

Program: Community Lifestyle
Date of Adoption: 23 November 2022
Resolution Number: ORD-2022-339
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Scope

This document addresses the acquiring, documenting, managing, and disposing of Mackay Regional Council (MRC) museum collection objects. The policy applies to all MRC Staff and visiting researchers who have a role in the use and management of the MRC museum's collection.

Objective

To provide a framework to assist MRC Staff and Volunteers to effectively manage the MRC museum collections. This Policy will assist in building relevant and significant collections, ensure their continued conservation and preservation, and enable the museums to continue to provide engaging and relevant interpretation of the region's history to a wider audience

Policy Statement

MRC is responsible for four museums across the region: Mackay Museum, Greenmount Homestead, Pioneer Valley Museum, and Sarina Museum. Operations at each museum is supported by a group of Volunteers, while the buildings, land, and collections are owned by MRC. Each collection was created independently, and has evolved separately over time, coming into MRC possession through varied processes. Council also owns a corporate heritage collection.

This Policy must be read in conjunction with CS115.1 Museum Collections Corporate Standard.

Council considers that to the extent this policy engages and limits, or potentially limits, any human rights, that limitation is reasonable in that it is proportionate and justified.

This process to remain in force until otherwise determined
by Mackay Regional Council

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1.0 Principles

1.1 Acquisition of objects

The Collection Management Committee will assess objects against the following acquisition criteria before acceptance into Museum Collection.

- 1.1.1.1 *Relevance* – MRC only collects objects that relate to their museums' purpose and key collecting areas.
- 1.1.1.2 *Significance* – priority is given to objects which are significant for their historic, aesthetic, scientific/research or social/spiritual value.
- 1.1.1.3 *Provenance and documentation* – priority will be given to objects where the history of the object is known and associated documentation and support material can be provided.
- 1.1.1.4 *Condition* – badly damaged material or items in poor condition will not normally be accepted into the collections
- 1.1.1.5 *Interpretive potential* – objects that tell a story which adds to the interpretation of the museums' key themes will be prioritised.
- 1.1.1.6 *Rarity* – objects may be prioritised if they are rare examples of a particular kind.
- 1.1.1.7 *Representativeness* – objects may be accepted if they are an excellent representative example of a particular type of object.
- 1.1.1.8 *Duplications* – objects which duplicate an item already in the collection will not be accepted unless they are of superior condition and/or historic value.
- 1.1.1.9 *Legal requirements* – objects will only be accepted when the donor/vendor has legal title to the object, and which do not contravene copyright or relevant legislation (e.g. CITES, *Underwater Cultural Heritage Act 2018 etc*).
- 1.1.1.10 *Capacity* – objects which exceed the storage and collections care capacity of MRC or which require extensive conservation treatment will not normally be accepted

1.2 Deaccession and disposal of objects

MRC recognises that the deaccession and disposal of objects from the collection is an essential part of effective collection management. Any decision to deaccession and dispose of an object will be exercised with caution and following accepted museum industry standards.

2.0 Complaints

Any complaints in relation to a decision or a service arising from this policy will be assessed and managed in accordance with MRC's Administrative Action Complaints Policy, a copy of which can be found on MRC's website.

When an individual feels that they are the subject of MRC's failure to act compatibly with human rights, they can make a complaint directly to MRC. These complaints will be assessed against the Human Rights Act 2019.

Complaints may be made as following:

In writing to
Chief Executive Officer
Mackay Regional Council
PO Box 41
MACKAY QLD 4740

Via Email - complaints@mackay.qld.gov.au

In person at the following MRC Client Services Centres:

- MRC Mackay Office – 73 Gordon Street, Mackay
- MRC Sarina Office – 65 Broad Street, Sarina
- MRC Mirani Council Office – 20 Victoria Street, Mirani

3.0 Definitions

To assist in interpretation the following definitions shall apply:

Accession shall mean the process of formally transferring title or ownership from the providing source to MRC.

Acquisition shall mean the act of gaining possession of the object by purchase, award, gift exchange, donation bequest or commission.

Bequest shall mean the bestowal by will of privately owned objects to MRC.

Collection shall mean an identifiable selection of objects having some significant commonality. This could be by donor, subject matter or theme.

Collection Management Committee shall mean a committee which consists of the Senior Co-ordinator Community Program, Museum Co-ordinator, a Councillor, other Staff and volunteer representatives as necessary.

