

# New Norcia Education Centre

## Welcome Pack 2015





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# New Norcia Education Centre: An Introduction

The New Norcia Education Centre was established in 1996 as a key to unlocking New Norcia's unique Monastic, European and Aboriginal heritage

Located just 132km north east of Perth, it is the perfect destination for a school camp and a getaway from everyday life. Once you arrive at this living museum, surrounded by the monks' 8375 hectare farm, you will see it is well worth the drive!

New Norcia is a place that captures the imagination of young and old, and inspires them to create, perform and enjoy. It has a wide variety of large rooms suitable for school students to work in groups, and most of these can be used as performance and practice spaces for schools holding music camps. There is also a swimming pool, sporting courts and ovals.

The New Norcia Education Centre offers a diverse range of opportunities and programmes, including:

- Day Visits or Camps which support the Society and Environment, Aboriginal Studies, Arts, History & Science curricula
- Retreats, Personal Development and Staff Professional Development
- Confirmation Preparation Programmes
- Catholic Education Office Approved Programmes for the Ongoing Renewal of Accreditation B Status

Programmes embrace communications, challenge, leadership, respect, responsibility, enthusiasm and learning. Groups can be guided by New Norcia's experienced staff, or be lead by their own teachers. We can provide space, ideas and flexibility.

Many programmes are based on latest Curriculum documents, are full of hands-on learning opportunities and are conducted within the context of a living faith community. We would be delighted to assist you in creating a programme that suits your group's particular interests and curriculum aims.





# Education Programmes

## ***SOCIETY AND THE ENVIRONMENT***

New Norcia was founded at its current site by Benedictine monks in 1847. Together with the Yuat Aboriginal people, they set about establishing a self-sufficient mission. Today the town is still home to a community of monks who live a traditional life of work and prayer together. By participating in the following activities, the monks invite you to open the doors to their past and present world with an experience of living history. Activities marked

\*\* can be self-guided by school staff, and do not attract a charge.

### **Heritage Town Tour** (1.5 hours)*Conducted by New Norcia Staff*

As you walk around town, hear the story of the settlement & development of Australia's only monastic town and learn about its unique European, Monastic and Aboriginal heritage. Visit the Monastery Chapel (the heart-beat of town), old Spanish Oratory & Abbey Church (a striking example of 'bush architecture').

### **College Art & Architecture** (1 hour)*Conducted by New Norcia Staff*

Visit St Gertrude's & St Ildephonsus' College Chapels and hear the history of these former convent boarding schools. Compare and Identify features of the Gothic & Byzantine architecture. Sit inside one of the beautifully frescoed College Chapels and complete a detailed sketch accompanied by Gregorian chants.

### **Bakery** (45 minutes)*Conducted by Bakery Staff*

See the famous New Norcia Bakery its wood fired oven which is over 100 years old. Meet the Baker and explore the traditional methods he still follows today to bake the delicious bread. Self run between - 7.00am and 7.30am, Wednesday to Sunday only.

### **River Walk including Old Well & Apiary** (45 minutes)*Self-guided by school staff,*

Map provided \*\*

Did you know the Aboriginal name for river is moorin? Follow the Moore River (named after George Fletcher Moore) and discover 'Bishop's Well', the largest surviving example of some of the 200 wells sunk by the monks during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. See the old restored Apiary and hear how honey was produced at New Norcia.



**Machinery Shed** (30 minutes)*Self-guided by school staff \*\**

Examine some of the tools and early machinery used at New Norcia and identify their modern-day equivalents. Include with Museum & Art Gallery visit for a 1.5 hour programme (Note there is a charge for Museum and Art Gallery visit, but machinery shed is available free of charge).

**New Norcia Museum** (45 minutes – 1.5 hours)*Self-guided by school staff*

The New Norcia Museum contains a fascinating array of artifacts which tell the story of New Norcia's time as an Aboriginal mission, a centre of the monk's extensive farming activities and as a place of education & culture. Follow the Monks' Trail around the Museum. An entrance fee for the museum and art gallery is payable.

**Art Appreciation** (1 hour)*Conducted by New Norcia Staff*

Be guided through the Art Gallery, interpreting the history of religious art in its many forms. Appreciate the nature of the old master works and Australian contemporary religious art. Students will learn visual language to help describe their appreciation of selected paintings, the symbolism, the form and composition.

