

# EDUCATION PROGRAMS

*secondary*



 **STATION**  
Sydney Harbour National Park - Manly



# OUR STORY

*then...*

The rocky promontory of North Head at the entrance to Sydney Harbour was an important place to the Traditional Custodians. Today, the fresh water bubbling up through the sandstone, the stunning vistas, native bush, animals, and rich sea life gives visitors a sense of this. It is said that it was the Gayamaygal people who witnessed the arrival of the first fleet ships from one of the nearby coves where they went to meet the newcomers from across the seas.

With the establishment of the Sydney settlement, the North Head was used to isolate people suspected of carrying infectious disease, mostly arriving on migrant ships. From the first quarantine of convict transport the Bussorah Merchant on the beach at Spring Cove in 1828, the site has undergone many changes. Officially set aside in 1834 as a Quarantine Station, with detainees housed in tents, eventually the needs of the site became clearer and permanent buildings were constructed in separate areas for the healthy and the sick. By the 1880s the site expanded with internees housed in precincts segregated along class and racial lines.

Outbreaks of smallpox in 1881, and bubonic plague in 1900, brought Sydneysiders to quarantine, some who were taken forcibly from their home at a moment's notice to the Station which was ill equipped to handle the big influx of people. After Federation, the Quarantine Station's facilities were upgraded, new buildings built and state-of-the-art disinfection technology introduced - much of which is still in place today.

During the Spanish Influenza pandemic of 1918-19, at the end of WWI, twelve thousand people were detained – this was the busiest time in the [Quarantine Station's history](#).

From 1920 until the closure of the Quarantine Station in 1984, there were only two recorded deaths on-site, neither from infectious disease. Changes in medical treatment and transport resulted in the site not being needed for quarantine of infectious diseases. But, it was used for other purposes. When Cyclone Tracy hit Darwin on Christmas, 1974, hundreds of people were evacuated to Sydney with many housed at the Station until it was safe for them to return home.

In 1975, with the fall of Saigon, children were air-lifted from Vietnam to Australia, Canada, France and the USA. One hundred and fifty of these children came to the Quarantine Station, where they slept on mattresses on the floor in the former hospital building, played on the beach and were cared for by volunteers while waiting to meet up with their adoptive families. Also, from 1959 – 1974, the former staff dining room, reinforced with bars on the windows, was used as an Immigration Detention Facility, where men were held awaiting deportation for lack of visas.

*...and now*

With its closure in 1984, the Quarantine Station site was handed over to the National Parks & Wildlife Service and is currently leased to Mawland Group who has re-purposed it as Q Station - a hotel, conference and event centre. On the NSW and National Heritage lists, the site with its 65 original buildings set on 30 hectares overlooking Sydney Harbour is home to an array of protected wildlife, including little penguins, long-nosed bandicoots, the eastern suburbs banksia scrub and the creatures of the North Harbour Aquatic Reserve. Packed with history, a beautiful landscape and much to discover, Q Station offers an exceptional environment for learning.





# SECONDARY PROGRAMS

Education Programs at Q Station provide **engaging** learning experiences in an **ever-evolving** historically and geographically significant context. Themes of life and death, sickness and health, class, gender, race, hopes and fears all come into focus in the amazing **natural landscape** of North Head.

Activities are designed to develop **critical, creative** and **reflective** thinking skills.

**Exploration** of the natural and built environment,  
**handling** artefacts,  
**interacting** with primary sources,  
and **hearing** stories fosters empathy with the past  
and ongoing consideration of how the site has been valued  
by different constituencies throughout its history.

All of our education programs have significant links to the NSW and Australian National Curriculum across multiple subject areas but they are also customisable for particular interests or projects. Contact our Education Program Manager about your goals for the visit!





# GHOST BOY

*bring the book to life!*

Inspired by the book written by Felicity Pulman, the Ghost Boy program brings the story to life. Students journey through the Quarantine Station to learn about the differences between Tad's world of the 1880s smallpox epidemic and their own, as revealed through the character of Froggy, as he meets up with the ghost of his ancestor at the Station.

Students visit key locations, referencing the text, and participate in a number of activities which challenge them to think about how things have changed from Tad's time to their own, to consider issues of migration, class, race and identity; and to reflect upon changing attitudes about sickness and death. Ghost Boy includes the Making Your Mark activity. Other activities can be substituted, or added (at a cost of \$2.50 per student).

