



Planning your visit

Vacation Care groups



Introduction

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

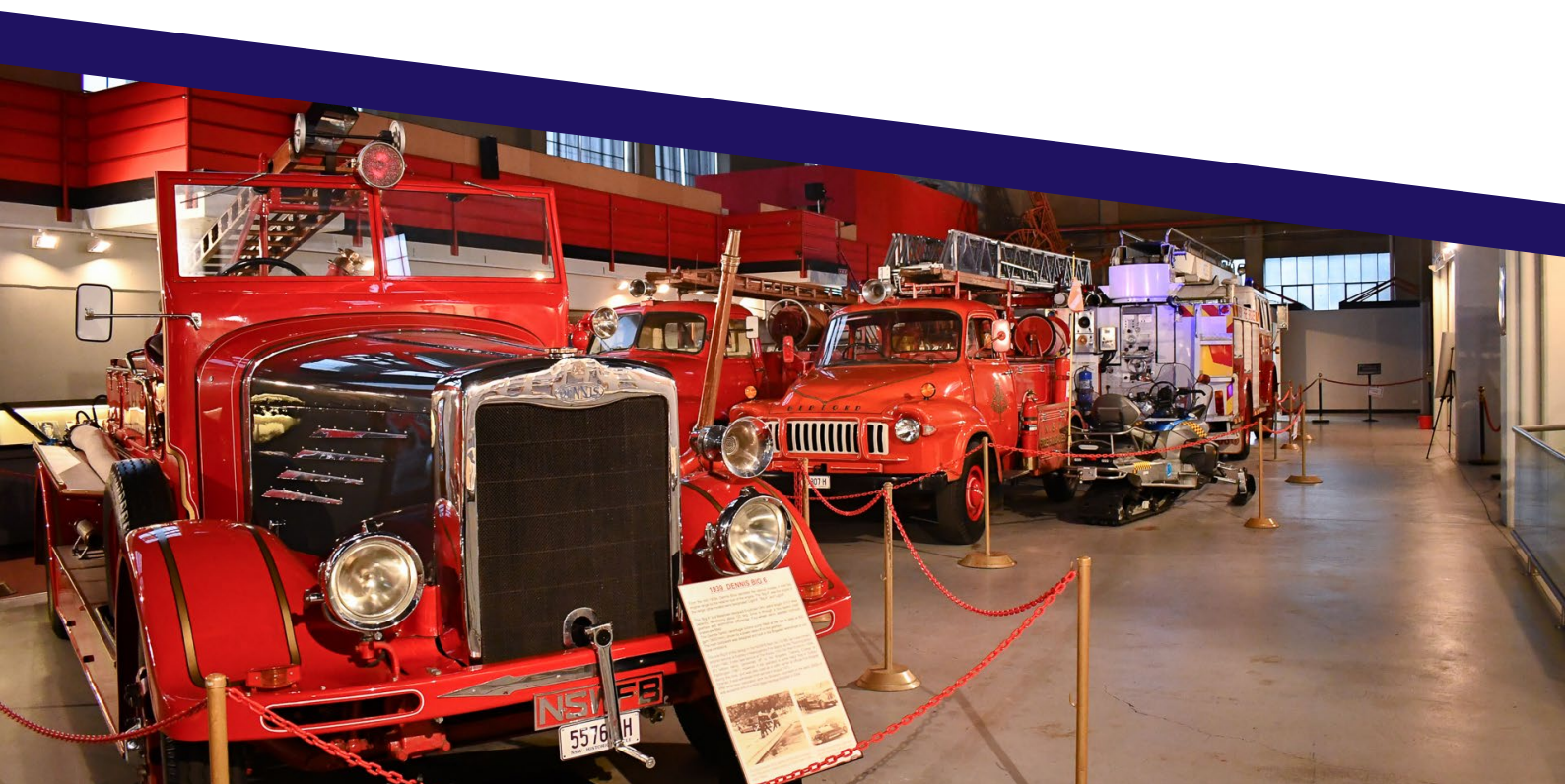
With fire appliances dating back to the early 1800's the Museum of Fire stands as a fitting monument to the heroic firefighters who support our communities. The steam engines, horse drawn carts, manual pumps and modern motorized engines also highlight how transportation has changed over the years.

Vacation Care groups are welcome at the Museum of Fire on any weekday during the school holidays. We are open 7-days a week 9:30am - 4:30pm (except Good Friday and Christmas Day).

