SUSTAINABLE TOURISM AT THE RAILWAY

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Join our Education Officers on Puffing Billy Railway to investigate the characteristics of tourism in the Dandenong ranges. Students will examine the location of the railway, its interconnectedness, and the impact the railway has on people, places, and environments throughout its history. Issues and challenges to tourism in the local area, and to the railway, will be discussed, alongside the impact of Puffing Billy Railway on the local, regional, and national environments, economies, and cultures.

Through the lens of ethical tourism, students evaluate the effectiveness of measures taken at Puffing Billy Railway to enhance the positive and/or minimise the negative impact of the Railway on the surrounding environment. They investigate the growth of tourism at Puffing Billy Railway and examine management and techniques being used to ensure Puffing Billy Railway is environmentally, socially, culturally, and economically sustainable.

Students will use fieldwork techniques to gain statistical data from multiple information sources including Puffing Billy Railway staff, volunteers, digital images, streamed videos, and presentations. Students can use this information to inform a fieldwork report back at school analysing the impacts of tourism at Puffing Billy Railway.

KEY THEMES

- Changes in visitation over time
- Analysis of real-world data
- Interconnection between the Railway community and local, regional, and national environment, economies, and cultures.
- Challenges to the Railway
- Challenges to the environment
- Environmental, social, cultural, and economic sustainability at the Railway
- Investigate product design and ideas
- The future of the Railway

YEAR LEVELS

Year 11

CURRICULUM AREAS AND LEVELS

Geography Unit 2 Tourism: Issues and Challenges

Area of Study 1 – Characteristics of Tourism

Area of Study 2 – Impact or tourism: issues and challenges

PROGRAM OPTIONS

OPTION 1 - RETURN JOURNEY

Meet the Education Officer at Belgrave Station at 10:30am for an 11.15am Puffing Billy departure (approx. 50minute journey). Disembark at Lakeside Station at 12.15pm. Enjoy lunch, the Lakeside Visitor Centre, an Educator led workshop and the natural surrounds. Board Puffing Billy at 2pm and return to Belgrave Station at approx. 3pm.

OPTION 2 - SINGLE JOURNEY

Meet the Education Officer at Belgrave Station at 10:30am for an 11.15am Puffing Billy departure (approx. 50minute journey). Disembark at Lakeside Station at approximately 12.15pm. Enjoy lunch, the Lakeside Visitor Centre, an Educator led workshop and the natural surrounds. Depart on school bus from Lakeside, approx. 2pm.

Other options can be scheduled according to Puffing Billy Railway timetable.

DURATION:

Half Day (approx. 10am - 2pm)

COST:

Midweek only - From $24.90 per student

Midweek only - From $36 per adult

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FOOD, BEVERAGES AND SOUVENIRS

A range of food and beverage options are available for purchase from our stations and the Lakeside Visitor Centre café, including pies, sandwiches, hot and cold drinks as well as ice creams and sweets. Pre-purchased kids' lunch packs are also available.

Additionally, a range of Puffing Billy merchandise is for sale, including the very popular Puffing Billy flags!

TOILETS

Toilets are located at Belgrave, Menzies Creek, Emerald, Lakeside and Gembrook stations and the Lakeside Visitor Centre. Please note, there are no toilets available on board the train itself, so we encourage students to use the facilities before boarding.

Toilets with wheelchair access are located at Belgrave, Lakeside and Gembrook stations.

ACCESSIBILITY

Puffing Billy Railway is committed to offering an enjoyable experience for everyone and has a range of accessible facilities available for our passengers.

Our station platforms are not at the same height as our carriage doors; however, ramps are available to provide easy wheelchair access on many of our Excursion Trains. The wheelchair ramp width is 75cm.

Pathways to Belgrave, Lakeside and Gembrook stations are all wheelchair accessible.

To assist passengers with reduced mobility and to avoid our steep pathway entrance to Belgrave Station, passengers may be dropped off at Gate 4 which is in front of our Belgrave Station building on Old Monbulk Road. The area from the station to the platform is on one level.

CURRICULUM, STAFF AND RATIOS

Our education programs are linked to the Victorian Early Years Learning Development Framework (VEYLDF) and the Victorian Curriculum. Programs are presented by passionate Education Officers, who hold level 2 first aid qualifications and Working with Children Checks or are registered teachers. Puffing Billy Railway Education programs align with the Department of Education and Training excursion ratios.

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CURRICULUM LINKS

GEOGRAPHICAL SKILLS

|	SKILL	DESCRIPTION
	Cartography-map creation	• Use border, orientation, legend, title, scale, source (BOLTSS) conventions when creating or completing a map • Use of both primary data collected in the field and secondary data from online databases to create maps and map layers using geospatial technologies. These maps should be at an appropriate scale and follow geographic conventions
	Cross-sections	• Analyse and annotate cross-sections with natural features and human activities, as appropriate
	Analysing geospacial information	• Create simple layers/overlays of data on a map or diagram • Use a GIS platform to interpret and analyse geospatial information by adding and removing layers of data and viewing at different scales
	Images	• Use satellite images and oblique and vertical aerial photographs to interpret and draw conclusions from observed features and to describe relative locations of features and general spatial patterns • Use a provided or an estimated scale on a vertical aerial photograph and on a satellite image to establish distances and areas • Create generalised maps using satellite images as a source
	Map use, interpretation and analysis	• Compare and interpret different map types (including more specialised complex maps), and scales and maps from different time periods, for the same area to draw accurate conclusions • Use combinations of remote sensing images and topographic maps to explain change over time
Mathematics	Number operations	• Calculate and interpret percentages, ratios, mean and median
	Graphs	• Select, construct and interpret line graphs, bar graphs (simple, comparative, compound and divergent) and pie charts
	Tables of data	• Interpret specialised graph types (e.g. climate graph, population pyramid) • Observe and describe trends in graphed time series data in accurate language
	Source and data assessment	• Reflect on the validity and reliability of data and information and their sources
	Social surveys and interviews	• Consider sample size, location/s of surveying and times and durations of surveying in design of survey and analysis of results • Design and construct survey questionnaires or interview questions for a given purpose • Undertake surveys and/or interviews with potential for open responses and qualitative recording

