CLERMONT
HISTORICAL CENTRE
SCHOOL RESOURCE BOOKLET 2024

ISAAC REGION

MACKAY

GREENHILL
Notch
Yarrawonga
Point

CLAIRVIEW
Dugongs

ST LAWRENCE

CARMILA

St Lawrence
Wetlands &
Recreation
Grounds

CLARKE
CREEK

MACKAY REGION

LOTUS
CREEK

MIDDLEMOUNT

MACKENZIE
RIVER

Nebo Museum
NEBO

Mount Britton

VALKYRIE

DYSART

GLENDEN

Lake Elphinstone

COPPABELLA

Peak Ranges
Lord's Table
Mountain

MORANBAH

Hoods Lagoon
Piano in the Tree
Gold Fossicking

Copperfield
Chimney

KILCUMMIN

Clermont
Historical
Centre

CLERMONT

Miclere

Copperfield

CENTRAL HIGHLANDS
REGION

WHITSUNDAY REGION

Blair Athol

Theresa
Creek Dam

MISTAKE
CREEK

CHARTERS TOWERS
REGION

BARCALDINE
REGION

ISAAC
REGION

LIVINGSTONE
SHIRE

N

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Isaac Regional Council acknowledges the Koinjmal, Widi, Birriah, Barada Kabalbara Yetimarala, Jangga, Barada Barna, Western Kangoulu and Wirdi Peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters throughout the Isaac region and their enduring cultural connection to country and community.

We pay our respect to the Elders, past, present and emerging for they hold the stories, culture and traditions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

CONTENTS

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

This resource has been written to support teacher-led class visits to the Clermont Historical Centre, with a focus on key concepts from the P–6 HASS and 7–10 History curriculums.

- Continuity and change
- Cause and effect
- Significance
- Place and Space
- Resource allocation and making choices
- Democracy and citizenship
- Evidence (primary and secondary sources)
- Perspectives
- Interpretations and contestability

The objects on display can be used to facilitate the development of historical enquiry skills, including:

- Questioning and researching
- Interpreting, analysing, and evaluating historical sources
- Historical perspectives and interpretations
- Communicating

TO MAKE A BOOKING

PHONE: 07 4983 3311 or 0437 987 068

EMAIL: Clermont.Museum@isaac.qld.gov.au or Claire.Griffiths@isaac.qld.gov.au

VISITING THE MUSEUM WITH YOUR CLASS

WHAT TO DO:

- Please let us know you are coming. This helps us make sure we don't have more than one group booked for the same day/time.

- Please call, email, or pop by in advance of your class visit if you have any questions about the museum displays or building connections to the work you're doing with your class.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- Our staff are happy to answer questions, but we are currently unable to offer guided tours.

- We recommend no more than 60 students on site at once. If you would like to bring more classes, consider taking some students to see Copperfield Chimney and Store, or Clermont Library while the rest are at Clermont Historical Centre, then swapping over.

SAFETY:

- If you visit Clermont Historical Centre during regular opening hours, please remind your class to be mindful of **members of the public** onsite. If you would prefer, it may be possible to book your class in on a Tuesday when the site is closed.

- At times, **snakes** have been sighted on the grounds. There is a first aid kit, and snake bite kit in the main building, however, we recommend that you bring your own.

- **Climbing** on the exhibits is **prohibited** for safety.

- **Sun protection** is advised (hats, sunscreen).

MUSEUM EXPECTATIONS:

- **Photos** are permitted. You are welcome to take photos to use with your class.

- **Food and drink** are only permitted in the outdoor areas, and you are welcome to bring lunch with you. Please do not bring food or drink inside the buildings. Place all rubbish in the bins provided.

- **Bags** can be left by the silver picnic tables to the rear of the main building. Please ensure pathways stay clear.

- Some exhibitions contain activities or **interactive components** that you can touch, and they will be clearly marked. If your students are likely to have trouble distinguishing between the interactive components and other displays, please instruct them not to touch *anything* unless they have checked with you first.

- **Please note:** adults have a tendency to touch things without thinking, so please remind all the adults accompanying your classes that they need to model the behaviours you expect from your students.

Please review the museum expectations with your class before you visit, and again when you arrive.

2024 EXHIBITION: DIARY OF A LANDSCAPE

This exhibition...	Post-visit activity suggestions
...is an invitation to think about how we relate to the landscape, and the stories we tell ourselves about the past.	• **Write** about a car trip. Practice descriptive writing, consider the role of **perspective** in description (eg: from the driver's perspective, from the student's perspective). • Brainstorm descriptive words that relate to the landscape. Count syllables and choose words to fit a haiku structure, or write another type of **poem**. Consider entering your students' work into the Nebo Bush Poets' School Poetry Competition. • Visit the **interactive map** of Leichhardt's 1845 journey through this area. Choose a diary entry to read, identify the descriptive language and what it reveals about the writer's perspective on the landscape.
...plays with collage as a way of exploring how we interact with and interpret the landscape through maps, drawings, travel itineraries, postcards, photos, journals, and other paper-based materials.	• Practice **drawing** an object, person or place. Consider the drawings as sources – are they a reliable source of information? • Draw a **mud map** of Clermont explaining how to get somewhere (eg: from school to the post office). Is the map reliable? Is it useful? Contrast it with a commercially produced street map, and compare reliability and usefulness.
...explores what is left behind and what is lost.	• Reflect on **primary and secondary sources** and what they can and can't reveal about the past. • Choose 5 different types of objects to leave outside for a fortnight. Discuss what survived and what didn't, and why.
...provides a brief overview of the history of Clermont and the surrounding areas.	• **Research** a significant person, event, or place in Clermont's history. • Draw a basic **timeline** and mark significant local, national, and/or international events on it (eg: 1916 Clermont Flood, Federation, World War 1).

2024 EXHIBITION: CLERMONT CURIOSITIES

This exhibition…	Post–visit activity suggestions
…is about what museums do and why.	• Discuss: should we keep things in museums? If so, which things? What other alternatives could there be?
…showcases many objects from the collection that are usually kept in storage.	• Discuss: should everything be on display all the time? • Imagine there was an emergency, and only 5 objects from CHC could be saved. Which 5 would you choose and why? • Imagine there was an emergency, and only 5 of your belongings could be saved. Which 5 would you choose and why?
…outlines the history of museums, and why they are changing.	• Research Wunderkammer or Cabinets of Curiosities. Reflect on how colonial history has shaped cultural institutions. • Early collectors took things from all over the world, and many museums today have repatriation programs to return things. Present arguments for and against repatriation.
…explains museum processes.	• Discuss what 'significance' means in museum terms. Choose an object from home and talk or write about its significance in relation to the criteria used in significance assessments. • Discuss the difference between 'significance' as used in museums, verses personal significance. You may own something that is very personally significant to you… but does it also have the kind of significance that would see it included in a museum? • Identify 3 objects from home, one with both kinds of significance, one with personal significance only, and one with museum significance only.

AN INTRODUCTION TO
WANGAN AND JAGALINGOU COUNTRY

> *Waddamuli.*
>
> *Ngali mari nani. Ngali mari waddana wirdi mundu wanggan yagalinggu nani.*
>
> *We are the people of the land. We are the Wirdi speaking people from Wanggan and Yagalinggu country.*
>
> *Custodians and owners of a vast area of land for tens of thousands of years, in the area now described as the Clermont and Belyando regions of central Queensland, Australia.*
>
> *Our dreaming is the Mundangarra (rainbow serpent) who created the environment we live in. Mundangarra came up from under the ground and travelled in and through the land to create the mountains, rivers and animals. It is our responsibility to protect our land, water, people and spirits.*
>
> *Our lore in which we walk in is the Gaba (Native Honey Bee), which guides us how to live on the land, as one.*
>
> *We have many kin totems including: the Dagayn (sand goanna) around Clermont, the Wagal (Eel) around the Belyando and the the Gundulu (emu), which connects us to all other first nations through Central Queensland.*
>
> *Our sacred beliefs are based on our ancient songlines and the paths our spirits travel through country.*
>
> *The trees, plants, shrubs, medicines, waterholes, springs, animals, habitats, rocks, soil, aquifers, the sky and the whole of our Territory all have religious and cultural life and vibrancy that we respect and are bound to protect. Our spirits and the spirits of our ancestors travel above, through and under the ground of our country.*
>
> *These songlines connect us to our mother, the Earth, our ancestors, our neighbours and other First Nations peoples right across the continent.*

ADDITIONAL ONLINE RESOURCES

WIRDI.COM.AU – WIRDI LANGUAGE DICTIONARY
Online interactive Wirdi Language Dictionary, with contextual information about how the dictionary was developed from a variety of written and oral sources.

