

MEDIA RELEASE

“For Immediate Release”

Everything Old is Fun Again

Australian Heritage Festival, Jondaryan Woolshed, 22 to 30 August 2009

Australia's oldest working woolshed, the Jondaryan Woolshed, is celebrating the pioneering lifestyle with the Australian Heritage Festival, 22 to 30 August.

The annual Festival re-enacts 19th century life on the Darling Downs, celebrating old-time skills and reminding us about how Queensland was settled and developed. Now in its 150th year, the Jondaryan Woolshed provides the perfect backdrop to this affectionate look back at the past.

This year the Festival starts with a Germanfest Day on 22 August in recognition of the enormous cultural legacy German settlers left in the region.

The Australian Heritage Festival is a great family day out and a real eye-opener for city kids. With shearing and sheep dog demonstrations, bullocks and draught horses, more than 30 steam engines, vintage farm vehicles and machines, it's both educational for children and nostalgic for parents and grandparents.

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.

Other activities and attractions include:

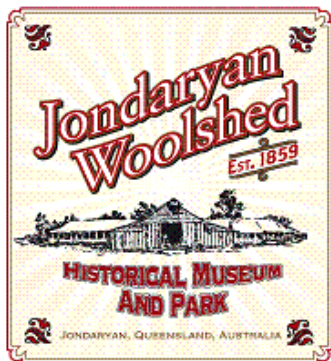
- Spinning, weaving and wool craft displays and products;
- Whipmaking and whipcracking, harness making and leatherwork;
- Working horse and tractor demonstrations and rides;
- Sawmilling, shingle splitting and timberworking;
- Blacksmithing;
- Swaggies, bush characters and bush poetry;
- Pottery and woodturning;
- Cheese-making, beekeeping and milking demonstrations; and
- Wood stove cooking and plenty of billy tea and damper.

Old fashioned cooking is another highlight of the Festival. Forget all that new fangled fast food – visitors to the Australian Heritage Festival can enjoy hearty old favourites, just like Nanna used to make.

For further information, please contact:

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For some weekend sport with a difference, the Ergon Energy Queensland Sportshear Championships will be held at the Festival on Saturday 29 August. Shearing at this elite level is a thrilling spectator sport and a great test of skill and fitness.

In these tough economic times, the Australian Heritage Festival offers a very different and affordable family day out. With family day tickets only \$45 and plenty of free parking, the Australian Heritage Festival is a great alternative to expensive theme parks.

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.

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

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