

Pioneer Valley Museum

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4754**

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**www.mackay.qld.gov.
au/community/council_
facilities2/historical_
centres/pioneer_valley_
museum**

**www.facebook.com/
Pioneer-Valley-Museum-
490180477706428**

**Hours: Tue-Thu 9.30am-
2.30pm**

**Admission Cost: Adult \$3,
Concession \$2, Child \$1,
Groups of 10 or more \$2
each**

**Contact: Carmel Kelly,
Volunteer Coordinator**

Leonie Fanning, Volunteer



***First diesel locomotive used
in the sugar industry in the
Mackay region.***

Credit: Friends of the Museum



***Visitors and Friends of the
Museum at one of the 2015
presentations of our Great
War story panels of local
people.***

Credit: Friends of the Museum

Presented by Museums & Galleries
Queensland in partnership with Pioneer
Valley Museum at Mirani.

Our Profile

The Pioneer Valley Museum tells stories of the Valley, yet our rich history can resonate for all of Queensland.

Come and visit the heritage hub of the Valley. Explore stories about personalities, places and objects that help tell our history and give fascinating glimpses of our past.

Our heritage embraces Aboriginal and South Sea Islander culture, the rich industrial tapestry of cane, cotton, tobacco, timber and even gold, of the region and our natural environment. The museum boasts truly unique specimens including the *Pallimnarchus gracilis* fossil and rare cultural objects like the Amalgamated Workers Association Flag and the very first diesel loco to haul cane in the Mackay Region.

The personalities and identities of the Valley are entwined with the rich history that we share. If you are from near or afar, our collections and stories are here for you to explore.

Did you know?

Mackay is home to the largest community with Australian South Sea Islander heritage in Australia. Many members of this group are the descendants of men who were indentured to the sugar cane industry from the late 1800s. The Museum houses a display of authentic South Sea Islander artefacts collected by one of these families from their home islands.

The Township of Mirani once had a Magistrate's Court servicing the Pioneer Valley. Significant pieces of dressed pine furniture, including the prisoner's dock, a witness stand and Magistrate's chair from this Court House are now displayed in the Museum.

The timber and dairying industries were once major economic drivers in the development of the region and were mainly carried out in the Clark Ranges of Eungella National Park fame. Only a couple of dairy farms remain and many artefacts of both industries are now housed in the museum.

What the Standards Review Program has meant for our museum

The Standards Review Program reinforced the direction that our group is taking in developing the stories of local identities, particularly as this has already encouraged increased local interest in the Museum.

Discussions with the Reviewers have encouraged us to plan and undertake the process of the digitisation of the collection working in conjunction with the other museums in the Mackay Council region.