



Image: *Our Priceless Past* 2024 Special Seniors at Chanel College. Photo by MGR Photography.

Our Priceless Past

13 September to 16 November



Curriculum Activity Booklet

History – Civics – General Capabilities

Connect. **Imagine. Experience.**

Introduction

The history of Gladstone Region is so special to the residents, it could be described as 'Our Priceless Past'. It is through the telling of social stories and exploring each resident's contribution to the region that a narrative of Gladstone comes to light.

The 2021 census of Gladstone reveals that there are 63,515 residents in the local government area of Gladstone, 5,604 of which are 70 years or older.

The 2024 exhibition, *Our Priceless Past*, specifically focuses on 10 older persons, referred to as our 'Special Seniors'. They were invited to be involved in this exhibition due to their unique and ongoing connection and contribution to the Gladstone Region. This event coincides with the celebration of Seniors Month in Queensland throughout October.

This resource is to be used with the Gladstone Regional Art Gallery and Museum *Our Priceless Past* booklet which features stories prepared and presented by selected students from Chanel College.

Activity Overview

In this activity booklet you will identify and clarify ideas from a range of primary sources that are in the exhibition. You will explore perspectives of Gladstone. You will explore a range of values from the Special Seniors and celebrate their value to the Gladstone Region. You will develop your metacognition skills (thinking about thinking). You will also create a timeline and explore how active civic participation creates a cohesive society. The bold words in the text are defined in the glossary at the end of the booklet.

Australian Curriculum Links (Version 9)

CIVICS AND CITIZENSHIP
YEAR 7 – 10

Knowledge and Understanding

how values based on freedom, respect, fairness and equality of opportunity can support social cohesion and democracy within Australian society [AC9HC7K05](#)

Skills

locate, select and organise information, data and ideas from different sources [AC9HC7S02](#)

explain the methods or strategies related to making decisions about civic participation [AC9HC7S04](#)

GEOGRAPHY
YEAR 7 - 10

Place and Liveability

strategies used to enhance the liveability of a place, including for young people, the aged or those with disability, drawing on studies such as those from Australia or Europe [AC9HG7K08](#)

interpret and analyse geographical data and information to identify similarities and differences, explain patterns and trends and infer relationships [AC9HG7S03](#)

HISTORY
YEAR 7 -10

Skills

locate and identify primary and secondary sources to use in historical inquiry [AC9HH7S02](#)

identify the origin, content, context and purpose of primary and secondary sources
[AC9HH7S03](#)

identify perspectives, attitudes and values of the past in sources [AC9HH7S06](#)

explain historical interpretations about significant events, individuals and groups
[AC9HH7S07](#)

GENERAL CAPABILITIES

Critical and Creative Thinking

Identify, process, and evaluate information

Ethical Understanding

Examine values, rights, and responsibilities, and ethical norms

Recognise influences on ethical behaviour and perspectives

Activity 1

Artefact explorer

Gladstone as a region has a unique and special history. The town is largely driven by stories of cattle and industry, but what are the smaller and quiet stories, and how do they contribute to the fabric of Gladstone Region's **cultural heritage**? Each resident of Gladstone has their own story to tell. Reflect on each of the objects on loan to the Gladstone Regional Art Gallery and Museum to determine for yourself a conclusive history of Gladstone.

Pre-Activity Questions:

1. How did Gladstone become the town it is today?

2. If an alien were to arrive to Gladstone and wanted to know about the town, what would be your description of the town?

3. Now, reflect on your description and understanding of Gladstone? Is it your opinion, a particular perspective based on your own experiences, or is it based on reason. (use your metacognition)

Object 1: Carpenters Ruler



On Loan from: Christopher Cameron

1. SEE

Look closely at the object. What do you notice? Make lots of **observations** (note down the colour, the size, the shape, any details on it, any wear and tear).

2. THINK

How might a carpenter's ruler be a good **symbol** to represent an important aspect of Chistopher's life story and an aspect of his life span.

3. MAKE

If there was a book entitled, 'The History of Gladstone', and this object was the focus of a chapter in the book, what would you name this chapter (think about something that would be very catchy, no more than five words).