## Details:

- Suitable for years 7 - 9
- Subject area: English and History
- Program duration: 2 - 2.5 hours
- Capacity: 15 - 175 students
- Price per student: \$17.50

# GHOST BOY

*bring the book to life!*

The Ghost Boy program has links to the following Australian and NSW curriculum areas:

Stage 4	Content	Outcomes
English	Outcome 5 Discuss aspects of texts, for example their aesthetic and social value Outcome 7	EN4-5C ACELT1803 EN4-7D
Drama	Making Drama Performing Drama	4.2.1, 4.1.3
Stage 5	Content	Outcomes
English	Outcome 5 Outcome 7	EN5-5C EN4-7D
History	Making of the Modern World	HT5-1, HT5-4, HT5-7

# 40 DAYS

*what if you were quarantined?*

The original length of time people were quarantined was 40 days. This interactive experience asks the question, *"What would happen if you were quarantined tomorrow?"*

The program focuses on the busiest period in the Quarantine Station's history, when it was confronted with the Spanish Influenza epidemic of 1918-1919. Students participate in activities to explore the quarantine processes undertaken by the passengers of the RMS Niagara. This program allows a direct comparison between medical technologies of 1918 and the present; students consider the evolution in communication technologies; reflect on changing attitudes about class and race; and contemplate the differences in freedoms and rights expected by citizens today, all whilst engaging their dramatic abilities through role play.

## Details:

- Suitable for stages 4 - 5
- Program duration: 2 hours
- Capacity: 15 - 100 students
- Price per student: \$17.50



# 40 DAYS

*what if you were quarantined?*

The 40 Days program has links to the following Australian and NSW curriculum areas:

Stage 4	Content	Outcomes
Science	Living World 4 Scientific knowledge changes as new evidence becomes available, and some scientific discoveries have significantly changed people's understanding of the world.	SC4-15LW ACSHE134
Drama	Making Drama Performing Drama	4.2.1, 4.1.3
Stage 5	Content	Outcomes
Science	Living World 1 Making of the Modern World Australians at War (WWI)	SC5-15LW HT5-1, HT5-4, HT5-7 HT5-4
Drama	Making Drama Performing Drama	5.1.2, 5.1.3 5.2.1



# QUARANTINE STATION SITE STUDY

*investigating changes over time*



The Quarantine Station Site Study reveals the historical phases and changes of the site throughout its history. Exploration of the built environment and investigation of artefacts, primary and secondary sources allows students to practice historical inquiry, use historical language and locate, select & organise information in the context of this evocative place. Sites Studies are compulsory for the Stage 4 and 5 NSW History syllabus.

The Site Study can be modified to focus on particular areas of interest or extended to include a focused 30 minute Quarantine Station Case Study (at a cost of \$2.50 per student) on the following:

- Operation Babylift, 1974
- Immigration Detention at the Station, 1960-1970s

## Details:

- Suitable for stages 4 - 6
- Subject area: History (with links to Science and Geography)
- Program duration: 2.5 hours
- Minimum 15 - maximum 175 students
- Price per student: \$17.50



# QUARANTINE STATION SITE STUDY

*investigating changes over time*

The Quarantine Station Site Study program has links to the following Australian and NSW curriculum areas:

Stage 4	Content	Outcomes
History	Depth Study 6: Colonisation and Contact History	HT4-2, HT4-3, HT4-4, HT4-6, HT4-7
Stage 5	Content	Outcomes
History	Making of the Modern World Depth Study 1: Industrial Revolution/Movement of Peoples Depth Study 2: Making a Nation Depth Study 3: Australians at War The Modern World & Australia Depth Study 5: The Globalising World	HT5-1, HT5-2, HT5-4, HT5-6  HT5-1, HT5-2, HT5-4, HT5-6 HT5-1, HT5-2, HT5-4, HT5-7 HT5-1, HT5-2, HT5-4, HT5-5, HT5-7  HT5-1, HT5-3, HT5-4, HT5-5, HT5-7



# SITE INVESTIGATION

*investigation of historic sites and sources*

## Stage 6/ Modern History: Investigating Modern History – The Nature of Modern History

Students undertake a close study of the site, its stories, artefacts, the built environment, primary and secondary sources to apply their skills of historical inquiry and to consider the interplay of historical evidence, argument, interpretation, memory, intuition and bias. Changing phases of the site provide a microcosm of the development of Contemporary Australia. From a close study of the site, students develop a more refined analysis and interpretation of the broader developments that shaped the site, and an increased empathy for how those developments affected people who were here, as well as a deeper appreciation for the interplay between the individual, the community, the environment, politics, judgement, and differing perspectives that shape the world today. The Quarantine Station is **suggested as a site to investigate in the NSW Modern History Curriculum** and a chapter is dedicated to the site in Modern History Transformed by Cambridge University Press - *The Investigation of Historical Sites and Sources: Death, Disease and Division: The Quarantine Station*. The Quarantine Station Site Study program has links to the Australian and NSW curriculum areas.