📖 CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:
Evidence (primary and secondary sources); Perspectives; Interpretations and contestability

A BRIEF HISTORY OF CLERMONT

CLERMONT: QUEENSLAND'S FIRST INLAND EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT

The Peak Downs

Clermont was the first inland European settlement in Queensland. Ludvig Leichhardt's 1845 expedition went through the Peak Downs area, and his accounts of the landscape led his friend Jeremiah Rolfe to venture north in search of pastoral land to settle. Other pastoralists followed Rolfe, and the discovery of copper and alluvial gold in 1861 attracted miners to the area as well. This increasing invasion of Aboriginal territories led to a period of conflict known as the frontier wars.

Figure 1: Jeremiah Rolfe and family at Old Pioneer Station, 1876. Source: Public domain.

Displacement

The introduction of the Aboriginals Protection and Restriction of the Sale of Opium Act 1897 had a profound impact on the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Queensland, and Clermont was no exception. This legislation was used to forcibly remove people from their ancestral lands and relocate them into 'missions', such as those at Woorabinda, Palm Island and Cherbourg.
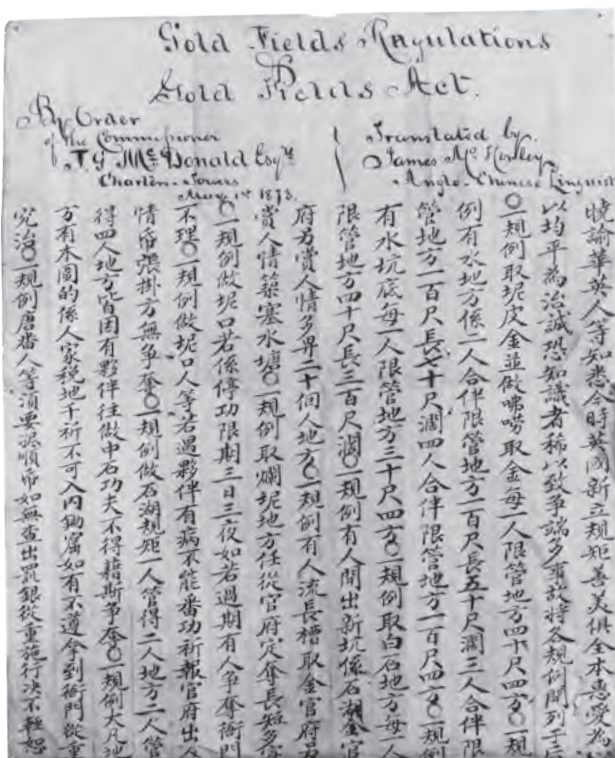
Chinese gold miners

The discovery of alluvial gold at Clermont in 1861 brought many people to the area to try their luck, including Chinese gold miners, known for their meticulous and systematic approach to prospecting. A copy of The Gold Fields Regulations and Gold Fields Act translated into Chinese and dating to 1873, held by the John Oxley library in Brisbane, indicates that Chinese gold miners were initially accepted as part of the gold rush.

Figure 2: Chinese translation of the Gold Fields Regulations and Gold Fields Act, 1873, translated by J. McHenley. Source: State Library of Queensland.

BILLY SING 1886 – 1943

Billy Sing, 'The Gallipoli Sniper' is known for his skill as a marksman during World War 1. Born in 1886 in Clermont to Chinese and English parents, Sing enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force in 1914. He arrived in Gallipoli in 1915, and later served on the Western Front in France. Roughly 300 deaths are attributed to his skill as a sniper. Sing suffered multiple gunshot wounds and gas poisoning during his service, and in 1917 while in Scotland recovering, he met and married Elizabeth Stewart. After his discharge in 1918, Sing returned to a 'soldier's block' near Clermont and worked on the Miclere goldfields before moving to Brisbane in 1942. Like many returning soldiers, Sing struggled with ill health, and what is now recognised as PTSD. Sing was awarded the Distinguished Conduct medal in 1916 for his service at Gallipoli, and the Belgian Croix De Guerre in 1918 for his service in Belgium. Though he died in poverty and was buried in an unmarked grave at Lutwyche cemetery, his memory has since been honoured by a memorial service, statues, and the publication of several books about his life.

Figure 3: Private William Edward Sing DCM, 31st Battalion, of Clermont, Queensland, enlisted 26 October 1914, returned 21 July 1918. Source: Australian War Memorial.

Figure 4: Informal portrait of Billy Sing in Egypt, c.1915–1916. Source: Australian War Memorial.

ADDITIONAL ONLINE RESOURCES

AWM.GOV.AU – WILLIAM "BILLY" SING Australian War Memorial. Webpage with information, images, and activities for research and class discussion.

📖 **CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:** Significance

CLERMONT FLOOD 1916

In December 1916, a cyclone crossed the coast between Bowen and Mackay, causing heavy rain in the Wolfang Creek and Sandy Creek catchments. By midday on 28 December, the flood water in Clermont had peaked at a height of 16 feet/4.8 metres. It is still recognised as one of the deadliest floods in Australian history, killing approximately 65 people and 10,000 head of livestock, and damaging 50 buildings.

Figure 5: The ruins of the Federal Hotel after the 1916 flood. Gordon C. Pullar. Source: State Library of Queensland.

Relocating the town: Aveling and Porter Traction Engine

Some of the surviving town buildings, including the Commercial Hotel, were relocated to higher ground roughly one kilometre away from their original sites. To move a building, it was raised on jacks, and timber rails were placed underneath and in front of the building so it could then be winched along by a steam traction engine. The restored Aveling and Porter traction engine at Clermont Historical Centre is one of two engines that were used to relocate the town buildings, and it is steamed and driven on the third Saturday of August each year.

Figure 6: Relocating the Commercial Hotel. Gordon C. Pullar. Source: National Library of Australia.

ADDITIONAL ONLINE RESOURCES

GORDON CUMMING PULLAR COLLECTIONS ONLINE

One Search – Pullar, Gordon C. (slq.qld.gov.au) – State Library of Queensland (photographs)
nla.gov.au/nla.obj–149979793 – National Library of Australia (photographs)
Gordon C. Pullar took many photographs around Clermont which illustrate how the town has changed.

📖 **CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:**
Evidence; Continuity and change; Cause and effect; Place and space.

ROSE HARRIS 1896-1977

Rose Harris is believed to have been the first female commercial saddler in Australia.

Born in 1896, she went to school in Copperfield, and went on to run her saddlery in Clermont for many years. Harris was a talented athlete, excelling in horse riding, swimming, boxing, golf, and tennis. Harris was also a gifted musician on the violin and church organ and played for church services and weddings.

