



Knockbreak Homestead – a slab and shingle hut from the 1860's.

Credit: Connie Dyke



Inside Knockbreak Cottage

Credit: Connie Dyke



Possum Coat – Made in 1936 from local possum skins.

Credit: Deannah Vieth

Eidsvold & District Historical Complex

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**Hours: Monday and Friday morning
or by prior arrangement**

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Presented by Museum & Gallery Services Queensland in partnership with Eidsvold & District Historical Complex.

'Did You Know' – intriguing facts about the Historical Complex

- The museum has a 1936 coat made from possum skins. The possums were shot by a local bushman and sent away to be tanned and made into a coat for the cold winters, a gift to his wife who brought up eleven children in the district while he was away working.
- The Grosvenor Flat flood rescue boat in the collection was made in 1942 by Max Wood and Cecil Oehm from tongue and groove pine timber and sealed with tar and corn bags. It was used to ferry much needed supplies and mail during the record flood in the Burnett River.
- Colin Sinclair from Eidsvold represented Australia at the 1924 Olympic Games in boxing. His gloves from the Paris Olympics are on display in the Museum.
- Eidsvold has a Norwegian Connection. The town of Eidsvold took its name from Eidsvold Station, a property selected by the Archer Bros in 1848 and named after Eidsvoll, a small town in Norway. Tom and Charles Archer were sons of a Scottish family who had emigrated to Norway in 1825. In 1948 to celebrate the centenary of the Upper Burnett River settlement, Norway's First Minister presented the people of Eidsvold with a painting of Eidsvoll and in 1988, Bi – Centennial Celebrations in Eidsvold included a Norwegian Heritage Festival, photos of which are on display in the museum.

Our Profile

Eidsvold Station was taken up in 1848 by the Archer brothers, naming it after Eidsvoll, Norway. In 1887 when the goldfields were proclaimed, the bustling gold mining town of over 2000 was named Eidsvold.

Eidsvold Historical Complex is located in country redolent with memories of sheep, cattle and gold mining days from families whose descendants still live in the district. A highlight is their country hospitality which can be organised for booked groups.

On site is the surviving detached kitchen of Knockbreak Homestead- a slab and shingle hut of the Sinclair family from the 1860s. Guthrie Sinclair worked on the Archer brothers' Eidsvold Station as a shepherd. Paid in sheep, he tendered for a run and moved his family and flocks to Knockbreak, named after his district in Scotland. Other buildings relocated to the complex include the old station buildings of Clonave, the Calrossie store and meat shop and the Riverleigh Railway Fettlers' Cottage.

Amongst the displays in Riverleigh, is the Iris Bancroft Soldiers Corner: a collection of the photographs and memorabilia of the local men and women who served for Australia from the Boer to the Vietnam Wars.

Two extensive collections held in trust in the complex are the George Schafer collection of geological specimens assembled by this local bushman over 50 years and the Schultz/ Duncan collection of bottles and tools from rural Queensland post 1880s.

What the Standards Program has meant for our museum

It is important to identify significant items within our collection and to display the known history with the objects.

Participation in the Standards Program reinforced the need for the Museum to have more involvement from Council and the community and to have up to date policies guiding the volunteers practice.