

# Planning Your Visit Museum of Fire



**Vacation Care Groups**

# Introduction

The Museum of Fire tells the story of Fire and Rescue through objects, historic vehicles and interactive displays.

With engines dating back to the early 1800's the Museum of Fire stands as a fitting monument to the heroic firefighters who support our communities. The steam engines, horse drawn carts, manual pumps and modern motorized engines also highlight how transportation has changed over the years.

We offer Education Tours of the Museum of Fire. Each tour typically lasts about 4 hours, but it can be tailored to suit your needs. The tour includes a Fire Safety Talk, Emergency Services role play experience, a self-guided tour of the Museum and a ride on a Fire Engine.

This document has been developed to help you prepare for your visit to the Museum of Fire. It provides an overview of how to make a booking, the Museum's location and opening hours, information about what you can expect on the day, and contact information if you have any further enquiries.



## How to Make a Booking

There are two ways for you to make a booking with us.

1. Using our [Online Booking Request Form](#)
2. Over the phone, by calling us on (02) 4731 3000.

After we receive your booking request, we will send you written confirmation within three working days. When you receive your booking confirmation please check that all details are correct.

Invoicing is available for all school groups.

# Location and Opening Hours

The Museum of Fire is located in the former Penrith Power Station building, at 1 Museum Drive Penrith. The Museum is about an hour west of Sydney, and makes for a great day visit, or stop-off destination on your way to/from the Blue Mountains.

We are open 9:30am to 4:30pm seven days a week. Excluding the following public holidays: Good Friday, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, and New Year.



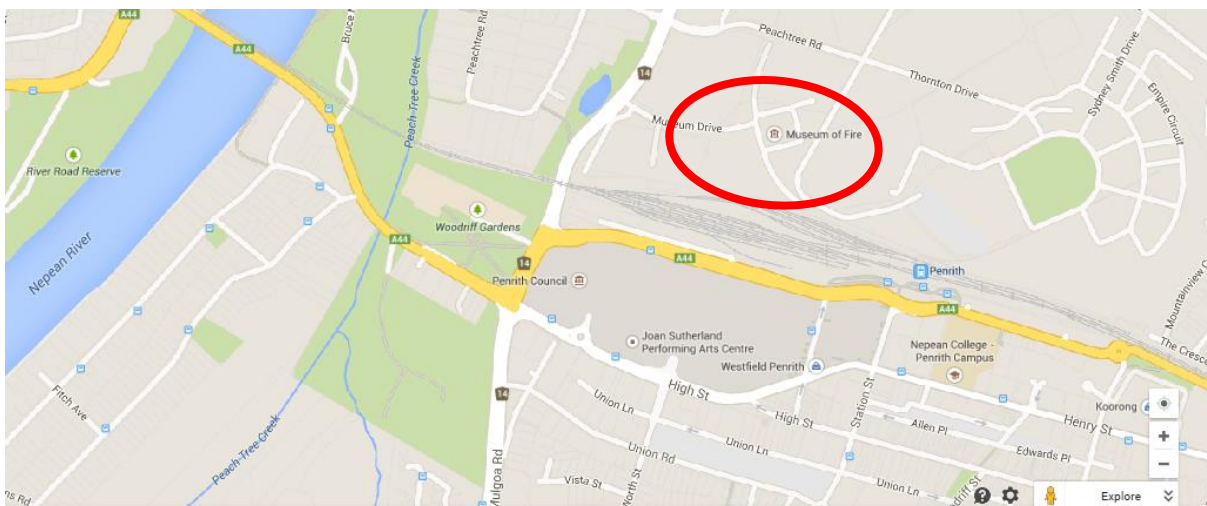
**Museum entry from Penrith Train Station**



**Museum entry from Mulgoa Road**

*By Road:* From the M4 Motorway, take the Mulgoa Road (Rte14/73) exit towards Penrith, then follow Tourist Drive #14 north along Mulgoa Road & Castereagh Road. The entrance is located 1km north of the Panthers Entertainment Centre. The entrance is on the right, 50m north of the railway underpass bridge. The entrance can be easily identified by a 1942 Dennis Fire engine that is raised 4m off the ground!

*By Train:* From Central - Catch the T1 Western or Blue Mountain line to Penrith Station. At Penrith Station, exit via the overhead walk-way to the north side, heading towards the car park (on the opposite side to Westfield). It is then it is just a short three minute walk along the access road to the Museum of Fire.



# Before Your Visit

Advanced bookings are essential for all educational groups. Make a booking, using our [Online Booking Request Form](#) or over the phone by calling us on (02) 4731 3000.