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FIELDWORK REPORT

REPORT SECTION	GUIDELINES
Definition of topic	A **definition of topic** contains: • A clear statement of the research question • An outline of the geographic context of the question • A brief hypothesis (expected answer to the research question) and justification of hypothesis
Primary sources and techniques used to collect data	An outline of **Primary sources used and techniques used to collect data** indicates: • A brief description of the sources and techniques used to collect primary data. Fieldwork techniques must include the use of geospatial technologies, through the use of GNSS, to indicate what primary data was collected at specific locations • A justification of how the combination of primary sources and techniques were used to help answer the research question
Secondary sources and techniques used to collect data	An outline of the **Secondary sources and techniques used to collect data** indicates: • A brief description of the sources used, including secondary data from online databases (e.g. Australian Bureau of Statistics, Atlas of Living Australia) • A justification of how the combination of secondary sources and techniques were used to help answer the research question
Presentation of processed data and information	The **Presentation of processed data and information** uses: • Appropriate conventions • Techniques most appropriate to the meaning conveyed by the data and information • Geospatial technologies, through the use of GIS mapping, to create maps from primary data collected in the field and/or secondary data from online databases to answer the research question • Correct sourcing of the data and information
Analysis of processed data and information	An **Analysis of processed data and information** should: • Identify key features • Describe patterns identified in the processed data and information • Draw relationships between key features and patterns in the processed data and information • Relate back to the research question and discuss whether or not the data and information has supported the hypothesis
Conclusion	A **Conclusion** should: • Identify the extent to which the analysis has answered the research question • Note any specific points to be learnt from the investigation

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FIELDWORK REPORT

REPORT SECTION	GUIDELINES
Evaluation	An **Evaluation** considers: • The relative effectiveness (limitations and weaknesses) of the techniques implemented and sources used • Future possibilities for any subsequent investigation
Referencing	**Referencing** includes: • Bibliography with correct and consistent referencing • Acknowledgement of sources of information and people
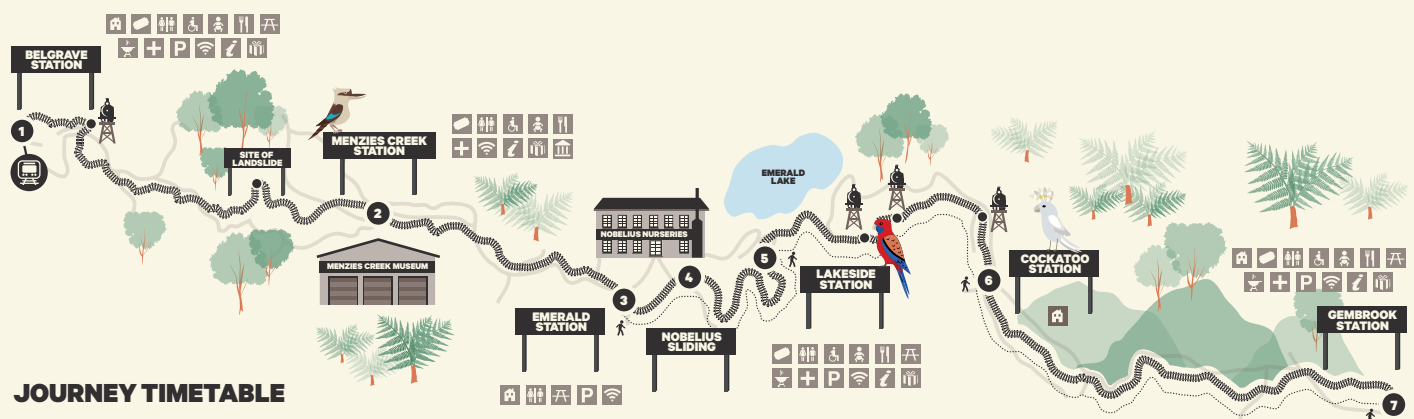
JOURNEY TIMETABLE

JOURNEY (refer to map above)	SINGLE JOURNEY (subject to timetable)	RETURN JOURNEY (subject to timetable)
1 ◄──► 2	30 minutes	Allow 3 hours
1 ◄──► 3	50 minutes	Allow 3 hours
1 ◄──► 5	60 minutes	Allow 3 hours
5 ◄──► 7	40 minutes	Allow 3 hours
1 ◄──► 7	1 hour 50 minutes	Allow 5 hours

MAP LEGEND

- Belgrave Metro Station
- Town
- Booking Office
- BBQ facilities
- First aid
- Parking
- Toilet
- Accessible toilet
- Parenting room
- Wi-fi
- Information
- Souvenir Shop
- Parenting room
- Food & drink
- Picnic area
- NEW! Menzies Creek Museum
- Multi-purpose Eastern Dandenong Ranges Trail
- Trestle Bridge

PUFFING BILLY RAILWAY