Harris and her father are credited with rescuing five people during the 1916 flood. At great personal risk, she climbed back into the flooded saddlery building to get ropes and halters which she transformed into lassoes to rescue people trapped in the floodwaters, repeatedly swimming out to help people reach safety.
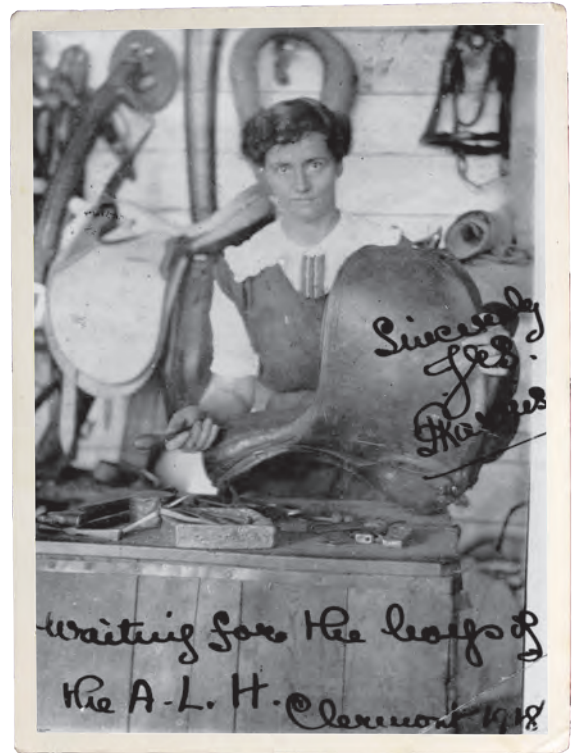

Figure 7: Rose Harris in the saddlery in Clermont during WW1. Source: State Library of Queensland.

Figure 8: Rose Harris swimming with friends, date unknown. Source: Clermont Historical Centre.

Figure 9: Clermont Orchestra, 1913. Left to right: Rose Harris, J Sinnott, G.B Shakespeare, A. Cavill, R. Bradbury, J. Knight, and J. Biddle. Source: Clermont Historical Centre.

BLAIR ATHOL: AUSTRALIA'S FIRST OPEN-CUT COAL MINE

Coal was discovered at Blair Athol Station in 1864, during the sinking of a well. By 1873, shafts had revealed rich seams of coal. In 1869, Peak Downs Copper Mining Company acquired land around Blair Athol to source coal to fuel the copper smelters at Copperfield. By 1890, the only consumer of Blair Athol coal was the Queensland Central Railways who used the coal to fuel the trains. The Clermont railway station was the closest but plans to extend the railway to Blair Athol stalled for ten years, finally opening in 1910.

Figure 10: Inspecting machinery at Blair Athol Mine, 1950. Source: National Library of Australia.

All mining is dangerous due to the risk of cave-ins, flooding, asphyxiation, and equipment failure, but coal mining is even more so. Most coal seams generate highly flammable gases, and coal dust itself can ignite and explode. Working conditions in the mines were very poor both for the miners and, after 1919, for the 'pit ponies' that hauled the skips of coal. At Blair Athol, grey draught horses were used in the mines because the light colour was easier to see in the darkness underground. The horses' acute hearing also enabled them to hear the coal 'talking' or creaking preceding a cave-in, which would prompt them to move out of an area thereby alerting the miners to the imminent danger. While some of the mines had inclined entries and horses could be brought in and out regularly, mines with vertical shafts stabled the horses underground. By 1946 mining with pit ponies had ceased at Blair Athol.

Figure 11: Pit Ponies at Blair Athol mines, c.1910. Source: Clermont Historical Centre.

In 1909 The Blair Athol Coal and Timber Company became the first large company to undertake coal mining operations at Blair Athol, absorbing smaller collieries, and laying the groundwork for the eventual shift from shaft mining to open cut mining. In 1922, Blair Athol became Australia's first open cut mine. By the 1970s it was clear that there were significant coal seams under the town, and a decision was made to relocate residents and any viable buildings to Clermont.

MICLERE: SEMI-ARID GOLD MINING

Gold was discovered at Miclere in 1865, but it wasn't until the 1870s that mining began. Experienced prospectors recognised the flats as an indication of old gold-bearing creeks and started sinking shafts in hope of striking gold. There were many fatal accidents on the Miclere goldfield as digging and working in shafts up to 30m deep was dangerous work due to the risk of cave-ins and equipment failure.
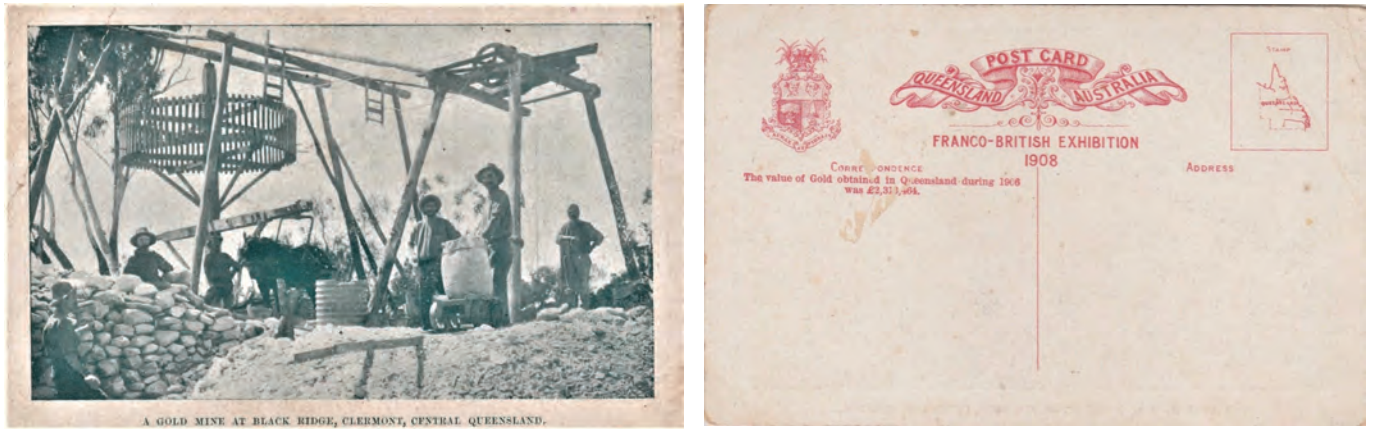

Figure 12: Postcard printed by Queensland Intelligence and Tourist Bureau for distribution at the Franco-British International Exhibition in London in 1908. Public Domain.

Water supply for daily living and gold panning was an ongoing problem on the goldfields. In the absence of a reliable supply, miners turned to dry blowing the dirt to search for gold. Former Miclere miner Graham Jones claims 'The Puffer' as a local invention, a dry blower that surpassed all competition and eventually became the only blower in use.

Miclere's population was always small, but the 1891 shearer's strike saw a sudden boost as Unionist shearers turned to gold mining to survive during the strike. Later, the Great Depression caused another spike in population at Miclere, rising to around 500 people by the end of the 1930s. Most of the work was still done by hand, and cemented wash from deep leads was broken up with iron clubs and then panned or put through a dry blower to extract the gold, which meant much of the finer gold was lost. In 1935 Tom Higgins purchased a 10 head steam powered battery at Copperfield and relocated it to Miclere, where it was able to treat 12 tons of stone per day, increasing the speed of processing and the amount of gold retained.

During World War 2, gold mining was considered a 'non-essential' industry, unlike coal and copper mining, so the Miclere goldfields closed for the duration of the war. By the 1950s Miclere was fading, though it never disappeared completely and is still active today.

Figure 13: Mr Carlson with a dry blower, date unknown. Source: Clermont Historical Centre

COPPERFIELD: QUEENSLAND'S FIRST SUCCESSFUL LARGE-SCALE COPPER MINE

Copperfield

In 1861, Jack Mollard discovered an outcrop of solid copper ore approximately five kilometres south of Clermont, leading to the birth of the town of Copperfield. The Peak Downs Copper Mine opened in the early 1860s, and was the first successful, large-scale

Figure 14: Hand-coloured engraving from the Town and Country Journal showing Messrs. Thompson and Cashion's stores, with Howard Smith's newsagency visible to the right, c.1875. Source: Clermont Historical Centre

copper mine in Queensland. In 1864 five dray loads from the Copperfield smelters left for the port at St Lawrence, Broadsound with the first payload. A total of 17,000 tonnes of refined copper sold in the company's fifteen-year existence. Falling copper prices sent the town into decline, and by 1892 the population had dropped to 85. Attempts to revive copper mining in 1906-1907 failed, and in 1907 the copper mine closed permanently.

