Camps at New Norcia

The educational experience of Australia’s only monastic town.
The New Norcia Education Centre was established in 1996 as the key to unlocking New Norcia’s unique Monastic, European and Aboriginal heritage.

Today, the Education Centre offers an eclectic range of programmes for students and adult groups including:

• Day Visits or Camps that support the Society and Environment, Aboriginal Studies, Arts, History and Science curricula
• Student and Staff Retreats
• Confirmation and Leadership Camps
• Professional Development for Staff
• CEO Approved Programmes for Ongoing Renewal of Accreditation

We create tailor-made programmes that capitalise on New Norcia’s particular strengths. All New Norcia led programmes are based on latest Curriculum and Outcome Statements, are full of hands-on learning opportunities and are conducted within the context of a living faith community.

To make a booking or for more information, please contact our Education Centre Co-ordinator.
Education Programmes

Aboriginal Studies  New Norcia presents unparalleled opportunities to engage with Nyoongar culture in the following ways:

- make your own bush glue (kop) and hunting tool (darp) over an open fire
- work in teams to build a traditional Maya-Maya (pronounced My-a-My-a)
- participate in music and dance of the corroboree
- learn basic Yued language
- hear local legends of how things came to be
- learn the skill of karli (boomerang), miro and kidji throwing (spear thrower and spear)

Prendiville Aboriginal Display Room and St Joseph’s Aboriginal Girls School Exhibition:
- interactive display boards containing first-hand accounts, video clips and artefacts
- a visual introduction to early Yued life, culture and skills
- life during the Orphanage Era at New Norcia

Society and the Environment  For over 100 years the town has supported various cottage industries including:

Old Flour Mill and Bakery
- visit the Old and New Flour Mills and the famous New Norcia Bakery
- view the various stages of production and follow the journey from wheat to flour to bread

New Norcia Leadership Programme  Drawing inspiration from the lives of St Benedict, Dom Salvado and the monastic community at New Norcia, this unique programme provides experiential learning opportunities for students to:
- recognise the characteristics of good leadership and authentic community
- identify individual differences and contribute these to the school community
- practise effective communication
- cooperate with others in the achievement of goals

These are just a few of the learning opportunities at New Norcia. Our Education Centre Co-ordinator would be delighted to assist you in creating a programme that suits your group’s particular interests and curriculum aims.
Music is a part of the heart, soul and rhythm of New Norcia — a place that captures the imagination of music makers, young and old, and inspires them to create, to perform and to enjoy.

For over 150 years, some of music’s great names have been attracted to New Norcia. Andre Segovia, Philip Glass and more recently, Peter Sculthorpe and Christopher Willcock, have all been inspired and enchanted by this special town.

With its rich cultural and spiritual context, unique facilities and a variety of rehearsal and performance spaces, New Norcia is an ideal and memorable venue for your music camp.

We’ve been coming to New Norcia for our Music Camps since 1993 and keep coming back because it is such a wonderful, special place. The students benefit from intensive rehearsal times in a unique cultural environment, as well as enjoy a relaxed and social setting. With the history and spirituality of the place, including the bells and monks chanting, it all generates a fabulous, stimulating atmosphere and is so productive for the girls’ music making. We don’t just come here to use the facilities, but to engage with New Norcia in all its being. In 1996, acclaimed Sydney composer, Dan Walker, completed a choral commission, ‘Laudate for Another Place, Another Time,’ to celebrate the special spiritual bond between Penrhos College and New Norcia.

Prue Ashurst
Director of Music, Penrhos College

Thank you for all that you did to assist us with the Hale/St Mary’s Music Camp. Your organisation, attention to detail and obvious enthusiasm for what you do was just terrific.

Andrew Bushell
Director of Music, Hale School
Unique Music Facilities

A wide variety of performance and practice spaces:
4 large halls | 2 chapels | 3 work centres | 2 outdoor arenas
The halls seat 120-200 people and the work centres seat 20-30 people.

