

FAIRFIELD CITY MUSEUM & GALLERY

Self-Guided Tour





About

Established in 1983, Fairfield City Museum & Gallery consists of a heritage museum, an art gallery and an exquisite heritage Vintage Village.

We are a unique arts and heritage centre, which engages with and strengthens our local community through the arts, culture and heritage.

The Museum and Gallery offers a variety of experiences to enhance lifelong learning at all levels. Our extensive program includes changing exhibitions and public programs such as weekly tai chi classes, after school, holiday and adult art classes, and for people with a disability, a weekly program.

Site Hire

Fairfield City Museum & Gallery is available for site hire during opening hours. We hire out spaces for meetings, conferences and seminars. As well as the closed spaces, our garden is a perfect setting for wedding photographs or ceremonies.

Group Bookings

Fairfield City Museum & Gallery can provide a Devonshire Morning Tea for Community Groups - perfect after taking a little wander around our site! For more information and cost contact us.

Bookings are essential. Please contact us for further information. Site Hire Terms and Conditions available upon request.





First Council Chambers and Morris Family Home Built 1913

This Georgian style building has served three different purposes since it was completed in 1913. Firstly, as a Council Chamber for Fairfield and Smithfield until the Council became the Fairfield Municipal Council and Chambers and moved to Fairfield in 1921.

James Leslie Morris, a local businessman, bought the building in 1921 and converted it into a home for himself, his wife Florence and their child, Maesmor or 'Maisie'. It remained a residence for the Morris family from 1922 to 1980, when Maisie passed away. A group of local residents

persuaded Fairfield City Council in 1983 to buy the property and an adjacent block of land to develop a museum. Permanent and temporary exhibitions are now displayed in this building.

The Stein Gallery

The Stein Gallery, built in 1995 was designed and positioned to compliment the style of the former Council Chambers building and has since provided quality exhibitions inspired by local, state and national contributors. The gallery is named after the pioneering family that settled in the area and whose descendants are our foundation members.



Victoria Street School c.1930s

This one-room schoolhouse reflects conditions in public schools in Australia in the 1930s and was moved to the village in 1984.

Slab Hut Built c.1886

In the 19th century, western Sydney was rural, and slab huts were common dwellings. Timber could be readily cut from local Eucalyptus forests and hewn into slabs ready for building. This hut was built by Nathan Rule c.1886, at 53 Church Street, Cabramatta.



Robson Bros. Blacksmiths 1911-1924 Reconstruction

Henry (Harry) Robson and his brothers Bill and Thomas started business as “Robson Bros. Blacksmith’s” in Smithfield in 1911. Their business operated on the north-eastern corner of Smithfield and Liverpool Roads, Smithfield (now The Horsley Drive and Cumberland Highway). This fully operating blacksmith’s shop with its large collection of tools, gives a dramatic view of the traditional trade.



Caversham Cottage Built c.1880

‘Caversham’ Cottage was situated at 63 Smart Street, Fairfield and was the lifetime home of Eva Stone (nee Jeffress). To save it from demolition in 1986, the Stone family offered it to the Museum. Half of the house was rebuilt and now the interior reflects the furnishings and contents from about 1906. A young Eva and her sister Annie are seen in photographs hung inside. In front of the cottage are the original steps from Canley Grange, the country house of Sir Henry Parkes in Canley Vale.

Vintage Village

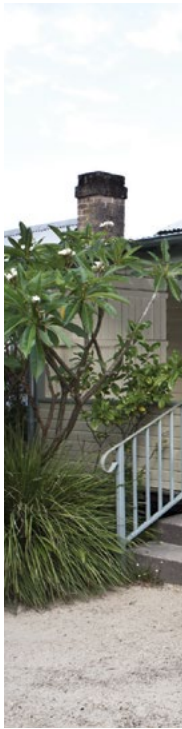
With its original heritage-listed and reconstructed buildings, the Vintage Village depicts local businesses and residences from the 1880s to the 1930s. The buildings complete with historic interiors and soundscapes, evoke different periods and reflect stories of long lost trades, personal hardships and the simple life in rural western Sydney.