Conservation shall mean the processes for preserving and protecting objects from loss, decay, damage or other forms of deterioration, usually undertaken by a qualified professional conservator.

Copyright shall mean statutory legal right to print, publish, perform, film or record material.

Council shall mean the Mayor and Councillors of Mackay Regional Council.

Deaccession shall mean the process of removing an object permanently from the collection and the recording of the disposal/removal of an object from the collection when it is sold, donated, destroyed, or lost.

Donation shall mean the process of transferring ownership of an object without any payment or consideration. Donations are to be appropriately documented.

MRC shall mean the Mackay Regional Council

Staff shall mean all persons employed by Mackay Regional Council on a permanent, temporary, casual basis or otherwise engaged by Mackay Regional Council including those under a contract of service.

Volunteer shall mean all persons not employed by Mackay Regional Council but are engaged under a volunteer program.

4.0 Review of Policy

This policy will be reviewed when any of the following occur:

- The related documents are amended or replaced; or
- Other circumstances as determined from time to time by a resolution of Council

Notwithstanding the above, this policy is to be reviewed at intervals of no more than three (3) years.

5.0 Reference

- Mackay Regional Council Corporate Plan 2015-2020
- Mackay Regional Council Arts and Cultural Plan 2016-2020
- MRC Policy 042 – Asset Management Policy
- MRC Policy 059 – Receipt of Donations
- MRC Corporate Standard 115.1 Museum Collection Management
- International Council of Museums (ICOM) Code of Ethics
- National Standards for Australian Museums and Galleries

6.0 Attachments

1. MRC Corporate Standard No. 115.1 – Museum Collections.

Version Control:

Version	Reason / Trigger	Change	Endorsed / Reviewed	Date
1	New		ORD-2022-339	23.11.2022

Attachment 'A'

Program	Community Lifestyle
Date of Endorsement	23 November 2022
Review Date	23 November 2025

1.0 Scope

This corporate standard applies to all Mackay Regional Council Staff and visiting researchers

2.0 Objective

To provide guidance on the implementation of the MRC's Museum Collection Policy.

3.0 Reference

- Mackay Regional Council Corporate Plan 2022-2027
- MRC Policy 115 - MRC Museum Collection
- Mackay Regional Council Arts and Cultural Plan 2016-2020
- MRC Policy 042 - Asset Management
- International Council of Museums (ICOM) Code of Ethics
- National Standards for Australian Museums and Galleries
- Significance 2.0 - a guide to assessing the significance of collections

4.0 Definitions

To assist in interpretation the following definitions shall apply:

Accession shall mean the process of formally transferring title or ownership from the providing source to MRC.

Acquisition shall mean the act of gaining physical possession of the artwork or object by purchase, award, gift exchange, bequest, or commission.

Bequest shall mean the bestowal by will of privately owned cultural items to MRC.

Collection shall mean an identifiable selection of objects having some significant commonality. This could be by donor, subject matter, or theme.

Collection Management Committee shall mean a Committee which consist of the Senior Co-ordinator Community Program, Museum Co-ordinator, a Councillor, other Staff and volunteer representatives as necessary.

Conservation shall mean the processes for preserving and protecting museum items from loss, decay, damage, or other forms of deterioration, usually undertaken by a qualified professional conservator.

Copyright shall mean statutory legal right to print, publish, perform, film or record material.
MRC shall mean Mackay Regional Council.

Core collection shall mean those collections that have been formally accessioned and which adhere to the collecting aims of Mackay Regional Council.

Council shall mean the Mayor and Councillors of Mackay Regional Council.

Deaccession shall mean the process of removing a museum item permanently from the collection and the recording of the disposal/removal of a museum item from the collection when it is sold, donated, destroyed, or lost.

Donation shall mean the process of transferring ownership of an object without any payment or consideration. Donations are to be appropriately documented

ELT shall mean Executive Leadership Team which consist of the Chief Executive Officer, Executive Officer, all Directors and Senior Legal Counsel.

Museum shall mean a not-for-profit public institution (library, museum, art gallery) in the service of society and of its development, which is open to the public, and which acquires, conserves, research, communicates and exhibits, for purposes of study, education and enjoyment, material evidence of people and their environment, and which also adheres to the International Council of Museums (ICOM) Code of Ethics

Reserve Collection shall mean a collection consisting of items which have not undergone the formal accession and documentation processes followed with the core collection, and which may be used for handling, research, or other education purposes. Items included in the Reserve Collection generally will not meet significance criteria and are not intended to be held in perpetuity.

