

Guidelines for Wearing Costume at Sovereign Hill

Costume is one of the most recognisable aspects of Sovereign Hill's interpretation of life on the goldfields, and contributes very significantly to the visitor experience. It is also, in itself, an exhibit – a very powerful interpretive device for communicating what life was like on the goldfields, and how fashion, morality, etiquette and social structures have changed over time.

Wear costume with pride, and enjoy the unique experience that wearing costume can give you – the chance to play a starring role in a great Australian story!

Brett Dunlop
Director - Museums



Women's Costume: Rules for Presentation

Hairstyles:

Women must wear a centre part or brush their hair off their forehead. Long hair must be worn in a hair net or bun at the nape of the neck. Ponytails and plaits are not appropriate

Make-up:

You may wear foundation, mascara and natural-coloured lipstick, but heavy make-up, eye-shadow and nail-polish are not appropriate

Watches:

Wristwatches must not be worn. We recommend that you attach your wristwatch to the inside of your reticule (draw-string bag) using a safety pin.

Undersleeves:

Undersleeves must be worn at all times and may only be removed when the temperature exceeds 31° C.

Daycap:

Daycaps are to be worn at all times except when wearing a straw hat. Daycaps are kept in place with white hairclips available from the Costume Department.

Stockings:

Plain white, cream or black stockings, tights or knee-high socks are appropriate.

Underwear:

Knitted jumpers and cardigans, skivvies, coloured or patterned t-shirts, socks and leggings may not be worn. Cream or white thermal underwear and spencers are appropriate. White, cream or skin-tone bras are preferable under blouses. Jeans, trousers etc must not be worn.

**** 21st century items such as mobile phones, bottles of water, notebooks and pens etc should always be concealed.**

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Men's Costume: Rules for Presentation

White shirt:

The collar is worn with corners turned outwards.

Waistcoat:

The waistcoat must be worn at all times.

Frock coat:

Frockcoats must be worn at all times however, when the temperature exceeds 31° C, a gentleman may remove his frock coat.

Top Hat:

The top hat must be worn at all times when out of doors.

Watches:

Wristwatches must not be worn.

Socks:

Socks should be plain black, brown or dark navy woollen or wool/cotton blend

Underwear:

Knitted jumpers and cardigans, skivvies and coloured or patterned t-shirts may not be worn. Cream or white thermal underwear is appropriate.

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