

# History



Director Joe Hextall

## Everything old is new again

'Everything old is new again' certainly applies to the Eumundi Museum which officially re-opened on 31 May after two years of major renovations and a complete curation of its collections.

Originally housed and managed by local historian HESSIE LINDSELL in the old cane drivers' barracks – now the market offices – it moved into the vacant former Methodist church close to the post office in 1996. Since 1976 the Eumundi and District Historical Association (EHA), originally formed as the EHS, has worked tirelessly, applied for grants and donations, and sought

professional museum and heritage advice. Three years ago it appointed Tasmanian-born Joe Hextall to oversee stage one of the restoration.

Joe moved to the Sunshine Coast eight years ago after working on exhibitions at Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance. He completed his Masters of Cultural Heritage and Museum Studies before working freelance at Caboolture and for Noosa Shire Council.

The museum is still being renovated with stage two including landscaping the front garden and pathways and extending the back section to join and include Wan'din'in, the gallery and meeting



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space opened in 2015. There will be a military service gallery and a special place to feature the wagon built by the old local blacksmith, George Adams.

After the recent re-opening, locals and tourists can move around beautifully-lit exhibits covering the Kabi Kabi proud heritage, the early settlers' timber industry and their social life which came mainly from several town churches. Numerous objects and curios will stir memories and stories and a natural history section includes a touch screen which tests your skill in recognising local bird calls.

An engrossing, continuous photographic frieze around the walls tells our story. Digitalised copies are available on request and most are found on [www.eHive.com](http://www.eHive.com). Joe is seeking more photos especially from the 50s to the 80s as most old polaroids have yellowed.

Joe explained that the museum renovation was complex. Lockdowns due to Covid allowed work – begun with conservator Melanie Fihelly – to really progress along with capital works.



These included removing asbestos, renovating, relining the walls, painting, installing the lighting system and building new display cases, all while maintaining the church's heritage appearance as approved by a heritage architect. The beautiful stained glass arch window added a special reminder.

The museum promises a "regularly changing central exhibition" including the QCWA centenary, ancient artefacts, Australia's withdrawal from the Vietnam War... and a 'feature creature' which is currently a koala skull!

Eileen Walder

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# Community



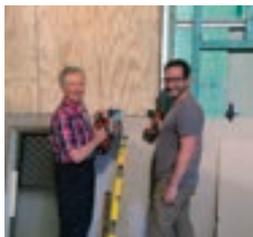
## Eumundi Community Garden

After a hectic few weeks at the Eumundi Community Garden (ECG) there are many improvements to celebrate, reports president Sue Godwin.

The newly-named EDCA Pavilion (Eumundi and District Community Assn) is for the ECG to hold information sharing workshops and will be available for community groups to use. EDCA generously donated \$50,000 towards the establishment of the garden and president Louis Formosa was on hand to see temporary signage installed.

"It's a space, a community education hub, and we are going to use it for ECG workshops. We already have two planned, one on setting up wicking beds and one on beekeeping run by Belinda Poole the garden's bee manager. It could also be used for local art workshops or any other educational areas," explained Sue.

The new garden shed, put together with the aid of Eumundi Rotary, is for storage of tools and



equipment. Thanks to volunteers Gus Mackenzie and Jim (Irish) Collins for lining the shed. Also Ricatti Bros Concreting for the shed and pavilion slabs.

The ECG group are always keen for new members. If you'd love a vegetable garden but don't have a good spot, raised beds are available for community rental including fertiliser, mulch and water. Anyone in the community can come, plant their veggies, mix with like-minded people and share information. Future plans include a pizza oven for casual, community get togethers.

Sue Godwin, Eumundi Community Garden



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