

Step back in time at Hartley Historic Village, a wonderfully preserved 19th century village that will thrill history enthusiasts or anyone seeking a serene country getaway. Uncover the layers of the past at this remarkable site as you explore its heritage buildings. Stop by the visitor centre, browse art and antiques or go on a self-guided tour. Hartley is dog-friendly, so you can bring your furry friend with you to picnic areas, lookouts, and on public roads and walking tracks.

Rich colonial past

Hartley is a rare living museum that chronicles inland Australian settlement. One of the first administrative, commercial and social centres west of the Blue Mountains, Hartley prospered from the 1830s until it was bypassed by the Main Western Railway in 1877. With the discovery of Jenolan Caves, a new road came in 1887, breathing fresh life into Hartley as a popular rest point and tourist destination.

Aboriginal culture

Hartley Historic Village is set in a landscape of great and continuing importance to Aboriginal people who have lived on and passed through this land for thousands of years.

A tor, or cluster of granite rocks known as Kew-Y-Ahn to local Aboriginal people, is said to have been a meeting place for the Wiradjuri People from the west and Gundungurra People from the east.

National Parks acknowledges and pays respect to past, present, and future Traditional Custodians and Elders of this land, and the continuation of their cultural, spiritual, and educational practices. We also acknowledge the impacts that past settlement practices have on Aboriginal people and local communities.

School excursions

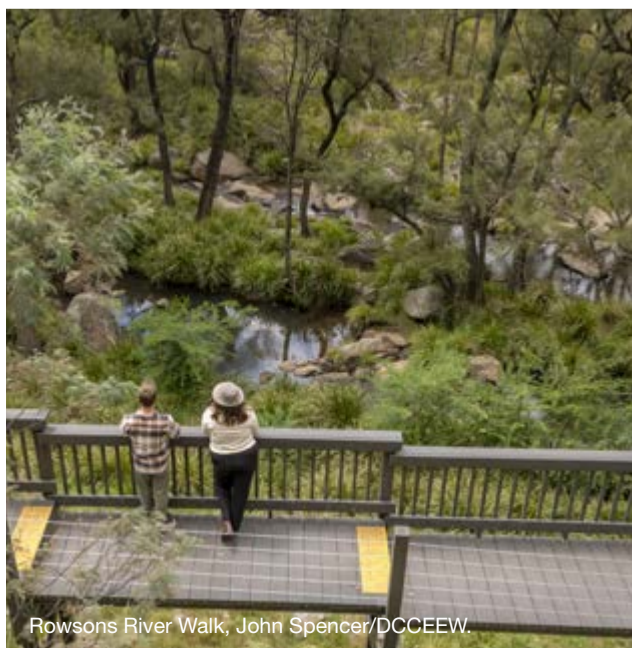
With its rich and diverse heritage, Hartley is a great destination for school excursions. Visit key sites in the village and learn about Australia's colonial past through oral histories and interpretive role play.

To book a school excursion, contact the NPWS Discovery Team at BlueMtns.Education@environment.nsw.gov.au

Caring for Hartley

Help us look after this special place and preserve it for future generations:

- Smoking is prohibited in all NSW national parks
- Dogs are welcome at Hartley Historic Village but must be kept on a lead and under control at all times. Please remember to clean up after your dog.
- All plants and animals are protected. Please don't feed the wildlife.
- Aboriginal sites, artefacts and items of historic heritage are protected.
- Please take all rubbish with you when you leave.



Rowsons River Walk, John Spencer/DCCEEW.

Wake up in Hartley

St Bernard's Presbytery

Stay on a hillside overlooking the village at St Bernard's Presbytery surrounded by rolling hills and picturesque gardens.

It's a great midway stop between the greater Blue Mountains and Central West NSW, including Jenolan Caves.

This historic sandstone cottage has all the comforts of home, including a fully-equipped kitchenette, gas fireplace, spa bath and room for 4 guests.

Bookings are required. Book online at nswparks.info/stayhartley or call 1300 072 757 (13000 PARKS).

Things to do

Journey to the past as you discover the charms of Hartley's well-preserved heritage buildings, each a chapter in the story of inland settlement.



Hartley Courthouse, John Spencer/DCCEEW.

