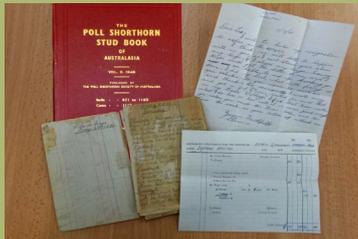




J Evans Rotary Water Pump

Credit: Blackall-Tambo Regional Council



A selection of items from the McLean Brothers collection relating to station life from the 1930's - 1960's.

Credit: Blackall-Tambo Regional Council



Blackall Queensland Ambulance Transport Brigade rail motor.

Credit: Blackall-Tambo Regional Council

Ram Park

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Hours: 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday

Contact: Suzanne Frost,
Coordinator

Presented by Museum & Gallery Services Queensland in partnership with Ram Park.

Our Profile

Ram Park is an historical complex located in the main street of Blackall which hosts a number of relocated buildings, important to the region, including Navena Homestead, Yalleroi Railway Station and the Yalleroi School. Also set in the relaxing surrounds of the complex is the Blackall Visitor Information Centre housed in the historic Blackall Railway Station.

Take a step back in time and visit the Navena Homestead complete with personal objects used by the McLean family during the operation of their extensive property. Relocating buildings is a long established Queensland tradition. In the 1900's, the McLean family relocated the homestead in four parts from Mount Morgan to Blackall by bullock wagon over a distance of 615 kilometres. It was relocated again to the museum complex in the 1990's.

You can also see the Blackall Queensland Ambulance Transport Brigade rail motor, a rare survivor from Queensland Ambulance history. Originally built in 1923 it was used effectively when roads were closed due to flooding.

Displayed at the front of the complex is the Big Ram from whom the complex takes its name. It symbolises the importance of the sheep and wool industry for the development of Blackall and surrounding regions.

A visit to Ram Park is a must when visiting Blackall. It complements other historical attractions including the Black Stump, Jackie Howe Museum and the Blackall Woollscour.

Did you know?

The Blackall Queensland Ambulance Transport Brigade rail motor was the last operational rail ambulance to operate in Queensland. Its last call out, when roads were impassable due to flooding, was on 1 May 1983 to assist a patient who had been injured in a motorbike accident at Yaraka.

Officially opened in 1908 the Blackall Railway Station was eventually unable to compete with the road system and closed in 1992. The railway line remained open until 2005 with passengers allowed on what was locally known as the Yaraka mixed train (freight/passengers) until 2001. Blackall Railway Station, relocated to its present position at Ram Park in 1992, and is now home to the Blackall Visitors Centre.

You can see the only known photographs of the Black Stump and the 'transit', an instrument used for surveying, which sat on the original Black Stump. In 1886 Surveyor Thomas Frazer placed his transit on the Black Stump to take astronomical observations. The stump was used in place of a set of legs because it gave more stability to the transit. Blackall lays claim to the origin of the expression 'beyond the Black Stump' as at the time it was considered that any country west of Blackall was beyond the 'Black Stump'.

What the Standards Program has meant for our museum

Collection significance and display

Staff now have a greater understanding of the significance of some of our collection and how to display items to their best advantage.

Organisation and Work Structure

A better focus on how to plan and structure the work required, as well as the development of documentation and policies and the need to continually update them.