Staff shall mean all persons employed by Mackay Regional Council on a permanent, temporary, casual basis or otherwise engaged by Mackay Regional Council including those under a contract of service.

Volunteer shall mean all persons not employed by Mackay Regional Council but are engaged under a volunteer program.

5.0 Standard Statement

This standard provides clear procedural direction for the management of MRC Museum collection and must be read in conjunction with COU115 Museum Collections Policy.

6.0 Collection Management Committee

- The decision to acquire objects offered to MRC Museum collections is the responsibility of the Collection Management Committee.
- All decisions made by the Committee will be documented and retained.
- The Committee will meet as required.

7.0 Acquisitions

7.1 Method of Acquisitions

- MRC will accept items by gift, donation, bequest, or purchase. MRC will only accept loaned materials for specific short-term education and exhibition purposes of an identified duration.
- MRC will only collect objects and materials relevant to the acquisition criteria as outlined in Section 7.2.
- MRC will not accept conditional gifts
- MRC may accept items which will not be formally accessioned into the core collections, but which may form part of a reserve or corporate collection.

7.2 Acquisition criteria

The Collection Management Committee will consider the following criteria before approving the acquisition of an object:

- *Relevance* – MRC only collects objects that relate to their museums' purpose and objectives as outlined in the Museum Policy.
- *Significance* – priority is given to objects which are significant for their historic, aesthetic, scientific/research, or social/spiritual value.
- *Provenance and documentation* – priority will be given to objects where the history of the object is known, and associated documentation and support material can be provided.
- *Condition* – badly damaged material or items in poor condition will not normally be accepted into the collections.
- *Interpretive potential* – objects that tell a story which adds to the interpretation of the museums' key themes will be prioritised.
- *Rarity* – objects may be prioritised if they are rare examples of a particular kind.
- *Representativeness* – objects may be accepted if they are an excellent representative example of a particular type of object.
- *Duplications* – objects which duplicate an item already in the collection will not be accepted unless they are of superior condition and/or historic value.
- *Legal requirements* – objects will only be accepted when the donor/vendor has legal title to the object, and which do not contravene relevant legislation (e.g., CITES, *Shipwrecks Act 1976* etc).
- *Capacity* – objects which exceed the storage and collections care capacity of MRC, or which require extensive conservation treatment will not normally be accepted.

8.0 Legal / Ethical obligations

- MRC will acquire collections in accordance with State and Federal law and the international agreements between Australia and other countries (e.g., UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property).
- MRC will only acquire collections having a legal and ethical provenance.
- MRC acknowledges that its collections and collecting activities may be controlled by legislation such as the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003, Weapons Act 1990, Weapon Regulations 2016, Explosives Act 1999, Underwater Cultural Heritage Act 2018, and the Queensland Heritage Act 1992.
- MRC museum Staff and Volunteers are aware of, and have access to, the ICOM Code of Ethics for Museums.
- MRC is aware of, and makes available to its museum Staff and Volunteers, industry guidelines such as the National Standards for Australian Museums and Galleries, and Continuous Cultures, Ongoing Responsibilities.
- MRC does not intend to acquire or display secret/sacred objects or human remains and will support the principle of repatriation wherever appropriate.

9.0 Collection care: documentation, conservation & storage

9.1 Documentation

MRC museums aim to maintain an effective and up-to-date documentation system.

Donor forms, registers, and catalogue information will be maintained for the collection.

An efficient backup system of documentation will also be maintained.

9.1.1 *Documentation and Process for Donation of Objects to MRC*

The following process will be observed when objects are offered for donation:

- Prospective donors will be given an offer of donation form to complete, requesting information on history, use, provenance, condition, and ownership of the object offered. Photographs of the object/s should also be obtained.
- The Collection Management Committee assesses the donation offer based on the criteria outlined in Section 7.2.
- If an object is declined, a letter of thanks will be issued by the Museums Co-ordinator to the potential donor with an explanation as to why the object was declined.
- If an object is accepted, two copies of a donor form will be completed. One is retained by MRC and the other by the donor. A letter of thanks will also be provided to the donor by the Museums Co-ordinator.
- The object is entered into an Accession Register and formally catalogued.