Figure 15: Christoe Street, Copperfield, c.1875. Note the edge of Howard Smith's store visible on the right hand side. Source: National Library of Australia.

Copperfield chimney

The copper smelting process used the Welsh reverberatory furnace, though none of the original 22 chimneys from this period have survived. The copper ingots produced were transported over 300 kilometres to the port at St Lawrence, Broadsound for export via Sydney to the international market. Mining continued with varying levels of success until 1883, and then was revived again briefly in 1906-1907 with the construction of a new smelter and stack using water-jacket rather than reverberatory technology. The Copperfield chimney is the last remaining structure of the 1907 efforts.

Copperfield store

The Copperfield store is the last remaining building on what was once the bustling main street of Copperfield. Established by Mr. Howard Smith, who arrived in the area in 1869, the store started out as a newsagency. Howard Smith was President of the Peak Downs Hospital, a foundational member of the Peak Downs Masonic Lodge, a council member, an entrepreneur, director of the New Peak Downs Mining Company, and owner of land at Blair Athol. Upon his death, Howard Smith's store passed to his daughter, Lilian Mabel Duncan, and remained in the Duncan family until 1974 when it ceased operation. The current store building was constructed in 1927, on the site of Howard Smith's original newsagency.

Figure 16: Children and a bullock team standing in Christoe Street, Copperfield, c.1870s. Source: State Library of Queensland.

MOUNT BRITTON

Gold was discovered at Oaky Creek in the early 1880s, and a tent town of eager gold miners promptly developed at the location now known as Mount Britton. The town grew quickly to include hotels, stores, butchers, bakers, a school, a Public Hall and a Progress Association, but it did not last long. The best gold finds happened early and by 1883, Mount Britton was already in decline. By 1890, mining had ceased, and the town had effectively disappeared. The remains of the township provide insight into early gold mining practices in Queensland.

Figure 17: Bark buildings at Mount Britton goldfield, c.1881. Source: State Library of Queensland.

NEBO (FORT COOPER): SUPPORTING PASTORALISTS AND MINERS

Surveyed in 1865, Nebo was originally named Fort Cooper. Despite this, it was known locally as Nebo, so in 1923, the name was officially changed. Fort Cooper developed in the 1860s to service the surrounding pastoral areas which initially ran sheep, then later, cattle. It also served the copper mines from the 1870s, and the Mount Britton Gold mine during the 1880s. Until the 1940s, cattle were taken by drovers to market in Mackay, a trip of several days, along a route which aligns roughly with what is now the Peak Downs Highway. This route connected with the main route from Clermont to St Lawrence on the coast.

The Nebo Hotel is a State Heritage Registered building. It was built in 1886, the second hotel established at Fort Cooper, and is still standing and operational today. Some minor changes have been made to the hotel building, but its appearance is typical of the era in which it was constructed, providing insight into life in the past.

ADDITIONAL ONLINE RESOURCES

DES.QLD.GOV.AU – 'NEBO HOTEL' Queensland Heritage Register. This is the state heritage listing for the Nebo Hotel, including a break down of the significance by criterion.

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:

Evidence; Continuity and change; Cause and effect; Place and space; Significance.

VISIT NEBO MUSEUM

To book a school visit to Nebo Museum, please contact Angie Caldwell.

Phone: 07 4949 4115

Email: Angie.Caldwell@isaac.qld.gov.au

ST LAWRENCE: CONNECTING COPPERFIELD TO THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET

The port of St Lawrence at Broadsound connected goods from inland stations and mines to international trade routes. One of the most significant cargos was the copper mined at Copperfield, 253km inland near Clermont, which was taken overland to St Lawrence and then shipped to Sydney and on to the international market.

Ports were vital for the economic success of Queensland as they allowed for the import and export of goods needed to support life in regional towns. Ports are typically located in areas where calm, deep water meets the coast, enabling larger vessels to come close to shore. The location of the port at St Lawrence was unusual because boats could only manoeuvre at high tide, and there were ongoing issues with bank erosion.

In 1872 the price of copper peaked, which increased trade through St Lawrence to unprecedented levels and enabled the port to be classed as a warehousing port. Although it was a treacherous journey across mountainous terrain to reach St Lawrence from Copperfield, many people still preferred to ship their goods out through St Lawrence rather than Rockhampton and trade become so frequent that additional steamers were allocated to transport the goods straight to Sydney.

In 1874, a cyclone caused extensive damage to half of the settlement, including the Customs Office and the wharf, and destroying 200 bales and other shipments awaiting export. By the end of 1876, the government declared the Port of St Lawrence officially closed, and by 1877 the inland railway connected Rockhampton to the Peak Downs, eliminating the need for wagons to transport goods to St Lawrence.

Figure 18: Wagon loaded with wool bales near St Lawrence c.1870s, photographer Richard Daintree. Source: State Library of Queensland.

SOURCES

Early European explorers and pioneers recorded their journeys through the Isaac region, often later revising their diaries and publishing them as memoirs detailing the flora, fauna, and terrain.

EXPLORER: LUDWIG LEICHHARDT

Ludwig Leichhardt decided to mount his own expedition of exploration after government-sponsored venture was cancelled. Leichhardt's team, including two Aboriginal guides, left the Darling Downs in October 1844 and arrived in Port Essington in December 1845. This expedition took them through the Isaac region, passing by areas that would later become the towns of Dysart, Moranbah, and Glenden. The sketches and maps made during this expedition by Leichhardt and his companions laid the foundations for European settlement in the Isaac Region and beyond.

Excerpt: February 6, 1845 (near to what is now Dysart)

About a mile and a-half north from the camp we came to an isolated peak, which I ascended, and from its summit enjoyed the finest view of the Peak Range I had yet seen. I attempted to sketch it in its whole extent, and gave to its most remarkable peaks separate names. A long flat-topped mountain I called 'Lord's Table Range,' after E. Lord, Esq., of Moreton Bay; and a sharp needle-like rock, which bore west-by-north, received the name of 'Fletcher's Awl,' after Mr. John Fletcher, whose kind contribution towards my expedition had not a little cheered me in my undertaking. Towards the east and north-east, a flat country extended, in which the smoke of several fires of the natives was seen, and, in the distance, several blue ranges were distinguished. To the northward, the country was very mountainous, and in the north-west, at a short distance, Phillips's Mountain reared its head. Many shallow valleys, at present of an earth-brown colour, led down from the range.

Excerpt: February 24–25, 1845 (near to what is now Moranbah)

The weather in this region may be thus described: at sunrise some clouds collect in the east, but clear off during the first hours of the morning, with northerly, north-easterly, and easterly breezes; between ten and three o'clock the most scorching heat prevails, interrupted only by occasional puffs of cool air; about two o'clock P.M. heavy clouds form in all directions, increase in volume, unite in dark masses in the east and west, and, about five o'clock in the afternoon, the thunder-storm bursts; the gust of wind is very violent, and the rain sometimes slight, and at other times tremendous, but of short duration; and at nine o'clock the whole sky is clear again.

In the hollows along the Isaacs, we found a new species of grass from six to eight feet high, forming large tufts, in appearance like the oat-grass (Anthistiria) of the Liverpool Plains and Darling Downs; it has very long brown twisted beards, but is easily distinguished from Anthistiria by its simple ear; its young stem is very sweet, and much relished both by horses and cattle.

