



The children in the upper grades studied Australian history this term and as part of their studies visited Sovereign Hill in Ballarat. For many students this was a highlight of the term. A lot of work was undertaken in classes both before and after the excursion. Below is an examples of this work in the form of a personal historical recount.



*Ballarat diggings  
Colony of Victoria  
Australia  
19th November, 1853*

*Dear Mother,*

*I have just arrived after fifteen weeks in a ship full of people. The condition on the ship were dreadful. There were people fighting on the ship. There were no toilets, so we had to use a bucket. There was no privacy. We only had a little bit of food so we got really hungry, people were dying of starvation. If people died they threw them overboard. Where I slept there were millions of mosquitoes and if one bit you it was really itchy. The soldiers were really cruel.*

*When I got off the ship I saw my long time friend Brett. He told me that he was going to Ballarat to look for gold. But I wanted to see this new country called Australia first. It is so different to England because in England it rains so much and is foggy, but here it is sunny and it hardly ever rains. After I explored this new country I decided to go with Brett to the goldfields because I needed the money.*

*I bought two spades, one wheelbarrow and one pick. We had to walk to get to Ballarat, at first we started out at a good pace but it was seventy miles away. My legs were aching and I got bruises.*

*Wish me good luck at the goldfields.*

*I remain your loving son,*

*Jack*

*(Gamachu 5/6 Emma)*

