired by local imagery, including landscapes based on Eugene von Guerard's *Reedy Creek Falls* watercolour (the original is on display at the Beechworth Burke Museum), as well as town views, Chinese calligraphy as found on a processional banner which also features in the Burke's collection, the local Nodding Blue Lily and the Beechworth Post Office.

To the rear of the Town Hall, groups can also visit Harry Powers' Cell, a small holding cell, in its original condition, in which the "Gentleman Bushranger" Harry Powers spent many months on remand.

And surrounding the building are the delightful Town Hall gardens, laid out in 1875 and featuring a number of exotic species donated by the famous explorer, botanist and director of Melbourne's Royal Botanic Gardens, Baron Ferdinand von Mueller. The giant Californian sequoias (Redwoods) date from this time. The gardens are an ideal place for your group to enjoy morning tea or lunch.

For all enquires and group bookings, contact the Beechworth Visitor Information Centre

Phone: 1300 366 321; Email: visit_beechworth@indigoshire.vic.gov.au

Online bookings at www.beechworthonline.com.au

Open 9am to 5pm, seven days a week – closed Christmas Day.

Passenger drop-off available in Ford Street; long-term bus parking available in William St, next to Town Hall Gardens. Close access to public toilets.