

MEDIA RELEASE

“For Immediate Release”

History Buffs Head to Jondaryan

Hundreds of history buffs from all over Australia are on their way to the Jondaryan Woolshed for the Australian Heritage Festival which kicks off this weekend.

Amateur historians bring their working horses, bullocks, vintage farm machinery, vehicles, steam engines, collections and crafts to the Jondaryan Woolshed each year for the Festival, which is now in its 33rd year.

Even more importantly, these intrepid volunteers bring their old-time skills and extensive historical knowledge to the Woolshed, making the Australian Heritage Festival a great one-stop-shop for anyone interested in Australian history.

“The Australian Heritage Festival celebrates pioneer life on the Darling Downs – an aspect of our history that doesn’t always get the attention it deserves,” Toowoomba Regional Council Mayor Peter Taylor said.

“It’s great nostalgia for older people, but also brings history to life for younger people who are amazed at the hardships pioneers endured and their innovative approach to tackling them that helped build successful and sustainable agricultural industries in Australia’s interior.

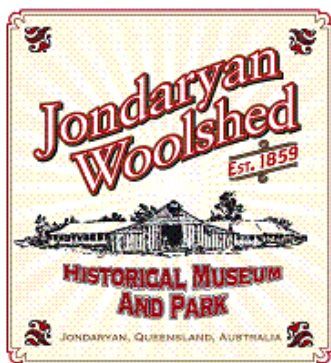
“The Australian Heritage Festival attracts hundreds of volunteers annually. The success of the Festival can be measured in the fact that most of them return every year. They enjoy sharing their interest and collections with other people and generously donate their time, expertise and infectious enthusiasm.

“There aren’t many places left where people can see traditional skills in action. The Australian Heritage Festival is not to be missed, whether you just have a passing interest in history or a lifelong passion for it.”

For further information, please contact:

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Jondaryan Woolshed

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This year's Australian Heritage Festival (22 to 30 August) opens with a GermanFest Day on Saturday 22 August to commemorate the cultural legacy of thousands of German settlers who emigrated to Queensland in the 19th century.

The Australian Heritage Festival re-creates pioneer life on the Darling Downs through daily re-enactments, demonstrations and displays. Other highlights include:

- Shearing and sheep dog demonstrations;
- Bullocks and draught horse demonstrations and competitions;
- More than 30 steam engines, as well as vintage farm vehicles and machines including Massey Ferguson and General Motors vehicles;
- Horse-drawn and tractor rides for the children and an animal nursery;
- The Ergon Energy Queensland Sportshear Championships (Saturday 29 August);
- Woolshed Bush Dances on 22 and 29 August;
- Bilby displays;
- Spinning, weaving and wool craft displays and products;
- Whipmaking and whipcracking, harness making and leatherwork;
- Sawmilling, shingle splitting and timberworking;
- Blacksmithing;
- Swaggies, bush characters and bush poetry;
- Pottery and woodturning;
- Cheese-making, beekeeping and milking demonstrations; and
- Wood stove cooking, plenty of billy tea and damper and home-cooked favourites.

Each day's busy program begins at 9.00am with a Grand Parade daily at 12.30pm and closure at 4.00pm.

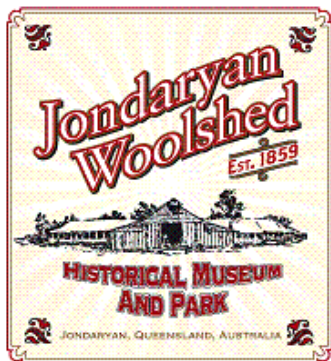
The Australian Heritage Festival offers an entertaining and affordable family day out. Day passes cost only \$15.50 for adults, \$9.50 for children and \$45.00 for families, with discounts for concessions and group bookings.

The Jondaryan Woolshed is located three kilometres south of the Warrego Highway at Jondaryan. It is a 30 minute drive west of Toowoomba and only 2½ hours from Brisbane. Turn off the Highway at the Jondaryan Hotel and follow the signs to the Woolshed on Evanslea Road. Caravan, camping and motorhome sites are also available.

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Further information and Festival programs are available at www.jondaryanwoolshed.com or by calling (07) 4692 2229.

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