

# MEDIA RELEASE

“For Immediate Release”

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## New Events Spark Interest in Australian Heritage Festival

With just over a week to go, the Jondaryan Woolshed team is gearing up for the best Australian Heritage Festival ever (22 to 30 August) with a range of new events and activities as well as traditional favourites that bring Queensland’s history to life.

Now in its 33<sup>rd</sup> year, this year’s Festival opens with a GermanFest Day celebrating the important cultural contribution German settlers brought to the Darling Downs in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Toowoomba Regional Council Mayor Peter Taylor said thousands of German immigrants saved Queensland from a crippling labour shortage in the mid- to late-1800s.

“Queensland was at a crucial time in its development when it put out the call for immigrants,” Councillor Taylor said.

“German farmers and labourers played a vital role in opening up this region to agricultural development, settlement and investment. Their legacy lives on today and will be celebrated at the Australian Heritage Festival.”

The Honorary Consul of the Federal Republic of Germany, Mr Detlef Sulzer, will officially open the Festival at 10.30am on Saturday 22 August. Other GermanFest activities and attractions include:

- The *Germans in Queensland* photographic exhibition;
- Displays of German arts and crafts, farm machinery including Lanz Bulldog vintage tractors, agricultural implements, books, Bibles and memorabilia;
- German wagon rides ...für die Kinder;
- German music and dancing, and food, beer and wines;
- A *Kuchen* *Kompetition* to see which *hausfraus* make the best German *kuchen*;
- German-Australian poetry and an academic presentation on German influence on the Darling Downs; and
- The launch of *German Heritage Trail* booklet.

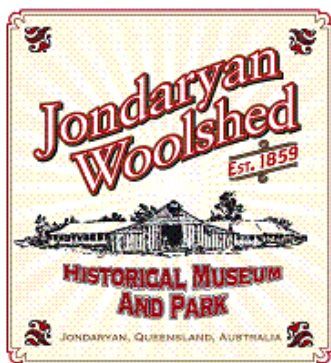
Other new events to the Australian Heritage Festival this year include screenings of two classic Australian movies: *A Town Like Alice* and *Dad and Dave Come to Town*.

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For further information, please contact:

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Councillor Taylor said the cinema was an important social hub in many country towns before the days of television, DVDs and computer games.

“The cinema not only provided entertainment and a diversion from day-to-day life, it helped bring communities together,” Councillor Taylor said.

“The Australian Heritage Festival is re-creating that with its own mini Film Festival featuring two iconic Aussie films.”

The Jondaryan Woolshed, in conjunction with Empire Theatres and supported by Festivals Australia, will also present *All the Same*, a play that contemplates the lives of women through Darling Downs’ history.

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

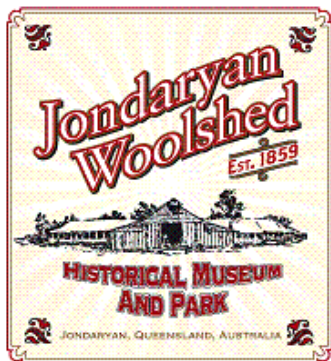
“The Australian Heritage Festival is one of an ever-decreasing number of events where modern audiences can admire the old-time skills of previous generations,” Councillor Taylor said.

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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.

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

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