**New Norcia Art Gallery** (45 minutes – 1 hour)*Self-guided by school staff*

The New Norcia Art Gallery contains one of the largest collections of religious art in Australia. The European collection is made up of predominately 18th-19th Century religious works from Spain and Italy. The Contemporary Australian Gallery contains religious works collected since 1975, many of which entries in the Mandorla Award for contemporary religious art. An entrance fee for the museum and art gallery is payable.

**Cemetery Study** (45 minutes)*Conducted by New Norcia Staff*

Be guided on a walk around the cemetery and hear some stories of the lives of the people who have lived at New Norcia – the monks, aborigines and farmers. Students will learn more of the history of New Norcia. They will discover how those buried within the cemetery endeavored to make a difference to the lives of others. Students will be presented with the concept of how they too might strive to make a difference.



**European Space Agency (ESA) Interpretive Room** (30-45 minutes)

*Conducted by New Norcia Staff*

The ESA Deep Space Tracking Station is located 10kms south of New Norcia. The Station is largely un-manned, however the interpretive room at New Norcia allows visitors to learn about the deep space antenna near New Norcia, as well as deep space missions with displays, scale-models of current ESA spacecraft and DVD presentations on the Mars Express, Rosetta and Venus Express missions.



## ***ABORIGINAL STUDIES***

At the request of Fr John Brady, the first Bishop of Perth, a small group of European monks arrived in Western Australia in 1846 to establish missions for the Aborigines. Dom Rosendo Salvado, the Spanish monk who founded the mission at New Norcia, recorded the skills, traditional life and culture of the local Nyoongar people he encountered in his memoirs. His sense of learning to live together permeates New Norcia today, as the town presents an unparalleled history of Aboriginal life and reconciliation in action through the following activities.

### **Aboriginal Cultural Exhibition** (1 hour)*Conducted by New Norcia Staff*

This exhibition contains interactive display boards containing first-hand accounts and artifacts provide a visual introduction to early Aboriginal life, culture and skills as encountered by Bishop Salvado in 1846. Visitors are greeted at the entrance by two huge panels, on which are mounted life-size class photographs of Aboriginal boys and girls, dating from the 1930's and 1950's. The student or visitor then moves on to a sequence of five free-standing modules. Each of the first four modules graphically depicts a particular area of cultural life. There are two sides to each module, each side telling its own story through a visually interactive format. The front side is devoted to the traditional culture of the people, while the rear side of each module depicts the cultural and social changes introduced by the missionaries as the people adapted to the many elements of Anglo-European culture and Catholic belief. Topics include skills and equipment; food; language, communication and learning; and indigenous spiritual beliefs.

### **St Joseph's Exhibition** (45 minutes – 1 hour)

*Conducted by New Norcia Staff or can be self guided*

Through first-hand accounts of past students, video clips, display boards and artifacts, explore the social and political issues leading to the establishment of mission schools and orphanages and discover what life was like for Aboriginal girls during the Orphanage Era. An entrance fee for the museum and art gallery is payable.

### **Traditional Body Decoration & Aboriginal Music & Dance** (45 minutes – 1 hour)

*Conducted by New Norcia Staff*

Paint your face using ochre and clay and learn the difference between how men and woman were painted in readiness for dancing and celebration. Participate in music and dance of the corroboree.



**Aboriginal Tool Making** (45 minutes)*Conducted by New Norcia Staff*

Learn how to make hunting tools and kop (bush glue) and then design and make your own darp over an open fire. Combine with Maya-Maya building for a 1.5 hour session.

**Maya-Maya Building** (45 minutes)*Conducted by New Norcia Staff*

Discover the secrets of how to build a traditional Aboriginal house. Work as a team to design and build your own Maya-Maya. Combine with Tool Making for a 1.5 hour session.

**Nyoongar Legends** (45 minutes – 1 hour)*Conducted by New Norcia Staff*

Hear local traditional stories of how Australia's native animals came to look the way they do, and why the stars and the moon appear in the sky. Watch these stories on video with animation based on drawing by Aboriginal children in WA. Complete a re-tell sheet on 'How Norn the Snake Got the Poison'. A short segment on Nyoongar language can be added to this session if desired.

**Aboriginal Cosmology** (30 minutes)*Conducted by New Norcia Staff*

An introduction to Nyoongar myths & legends held on the steps of the Abbey Church with the night sky as our text.

**Music & Legends & Corroboree** (45 minutes, winter activity only) *Conducted by New Norcia Staff*

Hear traditional legends & music of the corroboree around the fire - toast marshmallows too!

