



Beechworth Historic & Cultural Precinct
1858 - 2008

Fact Sheet

Beechworth Historic Courthouse **Home to heroes and villains**

The Beechworth Courthouse is perfect for tours by school students of all ages. Using language children can readily understand, 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 as well as the process of trials and the punishment meted out to those found guilty.

A highlight of the Courthouse tours are the costumed trial re-enactments based on actual court transcripts. Students have the chance to play the role of judge, juror, lawyers and even Ned Kelly himself.



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



Still with its original furniture and fittings, it is among the few remaining living history museums in Australia and is one of Beechworth's most visited attractions. The Courthouse law library is of outstanding national significance with many rare books held in the collection.

Ned Kelly appeared in the Beechworth Courthouse twice, including his committal hearing for the murders of Constables Lonigan and Scanlon. His mother, Ellen Kelly, was sentenced to three years gaol and Elizabeth Scott, who has the unenviable reputation for being the first woman executed in Victoria, was sentenced to death in this building.

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.

These educational, informative and highly entertaining tours offer the perfect opportunity for school groups to experience first hand one of Australia's finest living history museums.

Beechworth Historic Courthouse

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

Booking enquiries: Phone: 1300 366 321

Web: www.beechworthonline.com.au

Email: visit_beechworth@indigoshire.vic.gov.au

Allow a maximum of one hour for your visit – Presentation & role-play, 45 minutes; allow 15 minutes to move between buildings

Short-term parking is available in Ford Street. Close access to public toilets.

Free access to building is offered to coach crew, teachers and accompanying volunteers (one adult per 10 students)

The Courthouse provides limited wheelchair access