Whitlam Institute
WITHIN WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY

FEMALE ORPHAN SCHOOL

WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY

Secrets of the Female Orphan School

A WHITLAM INSTITUTE AND FEMALE ORPHAN SCHOOL GROUP TOUR

The Female Orphan School (1813) on the Parramatta Campus of Western Sydney University is one of the most significant heritage sites in New South Wales. It is the oldest remaining three storey building in Australia.

The building has a rich and varied institutional history, having operated as the Female Orphan School, the Protestant Orphan School, and as part of the Rydalmere Psychiatric Hospital.

Now fully restored as a public exhibition space and home for the Whitlam Institute, the Female Orphan School is open for the public to enjoy.

Take a guided tour or take the time to linger and explore the history of the building through the heritage interpretation display in the Visitor Information Centre, visit our exhibition *A Changing Australia: The time of Gough Whitlam*, and view our changing exhibitions in the Margaret Whitlam Galleries.

We hope you enjoy your visit to this very special place.

SECRETS OF THE FEMALE ORPHAN SCHOOL

Come on a 1 hour tour and discover many of the architectural, archaeological and historical secrets of this fascinating building. You'll discover secrets hidden in plain sight, see the change from fenced off ruin to stunning restoration and peek into the treasures of the reading room and Prime Ministerial Library.

This tour can be delivered as a seated presentation for groups with limited mobility.

COST: $12 per person/$10 Seniors (incl. Group Entry Fee), with a minimum of 10 people in a group.

Tuesday to Thursday, by appointment only.

MORNING OR AFTERNOON TEA

Why not add to your tour and enjoy morning or afternoon tea? Minimum of 10 people.*

Option 1 – Tea, Coffee, Assorted biscuits $7pp

Option 2 – Tea, Coffee, Scones, Jam / Cream $10pp

Option 3 – Tea, Coffee, mini muffins and danishes $9.50pp

* Requests must be made at time of booking.

OPENING HOURS

General opening hours are Thursday and Friday 10am – 4pm and on the second Saturday of every month, 11am – 4pm.* Group bookings are available throughout the week on request.

ACCESS TO WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY AND THE WHITLAM INSTITUTE

Groups arriving in a mini bus are usually able to make use of the minibus parking bay adjacent to the Female Orphan School. Requests must be made at time of booking.

Groups arriving by coach are asked to notify the Whitlam Institute at the time of booking and arrangements will be made for parking on campus. Exact location of coach parking will be provided to the group organiser prior to the tour date.

Rydalmere station is a 15 minute walk from the Female Orphan School; however it is recommended you catch the train to Parramatta station where frequent bus services to the campus are available.

M52, 520, 521, 523, 524 and 525 services from Parramatta station stop at the University.

Parking available in the Heritage Circle at the front of the building on Thursdays and Fridays. Permits ($7) available from the Female Orphan School Visitor Information Centre.

VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE AND SHOP

If your group would like a memento of their visit, a range of Female Orphan School and Whitlam Institute merchandise is on display and available for purchase in the Visitor Information Centre

BOOKINGS
Please contact the Whitlam Institute on 02 9685 9210 or info@whitlam.org.

While we offer free entry for individual visitors to the Female Orphan School, we charge the group entry fee to cover some of the costs associated with running the visitor programs, which are often run outside of our usual opening hours. Complimentary mini-bus or coach parking is included for groups.

**Excluding long weekends and public holidays.*

All prices include GST.

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