A selection of acoustics:
wooden floors | linoleum floors | carpeted floors
All rooms, especially the Chapels, have very high ceilings — ideal for choral, orchestral and band work.

Excellent musical equipment:
- large upright Yamaha piano in St Gertrude’s College, regularly tuned
- a second, smaller upright Yamaha piano located in the Church, regularly tuned
- 2 older style pianos, 1 regularly tuned
- 50 Rolls Royce music stands
New Norcia is like a piece of Old Spain in the middle of the Australian bush; a town with extraordinary buildings, coloured in a red ochre that has gracefully softened with age.

New Norcia was founded in 1846 by Spanish Benedictine monks. Since then, generations of monks have built a town of spires, towers and gothic arches and filled these buildings with lavish art and craftworks.

The shapes, colours, textures and rich history of New Norcia — both inside and out — have always fascinated and engaged artists, both young and old. Allow our heritage to inspire you by joining us for your next art camp.

Many budding film makers, photographers and artists from Shenton College have emerged as a result of the unique backdrop New Norcia provides students for their studies. The Benedictine Community is an enthralling learning environment for students to engage in creating meaningful paintings, films and photographs that capture this magnificent historical town.

Kellie Markwell
Media Teacher, Shenton College

‘Peace’
New Norcia, Australia Day 2007
Unique Attractions

27 heritage buildings in a rural setting offering a great variety of scale and styles including Spanish Mission, Gothic, Byzantine and Georgian. All provide excellent subject matter for works of art.

Four richly decorated interiors, including two recently restored chapels and a variety of artistic finishes including:
- sgraffito, fresco, stencilling, raggings and gilding
- fine examples of representation wall paintings
- hand painted pressed metal ceilings
- hand-carved furniture especially made for the rooms, together with statuary and brassware

Art Gallery and Museum with the largest collection of moveable religious art and craftwork in Australia including:
- more than 60 post-Renaissance European paintings including a cartoon from the workshop of Raphael
- outstanding collection of craftwork including vestments several hundred years old, church plate and furniture
- a large contemporary religious art collection including paintings, sculptures, photography, printmaking and video by leading Australian and West Australian artists

Aboriginal art including:
- 6 Indigenous Outdoor Art Panels by Nyoongar artist, Sheila Humphries, depicting the six periods of the annual seasonal cycle understood by the Aboriginal people
- the opportunity to learn the symbols and techniques used in Aboriginal art by taking part in a practical art workshop
Retreats

Each year, New Norcia provides the context for a very special experience: Retreats for students and staff alike. Year 12 Retreats in particular form a rite of passage for many. Younger students, especially those preparing for Confirmation, have been similarly inspired by their Retreat to Australia’s only Monastic town. Whatever the age, a Retreat at New Norcia is an opportunity to reflect, to prepare and to discover.

Our Retreats are developed in conjunction with Year Coordinators to maximise opportunities for students to engage with the essence of this monastic town: to experience New Norcia culturally, historically, educationally and spiritually. We understand the significance of these occasions and the impact they have had on the lives of many students over the years. As a result, we facilitate interaction with the monks, expose students to elements of the monastic life and provide a breadth of memorable experiential opportunities.

Our students and staff found the retreat at New Norcia gently challenging. The atmosphere of the place allowed students and staff to step back from their busy lives and think about some of the bigger issues that are often driven into the background by the immediate demands of modern life. The Taizé service in the chapel was a special time for many students as was the opportunity to understand a life of contemplation.

Bruce Titlestad
Deputy, St Stephen’s School

This was our College’s 11th camp at New Norcia and I am always impressed with the hospitality and friendly nature with which we are received. Dom Chris never fails to entertain our students with his informative and humourous insights into monastic life at New Norcia. The students related well to him and his presentation provided much discussion amongst the students throughout the camp’s duration.

