

INFORMATION FOR PLANNING A SCHOOL EXCURSION TO WALHALLA

The following information is provided to assist schools planning an excursion to Walhalla.

1. We would encourage you to consider a trip on the Tourist Railway, a visit to the Long Tunnel Extended Gold Mine, a Gold Panning exercise and visit to the Museum and Old Post Office as well as walks in the town. There is no one-stop booking agency for tours to Walhalla. It is therefore advised that where you plan a trip which includes a trip on the Railway, you first book the railway trip by ringing 5165 6280 and then contact the Mine on 5165 6259 and advise the guides of the rail times and they will plan Mine tour times around the rail bookings. Where you need additional information please email info@walhallaboard.org.au or ring the Mine on 5165 6269. If that number is unattended you can call the Mine Manager on 0412 285913. If planning a Mine tour look for [staff planning project sheet](#) on the Board website above.
 2. Drinking water is not available in Walhalla other than purchased bottled water. It would therefore be best to request students to bring their own drinking water. However, the Mine does have rainwater tanks and drinking containers could be filled up at the Mine office with guide assistance if needed. Alternatively, the school could bring larger insulated drink containers to replenish student water bottles.
 3. Communications – As yet, there is no mobile phone coverage in Walhalla. There is an operating public telephone in the Main Street. Communications between the Mine and the Railway Station can be made using the landline at either office. Only very expensive handheld radios have been found not to work due to the terrain.
In the event of an emergency, call 000. This can be done from the Mine but also any business in the town would assist as they are familiar with this procedure. Emergency “000” calls can often be made from mobile phones even though they show “no signal”.
There is no formal assembly point in the event of a bush fire.
In the event that a helicopter is called in for an emergency, it will land on the helipad in the centre of town. When it is landing students should be kept well back from the helipad due to the strength of the downdraft.
 4. First Aid – the Mine has a first aid kit. The Mine also has a defibrillator which is kept in a locked cabinet outside the office. It is accessible by key which is kept in a coded key safe next to the defibrillator cabinet. The code for the key safe is “000”. From April to September, the defibrillator is kept in the Mine Manager’s office and is only accessible when staff are at the Mine. The reason for this is that the unit is adversely affected by sub-zero temperatures. Another defibrillator is kept in an unlocked cabinet under CCTV surveillance, connected to the town’s fire alarm, between the Post Office Corner Store and Walhalla Coffee - in the Main Street. The CFA also has one.
Schools are reminded of the need to meet the Education Department guidelines in respect to excursions including provision of first aid and recording excursion on the Locator Website.
- Insert photos of the Mine and town location.*
5. Public liability insurance. Tours of the Long Tunnel Extended Mine are covered by a Department of Environment, Water, Land & Planning insurance policy. The current policy can be obtained by going to -
https://www2.delwp.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0024/46491/Public-Liability-insurance-certificate-of-currency-2017-18.pdf
 6. Bus drivers should be aware there is a bus turning circle at the northernmost end of the town, where the sealed road ends, just beyond the entrance to the Chinese Gardens camp ground. If taking a Mine tour, it is also possible to turn around buses up to 40 feet long in the area near the Long Tunnel Extended Mine office– at the top of the steep hill. Bus drivers may also

join the Mine tour free of charge and can enjoy tea or coffee at the Mine office, also free of charge.

7. Risk Management – the Mine has a Mine Safety Management Plan which is regularly updated. The MSMP is compliant with State and Federal regulations for all mines. The plan includes the following – ‘Tourists may only enter the mine in a group accompanied by an accredited Guide. The Guide will be fully responsible for the safety and wellbeing of all tourists underground. Tourists must follow the instructions of the Guides both underground and around the Mine head buildings. Tourists are required to stay within the group while moving about underground and will not be allowed to wander off on their own. The *first responsibility of Guides is to* the safety of the tour group and themselves.

All personnel underground, including tourists and contractors will be provided with safety helmets which are compliant with AS/NZS 1801. *These must be worn at all times underground.*

Guides accompanying tourists underground will mark in texta on the personnel board, the number of visitors or tourists in the group. When visitors or tourists exit the mine, they will be counted out and the texta information removed from the board. The personnel board will be always located at a site, away from the adit portal. The personnel board is normally located on the wall of the Blacksmith’s Forge during mine opening hours.

An abridged version of the Mine Safety Plan suitable for excursion needs is available on the Mine’s website.

8. Tour groups and length of tour –

In the mine groups are no larger than 30 with a preference for running two smaller groups than one large group. Tours last for 45 – 50 minutes. Teachers and adult helpers are free of charge at the rate of one adult per 10 students. A higher ratio of adult helpers applies in the case of special needs students.

Up to XXXX students can be booked onto the train on any one trip. Train trips take 20 minutes one way and 60 minutes return.

9. Walhalla as a tourist town has lots of volunteers who help each other in maintaining its beautiful gardens and its pristine presentation for the pleasure of all who visit. While we love our visitors, please be careful not to damage grass verges, and please use the bins provided for recycled materials and rubbish. We love our town and Stringers Creek which runs through it and if you keep the noise down you’ll get the benefit of the peace and harmony it can bring to everyone.

10. Further information is provided on the following websites –

Goldfields Tourist Railway - www.walhallarail.com.au or ring 51656280 or email office@walhallarail.com.au

Walhalla Heritage & Development League for museum and Ghost Tours - www.walhalla.org.au or ring 5165 6250 or email info@walhalla.org.au

Walhalla Board of Management - www.walhallaboard.org.au – for information on the Long Tunnel Extended Tourist Mine, Old Walhalla Post Office and Mechanics Institute. Email info@walhallaboard.org.au or ring the Tourist Mine on 5165 6269 to book Mine tours. If that number is unattended you can call the Mine Manager on 0412 285 913. Advise the guides if you are taking a rail tour and they will plan Mine tour times around the rail bookings.