



*Harold "Spook" Ware poses with his portrait by Gil Jamieson.*

Credit: Ann Baillie



*Unusual surveyor's post from local area.*

Credit: Ann Baillie



*Wagon workshop where visitors will often find Harold Ware at work.*

Credit: Monto Historical & Cultural Complex Management Committee

### **Monto Historical and Cultural Complex**

**20 Flinders St  
Monto Qld 4630**

**Hours: By appointment**

**Contact: Ann Green  
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Presented by Museum & Gallery Services Queensland in partnership with Monto Historical and Cultural Complex.

### **'Did You Know' – intriguing facts about the Complex**

- A portrait of Harold 'Spook' Ware by the late Monto artist, Gil Jamieson, is on display in the complex. Gil Jamieson's work is represented in national, state, and university art galleries as well as the Monto Library. Throughout his award-winning career he exhibited regularly in Melbourne, Rockhampton and Brisbane. He lived and worked on the land with his family raising cattle on a bush block near Monto and many hundreds of his paintings remain stored in his family's shed.
- Monto's Light Horse display tells the story of 138 Monto men who joined the Australian Light Horse to fight during the second world war. Monto's community is proud of the extraordinarily high percentage per population that joined the Light Horse.
- Surveyors use and leave reference marks all over the country when surveying the land. One specific mark is cutting a shield into a tree. Gradually over time, the tree would grow over the shield. At Monto's historical display you can see a rare example of the original cut shield plus the mirror image of the re-growth standing alongside each other.

### **Our Profile**

The Monto Historical and Cultural Complex is a well-presented facility, with a pleasant garden frontage located on one of the main thoroughfares into Monto. The overall aim is to preserve and present the culture, heritage and history of the Monto district and its people. The complex includes a museum and art gallery housed in a modern, air-conditioned building. Half of the internal space is dedicated to changing cultural displays of photography, textiles, art and craft from local artists and societies. Historical displays, exhibits and photographs are located in the other half of the building.

The historical collection extends beyond the main building into the grounds of the complex. A group of pioneer buildings include a Cania goldfields slab hut and the Goody family's Birnam Homestead kitchen, which dates from around 1910. The slab hut and Birnam Homestead kitchen are original buildings relocated from surrounding rural properties. There's a lot to see including an unusual timber jack honed from one log, an early railway carriage with historical railway memorabilia and the Cynthia station siding. Also featured is a remarkable array of horse-drawn vehicle replicas, built by Harold Ware, and a wheelwright's workshop where visitors can watch demonstrations by Harold, an enthusiastic and highly skilled member of the Monto Historical Society.

The modern building with its cultural, art and craft displays, the historical collection, the original pioneer structures, Harold's demonstrations and picnic possibilities in the museum's grounds offer the visitor a fulfilling experience to remember.

### **What the Standards Program has meant for our museum**

We have learnt so much through the Review process that we would recommend it to anyone who is trying to run a museum or gallery. Everyone has been so helpful, so easy to talk to and so full of knowledge. Every single activity has held something of interest.

From being completely lost at the very beginning and wondering if it was really for us, we have been converted to eager volunteers ready to on the enormous tasks ahead of us and feeling like we have direction and an understanding of where we want to be and how to get there. We know where we can access help when we need it. We are no longer alone but part of a whole network of helpful like minded people.