Getting there

Hartley Historic Village is located west of the Blue Mountains. From Mount Victoria, travel west along the Great Western Highway, then turn left into the village after 10km.



Former St Bernard's Church, Jennifer Leahy/DCCEEW.

For more information visit nswparks.info/hartley or call 1300 072 757 (13000 PARKS)

Hartley Visitor Centre

Farmers Inn, 51 Old Great Western Highway, Hartley 2790
T: 02 6355 2117 E: hartley@environment.nsw.gov.au

Cover photo: Hartley Courthouse, John Spencer/DCCEEW

Map information: This map does not provide detailed information on topography, alerts or opening times and may not be suitable for some activities.

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Hartley Visitor Centre

Open Tuesday to Sunday from 10am-1pm and 1.30pm-4pm. Closed Mondays, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

Set in the colonial Farmers Inn, Hartley Visitor Centre is a warm, welcoming place to start your visit. Book a tour, view the artworks at Kew-Y-Ahn Aboriginal Gallery and check out the fascinating historical exhibits.

Tour Hartley Courthouse and Former St Bernard's Church

Open with a self-guided tour pass Tuesday to Sunday, 10am-1pm and 1.30pm-4pm.

Go on a self-guided tour and delve into Hartley's convict and early settler history at your own pace.

The tour takes you through the imposing Hartley Courthouse, which was built in 1837 and played a big role in early colonial law, order and westward expansion. Watch a fascinating hologram display before stepping into a dark, convict graffiti-covered cell to ponder the fate of prisoners awaiting their trial.

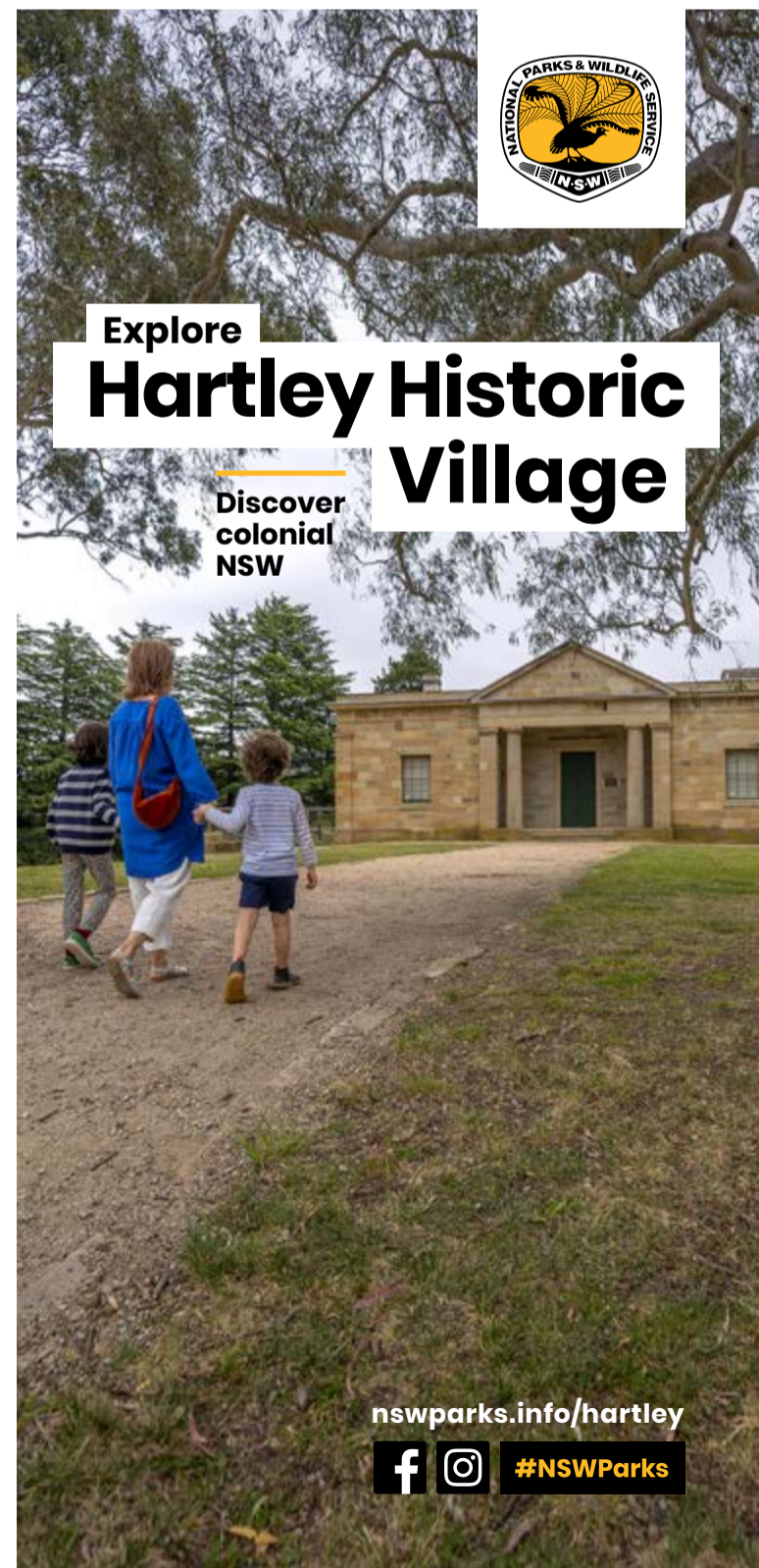
Complete your tour with a look inside Former St Bernard's Church. Completed in 1848, it's a fine example of colonial sandstone architecture.