The minimum number for an Education Tour is 15 students. However, if you have fewer than 15 students, please contact us, to see if we are able to accommodate your booking.

Prices for vacation care visits to the Museum are \$10 per student. This includes entry to the Museum, participation in the Museum's program led by trained staff and a fire engine ride. (price effective from 1 September 2017).

The allowed Supervisor-to-Student Ratios are:

- 1:10

Any additional adult helpers are charged at \$10 per person. If you require further confirmation of what your ratio allocation would be, please call the Museum on (02) 4731 3000.

Before arrival at the Museum please talk to your students about appropriate behaviour whilst visiting the Museum. We ask that students do not run while in the Museum building, remain behind display barrier chains and do not touch objects unless invited to. Please also ask your students to be considerate of other guests while in the Museum.

A structured vacation care typically lasts about 4 hours, but it can be tailored to be as short or long as you need.

# On Arrival

We suggest that schools plan to arrive 30 minutes before their allocated session as this will provide sufficient time to use the facilities, etc.

Bus parking is available on site. Buses may drop students off at the entrance to the Museum, and a Museum staff member will direct the bus drive to appropriate parking.

Public toilets are located both inside and outside the Museum, signage will direct. If uncertain, please ask a member of staff for directions.

Your group should marshal under the covered area outside the main entrance, 10 minutes before your session start time. A carer should then proceed to the Gift Shop (immediately to your right as you walk in the front doors) to advise Museum staff of your arrival.

A Museum Staff member will then take control of the group, facilitate backpack storage (if required), and remind students of appropriate behaviour while at the Museum.

Carers will be briefed about the day's activities.



# On the Day

To enhance your school's experience, your booking time will be reserved exclusively for your group. Please note however, the Museum will remain open to the general public.

Each tour is customised to your group's age, needs, and time-requirements. For example, a typical 4-hour tour with a session start time of 10:30 may look something like this:

Time	Activity	Details
10:00–10:30 am	Arrival	Time for students to use facilities / have morning tea etc.
10:30–10:40 am	Welcome	Carer briefing and museum behaviour reminder for students.
10:40–11:30 am	Fire Safety Talk and Emergency Services role play experience	Students will begin their museum excursion with a presentation about fire safety, which will be followed by an interactive experience involving Emergency Service vehicles and uniforms. Students will also learn how Emergency Service personnel respond to 000 calls.
11:30am –12:30pm	Activity Groups	Please see detailed information outlined in the table below.
12:30–1:00pm	Lunch	Shared tables and chairs are available outside in the picnic grounds
1:00–2:00pm	Activity Groups	Please see detailed information outlined in the table below.
2:00-2:30pm	Departure	

At the end of the Fire Safety Talk and role play experience, students will be broken up into groups to rotate through a series of activity cycles. These may include:

Rotation Activities	Details
Fire Engine Ride	A ride in a genuine Ford D200 fire truck. These trucks were used in country NSW during the 1960s.
Junior Firefighter Zone	This area includes fire safety activities, computer games, puzzles and a fire engine simulator
Self-guided tour of the Museum	Detailed carer guide notes are prepared for the self-led tour. These contain suggested prompts and questions to help encourage student interaction.
Visit to the Gift Shop	The Gift Shop contains many <a href="#">affordable items</a> for children priced at under \$10, so students can purchase a reminder of their visit. Museum staff are available to assist students with their purchases.

During the Education Tours we provide tea and coffee free of charge to all carers, bus drivers and support staff.

For student morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea, shared tables and chairs are provided outside the Museum in our picnic area. The Museum does not have a retail outlet for food and beverages but light snacks are available in the Gift Shop. Food is not to be consumed inside the Museum. In incidents of rain alternative arrangements can be made.

All areas of the Museum, including our toilets, are wheelchair accessible. Disabled access is via the main entrance.

Students are welcome to take photographs inside the Museum.

## Gift Shop

Sometimes purchasing a small memento can be the highlight of a student's visit to a Museum. As such the Museum of Fire stocks a large range of affordable items for children, priced from \$1 - \$10. These items can be viewed on our [Online Gift Shop](#). Please let us know on the booking form if you want to do this, so we can program it into your visit.

## Any Further Queries?

If you have any other questions you are welcome to contact us:

T: (02) 4731 3000

E: [mail@museumoffire.com.au](mailto:mail@museumoffire.com.au)

We are always happy to hear about your experience at the Museum, so if you have any comments or queries, please let us know.