4. DISCUSS

Talk to someone about what made you create this chapter title. What ideas, questions, or themes could be explored in this chapter.

Object 2: Police Cuffs



On Loan from: Doug Jones

1. SEE

Look closely at the object. What do you notice? Make lots of **observations** (note down the colour, the size, the shape, any details on it, any wear and tear).

2. THINK

How might the police cuffs be a good **symbol** to represent an important aspect of Doug's life story and an aspect of his life span.

3. MAKE

If there was a book entitled, 'The History of Gladstone', and this object was the focus of the chapter in the book, what would you name this chapter (think about something that would be very catchy, no more than five words).

4. DISCUSS

Talk to someone about what made you create this chapter title. What ideas, questions, or themes could be explored in this chapter.

Object 3: Golden Brooch



On Loan from: Cheryl Watson

1. SEE

Look closely at the object. What do you notice? Make lots of **observations** (note down the colour, the size, the shape, any details on it, any wear and tear).

2. THINK

How might the golden brooch be a good **symbol** to represent an important aspect of Cheryl’s life story and an aspect of her life span.

3. MAKE

If there was a book entitled, ‘The History of Gladstone’, and this object was the focus of the chapter in the book, what would you name this chapter (think about something that would be very catchy, no more than five words).

4. DISCUSS

Talk to someone about what made you create this chapter title. What ideas, questions, or themes could be explored in this chapter.

Object 4: Education Queensland Medallion recognising 45 years of service



On Loan from: Dave Manttan

1. SEE

Look closely at the object. What do you notice? Make lots of **observations** (note down the colour, the size, the shape, any details on it, any wear and tear).

2. THINK

How might the medallion be a good **symbol** to represent an important aspect of Dave's life story and an aspect of his life span.

3. MAKE

If there was a book entitled, 'The History of Gladstone', and this object was the focus of the chapter in the book, what would you name this chapter (think about something that would be very catchy, no more than five words).

4. DISCUSS

Talk to someone about what made you create this chapter title. What ideas, questions, or themes could be explored in this chapter.

Activity 2

Theme explorer

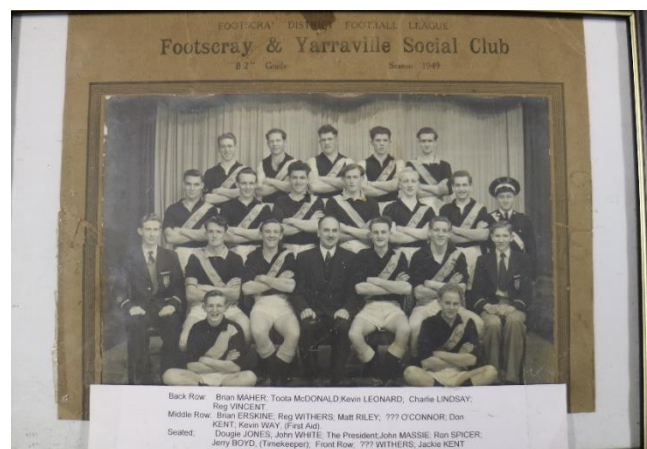
When you explore the exhibition *Our Priceless Past*, there are common **themes** in people's lives which are apparent: love and family, career and work, health and community.

Sort out the objects in the exhibition that relate to each theme. Are there any other themes that you uncover when looking closely at the items and reading the stories of the Special Seniors.

Love and Family	Career and Work	Health and Community
EG. Wedding ring	EG. Certificate of Achievement	EG. Picture of sporting team

The theme I discovered is:
The sources that support my theme are:

Some of the primary sources in the exhibition are below.