- MRC may hold an object offered for donation for the purpose of assessment. In this instance a receipt will be offered to the owner of the object, a copy of which will be retained by MRC. This does not constitute a donation and the object will only be held for a stipulated period to reach a decision on its acquisition.

9.2 Storage and conservation

MRC aims to provide the best possible care of its collections. This is done with an awareness of the National Standards for Australian Museums and Galleries.

- Staff and Volunteers will be trained in all relevant procedures and practices in accordance with accepted museum industry standards.
- Housekeeping will be efficient and regular and will include checking for pest activity and environmental deterioration.
- Temperature and relative humidity will be monitored and kept as stable as possible, and exposure to UV light will be kept to a minimum or excluded where possible.
- Access to storage areas will be controlled.
- Archival quality storage materials will be used whenever possible.
- The advice of a qualified conservator will be sought when necessary.
- Any conservation work will only be undertaken by a qualified conservator or under their guidance.
- Restoration, as understood in conservation practices, will only be undertaken when it is necessary to secure the ongoing preservation and interpretation of an object, and where it can be safely undertaken without significant loss to the original fabric of the object. There must be sufficient evidence of a known previous state.

10.0 Deaccessioning and disposal

MRC recognises that the deaccession and disposal of objects from the collection is an essential part of effective collection management. Any decision to deaccession and dispose of material will be exercised with caution, transparency, and following accepted museum industry standards.

10.1 Criteria for deaccession

Objects will be considered by the Collection Management Committee for disposal under the following criteria:

- The object is outside the scope of MRC's mission and collection policy.
- The object condition has deteriorated beyond usefulness, the object has been damaged beyond repair, or the object condition poses a risk to other objects or human safety.
- Understanding and knowledge of the object significance or authenticity has changed, and it is no longer considered relevant to the collection.
- The object is unnecessarily duplicated in the collection.
- In response to a substantiated request for its return to the original owner.

10.2 Deaccession procedure

- Objects identified for deaccession will be considered by the Collection Management Committee with reference to the criteria outlined in Section 10.1.
- After a decision to deaccession has been made, objects will be held for a further three months before proceeding to disposed.
- MRC Staff, Volunteers, and their families are prohibited from purchasing, or otherwise obtaining, a deaccessioned object.

10.3 Disposal procedure

The disposal of objects will always be undertaken with complete transparency with preference to the following order:

- Return to the donor or donor's family.
- Offered to another museum or collecting organisation.
- Transferred to an educational/handling or corporate collection within MRC.
- Donated to a recognised charitable institution.
- By sale or auction through a reputable auction house. In this instance all funds raised are to be used for other acquisition or collection care projects, and not for general MRC operational purposes.
- Destroyed or recycled.
- All objects identified for deaccession will be fully documented prior to disposal and the deaccessioning process recorded. The objects disposal is to be recorded in the catalogue, object file, and other relevant records.

11.0 Loans11.1 Loan procedures

- MRC will lend and borrow material from its own and other collections to help meet its purpose. No object will be accepted as a convenience or favour to the lender.
- MRC will not enter into permanent or indefinite loans.
- Loans will be administered with separate forms for inward and outward loans.
- The maximum loan period is 12 months.
- Responsibility for insurance of object on inward and outward loan will be at the borrowing organisations expense with a copy of the insurance document to accompany the loan form.
- Loans (inward and outward) can only be negotiated and entered into by the Museums Co-ordinator and Senior Co-ordinator Community Programs.

11.2 Inward loans

- Inward loans will only be accepted for specific exhibitions or research and for an identified duration.
- Inward loans will be recorded on a Loans Register.

- The Museum Co-ordinator and the lender will be required to sign an inward loan form. Each party will hold a copy of the agreement. This form will record conditions of the loan and the period of the loan.
- Loaned objects shall remain in the possession of MRC and at the specified premises for the duration of the loan, unless otherwise agreed with the lender.
- MRC may request to renew loans if required. Documentation recording renewal must be signed by the Museum Co-ordinator and the lender.
- MRC will provide appropriate storage, handling, and display of the object/s while in its care.