Joe Di Giuseppe
Senior School Cluster Leader,
Ursula Frayne Catholic College
Whilst opportunities to engage with the Benedictine monks and the town of New Norcia abound, there are also seasonal activities to consider. These are just a few of our favourites:

- Take a private guided town tour, see behind closed doors and discover the story of Australia’s only monastic town
- Meet with one of the monks to hear about monastic life and have the opportunity to ask lots of questions
- Join the monks for prayers in their private Chapel — six times daily
- Take part in Sunday Mass in the Abbey Church and make a musical contribution to the service in conjunction with our Liturgy Coordinator
- Follow the Heritage Trail along the Moore River and see the old Apiary, Monk’s Well and possibly a few sheep en route!
- Lose yourself for an hour in the Art Gallery where European religious art in the grand style hangs alongside contemporary Australian religious art
- Visit the New Norcia Museum and discover the eclectic artefacts on display — everything from gold teeth to the smallest English dictionary in the world
- Enjoy a special visit to the bakery, not generally open to the public, to see where New Norcia’s famous bread is made in the 100 year-old wood-fired oven (and then buy a loaf at the Museum Shop!)
- Refresh in the town’s 25 metre swimming pool
- Play basketball, soccer, football or tennis on our sporting grounds and courts
- Visit the European Space Agency’s Deep Space Interpretive Centre in New Norcia and see the $47 million Satellite Dish just south of town
- Find your own piece of New Norcia in which to read, to journal, to meditate, or to just enjoy the Pax
Camp Accommodation and Facilities

Three unique venues accommodating 30–200 people are available for groups staying at New Norcia. A full catering service is provided and there are self-catering facilities for groups of up to 20 people. Camps have access to a variety of work and performance spaces and the town’s recreational facilities including a swimming pool and sporting courts and ovals for tennis, basketball, football and hockey.

THE OLD CONVENT

This courtyard complex was originally the home of the Spanish Benedictine Sisters. Full of character, atmosphere and memories stretching back over 100 years, today the Old Convent offers:

- cozy accommodation for up to 30 people
- large character lounge with open fireplace
- charming dining room and kitchen offering either catered meals or self-catering facilities
- additional workspace in close proximity

ST GERTRUDE’S COLLEGE

Built in 1908, this grand gothic-style building was formerly used as a convent boarding school. The College offers:

- accommodation for groups from 30 to 120
- comfortable private cubicles with carpeted floors
- private staff rooms with en suite
- lounge and kitchen with self-catering facilities
- range of performance and meeting spaces

ST ILDEPHONSUS’ COLLEGE

Built in 1913, this castle-like building was formerly used as a boys’ boarding school. The College offers:

- accommodation for groups from 30 to 80
- carpeted open dormitories — small and large
- private staff lounge
- variety of meeting spaces including interior courtyards

For more information and a floor plan of each venue visit:
www.newnorcia.wa.edu.au
Every bit of your food was delightful, we especially like the way you cook your eggs. On the first day back at school we were upset you were not cooking for us. Would you consider coming and working in our school canteen?

Year 5 Student

As in previous years, the quality and quantity of the meals was outstanding. Your catering team deserves praise for their efforts in ensuring that both staff and students alike were well fed.

Staff, Ursula Frayne
Catholic College
New Norcia offers an experience to our students that is out of the ordinary. The surroundings and activities provide a mood for personal reflection on the bigger issues of life, away from the everyday buzz of normal living.

**Staff Member**
**St Stephen’s School**

I learnt that PAX means peace, the difference between Byzantine and Gothic windows, the stages of making olive oil and that the town is in the shape of a cross. My favourite part was the chapel. I think it was a good idea for them to paint it fresco!

**Year 5 Student**
**St Mary’s Anglican Girls’ School**

Thank you for teaching us how to throw a boomerang and a spear and for showing us how you can use sap from a tree, kangaroo poo and charcoal to make a traditional Aboriginal tool. You are really cool because you know so much about Nyoongar culture.

**Year 6 Student**
**St Dominic’s School**

For all enquiries and bookings please contact:

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