Story about the Carpenters ruler

“The minimum starter kit for an apprentice carpenter was hammer 24oz, nail bag, 2 nail punches 1/small 1 large and a 3ft 4-fold carpenter’s rule. The rule was a very useful tool. Folded up it was the length of a house brick and the thickness of the bed and perp joint in brickwork, also the thickness of plasterboard. One unfold was 18” long which is the wall stud and floor joist centres and the thickness of one leaf was the thickness of fibro sheet (FRC) 3/16” the width of one leaf was ¾” which is finished dress size of door jamb and window reveal timber. Fully unfolded was 3ft 1 yard which was the roof truss and rafter centres. One leaf unfolded was also very handy for stirring your tea at smoko. In the early 70’s we went metric and the carpenter’s rule was plastic and the sizes relative to nothing.”
Christopher Cameron

Story about the Golden Brooch

“Trevor and I went to see Noel Patrick at Colin D. Patrick Jewellers (now Patrick Jewellers) in Goondoon Street, Gladstone regarding an engagement ring at approximately the beginning of December 1969. As was the custom back then Noel Patrick made an after-hours appointment. When we were ushered into his store, we were greeted with a display of rings in our price range. When Trev went to pick up the ring Noel had gifted him a little gold bow brooch which you could attach your engagement ring to if you were not able to wear it at work and also on the day of your wedding you would attach your engagement ring to the brooch and attach it to your wedding dress to hold the ring until after you had your wedding ring on your finger. We announced our engagement on the 31st December, 1969.”

Cheryl Watson

Activity 3

Uncovering hidden and visible values

Value can be defined as the principles or standards of behaviour and is someone’s judgement of what is important in life. You can uncover peoples’ values by exploring the reason behind doing a certain activity or being a certain way. The Special Seniors involved in this exhibition all hold certain values about what is important in life. Not everyone has exactly the same values, however being an active participant in the Australian Democracy means we are encultured to value certain things. Australian values are based on **freedom, respect, fairness, and equality of opportunity**, and together these enable citizens to live in a cohesive society. Gladstone Regional Council’s are: **safe, ethical, responsible, visionary, inclusive, community, and efficient**. You can determine someone’s values by exploring what someone does for work and in their free time, how they behave, where they spend most of their time, who they talk with, how they talk, amongst other things.

When you read through each person’s story, think critically about what they have been doing with their time and how it could represent a particular value.

Once you have explored the values of people in the exhibition, reflect on what it means for you. How do you behave? What do you like to do outside of school? Who do you like to talk to? How do you talk? And most importantly, what do you think is important in life: these are your values.

Our Priceless Past Special Seniors Values

Action/Behaviour	Value

My own Values

Action/Behaviour	Value

Activity 5

Timeline of Gladstone History

Sort out the events in the box to create a clear and correct timeline of Gladstone. Please note that there are more important events that have happened in Gladstone, these only represent some key moments in time.

1996 - Gladstone meatworks opened and extension of the Brisbane – Gladstone railway	1934 - Town Hall opened	1932 - Post Office opened	1905 - Butter factory opened
1958-1959 – Civic Centre built	1929 – Commonwealth Bank Building opened	1985 - Town Hall converted to an Art Gallery and Museum	1864 – First school built



Activity 6

A cohesive society

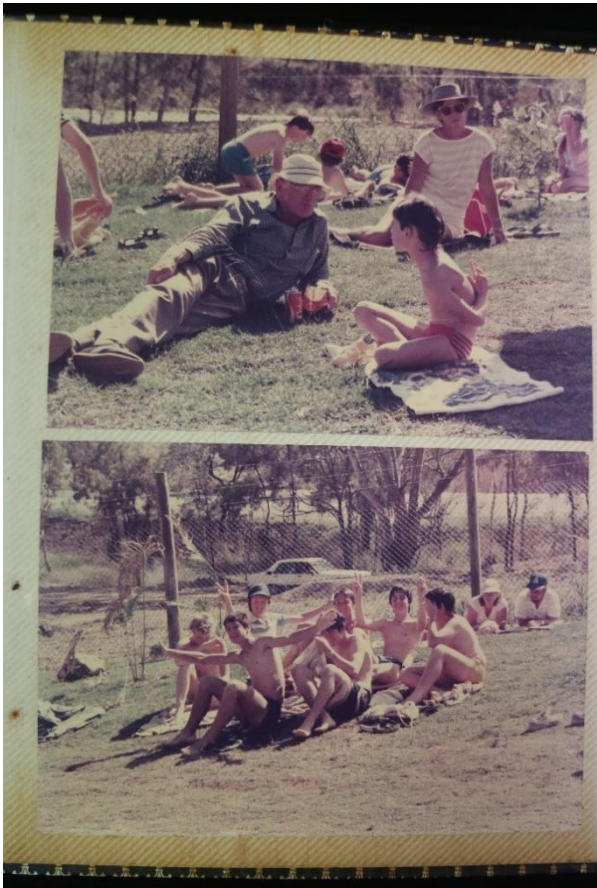
Michael Lunan was influential in building the Happy Valley Waterslide. Explore the picture in the water park. Many Gladstone residents have **fond memories** of this slide. It opened in 1985 with a huge amount of attendants, including a live band for entertainment. Michael reflects that it was a great time for the community as it brought joy to many people. Read his story, look at the photo album, and read the articles from the Gladstone Local Express Newspaper to learn more about this special event.