Excerpt: March 7, 1845 (near to what is now Glenden)

The ridges were covered with iron-coloured quartz pebbles, which rendered our bullocks footsore. The marjoram was abundant, particularly near the scrubs, and filled the air with a most exquisite odour. A mountain range was seen to the right; and, where the ranges of the head of the Isaacs abruptly terminated, detached hills and ridges formed the south-western and southern barrier of the waters of Suttor Creek.

Figure 19: Overland expedition to Port Essington by Ludwig Leichhardt; laid down by Capt. Perry Deputy Surveyor General of New South Wales. 1845. Source: State Library of New South Wales.

ADDITIONAL ONLINE RESOURCES

ENTITY – LEICHHARDT EXPEDITION FROM MORETON BAY TO PORT ESSINGTON, 1844–1845 – AUSTRALIAN DICTIONARY OF BIOGRAPHY (ANU.EDU.AU)

Digital map of Leichhardt's journey, with the journal entries of Leichhardt and his companions marked against each location. Note: The interactive map can be considered a tertiary source.

📖 CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:

Evidence (primary and secondary sources); Perspectives; Interpretations and contestability.

NATURALIST: EDWARD SMITH HILL

Edward Smith Hill was a merchant and naturalist who undertook his journey in winter 1863 and published his memoirs the following year as *Narrative of a Trip from Sydney to the Peak Downs, Queensland and Back*, addressed presumably to his wife. He described the areas around modern-day Clermont, Copperfield and the Peak Ranges.

SYDNEY,
26th Sept. 1863.

MY DEAR ——,

Mr. Keene and I arrived here yesterday on our return from the Peak Downs, and I wish to give you some account of our journey.

Figure 20: Detail from Narrative of a Trip from Sydney to the Peak Downs, Queensland and back, 1864, by E.S. Hill. Source: National Library of Australia.

Excerpt from *Narrative of a Trip from Sydney to the Peak Downs, Queensland and back*, 1864. E.S.H. Source: National Library of Australia

Within three miles of Cheeseborough Creek a small scrubby hill appears to rise out of the plain on the left hand, and at this point the road for Hood's Station, Theresa Creek, turns to the left. The hill is composed of limestone similar to the dykes already observed, but of more pure lime and more valuable for copper smelting. Immediately on leaving Cheeseborough Creek the character of the country alters, and becomes more auriferous, as may be seen by the quartz veins, igneous rocks, shales and specular iron, all of which appear to have been disturbed by volcanic action and afterwards denuded, leaving the Silurian formations exposed.

The country is undulating and broken, the ridges occasionally open and scrubby, the flats being fairly covered with narrow and broad-leafed iron-bark... There are also bastard box, blood-tree and occasionally a few flooded gums. In the scrubs I saw a fine Grevillia, with foliage like our swamp oak (Casuarina striata), only coarser; from the end of each branch it hung like a horse's tail.

PIONEER: OSCAR DE SATGÉ

Oscar de Satgé was a pioneer and pastoralist of aristocratic French heritage. He owned the Wolfang Downs station from 1861–1875 and reminisced about his travel and life in the Peak Downs region in his memoir *Pages from the Journal of a Queensland Squatter*, published in 1901. De Satgé named Wolfang Peak, as well as the town of Clermont after Clermont-Ferrand, in France.

Excerpt from *Pages from the Journal of a Queensland Squatter*, 1901. Oscar de Satgé.
Source: University of Queensland

...the picturesque peaks that formed the so-called range were clothed with a carpet of burnt feed, forming a vivid green dotted with a variety of flowers, also many kinds of wild peas and vetches, wild cucumbers, and other trailing plants I did not then know.

Figure 21: Oscar de Satgé, c.1900. Source: Public domain.

[A] huge kangaroo lazily turned round to gaze at the new intruders before hopping majestically away; bronzed-wing pigeons sprang up on every side with the strong whirr of perfect condition; the grey-headed wild turkey or bustard stalked about in robust alarm; whilst occasional mobs of the statelier emu trotted round us with their usual curiosity.

The country we rode through was partly black, partly chocolate soil, exceedingly friable and rich; being unstocked and therefore untrodden it was 'ashy', and the horses travelled over their fetlocks in the loose soil... this work, chiefly travelling lines by compass and averaging on horseback the distance by time, we found very tedious, but there is a kind of 'greed of country' that comes over the pioneer, which spurs him up to great efforts if the reward before him is a good slice of rich sheep country.
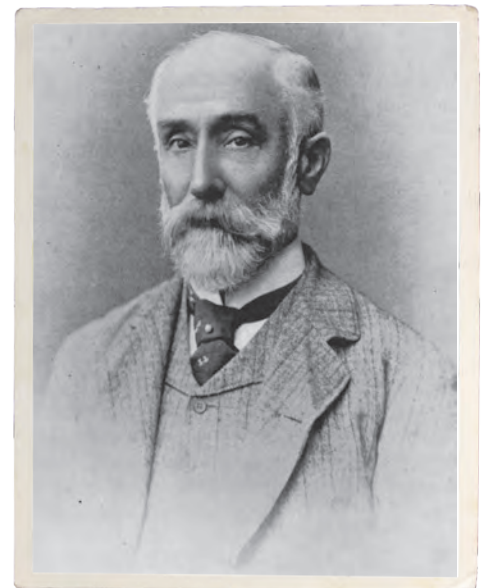
COBB & CO.

The coaching company Cobb & Co connected bush settlements to commercial centres from the 1850s to the 1920s. Established in Victoria, Cobb & Co used lightweight, flexible coaches that had been designed in America and were better suited to the rough terrain than the rigid English coaches used by its competitors. The speed and relative smoothness of this design quickly made Cobb & Co the preferred coaching company, enabling rapid expansion. The extensive network of routes covered vast areas of Australia, and by 1900 this included 39 routes in Queensland. Remote communities relied on Cobb & Co for mail, medical supplies, and transport.

Figure 22: Cobb & Co. horse coach. The colour scheme was typical pre-1900. Bolton Collection. Source: Queensland Muaseum Network.

Excerpt from *Pages from the Journal of a Queensland Squatter*, 1901. Oscar de Satgé. Source: University of Queensland

Soon after the development of the Aramac country we got a coach service from Clermont to Aramac, and many a trip I took on Cobb's coach when it wasn't convenient to take my own buggy. These trips were often wet or dry; in the former case we had to walk over long distances of boggy ground, every now and then having to lever out the coach that had sunk to its axles. The shades of evening sometimes

Figure 23: Arrival of Cobb's coach at post office, Clermont, c.1873. Photographer: R.J. Cottell. Source: National Library of Australia

overtook us, and an impromptu camp had to be made without food and with many a mosquito as companion [...] There are no harder worked men than Cobb and Co.'s drivers in the outside districts of Queensland, as they often have to drive with half-broken horses over half-made tracks, cutting in and out of the bush with nerve and wrists of iron. Most of the country between Clermont and Aramac was bad driving and required great skill; the great point was an early start, especially in the hot summer months, when the heat and flies of the noontide hour became specially aggravating to man and beast.

ADDITIONAL ONLINE RESOURCES

COBB+CO MUSEUM – QUEENSLAND MUSEUM NETWORK
This large online collection includes many vehicles and objects relating to Cobb & Co.

NLA.GOV.AU/NLA.OBJ-231417815 – NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA
A map of Cobb & Co.'s routes through Queensland, 1885.

📖 **CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:**
Continuity and change; Place and space; Resource allocation.

DROVER: EDWARD TALBOT'S DIARY

Originally explored to gauge its pastoral potential, the Isaac region was used for sheep and cattle grazing and movement of stock across the landscape. While the region had suitable grazing country, times were tough during periods of drought and days of droving were long and hard.

Figure 24: Detail from Edward Talbot's diary, 1878. Source: James Cook University Library.