11.3 Outward Loans

- MRC may lend objects to other museums and organisations holding collections. It will not lend to private collectors.
- Borrowers and the Museums Co-ordinator will be required to sign two outward loan agreement forms. Each party will hold a copy of this agreement. This form will record conditions of the loan and the period of the loan.
- The borrower must provide appropriate handling, storage and display of the loan object and must be prepared to meet the conditions outlined in the outward loan agreement.
- The loan may be subject to the borrower completing a venue report to demonstrate their ability to meet the requirements of object care and security.
- The borrower will provide a secure display and/or storage area.
- The maximum loan period is 12 months. Application for extension of this period must be made prior to the loan expiry date.
- Objects cannot be treated or altered in any way without the written permission of MRC.
- MRC may refuse a request to loan an object if it is impractical due to size and transport constraints, or if the condition of the item may be negatively impacted by transportation, display, and handling.
- Costs relating to transport, packing, insurance etc will be met by the borrower.
- MRC requires sufficient notice of a request to borrow an item from its collection, normally six months.

12.0 Oral History Projects

- An Oral History Agreement is signed by the person interviewed, which clearly states the purpose and intended uses of the interviews and what copyright provisions apply.
- Staff or Volunteers undertaking oral history projects will be provided with appropriate training in the conducting of interviews and use of equipment.
- MRC abides by the Guidelines of Ethical Practice of the Oral History Association of Australia.

13.0 Access

- MRC will make its collections accessible to the public through regular opening hours.

- MRC collections and archival materials are accessible for research purposes by appointment.
- MRC museum Staff and Volunteers may undertake research requests for members of the public. A fee for this service may apply.
- Digital images of objects in the collection may be produced on request for a fee, based on Council's adopted fee structure.
- Full acknowledgement must be given to MRC and the relevant MRC museum in any publications using or referencing objects from the collection.

14.0 Review of Standard

This corporate standard will be reviewed when any of the following occur:

- The related policy documents are amended or replaced; or
- Other circumstances as determined from time to time.

Notwithstanding the above, this standard is to be reviewed at intervals of no more than three (3) years.

Version Control:

Version	Reason / Trigger	Change	Endorsed / Reviewed	Date
1	New		ORD-2022-339	23.11.2022

Mackay Regional Council Museums

FACT SHEET

Relates to:

- **POL- 41.115 - Museum Collections**
- **Museum Collection Management Corporate Standard**

Mackay Regional Council (MRC) is responsible for four museums across the region: Greenmount Homestead, Mackay Museum, Pioneer Valley Museum, and Sarina Museum. Operations at each museum are supported by volunteers, while the buildings, land, and collections are owned by MRC. Each collection was created independently, and they have evolved separately over time, coming into Council possession through varied processes; i.e council amalgamations, and volunteer groups surrendering collections to council to ensure ongoing care and management.

The following information provides context to the development of each site-specific collection.

Mackay Museum

The inaugural meeting to form a historical society in Mackay was led by John Renton on 10th August 1972. The Mackay Historical Society (MHS) began by mounting temporary displays around Mackay and lobbied to have a permanent museum in the upper floor of the Town Hall building.

In 1984 Greenmount Homestead at Walkerston was donated to the Pioneer Shire Council by the Cook family. All of the contents including an extensive archive collection were donated to Mackay Historical Society who established themselves at Greenmount and continued accepting further donations from the public. The Mackay Historical Society & Museum committee incorporated in 1987. In 1992 the society received \$60,000 from Mrs Dorothy Cook to build a museum at the homestead, which was completed in 1995. In addition, a number of other buildings were moved to the site, including the Walkerston Railway Station and two former men's barracks from Marian Mill. In 1994 Pioneer Shire and Mackay City Council amalgamated.

In recognition of the unique heritage values of the site, Greenmount Homestead was entered on the State Heritage Register in 1993, which required that the site accurately reflect the occupancy of the Cook family. This was made possible after Council received a \$838,000 Federation Grant in 1999 but, in order to restore the heritage values of the property, the Mackay Historical Society & Museum had to move away from Greenmount, which Council facilitated in 2000. The Society's non-Greenmount-related collection along with the Marian Mill Barracks were moved to Casey Avenue, Mackay, where it became the Society's new home. Since moving to this site a fireproof archive room and two sheds have been added to house archives, storage, and additional displays.

Due to concerns over dwindling volunteers and financial resources, Mackay Historical Society & Museum transferred ownership of their buildings and collection to Mackay Regional Council in 2011.