You are welcome to come and run your own visit, alternatively for groups of 15 or more children we can provide a more structured visit for your convenience!

Your visit will typically lasts about 3-hours, but it can be tailored to suit your needs. The Vacation Care package 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 email you written confirmation. When you receive your booking confirmation please check that all details are correct.

Invoicing is not available for vacation care groups.

Location and opening hours

The Museum of Fire is located in Penrith, Western Sydney in the heritage listed former Penrith Power Station 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.

Getting here by car

From the M4 Motorway, take the Mulgoa Road exit towards Penrith. Follow Tourist Drive #14 north along Mulgoa Road and Castlereagh Road. The Museum entrance is located 1 km north of the Panthers Entertainment Centre on the right-hand side of the road after the railway underpass bridge. The entrance can easily be identified by a 1942 Dennis fire engine that is raised 4 metres off the ground.

Getting here by train

The Penrith Railway station is located directly behind the Museum and is a 500 metre walk (approximately 5 minutes) from the platform to the Museum's side entry gate. Follow signs to Penrith North from the station and walk towards the multistory station carpark. The pedestrian gate is located on Combewood Avenue.



Castlereagh Road entrance



Pedestrian access from Combewood Avenue

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 required for the Vacation Care package is 15 students. However, if you have fewer than 15 students and would still like to book the Vacation Care package you can pay the minimum of 15 students.

Prices for Vacation Care visits to the Museum are \$13.00 per student. This includes entry to the Museum, a Fire Safety Talk, Emergency Services role play experience, a self-guided tour of the Museum and a ride on a Fire Engine (price effective from 1 August 2023). The Supervisor-to-Student Ratios is 1:10 with any additional adult helpers charged at \$9.50 per person.

Due to high volume of demand during the school holiday periods a **non-refundable* deposit is required** to hold your booking and secure an educator. This non-refundable deposit is **\$195 and must be paid within 24 hours of making the booking** to ensure the date is held for your group. The remaining balance **MUST** be paid on the day of the visit (**invoicing is not available** for vacation care groups, the balance can be paid by Eftpos or cash on the day at the Museum).

*This deposit cannot be rolled over, if you cancel your booking and want to rebook for the following school holidays another deposit is required. The non-refundable deposit would only be refunded if the Museum cancels your booking due to unforeseen circumstances including natural disaster.

Before arriving 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. Please also ask your students to be considerate of other guests while in the Museum.

A structured vacation care typically lasts about 3-hours, but it can be tailored to be as short or long as you need.

On arrival

We suggest that you plan to arrive 30 minutes before your allocated session as this will provide sufficient time to use the facilities, have morning tea, and get settled in.

Bus parking is available on site in our carpark on the right as you enter. Buses may drop students off at the entrance to the Museum before parking. Toilets are located both inside and outside the Museum, signage will direct. Otherwise ask a staff member for assistance.

Your group should gather just outside the main entrance 10 minutes before your session start time. A staff member should then proceed to the Gift Shop 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.

On the day

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

A typical 3-hour visit with a session start time of 10:30am may look something like the below table, this is based off a smaller group size. Times will vary depending on the size of your group, students may be split up into smaller groups and rotate between the three activities (Fire Safety talk, fire engine rides, and the Junior Firefighters Zone).

| Time | Activity | Details |
|-------------------|--|--|
| 10:00 - 10:25am | Arrival | Time for students to use facilities, have morning tea, and get settled in. |
| 10:25 - 10:30am | Welcome | A Museum staff member will greet the Vacation Care staff and students and remind them of expected behaviour. |
| 10:30 - 11:00am | 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 |
| 11:00 - 11:30am | Fire engine rides | A ride in a genuine Ford D200 fire truck. These trucks were used in country NSW during the 1960s. |
| 11:30am - 12:00pm | Junior Firefighters Zone | This area includes fire safety activities, computer games, puzzles and a fire engine simulator |
| 12:00 - 12:30pm | Lunch | Shared tables and chairs are available outside in the picnic grounds |
| 12:30 - departure | Free time in the Museum | You are welcome to explore the Museum until you are ready to depart |

For morning tea and lunch 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 so please make sure you bring your own food. 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.

Any further questions?

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

T: (02) 4731 3000

E: ea@museumoffire.com.au

For more information about planning your visit, accessibility, and about the Museum visit our website www.museumoffire.net

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

