

# **Access Key**

## **Churchill Island Heritage Farm**

**246 Samuel Amess Drive Churchill Island Newhaven  
3925**

**Phone: 03 5951 2800**

**Website: [www.penguins.org.au](http://www.penguins.org.au)**

**Updated November 2018 Version 1.0**

## **Guidelines**

**Thank you for choosing to use an Access Key for Churchill Island Heritage Farm.**

**For your Access Key to be successful, we recommend you follow these guidelines:**

**Access Keys preferably to be obtained two weeks in advance of visit.**

**Access Keys to be read calmly and confidently in an environment free of distractions.**

**An adult/carer is to read the Access Key with the participant as often as required, to ensure the participant understands the Access Key.**

**Help the participant comprehend the key points of the Access Key, consistently monitoring for level of understanding.**

**If using the Access Key as a reflective tool, enjoy the pivotal link between experience and recall after the visit has taken place.**

**Once the visit has taken place, revisit the Access Key to celebrate success.**

## **Communication Board**

**A Churchill Island Heritage Farm Communication Board including symbols is available at the main ticket counter and throughout.**

## **Did You Know?**

**Churchill Island Heritage Farm is the site of the first European garden in Victoria.**

**Churchill Island Heritage Farm contains a working farm, cottages dating from the 1860s and a homestead (Amess House) dating from 1872, all fully restored and open to the public.**

**Please click the following link to pre-book tickets.**

<https://www.penguins.org.au/buy-tickets/>

Bundle options are available online at a discounted rate.

Please click the following link for further information.

<https://www.penguins.org.au/buy-tickets/>

Weddings can be booked at Churchill Island Heritage Farm.

Follow Phillip Island Nature Parks on Facebook or Instagram.

Click the following Facebook link.

<https://www.facebook.com/PhillipIslandNatureParks/>

Click the following Instagram link.

<https://www.instagram.com/phillipislandnp/>

To provide feedback please email

[info@penguins.org.au](mailto:info@penguins.org.au)

## **Getting There**

By car: Phillip Island is located 90-minutes drive from Melbourne.

**Allow a further 10-minutes from the bridge to get to Churchill Island.**

**Free car parking is available on-site.**

**By bus: Public transport is limited on Phillip Island.**

**V-line operates a bus to Phillip Island's main town, Cowes, from Southern Cross Station in Melbourne city.**

**Please note that the V-line bus does not go to Churchill Island.**

**By taxi: Contact Phillip Island Taxis on 03 5952 2200 to arrange transfers on Phillip Island.**

**Tours and Transport: Contact a Visitor Information Centre in Melbourne on the following link.**

**<https://www.visitvictoria.com/Regions/Melbourne/Travel-information/Visitor-information-centres>**

**or on Phillip Island for tours and transport options on the following link.**

**<https://www.visitphillipisland.com/category/explore/information-centres/>**

## **Parking**

**Visitors enter the main gate at the end of Samuel Amess Drive.**

**General and accessible parking is located directly ahead of gate entry.**

**There are two accessible parking bays available.**

**They are located nearest to the pedestrian pathway.**

**A wide clear gravelled walkway of approximately 40-metres leads from the carpark to the Visitor Centre.**

**A drop off point is located outside the Visitor Centre.**

**Bus parking is located to the right of the Visitor Centre.**

## **Welcome**

**Welcome to Churchill Island Heritage Farm.**

**We are open from 10am daily (2pm on Christmas Day) with last entry at 4.45pm.**

**Entry into Churchill Island Heritage Farm is through the main Visitor Centre via a manual accessible glass door, opening outward.**

**Visitors that need to purchase entry tickets, please see ticketing staff.**

**The ticket office is located inside the entrance to the Visitor Centre.**

**Cash or eftpos is accepted.**

**Visitors with pre-purchased tickets, please show tickets to ticketing staff upon arrival.**

**Bus and school group arrival, please follow the same process as above.**

**The Visitor Centre main entrance is undercover with a small shelter and rest areas.**

## **Staff**

**Ticketing and retail staff wear blue uniforms.**

**Farmers wear brown uniforms.**

**Homestead volunteers dress in period costume.**

## **Toilets**

**Toilets are located inside the Visitor Centre to the left of the ticket counter.**

**Churchill Island Heritage Farm offers:**

**An accessible toilet (including a parent room) with a manual door opening outward.**

**Separate male and female toilets (including ambulant toilet in each).**

**There are additional male and female toilets located in the farming activity area.**

**The female toilets have a baby change facility.**

## **Sensory Guide Toilets**

### **Feel**

- **Different ground surfaces**
- **Shared personal space**

### **Sounds**

- **People**
- **Toilet flushing**
- **Water running**

### **Sights**

- **Bright lights**
- **Mirror/Reflection**

### **Smells**

- Bathroom smells
- Disinfectants

## **Souvenir Gift Shop**

**The Souvenir Gift Shop is located in the Visitor Centre to the left of the ticket counter and is open 10am daily until closing.**

