

# GOLD MUSEUM

## FACT SHEET

*An impressive glass-fronted building with commanding views, Sovereign Hill's Gold Museum is directly across the road from Sovereign Hill. The Gold Museum celebrates the fabulous story of Ballarat – a magnificent provincial city built on the wealth derived from the great Australian gold rushes of the 1850s.*

Museum visitors discover the beauty and power of gold when they view impressive and valuable collections of gold nuggets, alluvial deposits, priceless gold artefacts and gold coins.

As Ballarat's regional museum, the Gold Museum presents permanent exhibitions on the social history of the city as well a diverse range of temporary exhibitions featuring photography, special interest subjects and shows produced in association with community organisations. Check the Gold Museum website for the current exhibitions! 'Golden Treasures' is a free 20-minute tour of the Museum's highlights. It is presented daily at 4.30 pm.

The Gold Museum also offers an award-winning gift shop specialising in the sale of gold nuggets, gold jewellery and fine giftware.

### Permanent Exhibitions

#### Ballarat: Inspired by Gold

'Ballarat: Inspired by Gold' is a major exhibition presenting the story of Ballarat from its earliest days through to European settlement and the amazing impact of the gold rushes.

#### Goldasaurus

In 2003, a gold prospector and his wife were working an area between Ballarat and Bendigo in what is commonly known as the 'Golden Triangle'. When his metal detector made a loud sound signalling gold, little did he know how big his find would be and how it might change his life. The nugget was firmly lodged in dirt and clay, and took more than an hour to dig out. Finally, the prospector pulled the 4.4-kilogram nugget from the ground, wrapped it in his windcheater and hastily returned to his wife at the nearby caravan park.

The prospector and his wife approached Sovereign Hill, asking Australia's favourite outdoor museum to display the nugget so that visitors from far and wide would have the opportunity to see this awe-inspiring treasure. The nugget, named 'Goldasaurus', is now on display at the Gold Museum in the Paul & Jessica Simon Gold Pavilion.

#### Paul & Jessica Simon Gold Pavilion

This amazing collection of over 900 gold samples, nuggets and coins is unique in Australia and has remained a central focus for the Gold Museum since it was donated by Jessica Simon following the death of her husband, Paul, who was a local prospector.

# GOLD MUSEUM

## FACT SHEET

### Collections

The Gold Museum has a range of collections linked to the Museum's central theme of gold. They include:

- Ballarat Historical Society Collection
- Social History Collection
- Bolte Collection
- Arnott Rogers Collection
- Pern Collection
- FitzGerald Postcard Collection
- Arts Collection
- Pioneer Chair Collection
- Eureka Collection
- Costume Collection
- Rare Book Collection

### Shopping at the Gold Museum

Australian gold nuggets, coins, fine pieces of gold jewellery and scented oils containing gold flakes and dried Australian wildflowers are available for purchase. Pendants featuring floating gold and gold nuggets are sourced locally, and there is a selection of Australian coin watches on display.

Other popular items include delicate, hand-blown glass animals dipped in gold, gold-themed fine china and Imperial banknotes mounted and framed in timber.

---

Address: 3 Bradshaw Street Ballarat VIC 3350

Manager/Curator: Roger Trudgeon

Contact details:

Phone (03) 5337 1107

Fax (03) 5332 9052

Email: [goldmuseum@sovereignhill.com.au](mailto:goldmuseum@sovereignhill.com.au)

[www.sovereignhill.com.au/gold-museum-ballarat/](http://www.sovereignhill.com.au/gold-museum-ballarat/)