**Aboriginal Art Workshop** (1 hour)*Conducted by New Norcia Staff*

Learn the symbols and techniques used in the Art of the Nyoongar people. View examples of contemporary Aboriginal Art (including Sheila Humphries' Indigenous Seasonal Cycle). Tell your own story with paint and canvas/boomerang using the symbols & techniques you have explored.

**Bush Tucker Walk** (1 hour – seasonal activity)*Conducted by New Norcia Staff*

Explore the local bush, noting historical features, wells and flora and fauna. Identify the bush tucker that supported large numbers of Aborigines before the Mission Era.

**Spear and Boomerang Throwing** (45 minutes)*Conducted by New Norcia Staff*

Learn the skill of karli (boomerang), miro and kidji (spear thrower and spear) throwing on the oval. Compete within your groups for the most accurate and longest throw. A short segment on Nyoongar language can be added to this session if desired.





**St. Mary's Art Panels (45 Minutes)**

The St. Mary's Art Panels, known collectively as THE SIX SEASONS, are located at the New Norcia Education Centre, formally known as St. Mary's Institution for Aboriginal Boys. Designed and presented in traditional style by local Yuat artists, these large panels constitute a series of six paintings, in vibrant colour which correspond to the six indigenous seasons of the yearly cycle. Unique in the field of Western Australian Indigenous Art, this series provides a perspective of the Moore River landscape, featuring unrivalled depictions of the way in which the flora and fauna specific to the area developed and adapted in accord with the yearly seasonal changes. New Norcia staff will guide your group to discover the beauty and significance of this unique series which depicts the unfolding of the yearly cycle in traditional Yuat culture through a harmonious blend of Indigenous and Western European art style. The group will be introduced not only to an understanding of the yearly environmental changes to which the Yuat people are exposed during traditional times, but of the way in which traditional Indigenous activity gradually diminished during the mission period.

**New Norcia Education Centre:**

Fr Bernard Rooney, OSB, PhD

(Nyoongar Culture)

Lester Jacobs

(Local Aboriginal Guide)



## ***MONASTIC LIFE***

At the heart of New Norcia is a small community of Benedictine monks who live a simple, regular Gospel - based life that has been around for over 1,500 years. Some monks have only been at New Norcia for a few years; others are older and have lived here for over 50 years. However, they are all on the same journey – seeking God. The monks welcome all visitors, especially young people, to their home. These activities are offered to all guests and may be of particular interest to Retreats and Confirmation Camps.

### **The Habits of New Norcia** (45 minutes, usually from 7.30-8.15pm)

An opportunity to meet a monk, hear about life in the monastery and ask lots of questions!

### **Prayers with the Monks** (15-30 minutes)

The monks warmly invite visitors of all spiritual beliefs to join them for any of their seven daily prayers in the Monastery Chapel. It is critical that student groups arrive and are seated in silence in the chapel at least 3-4 minutes before the prayers begin, and that they remain silent during the prayers unless they join in using the prayer booklets provided at the door of the oratory. Once the prayers begin, anyone present should remain in the oratory until the prayers have been completed and the monks have left.

#### ***Monday-Friday***

5.15am	Vigils – recited
6.45am	Lauds (Morning Prayer) – sung
7.30am*	Mass – sung
12.05pm	Midday Prayer – sung
2.30pm	Afternoon Prayer – recited
6.30pm	Vespers (Evening Prayer) – sung, with some Gregorian chant
8.15pm	Compline (Night Prayer) – part recited, part sung

#### ***Saturday***

5.15 am	Vigils
6.45 am	Lauds (Morning Prayer)
7.30 am	Mass*
12.05 pm	Midday Prayer
2.35 pm	Afternoon Prayer
6.30 pm	Vespers (Evening Prayer)
8.15 pm	Vigil Office of Sunday (Replacing Compline)

#### ***Sunday (All Sung)***

6.00am	Lauds (Morning Prayer)
9.00am	Mass*
12.05pm	Midday Prayer
5.30pm	Vespers (Evening Prayer)*
7.35pm	Compline (Night Prayer)

\*In the Abbey Church. All other prayers take place in the Monastery Chapel



**Prayer** Conducted by a monk

A conversation with one of the monks about personal and liturgical prayer and/or a group experience of Lectio Divina celebrated in the spirit of Taizé (including hearing the Word read several times, periods of silence and chant).

