



**Barwon Grange**  
A National Trust Property



# TIME TRAVELLERS

## DISCOVERING OUR HERITAGE | BARWON GRANGE

Teachers – your students are Time Travellers. The moment they pass through the gate at Barwon Grange, they enter a time capsule – a very different life in the 1850s. The school bus is their Tardis. Teleport to Barwon Grange and step back in time. See how they lived. Marvel at how it was then compared to now.

- Dress-up as a maid or groom. Explore the house and the technologies available in the 1850s
- Discover the garden. Imagine life on the banks of the Barwon River. Sketch what you find or make a map
- Be active and have fun playing old-style games
- Create a film using tablet devices you bring along (optional activity)



Discovering Our Heritage operates at the National Trust property, Barwon Grange, 25 Fernleigh Street, Newtown, Geelong. It is an excursion experience for primary school students which is linked to the Victorian Curriculum F-6.

**EXTEND YOUR VISIT:** Enquire how to combine Barwon Grange with options to explore the local area. Teacher resources available.

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***"They had no electricity. They only had candles."*** Zoe

***"I loved old fashioned games. My favourite game was croquet."*** Zac

***"It was hard to be a servant. You had to empty potties."*** Emmy

***"The past is foreign country: they do things differently there".*** LP Hartley

# FAST FACTS | DISCOVERING OUR HERITAGE

## WHAT IS DISCOVERING OUR HERITAGE?

The Discovering Our Heritage program is an excursion program for school children Levels F-6 to Geelong's historic National Trust Property, Barwon Grange. The program is operated by the Geelong and Region Branch of the National Trust Australia (Victoria).

Activities are conducted by National Trust accredited Discovering Our Heritage volunteers in conjunction with teachers and carers who accompany the students. The program has been devised by experienced teachers and has operated successfully for many years.

## WHAT IS THE FOCUS OF THE PROGRAM?

- To connect students to local history
- To recognise the importance of preservation of historical sites
- To encourage students to experience for themselves an authentic 1850s Geelong property
- To bring history alive using stories, images, activities and the exploration of Barwon Grange
- To make the experience relevant to the Victorian Curriculum from Foundation to Level 6. Details of the links with the Victorian Curriculum are available on request

## WHAT IS THE DURATION OF THE EXCURSION?

Time varies depending on individual requirements. Usually allow at least 2½ hours. Shorter or longer times may apply depending on your planned experience.

## WHERE IS BARWON GRANGE LOCATED?

Barwon Grange is located at 25 Fernleigh Street, Newtown, Geelong

## WHAT IS THE COST?

\$7 per student  
No charge for teachers or helpers

## HOW MANY STUDENTS CAN WE BRING?

Up to 30 students can be accommodated at the property

## WHAT IS BARWON GRANGE?

Barwon Grange, a National Trust property, can best be described as a time capsule, a property which will transport students back into the past.

Built in 1855 for merchant and property financier, Jonathan Porter O'Brien and his wife, Ann. Barwon Grange is an example of a typical middle-class home of the 1850s. Barwon Grange has survived largely unaltered over time. Plumbing has never been connected to the house.

The house now contains antique furniture and objects which match an auction list published when the Porter O'Briens sold their belongings in 1856. This 1850s collection is considered to be one of the most intact in the country.



## CAN WE EXPLORE THE LOCAL AREA AROUND BARWON GRANGE?

Yes. Seaview Reserve is a very short walk from Barwon Grange. It is an important reserve noted for its special geological features and its vegetation. From atop the elevated limestone bluff you can look down to see Barwon Grange, the course of the Barwon River, the surrounding landscape and land uses that have changed over time. (Teacher's notes provided)

## HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

Contact the Discovering Our Heritage coordinator:  
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