Over four months in 1878, Edward Talbot helped drove 1400 cattle on a thousand-mile journey from Waverley, near St Lawrence, to Diamantina Lakes. He recorded his daily ups and downs in a diary, first in ink and then in pencil as his ink ran out. Talbot mentioned adversities such as lost cattle and horses, tough crossings, wild dogs and diverting off road a long way to locate water.

Transcribed excerpts from *Edward Hayes Talbot's* diary, 1878. Excerpts: April 1878 (near Clermont). Source: James Cook University Library.

> *April 22nd Monday: Left Cheeseborough early. The stolen horse came back to the camp himself. Started the drove to Clermont to get what rations we should want on the road. Got to Clermont at 9 o'clock with the cattle and left between 3 and 4. Had a late [...] at the second crossing of Sandy Creek. Two of the men [...] to night [...] in town. Made(?) the cattle restless and hungry. Lost two of the pups in town.*

> *April 23rd Tuesday: Started from Sandy Creek early had a job to get through the [...] ridges but got through safe. [Had] to kill another calfe(sp) and Kelly sent me back from Wolfang Creek for two pups we lost in Clermont. I just got in time to go to a ball. Tom Hardy got the pups at Cheeseborough, but I missed him so did not know he had them. Thought of having a good night's sleep but was dancing all night.*

> *April 24th Wednesday: Still looking for the pups. Met Hardy, he told me he had them. I assisted him to get his rations on in town then went on with him to his camp at Sandy Creek. We both went back to town and had a good dance and got back to camp about two in the morning.*

SHEARERS' STRIKE 1891

When the station manager of Logan Downs Station between Clermont and Capella asked shearers to sign a contract which would reduce working conditions and entitlements and limit union influence, the Shearers' Strike began. It quickly spread across stations at Clermont, Barcaldine, Emerald, Springsure, Hughenden, and Capella. Pastoralists attempted to break the strike by bringing in non-union shearers willing to work for lower rates of pay, and tensions ran high. Striking shearers formed armed camps outside towns, and police and troops were brought in to protect non-union shearers arriving by train. The strike lasted for several months and did not succeed in its aims, but it did lead to the foundation of the Australian Labor Party, and played a key role in the history of Australian unions.

During the strike, unionists attempted to wreck a train crossing at Arbor Creek Bridge between Capella and Clermont. Clermont Historical Centre has a section of the bridge on display between the shearing shed and livery stables.

Transcribed excerpt from a telegraph from Horace Tozer to Sir Samuel Griffith, regarding the Shearers' Strike, 1891 Source: Queensland State Archives

...from reliable information believe unionists intend wreck every train carrying free laborers or troops drivers and stokers frightened for their own safety intend hold meeting consider whether they will drive trains unionists declared will damage Gov't property unless settlement labor question speedily arrived at believing Gov't are supporting pastoralists also that twenty (20) mounted unionists left Barcaldine for Oakwood with instructions to [?] to pull out new shearing at any cost pastoral manifests made men very bitter...
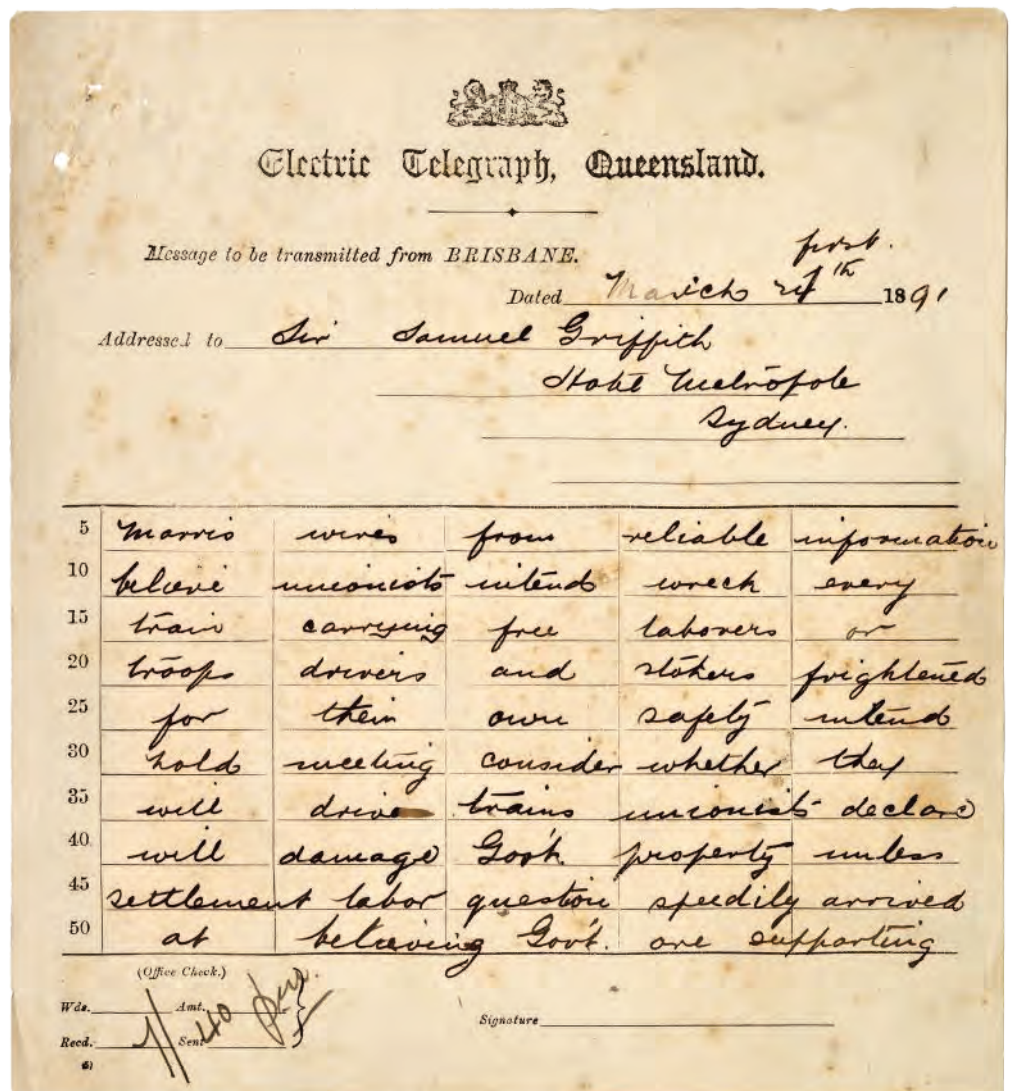

Figure 25: Detail from the first page of a telegraph regardin the shearers' strike, 1891. Source: Queensland State Archives.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF MUSEUMS

EXPLORATION AND EMPIRE: A SHORT HISTORY OF MUSEUMS

Museums developed during an age of exploration, empire building, and colonial domination. The forerunners of museums were the 'Wunderkammer' or 'cabinet of curiosities' of private collectors, rooms full of wonderful things gathered from journeys around the world. Cultural artefacts, artwork, scientific and botanical samples were taken or traded and displayed in private residences in Europe.

Social revolutions in Europe and America led to the development of public museums, based on the idea that art and culture should be accessible to everyone, not just the men of the upper classes. Initially there were restrictions around who could visit to view the wonders on display in the new public museums, but over time this changed, and now anyone is welcome to visit public museums, regardless of social class, gender, or background.

Figure 26: Gallery of a Collector, Frans Francken the Younger, 1625. Residenzgalerie (Salsburg, Austria)

Figure 27: Cabinet of Curiosities, Domenico Remps, 1690. Opificio delle pietre dure (Florence, Italy)

CARING FOR COLLECTIONS: MUSEUMS TODAY

Museums have continued to evolve over time, developing into a professional industry with its own processes, systems, and disciplines. While the early days of museums were oriented around collecting, today many museums are focused on providing care and access to their existing collections and are much more particular about what objects they accept.

