

ON THE wallaby



The Newsletter of the Australian Workers Heritage Centre – Easter edition

OPENING OF THE NEW EMERGENCY SERVICES DISPLAY

In December 2004, the Department of Emergency Services commenced upgrading their display at the Australian Workers Heritage Centre. Recognising that they have come a long way since the original display was installed in 1994, the department wanted to acknowledge the work of 7,700 full time employees and 85,000+ volunteers in an improved display. This will include enhanced visual effects and multimedia presentations. There will be an official opening with various dignitaries present on Monday 2nd May 2005.

A sincere thank you to the Minister – Hon Chris Cummins for his invaluable support for this project and a special mention to Mr Ben Creagh – Manager Media and Marketing, Department of Emergency Services who with the support of departmental staff and volunteers brought this project to fruition.

MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS IN BARCALDINE FROM THURSDAY 28TH APRIL 2005 TO MONDAY 2ND MAY 2005

Each May Day weekend, the town of Barcaldine comes alive with festivities to suit the young and old. No one misses out and this year, the following planned events will take place:

Thursday 28th April – Barcaldine Golf Club will hold “Thursday Club” a 7 hole social game commencing at 3pm and on **Sunday 1st May** an 18 hole stroke competition commencing at 12 noon.

Saturday 30th April – Matilda Highway Race Meeting. 6 race card featuring the Craiglea/Mars/Matilda Highway series. The feature race is the Tree of Knowledge Cup, which is one of the premier race meets in the outback

Sunday 1st May – Barcy Sandgonnas playing at the Barcaldine Showgrounds in the afternoon. Live entertainment after the game.

Barcaldine Bowling Club – Competition commencing 9 am. Supporters and visitors welcome.

Australian Workers Heritage Centre opening times:

Friday 30th April 9 am to 5 pm
Saturday 1st May 9 am to 5 pm
Sunday 2nd May 10 am to 5 pm
Monday 3rd May 9 am to 5 pm

Monday 2nd May – ‘Tree of Knowledge’ planting ceremony commencing at 8:30 am at the Australian Workers Heritage Centre.

May Day procession commencing 11:00am.

May Day Princess competition included in the parade.

12 noon free lunch at showgrounds followed by afternoon of fun games.

Children’s entertainment – “Dougjie and the Dung Beetles”

‘TREE OF KNOWLEDGE’ TREE PLANTING CEREMONY AT AUSTRALIAN WORKERS HERITAGE CENTRE

The ALP’s famed Tree of Knowledge in the main street of Barcaldine will live on through an offspring that has been successfully cultivated by the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries. The tree – a ghost gum that is more than 160 years old – has important historical significance for the ALP, the trade union movement and the workers of Queensland. Like all living things the tree has suffered from the rigours of advancing years. The new tree has been grown from a cutting taken by Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries.

The tree was the meeting place for shearers during the Great Shearers Strike of 1891 – an event that led directly to the birth of the Australian Labor Party.

The tree can live on through its offspring, which will be planted at the Australian Workers Heritage Centre. On Monday 2nd May, a large gathering of people will be attendance for this symbolic event.

A sincere thank you to the staff of the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries for ensuring that the Tree of Knowledge will live on..

LABOR HOUSE

The first principal's residence was built in 1913 and restored to its former glory when the Australian Workers Heritage Centre purchased and refurbished the building at a substantial cost. The house to be renamed Labor House will consist of Labor memorabilia and history, the Workers Wall and Freedoms on the Wallaby (formerly displayed in the Women in War building). During the Labor Day weekend, Milton Dick, State Secretary - Australian Labor Party, will officially launch 'Labor House'. In the next edition of 'On the Wallaby' we will present the completed display.

MAIN ROADS AND QUEENSLAND RAIL DISPLAY

Connecting communities.....

Where would we be without the railway and roads? Australian history shows railways were built with communities settling around them. Roads were designed to connect these communities and support railways. It is befitting then to acknowledge our forefathers who worked tirelessly to unite communities in the quickest way possible. Fast forward to 2005 and the current Labor government's initiative to allow for multi-dwelling buildings to be built around the railway system and the introduction of new highways. It is important then to therefore acknowledge those workers who have worked for and continue to work in these industries - infrastructure development.

QUEENSLAND HEALTH

It's all happening in 2005! Another exhibit to be revamped is the Queensland Health Display. In consultation with the department there will be a new story to be told, not taking away from the tribute to those who have served in the outback and continue to do so.

AUSTRALIA POST

It's moving! Over the years the centre has seen a rotation of great Australia Post memorabilia. Along with various upgrades on site, the Australia Post exhibit will be moved into a stand-alone building on site. The *Women in War Display* has been moved to the Working Women's Display in Block A. This stand-alone building will now house the Australia Post display. A much bigger space it will allow for those items in storage, to be dusted off and displayed for the avid viewer. In the next edition of On the Wallaby, you will see the new displays.

With so much taking place this year, consider planning your trip to Barcaldine, renew your membership or assist us with a small donation, so that we can continue to tell the story of and acknowledge the unsung heroes. If you can't make it to Barcaldine this year, we'll see you in - Year of the Outback 2006!

FUTURE PROJECTS

The 'Energy Pathways' concept is near completion. After much planning, discussion and research the proposal will go to Enertrade for their consideration. In the next edition of On the Wallaby, we discuss the success of the proposal. The 'Refugee Project' a project inspired by our multi-cultural society. Stay tuned for the next edition of On the Wallaby.

A funding submission was recently sent to the 'Gambling Community Benefit Fund' by the centre. The funding submission requests additional playground equipment, picnic tables and shades over the area. The centre continually seeks to enhance a family friendly environment.

WANPA-RDA MATILDA OUTBACK EDUCATION CENTRE

The Wanpa-rda Matilda Outback Education Centre continues to provide visiting students the opportunity to explore and experience Central West Queensland. These experiences complement the outstanding service that teachers and support staff provide in the classroom environment. Only until students witness and interact first hand with the outback do they truly appreciate the uniqueness of it.

A deed of agreement had existed between the Australian Workers Heritage Centre and Education Queensland, the essence of which was the granting to the Centre of a full time Education Officer. In February this year the Department of Education after considerable discussions and submissions, renewed the deed of agreement for a further three years. Ms Anna Barrett who has provided teacher relief for the last six months at the centre has now been appointed as the permanent full time Education Officer. The Wanpa-rda Matilda Centre has many projects planned for the next three years from implementation of a new curriculum to refurbishment and further promotion of the centre. We look forward to these exciting projects.

The Wanpa-rda Matilda Centre has applied for funding through the Jupiter's Casino Community Benefit Fund to convert the previous 'Senior Citizens Building' on site into a multi-purpose facility. The facility will be used for conferences and functions and will double as a recreation room for students staying at Wanpa-rda Matilda Outback Education Centre. The approximate cost of refurbishment will be \$150,000-00.

RETAIL LIST

Up to 50% off all summer clothing.

Various Goondiwindi Cotton - Buy one get one of equal or lesser value for free.

Contact Barcaldine on 4651 1579.

Buy your Barcaldine memorabilia from the Australian Workers Heritage Centre

Tree of Knowledge fridge magnets \$3.25

Tree of Knowledge story spoon \$7.25

New - By popular request! Ladies and mens crew neck souvenir t-shirts in various sizes.

**Happy Easter from the
Board, Management
and
Staff of the Australian
Workers Heritage
Centre**

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