### Details:

- Suitable for stage 6
- Subject area: Modern History
- Program duration: 2.5 hours
- Minimum 15 - maximum 175 students
- Price per student: \$17.50

Stage 6	Content	Outcomes
History	Investigation of Historic Sites & Sources	MH11-6, MH11-7, MH11-9, MH11-10

# THE SEARCH FOR BETTER HEALTH

## *changes in thinking about medicine*

This program is designed to compliment HSC Biology and links with the Australian Curriculum units of Science as a Human Endeavour. Using the Quarantine Station as a case study, students are given a historical context to further their understanding of the causes of infectious disease and investigate the evolution in medical thinking and practice from the 19th century to the present as reflected in the Station's facilities and history. The Spanish Influenza pandemic of 1918 which was the busiest time on-site and many of our buildings date from this era becomes a focus for the visit to compare prior and subsequent thinking about infectious disease. Students interact with a timeline of medical thinking from the 14th Century to present day, and discuss infectious diseases, theories about them, their transmission and treatment as experienced at the Quarantine Station. Students participate in activities focusing on medical history, diagnosing disease, and the immune response. The Search For Better Health program has links to the Australian and NSW curriculum areas.

### Details:

- Suitable for stage 6
- Subject area: Biology
- Minimum 20 - maximum 75 students
- Price per student: \$17.50



Stage 6	Content	Outcomes
Biology	Module 7: Infectious Disease Courses of Infectious Diseases, Immunity Prevention Treatment & Control	BIO11/12-4, BIO12-14 ACSBL116, ACSBL117 ACSBL119 ACSBL124, ACSBL125



# QUARANTINE STATION UNWRAPPED

*customise your experience!*



All of our educational program content can be customised to maximise the educational value of our exceptional site and to meet the particular needs of interest and learning goals. Please call our Education Program Manager to discuss the goals for your visit! Past programs have included:

- Art & Writing Retreats
- Q Station: An Economic Case Study
- The Gothic Novel
- Q Station as a unique Tourism & Hospitality Site
- History, Mystery, Secrets & Intrigue at the Quarantine Station

Contact Q Station's Education Program Manager to start creating your unique program on 02 9466 1566 or [H8773-CR3@accor.com](mailto:H8773-CR3@accor.com)

## **Details:**

- Suitable for all stages
- Subject area: Customised
- Program duration: from 1.5 hours +
- Maximum 75 students
- Price per student: \$17.50



# Q STATION SLEEPOVER

*immerse yourself in history*

Bring your class for an Education Program and spend the night in the former Doctors & Nurses Quarters. Q Station offers dormitory style accommodation for small school groups of up to 24 people including teachers in federation-era buildings in our hospital precinct. This accommodation consists of a number of sleeping rooms with one to eight beds in each room, a lounge room, dining room, kitchenette and three bathrooms with separate toilets – overlooking spectacular views of Sydney Harbour.

A per person cost of \$125 per night includes dormitory-style accommodation, an education program customised for the group's interest, pizza dinner or equivalent, light breakfast, afternoon or morning tea, and a tea and coffee station.

Many schools use this time for extended writing or art workshops based on the Quarantine site. Please speak with our Education Program Manager if you are interested in workshop or classroom space.

## Details:

- Suitable for stages 4 - 6
- Price per student: \$125
- Maximum 24 students and adult supervisors
- Available Sunday - Thursday nights only



# ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

*enhance the learning experience...*

Add another exploration activity to any education program for \$2.50 per student or create a visit just based on activities!

## Ephemeral Art on Quarantine Beach

Students explore the natural environment and work in small groups, to creatively reflect on connection to the natural world, an important value for the Traditional Custodians.

*For all stages*



## Unpacking Quarantine Stories

A forensic investigation of five suitcases with artefacts and sources of people who came to the Station during its history.

