

National Trust of Australia (NSW) Old Government House

YEAR 9 MAKING CONTACT – Background information and cross curriculum links

How does the program sit within the Australian Curriculum?

The "Making Contact" Year 9 Program sits neatly within Year 9 History of the Australian Curriculum – time period. This stage covers the "Making of the Modern World" from 1750 - 1918. It demonstrates a rapid change in the ways people lived, worked and thought.

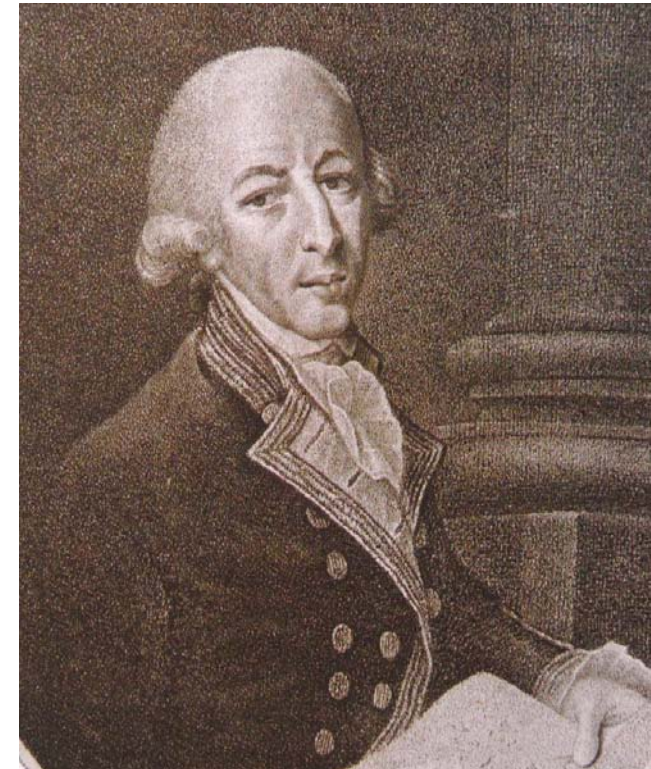
Colonisation of Australia is part of the expansion of the European Power.

Who is a governor? What did they do?

Since British settlement in 1788, NSW has had 37 Governors and until the appointment of Marie Bashir in 2001 all previous NSW Governors have been men. The majority of men appointed this role in New South Wales' history were over the age of fifty. Between the years 1788 -1940 all appointed Governors were from British heritage (originating from somewhere in the UK), comprising mostly of English, some Scottish & Irish and some coming from other British colonies.

Important to security, trade and the development of Australian colonial culture many early Governors (including two-thirds of the 37 NSW Governors) had previous military careers, many at a senior level. Some had even been knighted for their efforts and achievements within the British Empire. Prior service in the British colonies was an advantage as was experience in politics, the military or colonial administration.

Responsible for many aspects of Governance, (Governor Arthur Phillip pictured above was the first appointed to the role) early Governors had many roles including; overseeing convicts, granting convict reprieves, pardons and issuing land grants, managing labour, dealing with public morality, establishing farm



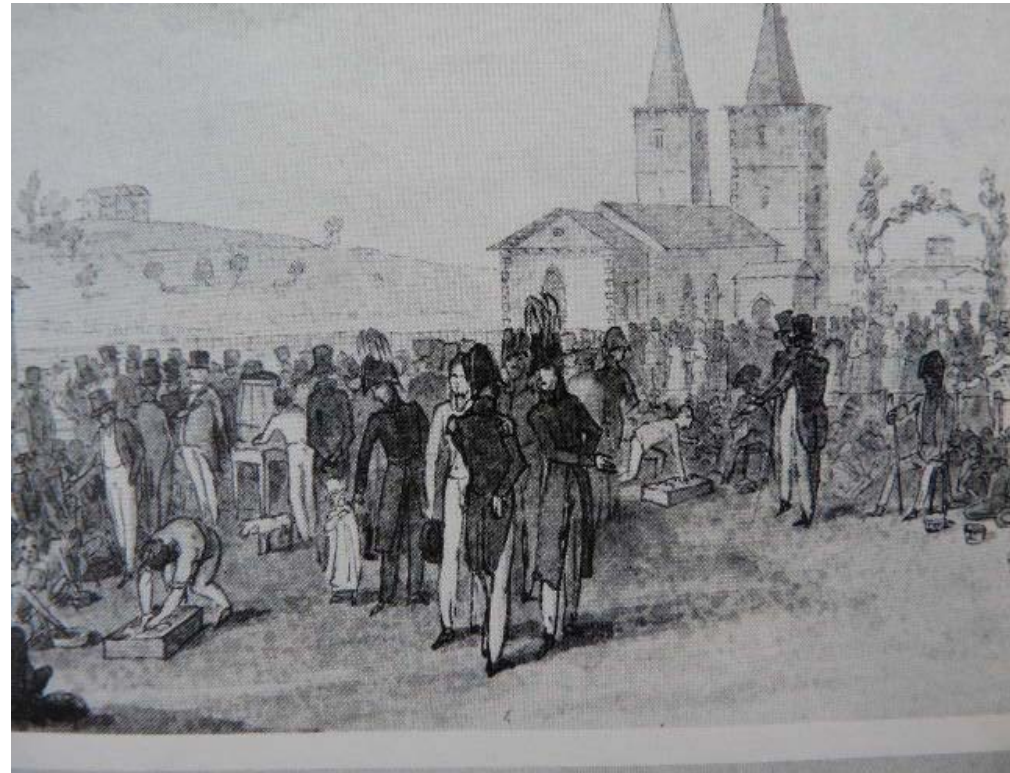
land and agriculture, overseeing new colonial settlements, promoting economic growth and establishing infrastructure, negotiating with Aboriginal individuals and communities, implementing dislocation of Aboriginal inhabitants, exploration of land, the establishing and enforcement of law and ensuring the growth and success of the colony. Australian Federation in 1901 reduced the Governor's status and scope of duties.