Informed and active citizens actively work towards building positive change in local communities.

1. What evidence is there in the supplied primary sources that the Happy Valley Waterslide created a **cohesive society**? (what do you see, what are the key words, what is the feel and tone of the sources)

2. How could building a waterslide enhance the liveability of Gladstone and who would benefit from a waterslide?

3. The Happy Valley Waterslide no longer exists today. If there was a demand for a new waterslide to be built. What actions could you take to enable the project to go ahead (think about the councils' values and what active participation in democracy involves)?



Happy Valley Waterslide Opens Saturday

C.Q. FENCING
 Congratulations the Happy Valley Waterslide on their official opening. We are pleased to have supplied **KOPPERS LOGS** for:
 • Fencing
 • Playground Equipment
 • Tables and Chairs
 • General Building Poles
 Available at C.Q. FENCING
 Next to C.Q. Pergola & Barbecue
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Watersliding 'good exercise'
 SPOKESPERSON for the waterslide complex, Penny Pugh, earlier this year said the complex was aimed mainly at attracting residents of the district "but of course, we will be able to cater for tourists as well."
 "I think the people of the area would be proud to keep the complex going," she said, "although, of course, it will provide a good source of income."
 PUGH, who is involved with Little Athletics, pointed out that there was more of a focus on the slide. "There had to be a sliding character so that their own's eyes show they are doing it."
 The slide the complex has been designed for maximum family entertainment and has been provided with barbeque facilities, landscaped paths, as well as a drink and seating area.
 The park has been planned with acres of native grass and landscaping.
 She said the complex will be closed for a couple of months throughout the year.

Slide 'boost to city' - Judi
 THIS HAPPY Valley Waterslide was yet another project which would further make Gladstone a pleasant place for families to live in, Gladstone Area Promotion and Development Bureau manager, Judi Bailey, said last week.
 She congratulated the persons involved in the project for starting up a new enterprise in the area, particularly one which was close to Gladstone's major shopping centre.
 "The waterslide is in another situation, we can see many of those people from Rockhampton to use the waterslide here, but now we can encourage them to come here."
 She said it is a pity that she could not include the waterslide in the Gladstone "but it was positive that it would appear in the Bureau's forthcoming brochure."
 "I am very pleased to see another important business open up in Gladstone," she said.
 Gladstone said he reported the news to the Mayor at the opening of the Happy Valley Waterslide as he would be in Victoria for several days.
 He said he was pleased the project had decided to build an important water park that has been mentioned in the above-ground slides found elsewhere.
 "I am very happy that Gladstone City Council was able to get in part in assisting the expansion with the project by providing the Gladstone Street property."

Proprietors prove faith
 THE PROPRIETORS of the Happy Valley Waterslide have proved their faith in Gladstone by building such an ambitious project, Gladstone Mayor, Ash Col Brown, said last week.
 "I am very pleased to see another important business open up in Gladstone," he said.
 Gladstone said he reported the news to the Mayor at the opening of the Happy Valley Waterslide as he would be in Victoria for several days.
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 "I am very happy that Gladstone City Council was able to get in part in assisting the expansion with the project by providing the Gladstone Street property."