Greenmount Homestead

Greenmount Homestead was donated to the Pioneer Shire Council in 1984 by the Cook family, who had owned the property since it was built in 1915, and who had been in the region since 1862. While the building became the property of the Pioneer Shire Council, the house's contents were gifted to the Mackay Historical Society. The site was for a time operated by the Mackay Historical Society, but the

entities became separate in 1999-2000 following state heritage listing of the site. Buildings moved to the site by Mackay Historical Society, such as the Walkerston Railway Station and men's barracks, were removed but the museum resource facility built in 1995 was retained as storage, office, and display space. Although the land and buildings belonged to Council, the ownership of the collection remained with the Mackay Historical Society until 2011, when ownership of their own collection and that belonging to Greenmount Homestead was transferred to Mackay Regional Council.

Pioneer Valley Museum

The Pioneer Valley Museum began when Mirani Shire Council purchased an extensive collection from local collector Jack Williams in 1986. After purchasing the collection, the Mirani Shire Council successfully gained a Bicentennial funding grant to erect a library and museum in Victoria Street Mirani. The museum, then called the Mirani Museum, officially opened on 13 September 1988 with Council owning the collection and building while the Friends of the Mirani Museum managed the collection and museum. The collection continued to expand through community donations and in 1992 the museum space was doubled. A demountable building was also provided by Mirani Shire Council adjacent to the museum to provide a workspace and storage for the collection.

In 2010 the volunteers decided to change the name of the museum to Pioneer Valley Museum at Mirani in order to better reflect the area which they represent. The volunteers of Pioneer Valley Museum at Mirani are not incorporated and operated as a sub-committee of the Pioneer Valley Tourism & Development Association until 2021.

Sarina Museum

In 1996 a heritage committee, initiated by Sarina Shire Council, was formed to preserve the history of the town and surrounding areas. As part of this group a sub-committee was formed to investigate the possibility of establishing a museum. In 2000 Sarina Shire Council acquired land for this purpose. The Catholic Church donated a 1923 Presbytery to be used as the museum building. The building was moved to the 'Field of Dreams' site after the group raised over \$30,000 to assist with relocation costs. Once moved local groups such as Apex, Lions and Rotary, along with members of the local community renovated the building. The museum officially opened in 2003 with the majority of the collection being on loan, however, over time much of these objects and archives have been donated. Known as the Sarina District Historical Centre, the group became incorporated in 2007, prior to local government amalgamations. Now called the Sarina Museum, the building and collection are owned by Mackay Regional Council and the volunteer organisation relinquished its incorporated status in 2019.

Collection Themes and Materials

Mackay Museum

The strengths of the Mackay Museum collection largely lie in the following areas:

Local identities

The museum holds a number of items associated with key figures in the development of Mackay, many of whom went on to have state or federal political roles. Items of significance include the Dr D.H. Taylor Collection, Rex Patterson's typewriter, Forgan Smith's chair, and Ian Wood's bicycle. The museum also holds some archival material relating to Cathy Freeman.

Maritime history

The maritime collection is significant and details Mackay's role as an important port. The collection also demonstrates the development of the port facility, recreational boating, and maritime

disasters. Of particular importance is the locally built vessel *Eleanor*, which is listed on the Australian Register of Historic Vessels.

Social and cultural institutions

This collection details social and cultural life in Mackay, particularly education, friendly societies, and sporting clubs. It also contains a significant collection relating to early tourism in Mackay, chiefly Brampton and Lindeman Islands.

Local industries and businesses

Sugar growing and production has been Mackay's primary industry for most of its history, and this is well represented in the museum's collection. The collection also interprets the growth of the mining industry in the region, as well as local businesses such as Walkers Foundry.

Development of Mackay

The development of Mackay is particularly well represented through an extensive collection of photographs and maps. The brick collection also demonstrates architectural and building trends.

Natural disasters

Mackay Museum's photographic and archival collection illustrates the impact natural disasters, particularly cyclones and floods, have had on the region's industry, economy, and daily life.

Future collecting

Mackay Museum will continue to collect 3D objects, photographs, books and archives relevant to the history of the local area and which meet the acquisition criteria outlined in the MRC Museum Collections Policy and Corporate Standard. Interest in future collecting areas include an expansion of the maritime collection, early tourism in the region (particularly on Brampton Island), and lesser known industries such as the dugong fishery established on the Newry Islands.