**Reflection Time** Self-guided by school staff

A chance to reflect on your time at New Norcia by journaling or sketching (either outside or inside one of the beautifully frescoed chapels accompanied by Gregorian Chants or outside)

**Reconciliation/Mass/ Para-Liturgy**

You are welcome to celebrate your own Mass or Para-Liturgy in either of the College Chapels. A Priest from the Monastic Community may be available to hear Reconciliation and to assist with your Mass; however you are encouraged to involve your School or Parish Chaplain.

**CEO Accreditation Programme.** *Conducted by a monk*

The New Norcia Education Centre has created the “Benedictine Experience” Programme that has the Catholic Education Office approval for the use of ongoing Renewal of Accreditation B Status. New Norcia staff will work with you to develop a faith ad knowledge- based programme for your staff that fulfils the specific needs of your school. There are two components in the programme – the faith component and the knowledge component with seven units from which to choose



# Sample Three Day Programme

## Day 1

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11.00am	Arrive at New Norcia Welcome and settle into accommodation
12pm	BYO Lunch
12.30pm	Group 1 – Town Tour Group 2 – College Art & Architecture
2.00pm	Afternoon Tea
2.30pm	Group 1 – Art Appreciation Group 2 – Town Tour
4pm	Group 1: Cemetery Tour Group 2: Swim/ Own Activities
6.00pm	Dinner – St Ildephonsus' College
7.30pm	The Habits of New Norcia
8.15pm	Join Monks for Compline - Evening Prayer in the Monastery Chapel
9.00pm	Supper



## **Day 2**

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7.30am	River Walk or Bakery Visit
8.00am	Breakfast
9am	Group 1: Aboriginal Cultural Exhibition & ESA Room Group 2: Traditional Aboriginal Tool Making + Maya-Maya Construction
10.30am	Group 1: Traditional Aboriginal Tool Making + Maya-Maya Construction Group 2: Aboriginal Cultural Exhibition & ESA Room
12pm	Lunch
1.30pm	Group 1: Traditional Face Painting, Aboriginal Music & Legends Group 2: Aboriginal Art Workshop
2.45pm	Afternoon Tea
3pm	Group 1: Aboriginal Art Workshop Group 2: Traditional Face Painting, Aboriginal Music & Legends
4.15pm	Group 1: Swim/ Own activities Group 2: Cemetery Discovery
6.30pm	Dinner
7.30pm	View DVD of your choice OR Quiz Night/Talent Show (Own Activity)
9pm	Supper

## **Day 3**

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7.30am	Breakfast Pack-Up Rooms & Tidy
9.00am	Group 1: Spear & Boomerang Throwing & Nyoongar Language Group 2: New Norcia Museum & Art Gallery
10.30am	Group 1: New Norcia Museum & Art Gallery Group 2: Spear & Boomerang Throwing & Nyoongar Language
12pm	Sausage sizzle Pack buses
1.30pm	Depart New Norcia



# Accommodation & Catering

We provide accommodation and catering for groups of 15-200 people.

For groups of 30-200 St Gertrude's College and St Ildephonsus' College make ideal accommodation venues. St Gertrude's College has a small kitchen and self-catering is possible for groups of up to 30, however facilities are limited. For groups of 30 and under, the Old Convent is also available with self-catering facilities.

St Gertrude's College: opened in 1908, this grand gothic-style building was a girls' boarding school.

- Accommodation for 30-120 people
- Basic private cubicles with carpeted floors
- Separate male/female shared bathroom facilities
- Lounge and kitchen with self-catering facilities for small groups
- 2 large halls and a range of meeting and performance spaces

St Ildephonsus' College: this castle-like building was opened in 1913 as a boys' boarding school.

- Accommodation for 30-80 people
- Carpeted open plan dormitories – small and large
- Private lounge and small kitchen
- Large hall with stage and other meeting spaces including interior courtyards
- Dining hall which seats 100, and a small dining room which seats 30

Old Convent: originally the home of Spanish Benedictine Sisters, this heritage listed building is full of atmosphere and character stretching back over 100 years.

- Simple but cosy accommodation for 15-30 people
- A variety of single, twin, triplet and quad bedrooms with shared bathroom facilities
- Fully self-contained with kitchen, dining room and character lounge with an open fireplace



St Gertrude's College



St Ildephonsus' College



The Old Convent



## Costs

Please note the costs below are intended as a guideline only. Actual prices are dependent on your group size and your requirements. We invite you to contact us as options can be creatively packaged to accommodate your budget and available time.