Wyper-Petersen
 Congratulate the Owners of the Construction of the Sun Valley Waterslide and Wish Them all the Best in their Future Operations
 For all your hardware requirements, Call into Corner Hanson & Lord Streets Phone 721833

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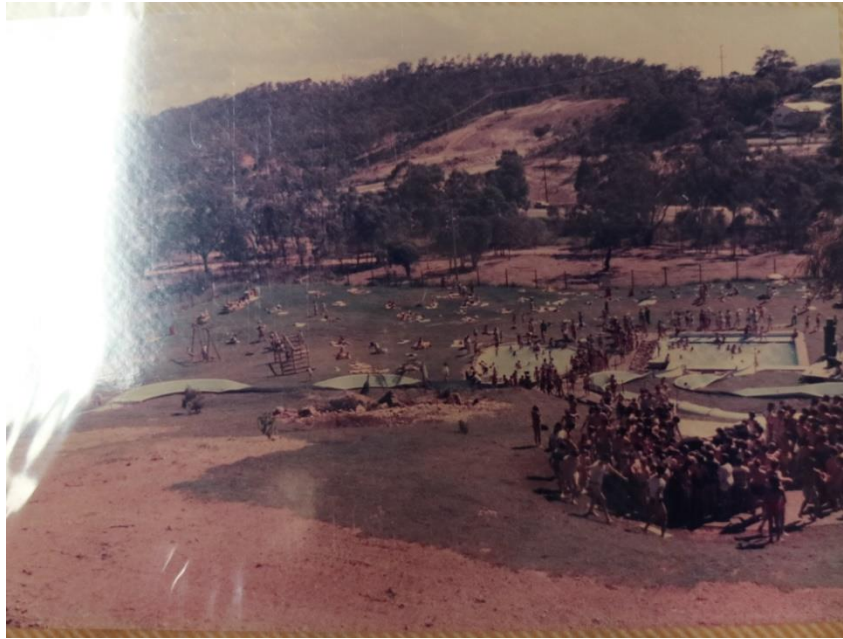
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Glossary

cultural heritage	The tangible (objects) and intangible (stories) aspects that make up the history of a place. Cultural heritage of a place and group of people is considered significant, and effort is made to preserve it for the future.
cohesive society	A society where all groups of people have a sense of belonging, participation, inclusion, and recognition.
fond memories	An idiom that refers to remembering an event with pleasure or happiness.
lifespan	The period of time from birth to death and is marked by significant events. Super's Career Development Theory of lifespan involves the following five events: growth, exploration, establishment of career, maintenance of career, decline.
observe/ observation	To notice, watch, or perceive an object or event.
object	A material thing that can be seen and touched.
senior	A person that is more experienced or older.
symbol	A thing that stands in for or represents something else, especially a material object representing something abstract (non-material).
theme	The subject of a talk, piece of writing, etc. An idea or topic that recurs in or pervades a particular piece of work.
touchstone	A standard or criterion by which something is judged or recognised (e.g. indicator, benchmark, guideline).
Values	
community	A group of people living in the same place and having things in common.
ethical	Relating to moral principles of knowing the difference between right and wrong action.

efficient	Achieving maximum productivity with minimum wasted expense or effort. EG. Being well-organised.
equality	A way of treating different people to enable them to all have the same access.
fairness	Impartial judgment. The opposite of favouritism or discrimination.
freedom	Freedom of speech, freedom of movement, freedom of assembly. The power to act in a way without the fear of being unfairly persecuted.
inclusive	Including people and parties. EG, including people with a disability by building ramps, using subtitles on videos.
opportunity	A chance to do something or make something possible.
respect	Having due regard for the feelings, wishes, and rights of others.
responsible	Having responsibility over a task, job, or behaviour.
safe	Protection from risks and reducing hazards.
visionary	Thinking creatively about the future, using imagination and wisdom.

Gladstone Regional Art Gallery & Museum

Open: 10am-4.30pm, Monday to Friday and 10am-2pm Saturday
 Free Admission | Cnr Goondoon & Bramston Sts, Gladstone, QLD 4680
 (07) 4976 6766 | gragm@gladstone.qld.gov.au | gragm.qld.gov.au