

Cockman House

EXCURSION MANAGEMENT PLAN



Purpose of the excursion

A visit to Cockman House encourages students to examine the history of the house and the three generations that lived there over a span of more than 130 years. It presents a story that began with James and Mary Ann Cockman, free settlers of the Swan River Colony who arrived here in 1829, and progresses alongside the development of the Wanneroo district.

Acquired by the City of Wanneroo in 1987, Cockman House has been open as a museum since April 1989 and provides a unique opportunity for teachers and students to encounter what life was like in the past.

Foundation and Year 1 - Work and Play at Cockman House

Students learn about the families who have resided in Cockman House through a simple timeline role play, small group hands-on activities, pioneer games, and making a peg doll to encourage them to think about their own lives and how different they are to those of early immigrants.

Years 2 and 3 - Heritage Alphabet

Students find clues at 26 alphabet stations to learn what life was like for an early immigrant family living in Wanneroo during the early years of the Swan River colony.

The session closes with a guided drawing task to examine the structure of Cockman House and appreciate its significance as a heritage building

Years 1, 2 and 3 - Online Incursion

Designed for schools unable to visit Cockman House, this new program for lower primary school children provides teachers with tools to run interactive classroom activities that deliver the same experience. Focusing on family life and comparisons between past and present, it includes pre-incursion activities, a 17-minute movie clip about Cockman House and its families, and a live Q&A session (using FaceTime, Zoom or another agreed media platform) with one of our education officers.

Click below to view the Cockman House online incursion guide for more information:

[Online incursion guide](#)



Background history

James and Mary Ann Cockman brought their family to settle in Wanneroo's 'Lake District' around 1850.

James, with the help of his sons, John and James Samuel, built the house over seven years using local materials.

The house and grounds are a rare example of rural life once far removed from Perth but now located in the metropolitan area.

The house has undergone little change, still containing family furniture, and illustrates the family's story of economic and social progress, as well as the changes in technology and land use in the district.

Cockman House is the oldest surviving house in Wanneroo and was home to members of the Cockman and Backshall families from 1860 to 1987, when it was purchased by the City of Wanneroo to become a museum.

The Cockman House Education Programs run from 9.30am-11.30am and 12.30pm-2pm. Please ensure you arrive in good time as sessions commence promptly.

We encourage students (and adults) to dress up in period costume to enhance their excursion experience of life in the olden days.

Pre-excursion preparation

Please arrange for the bus to drop students off by 9.20am (for a 9.30am start) or 12.20pm (for a 12.30pm start).

Please organise your class into small groups, with one parent helper per group, for the heritage activities that commence after the whole group briefing.

Some activities are set up outdoors; please remind parents to ensure children are dressed appropriately, especially in the colder months - long sleeves are recommended and a hat/sunscreen for warmer weather.

Please supply all parent helpers with a Cockman House Parent/Teacher Guide prior to arrival. This will allow the adult guides to familiarise themselves with the information they will be encountering before the activity starts.

School supervisor team

TEACHER AND PARENT HELPERS

Students must be accompanied throughout the excursion.

The teacher and parent helpers actively engage with learning, monitor behaviour and intervene as necessary to ensure the safety of the group. City of Wanneroo staff will lead, demonstrate and present activities, but are not responsible for the supervision of students.

During the recess break, teachers and parent helpers directly supervise the pioneer games.

On the day of the excursion

- Please bring a first aid kit and a mobile phone
- On arrival, the group will receive a safety briefing and participate in an introduction activity before dividing into smaller groups and starting the heritage activities. Students will then break for recess
- As there is **no drinking water available on site**, students should bring pre-filled water bottles
- We advise that snacks and drink bottles be put in large tubs and placed in the shade until recess
- Recess is approximately 20 minutes and is supervised by the teacher and parent helpers. Old fashioned games are provided to engage the students during this time.
- After recess, students continue with heritage activities until approximately 11.15am. A whole group briefing brings the program to an end at 11.30am. (Note: afternoon excursions do not have a recess unless requested)
- Best behaviour and manners are encouraged at all times at Cockman House.



Eve Mathilda Cockman, 8th child of James S and Emma J Cockman, married Frederick Duffy in 1906.

Emergency response plan

Cockman House is a small rural cottage with two external doors. Exit during an emergency is through the nearest external door if safe to do so.

In the event of an emergency, it is essential that all visitors take directions from City of Wanneroo staff and supervising volunteers. If evacuation is essential, all Cockman House visitors should assemble on the large grassed area in front of the house.

The teacher is expected to carry a roll and must notify City of Wanneroo staff if any students are missing. It is the responsibility of the school to provide basic first aid to students and we recommend the teacher bring a mobile phone and first aid kit on the excursion. Staff and volunteers will assist if possible.

ACCESSIBILITY

Environment: Cockman House is located on Ancestor Retreat, Woodvale, and backs onto the Yellagonga Regional Park.

The grounds have large grassed areas with several large trees providing shade. Space in the house is limited so belongings should be left on the bus or kept to a minimum.

There is no drinking water available on site.

Toilets: Located next to the house and are wheelchair accessible.

Transport: This is the responsibility of the visiting school. Buses and cars belonging to parent helpers can park in the public carpark.

Drop off area: Buses can drop off beside the main gates on Ancestor Retreat. There is a public car park within the property.

Entry/access: The front section of Cockman House is wheelchair accessible from the front entrance via the rear footpath, although larger electric wheelchairs may not fit through the front door. There is a step down from the lounge to the kitchen, and a further set of wooden steps to the back verandah. It is possible to go behind the house via the paths and lawn areas.

Guide or assistance dogs: Visitors accompanied by a guide or assistance dog, or a dog undergoing such training, are welcome at Cockman House.

External provider information

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CLEARANCES

City of Wanneroo employees and heritage volunteers who work with school groups all possess a current Working With Children Check.

PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE

The City of Wanneroo is a public entity and is insured by Local Government Insurances. Public liability policy is for \$100 million and the policy number is 000149. This amount exceeds the Education Department of Western Australia's public liability requirements. A Certificate of Currency is available from the City's website wanneroo.wa.gov.au

CITY OF WANNEROO ABN - 64 295 981 165

Cockman House

Ancestor Retreat (off Woodvale Drive) Woodvale

If you require any further information or would like to discuss program details, please contact:

Heritage Education

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