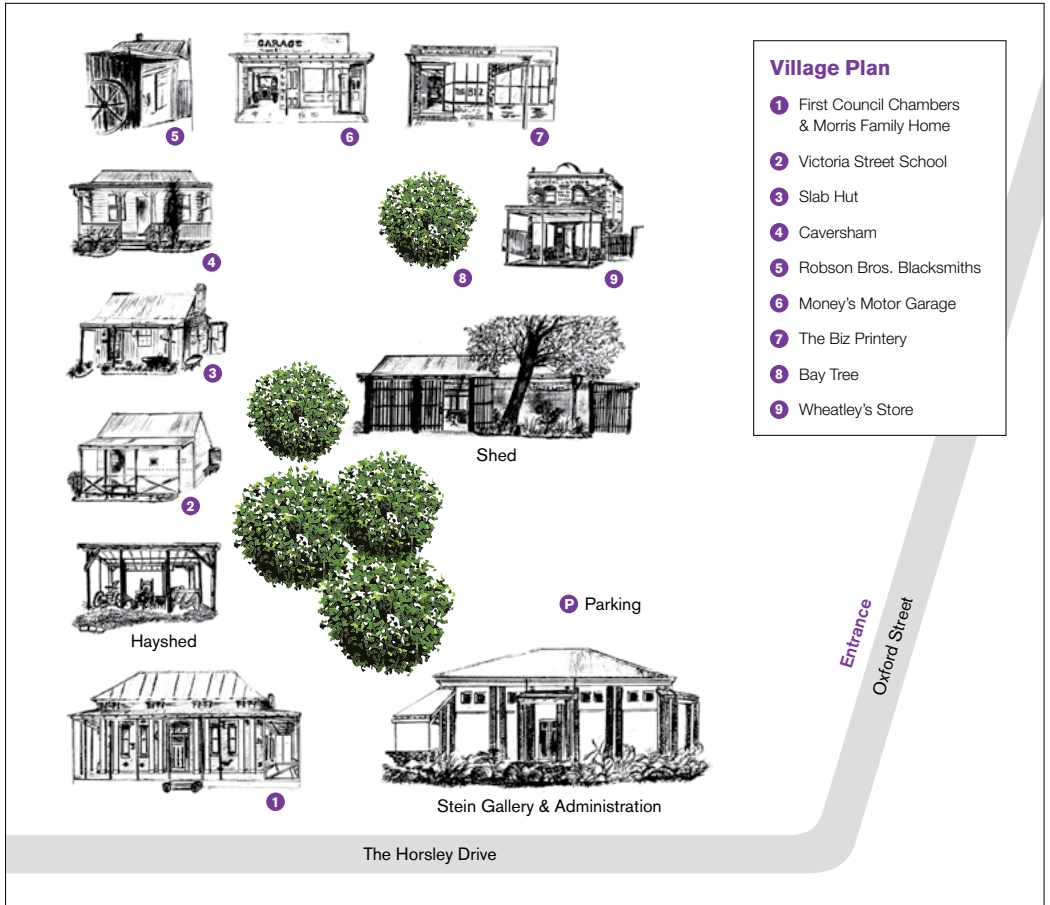
Money’s Motor Garage 1929-1956

Between 1929 and 1956, the Money family ran a bus and motor garage business on the corner of Liverpool Road and Smithfield Street, Smithfield (now the south-west corner of Cumberland Highway and The Horsley Drive). Buses ran from between Smithfield and Fairfield from about 1918, when Charlie and Stan Gordon picked up passengers in horse drawn buses from Fairfield railway station. On display are petrol pumps and signage from their garage.

Bay Tree

The small tree in front of the Wheatley’s Store is a descendant from a tree which once grew on the Smithfield Road residence of Ann Pike. Pike was the Fairfield district midwife from the late 1800s until about 1920. Bay leaves were once used for medicinal purposes, such as applying its oil onto bruises and sprains, applying leaves to assist with blood clots and boiling the leaves to use as a drink for women in labour.





