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## “DOGWOOD EXPRESS”

# Meet the “Village People”

What a great month April will be among our regular staff and volunteers – Tom, Anne, Brent and Gemma will all celebrate birthday milestones in April 2010 – 18, 80, 50 and 60!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Which one is turning 18 ??

Have you met the people who continue to keep your Village in a pristine condition, ever ready for visitors from all points of the globe? Call in anytime and introduce yourself – they would love to hear your story and you might find they have an interesting tale or two to share with you. In this issue we are profiling our longest serving staff member.

### Pat Curtis

Pat Curtis is a valued employee with the Miles Historical Village. She has been with us since July 2001, shortly after she and her husband Ken came to live at Columboola from Glenmorgan.



Pat is community-minded and had been on the Glenmorgan State School Committee in an executive capacity for quite a few years as the treasurer of the school’s local newspaper. Pat’s bright, friendly personality is a welcome asset as she greets visitors to our Visitor Information Centre and Historical Village complex.

Over the years Pat has had many questions put to her; tourists ask where the McDonald’s or Kentucky Fried Chicken outlets are in Miles, or “Where are all the kangaroos and koalas we have been told about?” Pat loves conversing with the visitors and helping them with directions, all adding up to a very satisfying position.

Pat has seen many changes during her time at the Village and wishes the new committee all the best for the coming year.

#### Current staff employed by Miles Historical Society

- **Pat** - weekends
- **Terry** – 2 days per week
- **New staff member** – 4 days per week

#### Western Downs Regional Council Staff

- **Anne** – full time Visitor Information Centre Officer and Miles Historical Village Museum Site Manager
- **Gemma** – shared trainee – Tourism and Visitor Information

#### Regular volunteers who attend each week

- Hilda, Lindsay, Margaret, Brent, Lesley, Evelyn, Kylie, Merlene, Greg and Rupert.

These who are named are just a few of the many volunteers who give up time regularly to support the Village activities, and we appreciate them all, whether they come daily, weekly, monthly or once a year!

Some volunteers visit monthly or six-weekly to clean and maintain specific buildings or collections.

**Would you like to ADOPT a building or, maybe, learn to accession items or assist in the front office meeting the visitors? Or perhaps paint, or wash, or garden or sweep or cater or just hang out and talk to the visitors about Miles and District...**



If you would like to help in any way, please contact Anne on 4627 1492 or one of the Committee.

#### 2010 Committee

- |                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Patron:</b>         | David Mundell    |
| <b>President:</b>      | Kylie Bourne     |
| <b>Vice President:</b> | Kerry Mulholland |
| <b>Secretary:</b>      | Elizabeth Upton  |
| <b>Treasurer:</b>      | Hilda Heffernan  |
| <b>Committee:</b>      |                  |

Merlene Coates Freeman, Mary Parker, June Geldard, Rachel Kerwick, Andrew Smith

January was a little busier than expected but February has been quiet as usual – the cleaning still must go on and the leaves continue to fall, but a little more time can be given to projects.

Recently we had a huge reshuffle in the foyer, resulting in the double doors to the Columboola Hall being open during the day to enable visitors to immediately see through to the displays.

We have centred Norman Donpon's rocks for sale in front of the doors to enable maximum focus – all proceeds from these generous donations are being placed in a building account to enable us to acquire a suitable building to house the remainder of Norman's

collection. Volunteers have also been working hard to relocate some other displays throughout the Village to enhance their exposure.

Over the past few months, the Village People hosted a dinner meeting conducted by EC3 Global, Carols by Candlelight, and dinner for the Regional Principals' conference. It is wonderful to hold these events at the Village and the funds raised assist the Committee to maintain the Village during the quiet months.

Booked for 2010, we already have another wedding, a number of tour coaches for meals and visits, and schools from Brisbane and rural regions.

### **Carols by Candlelight at the Village – December 2009**



Carols by Candlelight was a very successful inaugural event held in the Village complex. More than 200 carollers enjoyed strolling around the Village and participating in readings, talks and carols at various buildings and supper afterwards. Many thanks to all the local churches and groups who participated and the Ministers Fraternal representatives, Kathy and Jack, who helped put it all together, and to all members who brought a plate for supper and assisted on the evening.

