

# GUIDE FOR SCHOOL VISITS

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## Prisoners in Arcady Exhibition

This guide is prepared for schools visiting Berrima District Museum's 'Prisoners in Arcady' exhibition. This is aimed mainly at high school history students, but with some modifications can be equally applied to less specialised or younger school groups.

- On the way to the exhibition it might be worth discussing with students their understanding of the word 'arcady' (*a traditional idealized rural setting in Ancient Greek poetry*).

After visiting the exhibition, the reason Prof. John Simons used this term in the title of his book on the Berrima internees should be clear.

- Before entering the museum, it may (weather permitting) be worthwhile to take the students to the cleared area on the highway side. Get students to look towards the gaol (North, beyond the main part of town) and then up and down the river and its surrounds.

Put the question to the group. If you were allowed out from the gaol all day what would you do?

*The answer for the prisoners of World War I is inside the museum.*

**Students should enter the museum with worksheets and a pen.**

- **The exhibition consists of 4 main aspects;**
  1. Display boards (numbered as on the worksheets) Two TV screens showing photos-one concentrating on the huts built by internees and the other on the boats they made.
  2. Physical artifacts belonging to or made by prisoners. These are in display cabinets, hanging framed on the walls or (in the case of the canoe and the prison door) on open display
  3. Another TV screen showing the film made of the prison in 1917

4. Students can move around the exhibition following the numbering on the boards, which matches the order of questions on the worksheets
5. **WORKSHEETS are available by down loading from Berrima District Historical Societies website**  
[www.berrimadistricthistoricalsociety.org.au](http://www.berrimadistricthistoricalsociety.org.au)

One is fairly straightforward for shorter visits and primary or lower-ability students ('**Standard**'). The other is more for secondary History students and is more detailed requiring more analysis ('**Advanced**')

There are two versions for teachers with answers for both worksheets.

**As follow up;**

Students could write a diary account of their day as an internee in 1917.

It could be illustrated with a drawing of a hut they have constructed.

They could compose a letter to their imagined family in Germany describing their situation

Students could research another internment camp (eg. Holsworthy, Trial Bay, Bourke, Molonglo) and compare it to Berrima.

Resources for this are attached in the '**Further Information**' section

Students could also write a critical review of their visit to the museum, commenting on the effectiveness of the displays and their ideas on alternative methods of presentation.

**BERRIMA DISTRICT MUSEUM**  
MARKET PLACE BERRIMA  
located at the Southern end of Berrima village  
beside the bridge over  
the Wingecarribee River.

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