The Biz 1917-1972 Reconstruction

Established in 1917, The Biz was the first newspaper to be printed and published in the Fairfield district. The "Biz" is an abbreviation of 'business'. All the machines and tools on display are originally from The Biz office.

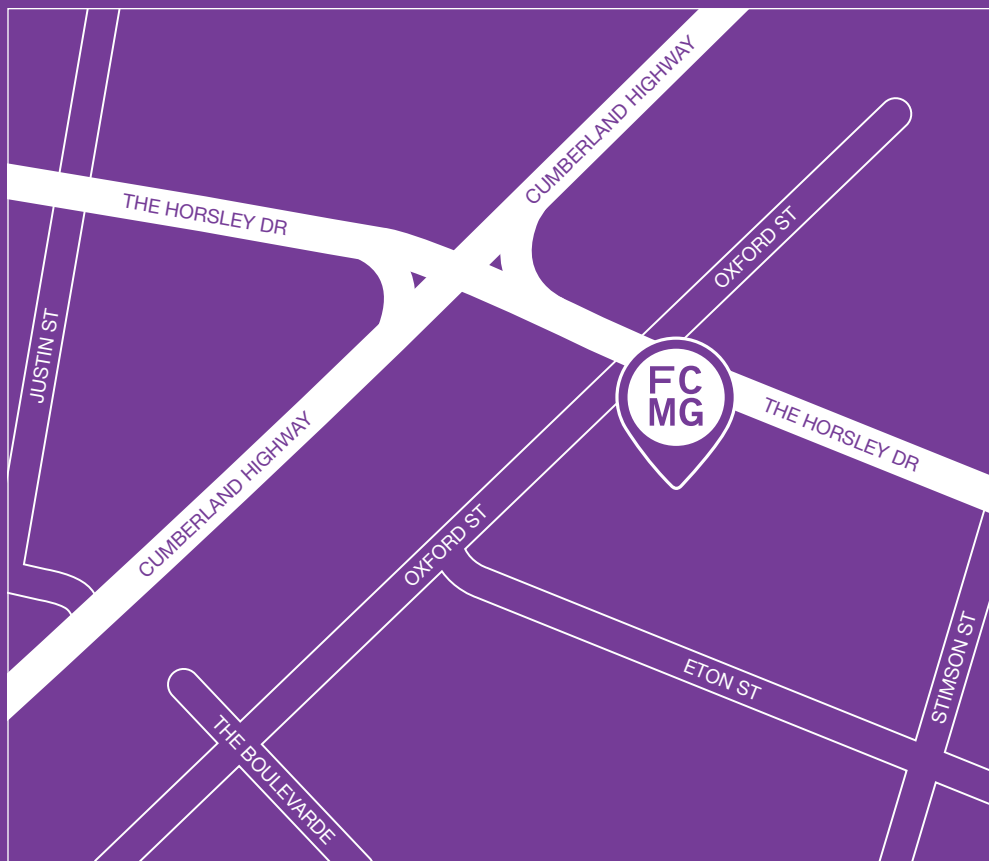
Wheatley's 1892-1953 Reconstruction

Opened in 1892, Wheatley's Store on The Crescent Fairfield was established by George M.P. Wheatley. The reconstructed store in the village reflects the building as it was in about 1932, with the soundscape portraying a local shopper Mrs. Patterson purchasing items from Roy Wheatley.



View of The Biz, Wheatley's Store and The Bay Tree

Getting to Fairfield City Museum & Gallery



Our location

634 The Horsley Drive (entry via Oxford St)
Smithfield NSW 2164


Phone: 02 9725 0190

Email: fcmg@fairfieldcity.nsw.gov.au

Web: www.fairfieldcity.nsw.gov.au/FCMG

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 [@fairfieldcitymuseumgallery](https://www.instagram.com/fairfieldcitymuseumgallery)

Opening hours

Tue – Fri 10am – 4pm, Sat 10am – 2pm
Closed Sunday, Monday & Public Holidays

Free Admission

Accessibility

 Wheelchair access to most buildings
and accessible parking available

Public transport

Buses 812, 813 and 814 from Fairfield
Railway Station