What was the relationship between British settlement and Aboriginal people?

Historians now believe that up to 20,000 people died in various conflicts between Aboriginal people and British settlers during the period of more than 100 years it took for white settlement to extend across the continent. Of this 20,000, about 18,000 were Aboriginal people. Many thousands more Aboriginal people died from diseases introduced by the settlers or through being pushed off their land and the destruction of their culture. Indigenous Australian people have a strong affiliation with land and an intense sense of loss of physical and spiritual place.

Nevertheless, many Australian settlers had good intentions toward Aboriginal people, despite the fact that they were invading Aboriginal land. Similarly, until Aboriginals were forced into violent action to defend themselves, they often welcomed and assisted

the first settlers and treated them well. In addition to learning about this sad and difficult collision between two very different cultures we can also find many examples of friendship and co-operation between individuals and races in Australian history.



Suggested activity

Discussion: Why is the preservation of Old Government House and surrounding parkland important to the understanding of the history of NSW?

Find evidence of these historical and culturally significant artifacts and aspects of the house within the “Making Contact” tour.

- Shell remnants
- Scar trees
- Hunting traps
- Technology and use of raw materials
- Hearth or fireplace
- Hygiene and practical day to day devices used
- Creature comforts
- Decorative elements
- Security devices
- Light sources
- Architectural design
- Furniture design – form and function
- Family treasures
- Toys and entertainment
- Food preparation tools
- Communication tools
- Division of labour & servants responsibilities
- Working from home
- The British Empire and the European perspective
- Sovereignty
- Values and traditions of the colony
- Transport methods









Cross curriculum opportunities

There are also clear links to the Civics and Citizenship Curriculum which combines the study of history, geography and critical inquiry.

Civics and citizenship

The values on which Australia's democracy is based include the importance of democracy, active citizenship, the rule of law, social justice and equality, respect for diversity, difference and lawful dissent, respect for human rights, stewardship of the environment, support for the common good, and acceptance of the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. This includes many combinations of the list below.

- Civics and Citizenship
- History
- Geography
- Chronology, terms and concepts
- Inquiry and research
- Historical questions and research
- Observing, questioning, planning and collecting
- Analysis and synthesis
- Analysis and use of sources
- Reflecting and responding

Technology and sustainability

Students reflect on past and current practices, and assess new and emerging technologies in the home and work environment from a sustainability perspective.

History and technology

Historical studies of technologies in a range of societies including the peoples of cultures extending to modern times will help students understand the contributions of people from all cultures.

The Visual Arts and Design opportunities

In early 2004, a soft furnishings program coordinated by Dr James Broadbent and century soft furnishings specialist Elizabeth Wright transformed the ground floor the tastes and styles of Mrs Macquarie. Skilled volunteers recreated the curtains, hangings and even the floor coverings using colours and fabrics known to have favoured by Mrs Macquarie. Unique hand constructed items have been included rooms at Old Government House Parramatta.

Aspects of aesthetics and the elements of design such as line, shape, form, colour, proportion and balance are incorporated into the interior and architectural design



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house. Students will complete observations, discussions and analyse processes of museum practices in learning activities.

Skills developed in Visual Arts such as representing and exploring creative ideas through sketching and drawing complement processes used in Design and Technologies to generate ideas to create solutions.

Suggested activity to link History with Design and Visual Arts Curriculum

Students analyse cultural and historically relevant stylistic influences on the production and visual qualities of the objects and artifacts within the rooms.

Students choose to draw three design motifs found by looking closely at furnishings and textiles within the rooms of Old Government House. understand and appreciate how much time, skill and work goes into the reproduction of a seemingly simple soft furnishing textile component such upholstered cushion seat, rug or a curtain tie back.

Q. What is the significance of the design or motifs you have drawn? Are decorative, symbolic or stylistic to the Georgian era?



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