*For all stages*



# ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

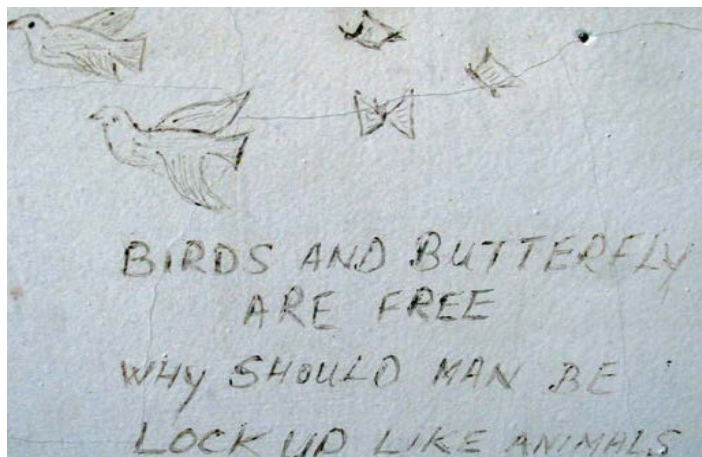
*enhance the learning experience...*

Add another exploration activity to any education program for \$2.50 per student or create a visit just based on activities!

## Immigration Detention at the Station - Case Study

A migration experience of people who came to Australia without necessary visas or over-stayed them and who were detained at the Quarantine Station in the 1960-70s. Writings on the wall (in a number of languages) in the building where the detainees were held reveal how they felt about the experience.

*For stages 5 & 6*



## Operation Baby Lift - Case Study

A migration experience of orphans who were air-lifted from Saigon to Australia during the Vietnam War and came to the Quarantine Station before meeting their adoptive families. Links to Stage 3 History: Australia as a Nation.

*For stages 5 & 6*





# EXTRAS & ECOHOPPER

Stay after your Education Program and enjoy the **Wharf Precinct** with our lovely harbourside **Quarantine Beach** and the **Luggage Store Visitor Centre** with a free historical **exhibition**, **gift shop**, and **café**. Picnic on the beach and participate in our **old-fashioned games** like quoits and skipping ropes.

We encourage schools to make use of the **Hop On Hop Off ferry** that comes directly to Q Station Wharf six times daily with stops at Circular Quay, Eastern Suburbs, Taronga Zoo and Manly. Providing convenient access to our site, it also extends the quarantine experience giving students a greater sense of the location in Sydney Harbour; the rocky cliffs of North Head. They experience what it might have been like to arrive or leave the station as most migrants would have and see for themselves why the site was chosen as a place of quarantine for ships coming from overseas. Bookings are necessary and special rates are available for school groups. Visit [www.myfastferry.com.au](http://www.myfastferry.com.au) or call 02 9583 1199 for all bookings and enquiries.





# TERMS & CONDITIONS

## General Terms and Conditions:

- Teachers have duty of care at all times.
- Schools are to provide a minimum of one adult supervisor for every class group.
- Large groups will be divided into class groups of approximately 25 students.
- Tours run in all weathers and will only be cancelled in severe conditions.
- Q Station education programs involve all-weather outdoor activities, including significant walking; appropriate clothing and enclosed walking shoes must be worn.
- Students or teachers who are not wearing suitable clothing, especially footwear, may be unable to participate on the walking tour.
- School group bookings and rates are subject to a minimum of 15 paid participants.
- Payment is due on the day of the tour, payable by cheque, credit card or eft.
- Cancellation of visits within 48 hours of the time and date scheduled are subject to a cancellation fee of \$150 except in the case of extreme weather activity
- Coach drivers may attend at student rates.
- The organizing teacher is responsible for communicating drop-off & parking conditions to the bus company and may be held responsible if the drivers do not comply.

## Drop-off and Parking:

- Entrance to North Head through the stone Parkhill Arch (about 800 meters before the Q Station) is 3.1 meters in height. An alternate route for taller vehicles is on the opposite side of the road, please proceed with caution.
- Buses/coaches must drop students off at the round-about at the Q Station entrance as there is no provision to enter, park or turn around within the Q Station grounds.
- If the above is not complied with, the driver or bus company may be held responsible for any fines or damages incurred.
- Guides will meet your bus/coach to facilitate a safe offloading /loading of passengers.
- There is parking for twenty coaches further along North Head Scenic Drive. However the gates to the North Head close at 10PM and there is a fine for opening them after hours. There is also coach parking in Manly.
- There may be access for 25-seater or fewer buses to park on-site with prior approval.

For more information about Q Station, our tours and Safety Procedures, contact Q Station's Education Program Manager on 02 9466 1551 or [H8773-CR5@accor.com](mailto:H8773-CR5@accor.com)

# CONTACT US

We would love to have you and your class explore the amazing site of Sydney's former Quarantine Station.  
Our Education Program Manager and team of education guides are committed to making your experience a meaningful one.  
Please see our website for more information about pricing, resources and to download the Teacher's Kits.  
For more information about these programs and to check availability, contact our Education Program Manager:

**02 9466 1551**  
**H8773-CR5@ACCOR.COM**