Museum collections can be very large and difficult to store and care for. Museums regularly assess their collections to ensure that the objects held meet their Collection Policy requirements and are in good condition. This process may also include repatriation, as many museums today still hold cultural objects that were collected without permission.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND ABORIGINAL CULTURAL ARTEFACTS AROUND CLERMONT

If you find Aboriginal artefacts, like stone tools or rock art, the Wangan and Jagalingou people request that you leave the artefacts where you found them. It would be helpful if you could send the GPS coordinates and a photo of what you found to **contact@wanganjagalingou.com.au**. This will enable Wangan and Jagalingou to map out where artefacts are being found, and check on the sites as needed.

If you are travelling around Australia, it's important to note that there are many different Aboriginal cultural groups in Australia. Different groups will have preferences around what to do when you find artefacts, but unless the local Traditional Owners have said otherwise, it's always best to leave things on Country where you found them.

ADDITIONAL ONLINE RESOURCES

SIGNIFICANCE 2.0 | OFFICE FOR THE ARTS – AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT

Downloadable pdf of the guide to assessing significance of museum collections. Includes images and scaffolded examples.

CONTESTED OBJECTS FROM THE COLLECTION – BRITISH MUSEUM

Webpage detailing contested objects in the British Museum collection. This would be a good page to contrast with media coverage of requests to have objects returned to their countries of origin.

📖 CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS:

Significance; Perspectives; Interpretations and Contestability

FURTHER LEARNING

Many major institutions offer virtual excursions for class groups, including:

Australian National Maritime Museum (sea.museum) – Virtual excursions

Australian War Memorial (awm.gov.au) – Virtual excursions

Visit Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House Live From Your Classroom (moadoph.gov.au) – Digital Excursions

National Portrait Gallery – Virtual Excursions

A GLOSSARY OF MUSEUM TERMS

COLLECTION POLICY *the museum rules*

A document which outlines what the museum collects, and how. Donations may be turned down if they do not fit within the collection policy; similarly, objects that were added to the collection in the past that do not fit may be deaccessioned.

ACCESSION *objects coming in*

The formal process of adding an object to the museum's collection. The significance of an object must be assessed before it can be accessioned into a museum collection.

DEACCESSION *objects going out*

The formal process of removing an object from the museum's collection. Objects can be deaccessioned for many reasons, including lack of relevance to the collection's key themes, low significance, duplication within the collection, and poor condition. Museums prefer to relocate objects they deaccession to other collecting institutions, or to the original donor, however, objects may also be disposed of if they are in poor condition or pose a safety risk.

RATIONALISATION *deciding what to keep*

It is important that museums collect and keep only objects that fit within their collection policies. This is to ensure that objects in the collection are relevant and receive appropriate care. Many museums undertake rationalisation projects to ensure their collections comply with the policies that are designed to ensure highly significant objects are protected.

CATALOGUING *what's in the collection, and how do we find it again*

The process of using a Collection Management System (CMS) to record all known relevant information about a collection item. This includes information about each object's physical location, condition, provenance, donor, history, and any other pertinent details. Many small museums have inventory lists, but do not have full catalogue records of the objects they hold.

SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT *what makes this object special?*

A significance assessment evaluates an object against a set of criteria. There are four main categories of significance: historic, artistic or aesthetic, scientific or research, and social or spiritual. The resulting Statement of Significance is a summary of the values, meaning, and importance of an object or collection.

THE BURRA CHARTER *guidelines for working with heritage sites*

A best practice guide for managing cultural heritage places in Australia. It underpins most State and Federal heritage legislation in Australia and is referenced in many Queensland planning schemes. The Burra Charter is the first thing to consider when approaching a heritage building or site.

PROVENANCE *the life story of an object*

The origin of an item, including all previous owners and locations. Provenance helps establish the authenticity and legality of an object.

DIGITISATION *getting things onto the computer*

The process of converting information into a digital format, for example, scanning a document or photographing an object. Museums often undertake digitisation projects in order to improve their records. Digitisation projects can include making images of museum objects available to view online.

REPATRIATION *returning cultural artefacts and human remains*

The process of returning cultural artefacts or human remains to the cultural groups they were taken from.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROLS *avoiding big changes that could damage objects*

Museums try to establish environmental controls to better preserve their collections. This includes stabilising the temperature and humidity to avoid big fluctuations, managing the pattern of light in the room as it changes over the course of the day, and ensuring that spaces are free of pests. Some objects are better stored in cool, dry conditions, and others in warmer, more humid environments.

INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE *knowledge, skills, and practices*

Intangible cultural heritage describes knowledge, skills, and practices that have cultural significance, like oral traditions, rituals and customs, performing arts, and technical or craft skills. Intangible cultural heritage is passed from one generation to the next and can be easily lost over time.

QUEENSLAND MUSEUM LOAN KITS

You can borrow Queensland Museum Loan kits for free through the Regional Depot at Moranbah Library. We can arrange to have them delivered to Clermont Library or Historical Centre for collection.

For more detail about the kits available in 2024, visit: Queensland Museum (qm.qld.gov.au)

TO BOOK A QM LOAN KIT:

Phone: Moranbah Library: 07 4846 3534

Email: moranbah.library@isaac.qld.gov.au or Toni.Markcrow@isaac.qld.gov.au

ACTIVITY: EVIDENCE

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SOURCES

Clermont Historical Centre can be considered a **tertiary** source because it contains a variety of primary and secondary sources.

At Clermont Historical Centre, choose one primary source and one secondary source to evaluate.

OBJECT 1

Object *What is it?*	
Type of Source *Is it a primary source or a secondary source?*	
Origin *Where is it from? Where was it made or used?*	
Purpose *What was it used for?*	
Perspective *Does it express a particular point of view? Does it represent a particular point of view?*	
Usefulness *How useful is it for understanding the past?*	
Reliability *Is it reliable? Did the creator have an agenda? Is the object correctly identified?*	

Object *What is it?*	
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ACTIVITY: SIGNIFICANCE

HOW MUSEUMS ASSESS SIGNIFICANCE

A Significance Assessment is undertaken to develop a Statement of Significance for heritage objects, buildings, or places.

Choose something from the Clermont Historical Centre and do some research to develop a Statement of Significance. Remember, not all objects will meet all criteria. Refer to Significance 2.0 for more detail.

GENERAL INFORMATION	**Object** *What is it?*	
	Detailed description *Provide some more detail: what does it look like? Are there any additional pieces of information that need to be included?*	
	Provenance *The life story of the object: including who made it and where; who used it and where; who donated it, and where it is now located. Not all of this information may be available, so include what you do know.)*	
PRIMARY CRITERIA	**Historic**	
	Aesthetic or Artistic	
	Scientific or Research	
	Social or Spiritual	

COMPARATIVE CRITERIA	Provenance	
	Representativeness	
	Rarity	
	Condition	
	Interpretive potential	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	This is a short statement summarising your research and outlining the significance of the object. Focus on the areas of greatest significance.