**The Souvenir Gift Shop offers a range of gifts including farm themed items, clothing and toys.**

**Merchandise and displays are also available throughout the Visitor Centre foyer.**

**Due to layout space, this store has limited accessibility.**

**Cash or eftpos is accepted.**

## **Churchill Island Café**

**There is a café located in the Visitor Centre, to the left of the Souvenir Gift Shop.**

**It is open Monday - Friday: 10.00am - 5.00pm and Saturday and Sunday: 9.00am - 5.00pm.**

**Entry is via a glass manual door.**



**Lunch and light snacks are available to be ordered at the counter, with staff delivering orders to tables.**

**Chairs with backrests and tables are available.**

**Outside café seating includes a wider space with chairs and backrests/armrests as well as tables.**

**Access is via a double set of glass manual doors, opening outward.**

**Cash or eftpos is available.**

**A drinking fountain is available at the entrance to the Visitor Centre.**

## **Amess House Homestead**

**Churchill Island's historical homestead, Amess House, dates back to the 1850's.**

**There is a shell grit pathway leading to the Homestead from the Visitor Centre.**

**Access to the front of the homestead is via steps with handrail.**

**Entry is via an open wooden door.**

**View the re-enactment rooms and how the homestead may have looked in the 1800's.**

# **Sensory Guide Amess House Homestead**

## **Feel**

- **Different ground surfaces**
- **Shared personal space**
- **Weather**

## **Sounds**

- **Animals**
- **Creaking doors**
- **Flying insects**
- **Footsteps**
- **Wind**

## **Sights**

- **Dim lighting**
- **Flying insects**
- **Glare**

## **Smells**

- **Animals**
- **Flowers**
- **Mustiness**
- **Timber**

# **Farming Activities**

**Churchill Island Heritage Farm offers a range of daily farming activities.**

**Daily Farming Activities and Times:**

**Cow milking is at 2.10pm.**

**Sheep shearing is at 2.30pm.**

**Whip cracking is at 2.45pm.**

**Working dogs is at 3.05pm.**

**Sheep shearing again at 3.20pm.**

**To access the farming activities;**

**First, visitors exit the Visitor Centre via a manual accessible glass sliding door located to the left of the Gift Shop.**

**This door is signed 'Historic Area'.**

**Next, visitors follow the wooden boardwalk to the left followed by a 115-metre shell grit pathway up a hill to the farming sheds.**

**Wayfinding signage is available along the pathway.**

**Then, wait at each farming station for the activity to commence.**

**Male and female toilets are available in the farming activity area located next to the Blacksmith Shop.**

**Access is via an open entry way.**

## **Cow Milking**

**Cow Milking takes place daily at 2.10pm.**

**It is located at the horse stables.**

**First, visitors line up at the milking station which is located outside the horse stables.**

**Next, visitors sit on small milking stool to milk a cow.**

**A farmer will be there to provide instructions and to help visitors.**

**Then, visitors exit into the horse stables to wash hands.**

**A hand basin is located in the horse stables, to the right.**

**A printed transcript of farming instructions is available in English and Mandarin.**

**Please see ticketing staff on arrival.**

## **Sensory Guide Cow Milking**

### **Feel**

- **Change in gradients**
- **Different ground surfaces**
- **Shared personal space**
- **Weather**
- **Wind**

### **Sounds**

- **Animals**
- **Audio presentation**
- **People**
- **Running water**
- **Wind**

### **Sights**

- **Dim stable lighting**
- **Glare**

### **Smells**

- **Animals**

- Hay
- Nature

## **Sheep Shearing**

**Sheep Shearing takes place daily at 2.30pm and 3.20pm.**

**It is located in the Shearing Shed.**

**First, visitors enter the Shearing Shed via open accessible entry ways.**

**There are two entry/exit points located on either side of the shed.**

**Visitors to sit in tiered seating stands.**

**There is no allocated seating.**

**Next, a farmer will give an audio information presentation on the history of Australian sheep shearing and shearing equipment.**

**This presentation will also include a sheep shearing demonstration.**

**Shearing does not harm the sheep and is an annual requirement for the wellbeing of the animal.**

**Then, at the end of the demonstration, the farmer will be available to answer questions.**

**A printed transcript of the farming presentation is available in English and Mandarin.**

**Please see ticketing staff on arrival.**

## **Sensory Guide Sheep Shearing**

### **Feel**

- **Different ground surfaces**
- **Shared personal space**

### **Sounds**

- **Animals**
- **Audio presentation**
- **Shears clicking/buzzing**
- **Echo**
- **Footsteps**
- **People**
- **Wind**

### **Sights**

- **Animals being shorn**
- **Dim shed lighting**

## **Smells**

- **Animals**
- **Hay**
- **Nature**

## **Whip Cracking**

**Whip Cracking takes place daily at 2.45pm on the lawn opposite the Blacksmith Shop.**

**First, visitors make a semi-circle around the outside of the lawn.**

**Visitors to remain off the grass and to stand on the pathway, taking care to remain within a safe distance from the whips.**

