



Beechworth Historic & Cultural Precinct
1858 - 2008

Fact Sheet

Beechworth Historic Courthouse

Home to heroes and villains



Among the few remaining living history museums in Australia and one of Beechworth's most visited attractions the historic Courthouse is perfect for group tours.

Our expert historians bring to life some of the dramatic events which took place inside these walls, including the trial which sealed Ned Kelly's fate.

Historic & Cultural Precinct staff also offer fascinating insights into the people behind the stories including the hardships faced by Ned Kelly's mother Ellen who was sentenced to three years gaol here and the tragedy of Elizabeth Scott, the first woman hanged in Victoria whose trial took place in this very building.

Highlights of the Courthouse tours are the **costumed trial re-enactments based on actual court transcripts**. **Tour groups have the chance to play the role of judge, juror, lawyers and even Ned Kelly himself** whose appearances included his committal hearing for the murders of Constables Lonigan and Scanlon.

Built in 1858 and in continuous service for 131 years, the Beechworth Courthouse retains its original furniture and fittings. It has been the setting of some of the most fascinating court cases in Victoria's history.

The ill-fated explorer, Robert O'Hara Burke, in his role as Police Superintendent in Beechworth, once sat at the bench and Justices Sir Redmond Barry and Sir William Stawell passed judgement on many a defendant from the Judge's chair. Sir Isaac Isaacs started his legal career in this building and later went on to become Australia's first native-born Governor-General.

Tour groups have the chance to see the Courthouse law library, recently assessed as being of outstanding national significance with many rare books held in the collection. **They can sit at the Judge's bench or in the jury box or stand in the very dock where Ned Kelly stood**. There are fine displays of historical artefacts as well as four superb replica suits of armour worn by the Kelly Gang at the Siege of Glenrowan.

Don't miss the chance to experience first hand one of Australia's finest living history museums.



Beechworth Historic Courthouse

Open: 9am to 5pm, 7 days a week – closed Christmas Day.

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

www.beechworthonline.com.au

Allow a maximum of one hour for your visit. Long-term bus parking available in William St, next to Town Hall Gardens. Close access to public toilets. Free access to building is offered to coach crew. The Courthouse provides limited wheelchair access.