

## CHRISTMAS IN JULY PROGRAM 2016

A very full and exciting theatre and activity program for Christmas in July has been finalised. To deliver these extra activities for the 30 days of the event, additional staff will be rostered across Sovereign Hill. External contractors will also assist with entertainment performance at the marquee.

### GOLD MUSEUM

#### **Storytelling Session and Craft Activities** 10.00 am

The Elves & The Shoemaker

Enjoy a traditional story from the Brothers Grimm. Colour and dress paper doll elves to decorate the Christmas trees. Suitable for all ages.

Golden Treasures Tour 10.30 am Gold Museum

#### **Exhibitions**

##### *A Soldier's View*

Gold Museum's collection of World War One photographs kept by Australian, Captain Brian O'Sullivan.

##### *Australia Will Be There: Victorians in the First World War (1914-1919)*

Through historical photographs and personal stories, this exhibition will present the chronology of the First World War and provide the opportunity to discover the fascinating stories with particular reference to the contribution of Victorians.

##### *Memories of War*

View a selection of films featuring graduating actors from Federation University's Arts Academy reading letters written by Ballarat soldiers during World War

### **Process for getting free tickets for family**

Volunteers and their immediate families receive free entry into Sovereign Hill and the Gold Museum. Immediate family members are classified as spouse, de-facto spouse, parent, child, step-child, grandchild, grandparent, parent-in-law and son or daughter-in-laws. Entry **MUST** be through the main entrance and pre-arranged with a pass by the Volunteer Coordinator.

If you would like to bring members of your immediate family in during the Christmas in July New Roma Entrance Group Bookings desk.

### SOVEREIGN HILL

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#### **Traditional Christmas Decorations;** Marquee 12.00 mid-day to 5 pm Map 50

What was it like to be a child at Christmas in Victorian times? Once the household chores were done, what did the typical child of the 1850s have to work with? Discover the joy of making simple decorations and take one home.

#### **Snow White** 11.00 am Victoria Theatre Map 26

This classic children's story is told in pantomime for the pleasure of young and old alike. Will pure, sweet Snow White escape the jealous machinations of her vain Evil Stepmother? Find out in a performance full of knockabout silliness and fun. Suitable for all ages.

#### **Christmas Mummers' Play** St Nicholas and Old Horse 12.00 mid-day

Location varies. Check blackboard at Victoria Theatre for location.

Christmas Mummers' plays belong to a very old tradition in which travelling performers moved from village to village during Christmas performing plays which had a theme of birth and death. Enjoy a typical nonsense play –it's guaranteed to be very silly and lots of fun! Suitable for all ages.

**Jack and the Beanstalk** 2.15 pm, 4.30 pm Victoria Theatre

The proprietors of the Victoria Theatre are staging 'Jack & the Beanstalk', a good old-fashioned Christmas pantomime where you can boo the villain, cheer the hero and rest assured that, in the end, good always triumphs and everyone lives happily ever after. Be warned, it's all very, very silly!

**Rue by Three High Acrobats** 25 June–10 July, 16-17 July and 23-24 July only. 12.30 pm, 4.00 pm Marquee Circuses were a common source of entertainment in the 1850s, and marquees were a common sight on the goldfields. Witness an extravagant live performance as three skilled acrobats defy gravity in stunts combining strength, endurance and juggling talent with music, humour and a sprinkle of 'Christmas in July' good cheer!

**Meet the Expert** 2.45 pm Marquee.

You are invited to hear our skilled artisans reveal some intriguing 1850s stories as they divulge the secrets of traditional skills and technologies. Get right up close as they spill the beans on goldfields myths, gossip and rumours with behind-the-scenes access to their amazing minds!

**Snowfalls** 11.45 am, 1.40 pm, 3.45 pm, 6.00 pm Main Street

Marvel as Sovereign Hill turns into a snowy winter wonderland\*.

\* Please note that we use make-believe snow. Times for snowfalls are forecasts only and may change depending on weather conditions.

**Christmas Carols** 5.15 pm Outside the Bank, Main Street

**A Visit from St Nicholas** Shadow Puppet Play 1.00 pm, 3.30 pm Victoria Theatre

Come on a journey to hear a timeless story told through poetry and stunning Victorian shadow puppets. This tale of a visit by a 'jolly old elf' will delight young children –they may even learn the names of the reindeers! Hint: two of their names have changed slightly from the 1800s, but which ones? Suitable for all ages. Arrive early to ensure a seat.

'Winter Wonderlights' Approximately 5.45 pm\* Main Street

