

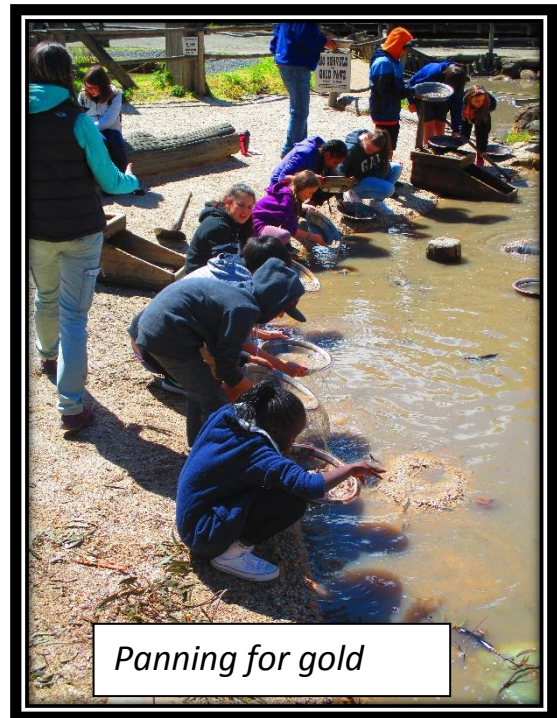
## Sovereign Hill Excursion

The Year 5&6 students from Our Lady of Lourdes School Bayswater attended Sovereign Hill as a two day camp/excursion.

At Sovereign Hill the students are able to immerse themselves in the experience of a Gold Rush township. They experience the landscape, township, housing, lifestyle and goldfield of 1850's Australia.

Walking in and out of the stores the students were able to see the goods on offer and discussed how they differ to the stores they are familiar. Likewise the houses and street scapes.

They panned for gold in the creek, experiencing the highs of finding those specks of gold and the disappointment and frustration of finding nothing.



Excitingly they twice went underground, in the Red Hill Mine for the audio visual experience and into the New Gold Mountain.

Further exploring the township they witnessed the vintage machinery at

work and talked with the Sovereign Hill staff about the skills need to craft metals in the foundry, shape iron in the blacksmiths and maintain the boilers and pumps.

Blood on the Southern Cross both entertained and informed the students about that momentous event in Australian history, the Eureka rebellion.

Finally the students experienced the thrill of the search for gold through the game and educational activity – Goldfever. Led by Sovereign Hill educational staff member, Annemarie, the students learnt about the different groups on the goldfields, police, bankers, families and the different cultural groups. They then played the game, searching for ‘imitation’ gold then having it converted into pounds and shillings.



*Licence hunt in the Gold Fever*

Sovereign Hill continues to be a highlight of our biannual calendar.

Terry Foley

Year5/6 teacher



*Down the shafts in the Gold Fever game.*