

Museum Education Programmes

Located on the campus of the Royal New Zealand Police College in Porirua, the museum is in perfect context to tell the stories of New Zealand Police. Explore policing methods and significant events in New Zealand's social history from a police perspective.

If you are studying a unit that you think we can assist with, please contact us to discuss a tailored programme. Advance bookings are required. General entry is free.

Education programme/tour: \$3 per student

Duration: 1 - 2 hours

Availability: Monday to Friday, 10am-5pm

Contact & Bookings: (04) 238 3141, museum@police.govt.nz

Learning areas: include English, science, social sciences, history, technology, mathematics.



Years 1-4 Programmes:

Junior Detective Trail

Junior Detective we need your help. We have had lots of special police dogs over the years who have done amazing things. It was really tough, but we choose a few of them for our scavenger hunt. Your mission is to find their pictures hidden in the museum and tell us at Museum HQ how many you find. Let's see if you can find them all and remember their names.

Fascinating Fingerprints

We are all born with fingerprints - but what do we know about them? This workshop explores the interesting world of fingerprints and why they are so useful to police in solving crime. Kids will get the opportunity to learn about how and why we have fingerprints but also what type of prints they have. With their detective caps on and helped by a Museum Educator, kids will be able to explore the loops, arches and whorls that make up our unique fingerprints with an evidence card to take home.

Museum Tour and Dress-up

Try on the uniforms and take a guided tour around the Museum, looking at the dog section stories, police motorcycle, careers in policing and much more. We can tailor a tour to a specific area of interest such as women in policing.

Years 5-8 Programmes:

Senior Detective Mystery

In Term Two we are offering Operation Verona. There has been a crime spree across the sleepy Lower Hutt suburb of Verona with jewellery stolen, property damaged and a carjacking. The police have got three suspects, but we need you, detective, to figure out who committed each crime. Clues and evidence are waiting for you to analyse to solve the case. Come in and give it a go for free. We recommend this activity for individuals and group.

Introduction to Forensics

To solve a crime the police are often reliant on forensic techniques. Even the most successful of experts had to start somewhere – maybe at a workshop like this. Coordinated and run by the Education Team the students will learn about the different skill sets and specialist teams that work on solving crimes. They will get a first-hand look at a scene of crime officers' tools of the trade and hear about some of the cases where forensics were key in uncovering the truth. Each session includes a hands-on workshop where students develop the skills to lift latent fingerprints and analyse their findings. This workshop mixes theory and practice giving the students a bunch of skills and knowledge that all detectives need.

Police Careers

A careers themed tour of the Museum. Learn about initial training at the RNZPC and discover some of the many specialised roles in New Zealand Police including the Serious Crash Unit, Dog Section, Scene of Crime Officers and the Armed Offenders Squad. Where possible a trainer from the RNZPC will join the Education Team. A good course for students interested in a career in police and how police work within society not beside it. (Guest speakers are subject to availability.)

Years 9-13 Programmes:

Senior Forensics

Forensic scientists are a cross between detectives and scientists. Evidence could be anything at a crime scene and the New Zealand Police have a range of teams to solve a case. In this senior workshop run by a Museum Educator, students will learn some of the theory and career paths behind police forensics and then put what they have learnt into practice with a workshop. The objective is to identify and lift fingerprints with real police equipment. Each workshop is objective based and challenging, with students given the opportunity to think creatively to solve the scenario. Students will go home with a lift of their own fingerprint.

Crime Scene Investigation

A team-based workshop where students will be faced with a crime scene and need to solve the case with the evidence provided. Each student will be assigned a role in this mock investigation, including crime scene investigators, photographers, detectives and media liaison. Students will have to think critically and work collaboratively to reach a successful outcome. The workshop will be facilitated by a Museum Educator and will take the learners right into the immersive world of crime solving. (Better suited to small groups or multiple sessions for a class)

Twentieth Century Events

The late 20th century was a dramatic period in New Zealand history. The New Zealand Police Museum offers a unique connection to some of the key events, with primary objects and displays relating to the Mount Erebus disaster in 1979, the 1981 Springbok Tour, the 1985 Rainbow Warrior bombing and the 1990 Aramoana massacre. The way Police responded to these events was critical to their outcome and a rich topic of interest for students studying history in areas such as Aotearoa, our relationship to the Pacific, and international relations. The experience will be facilitated by a Museum Educator and co-ordinated to the needs of the students and project being undertaken.

Museum displays reflect the nature of Police work and some displays deal with issues of violence and death. All class visits are adjusted to be age appropriate. For this reason mixed aged groups are not recommended.