Greenmount Homestead

The collection at Greenmount Homestead represents three generations of the Cook family, not only at Greenmount itself but at their previous property Balnagowan. The collection reflects their personal tastes, activities, and interests as well as their working lives. The family had important and influential connections to the sugar industry and were pioneering cattle breeders, all of which is represented in the collection. The collection is extremely diverse, comprising, textiles, archival material, photographs, toys, jewellery, furniture, musical instruments, and a range of horse drawn and motorised vehicles.

Future collecting

As a closed in situ collection, MRC is not actively seeking to expand this collection. However, any items which may assist in interpreting the history of the site, the Cook family, and their role in society, would be considered.

Pioneer Valley Museum

The strengths of the Pioneer Valley Museum collection largely lie in the following areas:

Natural History

The natural history collection contains some examples of megafauna fossils, including the most complete *Pallimnarchus gracilis* skull known. As well as fossils, the collection also contains shells, eggs, and geological specimens.

Local industries and businesses

The Pioneer Valley Museum has a particularly significant collection related to the sugar industry in the region, most notably several items relating to the 1911 sugar strike and manufacturer's

models of plant and equipment. In addition, it showcases the timber industry, the local Hardwick brickworks, locally made clay bottles, and syrup vats from Harrup's Cordial Factory.

Mirani Shire Council

As the organisation which instigated the inception of the Pioneer Valley Museum, the museum has maintained an extensive collection relating to the former Mirani Shire Council. This includes a branding iron for Council owned stock, uniforms, signage, photographs, badges, and souvenirs.

Indigenous and Pacific collections

There is a large collection of tools and weapons, many of which were collected by Jack Williams from the local area. Jack Williams also collected items from a range of Pacific cultures, such as Papua New Guinea, Fiji, and other Pacific islands.

Military Collection

The extensive military collection represents local participation in conflicts ranging from the Boer War, WWI and II, Vietnam and the Gulf war. It includes uniforms, weapons, medals, photographs, documents and badges.

Future collecting

Pioneer Valley Museum will continue to collect 3D objects, photographs, books and archives relevant to the history of the local area and which meet the acquisition criteria outlined in the MRC Museum Collections Policy and Corporate Standard. Future collecting interests include an expansion of the military collection to include more from WWII and subsequent conflicts. The Valley's role in early European settlement of the region, and subsequent conflict and displacement of Indigenous groups, is also a focus of future collecting activities.

Sarina Museum

The strengths of the Sarina Museum collection largely lie in the following areas:

Domestic life

The collection at the Sarina Museum has a strong focus on domestic life and includes a large collection of household items.

Local industries and businesses

Sarina has been an important centre for industry and this is well represented in the collection, particularly with the Plane Creek Mill collection, the Australian National Power Alcohol Distillery collection, and the Belles & Morecombe Steam Engine. The museum has also collected more recent industrial history surrounding the Dalrymple Bay and Hay Point Coal Terminals. Local businesses are well documented in the photographic collection.

Emergency Services

The role of the emergency services in Sarina is well represented, particularly in relation to the fire brigade. The collection consists of uniforms, documents, photographs, and a Chevrolet fire engine.

Medical collection

The medical collection consists of a range of medical equipment, including a pill maker, chemist jars, ointment pots, bedpans, syringes, and other medical paraphernalia.

Photographic collection

One of the greatest strengths lies in the photographic collection, as this is more closely linked with Sarina's history than some areas of the collection. It depicts many aspects of local life, identities, and development of the town.

Music collection

The main proportion of the music collection relates to the Sarina Town Band, and comprises uniforms, instruments, banners, photographs and documents. There are also other locally provenanced musical instruments, such as an electronic organ used in the Masonic Lodge.

Future collecting

Sarina Museum will continue to collect 3D objects, photographs, books and archives relevant to the history of the local area and which meet the acquisition criteria outlined in the MRC Museum Collections Policy and Corporate Standard. Interest in future collecting areas include an expansion of the current coal/ports collection to include more history of Hay Point Coal Terminal as well as less well-known industries in the region such as tobacco, tapioca and cassava growing. Other interests in future collecting include information and objects relating to Chinese market gardens in the area and secondary industries such as Vegemite production.