The recitals by Loose Bruce and his merry band of singers and the wonderful radio play presentation by the Miles Arts Council were exceptionally well received as guests enjoyed refreshments. The impromptu rendition of a Russian Christmas song by a young tourist who happened to be in town that evening was certainly an unexpected treat.

### **Beef, Bells and Bottle Trees**

*“Mad Hatters Tea Party” Street Parade and more...  
Saturday September 11, 2010*

### **Church Centenary**

The Village Church is 100 years old this year – as a component of the Beef, Bells and Bottle Tree Festival in September 2010 we will be commemorating this historic occasion.

We have invited the descendants of the first couple to be married in the Church, which was originally the Dulacca Presbyterian Church, to recreate the wedding of their forebears. One of the wonderful legacies left by the bride's mother is a delightful letter sent back to the homeland describing the wedding in vivid detail...

Have you seen our refurbished Scout Display – we have recently acquired a local Adventurer's plaque to go in the display. This display is representative of the Scouts in your district – further memorabilia is always welcome.

The Dalby and Western Districts' National Servicemen's Association is developing a display to donate to the Village.

Please contact Anne Croft or Harvey Goodchild if you have items to donate

### **100 years of Guiding**

A Guiding Display to commemorate 100 years of Guiding is being prepared for display – if you have any Guiding memorabilia to donate to this display please leave at Village or contact Rachel Kerwick.

### **Looking for Information...**

It is wonderful that people in the community consider the Village when cleaning out their sheds or moving home. We continue to receive fantastic donations, large and small, for the Village – whips, war memorabilia, photos, a Bakelite radio, shoes (now back in fashion), badges, and greeting cards are just a few of the wonderful array of items.

One recent “large item” received from the Miles Race Club is a very old set of jockey weighing scales. We believe they may be the original Miles Race Club scales (converted to kilos) – if anyone has any further information we would appreciate your comments.



## Blast from the Past

Exactly 10 years ago, in Issue #16 of the very impressive and informative publication “The Dogwood Express”, produced by the Miles Historical Village and edited by Mrs Margaret Newton, we came across a short quip which, as Terry and our volunteers will attest to, is as crucial today as it was then:

Quote “The most annoying problem at the Village this year has been the summer / autumn leaf fall. Raking has been an all day project to keep the ‘street’ tidy...but Tom (Heffernan) has vowed to solve the problem. So far we have had one lawnmower catcher full of dirt, then a mower, dragged backwards, that did half a job. No doubt Tom will invent something for the job. We’ll keep you posted...”

*Meanwhile Terry and crew – you are doing a great job with those rakes...*



**Condamine Jack entertains some Village visitors...**



**Pat Curtis with Norman Donpon and his niece Marie**

## FROM THE VISITORS BOOK...

**“A real treasure trove of local history”**

**“An excellent presentation, have not seen better in 20 years”**

**“Visual overload”**

**“We were in a time warp, loved it, very impressive”**

**“Compulsory viewing for everyone”**

**“ \* \* \* \* \* RATING!”**

The Miles Historical Village and Museum, one of Australia’s leading regional museums, was opened in 1971 and has continued to build on the outstanding displays since that time. The complex currently accommodates in excess of thirty original and replica buildings in a streetscape setting, each of which houses displays from bygone eras pertinent to the original purpose of the building.

In addition to the period buildings, the Miles Historical Village is home to:

**\* the Norman Donpon Lapidary Display, a collection of over 4000 items of fossil wood, ferns, fine agate, crystal and mineral exhibits;**

**\* the Shell House Collection, which is one of the largest private collections of shells in Australia; and**

**\* the War Memorial, highly regarded for the significant collection of items from the Boer War to the Vietnam War on display.**

The Village is constantly expanding to meet the demands of the new century.

This facility has primarily been constructed and maintained by volunteer workers under the management of the Miles Historical Society. The Village continues to open from 8 – 5 seven (7) days a week with limited paid staff and a wonderful band of volunteers.

## ***Experience – Explore - Enjoy***

**Visitors, Volunteers and Members welcome.  
Become an important and strategic part of  
“Creating Visions of our past for Future  
Generations”**

*The Dogwood Express is published four times each year for members of the Miles Historical Society. Thanks to sponsorship of production, print and postage, we are able to distribute this special edition to each household in the Miles District.*

*We welcome all new members.*