You can purchase a self-guided tour pass at the visitor centre or book a private guided tour for larger groups. It's a good idea to check tour availability and closures before you arrive.

Talisman Gallery

Open Friday to Sunday from 10am to 3pm. Closed Christmas Day.

See unique metal art and silver jewellery at Talisman Gallery, owned by local artisan blacksmith Josh Lawson. Nestled in Hartley's historic woolshed, you can view Josh's creations before taking a peaceful stroll through the surrounding fields on the sculpture walk.



Explore

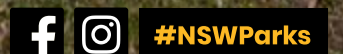
Hartley Historic Village

Discover colonial NSW

Village

NSW

nswparks.info/hartley



Gold Rush Antiques

 Open Wednesday to Sunday from 10am to 4pm.

Go on an immersive shopping experience at Gold Rush Antiques, where you'll find an impressive collection of antiques and collectibles. The store is located in beautifully restored Corney's Garage, which was built in 1945 to cater for the rising popularity of motor transport in Hartley.

The Postmistress Café and Store

 Open Thursday to Sunday from 10am to 3pm.

Stop for a leisurely lunch at The Postmistress Café and Store, set in Hartley's old post office. A delight for history buffs, it was recorded as the eighth official post office in NSW and the longest serving post office in Australia at the time of its closure in 1982.

Walks

Kew-Y-Ahn Bells Rock Heritage walking track

600m return, 30min

Grade 3 

Take a short uphill walk along a sealed track to see Kew-Y-Ahn (Bells Rock), a striking cluster of granite rocks in the hills above Hartley. Enjoy the scenic views down into the valley below before returning the way you came.



The Postmistress Cafe and Store, John Spencer/DCCEEW.

Rowsons River walking track

1km loop, 1 hour

Grade 3 

Stroll along an elevated boardwalk that follows the pretty River Lett to the remains of Rowsons Huts, where you can dip your toes in the river's cool waters before looping back to Hartley. You might be lucky enough to spot a platypus or echidna on the way.

Venues steeped in history

Hold your next event at one of Hartley's unforgettable venues and make history of your own as you soak in the atmosphere of a bygone era.

Former St Bernard's Church

Capacity: 100 people

Say 'I do' in beautifully preserved Former St Bernard's Church. With pale sandstone walls, arched windows and a high gabled roof, it's a stunning heritage location for your wedding or christening.

Hartley Courthouse

Capacity: 40 people for indoor events and 100 people for outdoor events.

Hartley Courthouse is sure to give your big day a uniquely historic feel. You can hire the courthouse itself or the grounds at the front for weddings and private functions.

To book a venue:

- call 02 6355 2117
- email hartley@environment.nsw.gov.au



Hartley Courthouse, Jennifer Leahy/DCCEEW.



Corney's Garage, John Spencer/DCCEEW.

