

MEDIA RELEASE

“For Immediate Release”

Queensland’s Top 150 Comes to Jondaryan

The 150 most important documents in Queensland’s history are on show at the Jondaryan Woolshed’s Australian Heritage Festival (22 to 30 August).

The *Top 150: Documenting Queensland* exhibition was commissioned by the Queensland Government to celebrate the State’s 150th anniversary.

Compiled by academic and historian Dr Murray Johnson, the exhibition chronicles the State’s exploration and development, the impact of major events at home and abroad, and includes famous names from Dame Nellie Melba and Bert Hinkler to Kath Walker and Neville Bonner.

Dr Murray painstakingly ranked the documents in order of their importance. The top ten are:

1. Governor Sir George Ferguson’s Letters Patent (1859);
2. Order-in-Council for the Separation of Queensland (1859);
3. Constitutional Act of 1867;
4. Draft letter from Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton, Secretary of State for the Colonies, to Governor Bowen;
5. Appointment of Sir Robert George Wyndham Herbert as first Colonial Secretary of Queensland (1859);
6. Convict Book of Trials (1835 – 1842);
7. Unoccupied Crown Lands Occupation Act of 1860;
8. Map of Ludwig Leichhardt’s expedition from Moreton Bay to Port Essington (1844 – 1845);
9. Education Act of 1860; and
10. James Nash’s announcement of gold at Gympie (1867).

The impact on indigenous people of the rapid spread of white settlement is a major theme, as is the arrival of immigrants from Europe, Asia and the Pacific. The album presented to Johann Christian Heussler, Queensland Commissioner to Germany, by German residents of the colony in 1897 is part of the collection.

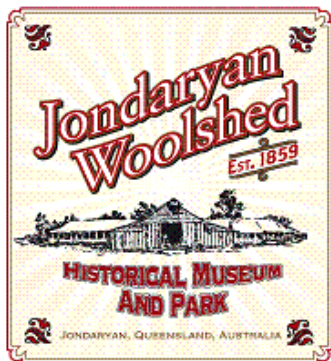
A list of collection’s items reads like an exciting movie with floods and other natural disasters; shipwrecks, train accidents and plane crashes; bubonic plague and Spanish flu threat; the prickly pear invasion; open season on koalas; crimes; riots ... even the occasional bushranger.

Dame Nellie Melba’s marriage certificate is there, along with details of the birth of the first European child in the settlement: Amity Moreton Thompson, born in 1824.

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The letter Bert Hinkler carried on his record-breaking flight from England to Australia is there, along with the logbook of the first QANTAS aircraft (1921 – 1932).

Politics features heavily – the collection includes the Manifesto of the Queensland Labor Party (1892) and One Nation posters and corflutes – as does Queensland’s international relations including the annexation of New Guinea in 1883, Queensland’s involvement in the Boer War, and the infamous Battle of Brisbane between Australian and American servicemen in 1942.

Old tourism posters and advertisements for Expo 88 show how Queensland advertised itself to the world.

The *Top 150: Documenting Queensland* exhibition was sourced from Queensland’s most eminent and comprehensive historical collections including the Queensland State Archives, the John Oxley Library, the Fryer Library, the Royal Historical Society of Queensland and the Brisbane City Council Archives.

The *Top 150: Documenting Queensland* exhibition is touring Queensland until March 2010.

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