**Next, a farmer will give an audio information presentation on the history of Australian whip cracking and equipment.**

**This presentation will also include a whip cracking demonstration.**

**Then, visitors will have opportunity to use the whips under the guidance of the farmer.**



**At the end of the demonstration, the farmer will be available to answer questions.**

**A printed transcript of the farming presentation is available in English and Mandarin.**

**Please see ticketing staff on arrival.**

## **Sensory Guide Whip Cracking**

### **Feel**

- **Different ground surfaces**
- **Shared personal space**
- **Weather**
- **Wind**

### **Sounds**

- **Audio presentation**
- **People**
- **Whip cracking**

### **Sights**

- **Lashing whip display**
- **Glare**

### **Smells**

- **Animals**
- **Flowers**
- **Hay**
- **Nature**

## **Working Dogs**

**Working Dogs takes place daily at 3.05pm in the paddock past the horse stables.**

**First, visitors line up at the fence perimeter.**

**Next, a farmer will enter the paddock of sheep with a working dog and give an amplified audio information presentation on the history of Australian working dogs.**

**This presentation will also include a working dog demonstration of rounding up sheep.**

**Then, at the end of the demonstration the farmer will be available to answer questions.**

**A printed transcript of the farming presentation is available in English and Mandarin.**

**Please see ticketing staff on arrival.**

## **Sensory Guide Working Dogs**

## **Feel**

- **Different ground surfaces**
- **Shared personal space**
- **Weather**
- **Wind**

## **Sounds**

- **Animals**
- **Audio presentation**
- **People**
- **Wind**

## **Sights**

- **Animal movement**
- **Glare**

## **Smells**

- **Animals**
- **Hay**
- **Nature**

## **Accessibility**

**An internet booking system is available.**

**Acceptance of Companion cards and Australian pensioner cards.**

**Clear path of travel from outdoor to Visitor Centre.**

**Ramped and stepped access throughout Visitor Centre.**

**Visual Communication Board at ticket counter and throughout.**

**Hearing awareness card at ticket counter to support hard of hearing or Deaf visitors.**

**Staff available to read information if required.**

**Pen and paper for exchanging information available at ticket counter.**

**Limited access for prams and wheelchairs in Café.**

**Clear large print external directional signage provided throughout.**

**Some pathways are shell grit – recommended wheelchairs/mobility aids use grassed area and parents to consider all terrain prams.**

**Moderate gradient pathway to farming activities and throughout gardens.**

**Variety of seated rest areas provided throughout.**

**Printed transcript of farming presentations available in English and Mandarin.**

**Pram parking at the all farming activity stations (please note, prams cannot access the tiered seating stand in Shearing Shed).**

**Exclusive accessible access viewing areas at all farming activities.**

**Due to the historical structures and stepped entrances to Amess House Homestead, limited access is available; outbuildings can be viewed from the outside.**

**Assistance animals welcome but must remain on designated paths and restrained by a harness or leash.**

## **Safety**

**There are no contrast markings on entry/exit doors to the Visitor Centre nor its adjacent panels.**

**There is a small raised edge at the entry to the Visitor Centre.**

**Lighting is consistent throughout the Visitor Centre.**

**Signage for wet floors maybe displayed.**

**There are obstacles (merchandise displays, bins, mats) throughout the Visitor Centre foyer.**

**The end of the wooden boardwalk outside the Visitor Centre has slight decline and a drainage grate.**

**There is a small raised edge to the paved cow milking area, dulled lighting in the horse stables, uneven and inward slope fall of the paved area in horse stables as well as farming equipment displayed on the walls throughout horse stables.**

**There is a small raised edge at the entry/exit point to the farming activity toilets.**

**There is a small raised edge at entry/exit point to the shearing shed.**

**There are also wooden pillars throughout, no handrails on tiered seating and no tactile ground surface indicators prior to tiered seating steps.**

**Non-slip edges are installed on step edges and there is a definition of the shearing stage area.**

**There is a moderate grassy gradient to the working dogs viewing area.**

**Amess House Homestead has uneven pathways.**

**The front Cottage veranda is raised above the ground level.**

**Due to the historical nature of the structures, wheelchair access maybe limited throughout Amess House Homestead.**

**The front cottage has access steps with a handrail, furniture placed on the veranda, door mats placed on the ground at the entry/exits points, a rug in the Cottage hallway, dulled lighting and low head clearances throughout.**

**Throughout Churchill Island Heritage Farm there is; Varied terrain including gravel, wooden boardwalk, shell grit, uneven brick paving, grass, asphalt; some with varied gradient.**

**Limited use of roped barriers.**

**Please do not gather or consume any mushrooms that may be found in the gardens – they can be extremely poisonous.**

**If first aid is required, see a staff member.**

**Defibrillator is available for use located in the Visitor Centre.**

**Please see ticketing staff.**

**Churchill Island Heritage Farm is a no smoking zone.**

**Children must be supervised at all times.**

**In the event of an emergency, staff are on hand to assist with any evacuation requirements (including the provision of fire alarms, fire wardens, accessible and hazard free emergency exits and assembly areas on accessible routes).**

**Access Ability Australia logo**

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**<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/F666XYK>**

**We really appreciate your feedback.**

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