NOTES

NOTES

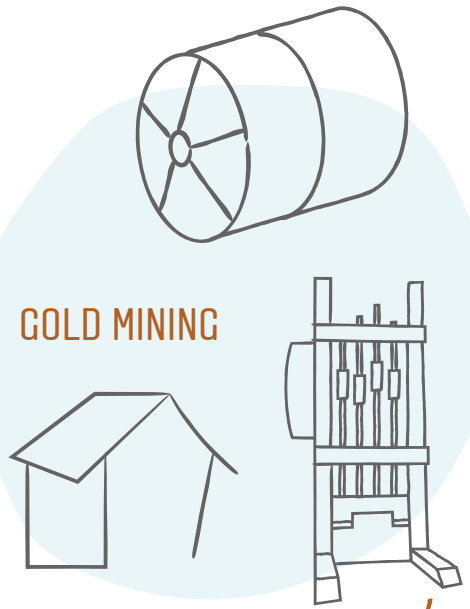ROSE GARDEN

COLLECTION ROOM

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FIRST
AID

EXHIBITION

PICNIC
TABLES

TOILETS

MASONIC LODGE

BBQ

EXHIBITION
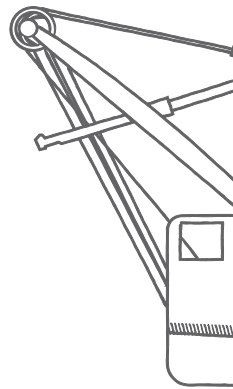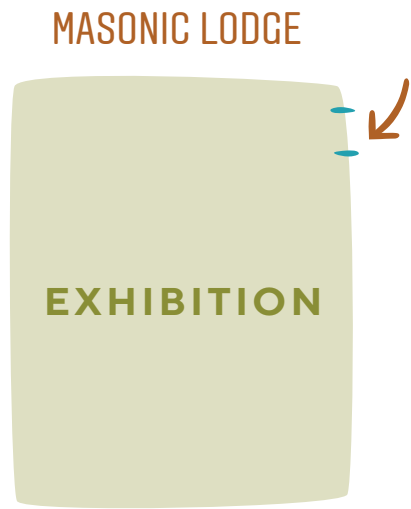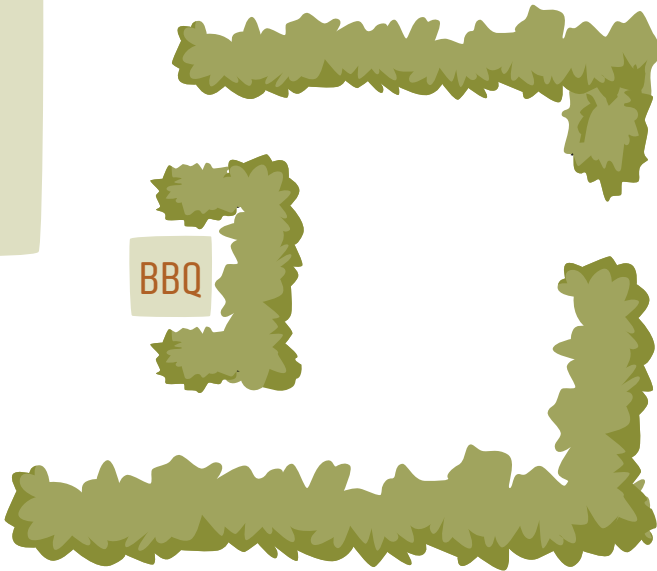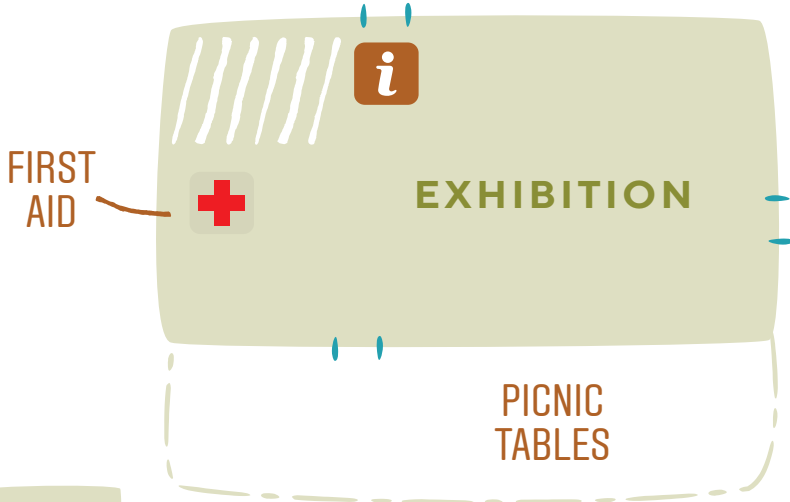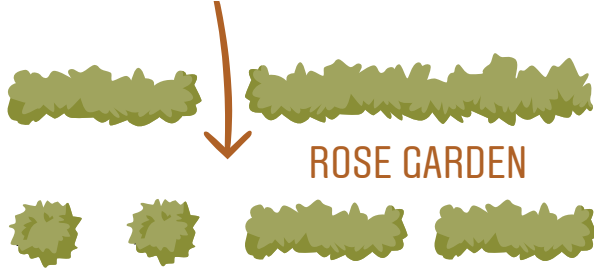
TRACTORS
& FARM
EQUIPMENT

VEHICLES

SLAB HUT
1906

DAILY LIFE
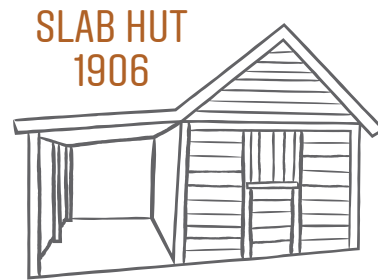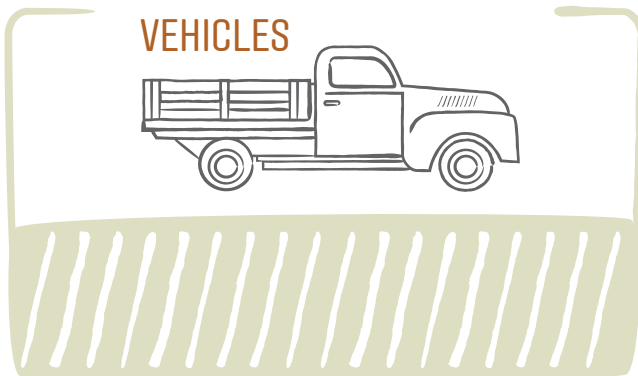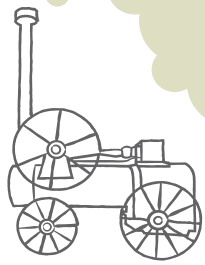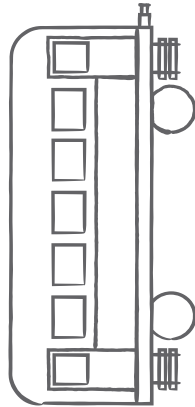
STEAM
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GOLD MINING

GOLD
STAMPER

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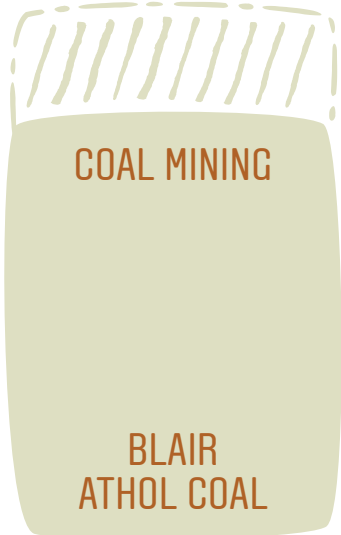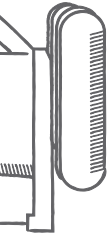
COAL MINING

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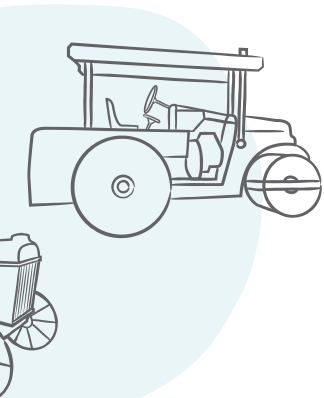
THUNDER BOX

SHEARING
SHED

AGRICULTURE

LIVERY
STABLES

TOOLS
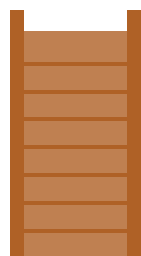
ARBOR
BRIDGE

///// = no public access

Map not to scale