### EDUCATION PROGRAMMES

Education Programme costs (based on a minimum of 25 students):

- \$6.50/per student/per activity for 1 New Norcia run activity.
- \$6.00/per student/per activity for 2 New Norcia run activities.
- \$5.50/per student/per activity for 3 or more New Norcia run activities.
- If you have less than 25 students, please contact the Education Centre.

A **material fee** applies to certain activities:

\$2.00 per student/per activity applies for Aboriginal art on canvas and tool making.

\$4.00 per student/ per activity for Aboriginal art on boomerang

## Camp Discipline & Supervision

Our guides are committed to providing all students with the best possible experience from their visit to New Norcia.

It is the responsibility of each school to supervise students at all times, including during scheduled activities, during leisure breaks, meals, and overnight. As each group has its own rules and expectations for student conduct, we ask that there be at least one teacher or supervisor per 10 students on all activities and overnight stays.

During educational sessions conducted by New Norcia staff or monks, we ask that you help us make sure that the information presented is targeted to your educational needs and that you bring the group to order when necessary.

Thank you!

# About New Norcia

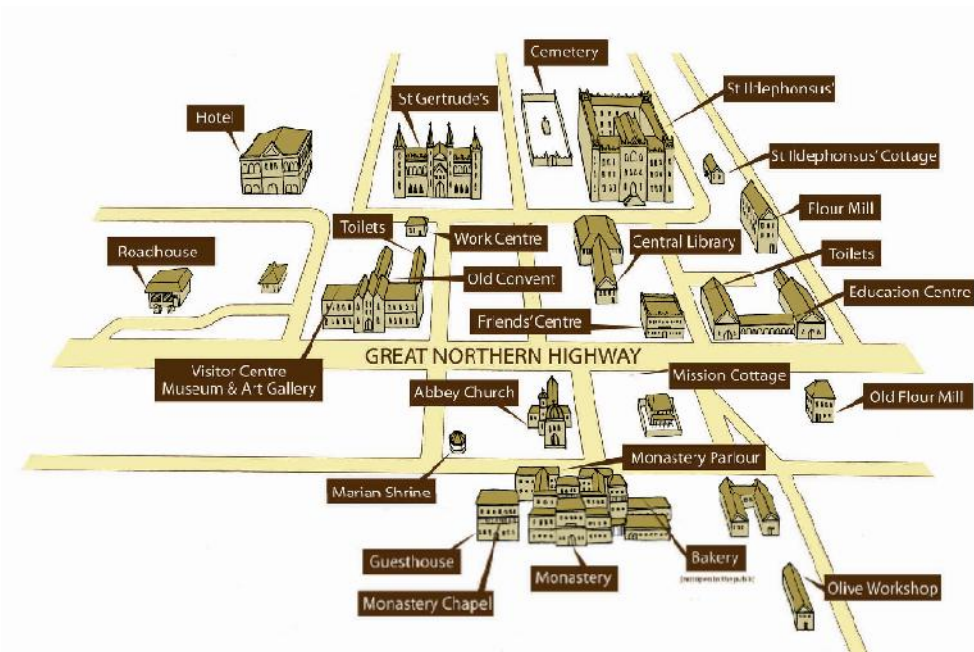
This unique hamlet – and Australia’s only monastic town is 132 km north east of Perth and everyone, regardless of their beliefs, will find themselves stilled by the soul of this tranquil community.

The New Norcia town site was first established in 1847 as a mission for the local Aboriginal people by Spanish Benedictine monk Dom Rosendo Salvado. Today, New Norcia is still home to Benedictine monks and the monastery is one of the 27 historic buildings on the Register of the National Estate.

Here, Benedictine monks move quietly amongst historical buildings on their way to pray together seven times daily. But it is not just the monks’ dedication to peace that makes New Norcia so special. It is also the town’s monastic, Aboriginal and European heritage which the monks invite all visitors to discover.

PAX, a Latin word meaning peace, is the motto of the Benedictine monks of New Norcia. It is the fruit of their regular, prayerful and stable life together and the gift they offer to all who visit their town.

For more information about New Norcia, including instructions on getting here and further information on New Norcia’s history, please visit [www.newnorcia.wa.edu.au](http://www.newnorcia.wa.edu.au).





# Contact Details

For further information, or to make a booking, please contact us at:

**New Norcia Education Centre**

**MONOCHORUM LTD**

*trading as*

*New Norcia Services*

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