



MEDIA RELEASE

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GermanFest Kicks off Festival

This year’s Australian Heritage Festival celebrates the cultural legacy German settlers brought to the Darling Downs with a GermanFest on the opening day (Saturday 22 August).

German settlers started arriving in the Moreton Bay colony in the 1850s and quickly established farms and businesses on the Darling Downs. German peasant farmers and labourers helped Queensland overcome a crippling labour shortage. Their hard-working nature and industry meant most German settlers thrived in Queensland and their legacy lives on in the region today.

The Australian Heritage Festival’s GermanFest will be officially opened by the Honorary Consul of the Federal Republic of Germany, Mr Detlef Sulzer, and features:

- The *Germans in Queensland* photographic exhibition;
- Displays of German arts and crafts, farm machinery, agricultural implements, books and Bibles;
- German music and dancing, and food, beer and wines;
- A *Kuchen Competition* to see which hausfraus make the best German *kuchen*;
- German-Australian poetry and academic presentations; and
- The launch of *German Heritage Trail* booklet.

The Australian Heritage Festival features a wide range of historically-inspired events and demonstrations including shearing and sheep dog trials; more than 30 steam engines and other vintage farm machinery; working horse demonstrations and rides; a huge range of arts, crafts and household skills as diverse as cheese-making, beekeeping, speed crocheting and blacksmithing; swaggies and bush poetry; and plenty of traditional home-cooked fare.

This year’s Festival also features screenings of classic Australian films including *A Town Like Alice* and *Dad and Dave Come to Town*; and the Empire Theatre’s production of *All the Same*, a play exploring the lives of pioneering and contemporary women on the Darling Downs.

The Festival runs to 30 August. For programs and further information, visit www.jondaryanwoolshed.com or call (07) 4692 2229.

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