

Experience Western Downs

It's the
people that
make it.

QICA 2021

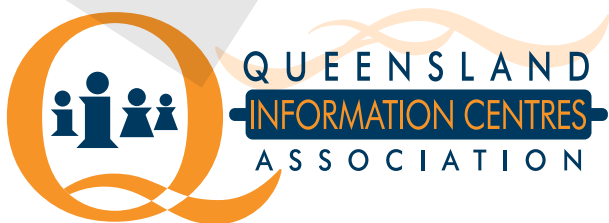


QUEENSLAND INFORMATION CENTRES ASSOCIATION

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

12–14 October 2021
Miles, Western Downs
Queensland

DRAFT





MAYOR'S FOREWORD

On behalf of Western Downs Regional Council, I welcome you to the annual Queensland Information Centres Association Conference.

We are thrilled to be hosting this event in Miles, bringing like-minded people from across Queensland to our region to explore the value of tourism in regional Queensland and new opportunities for the sector.

By welcoming you to this wonderful part of the world we call home, we hope that in addition to hearing from industry leaders in the field and exploring tourism, you will embrace the unique opportunity to experience the best our region has to offer, ensuring you get the most out of your time here.

Council actively advances the Western Downs as a tourist destination and I encourage you to experience our unique offerings. Enjoy our locally-grown produce, spectacular sunsets, history and our heritage and unique landmarks as well as meet a number of our local characters, showcasing the spectacular people that make this beautiful part of our region so great.

I have no doubt you will thoroughly enjoy the conference and even discover something new about our unique, diverse community.



Mayor Paul McVeigh
Western Downs Regional Council



ABOUT MILES

The 2021 conference will be held in Miles at the Leichhardt Centre in Dawson Street, a theatre style venue which has hosted many events over the years. The 2021 VIC of the Year Award ceremony will be held at the award-winning Miles Historical Village Museum, where history and country hospitality will take you back in time.

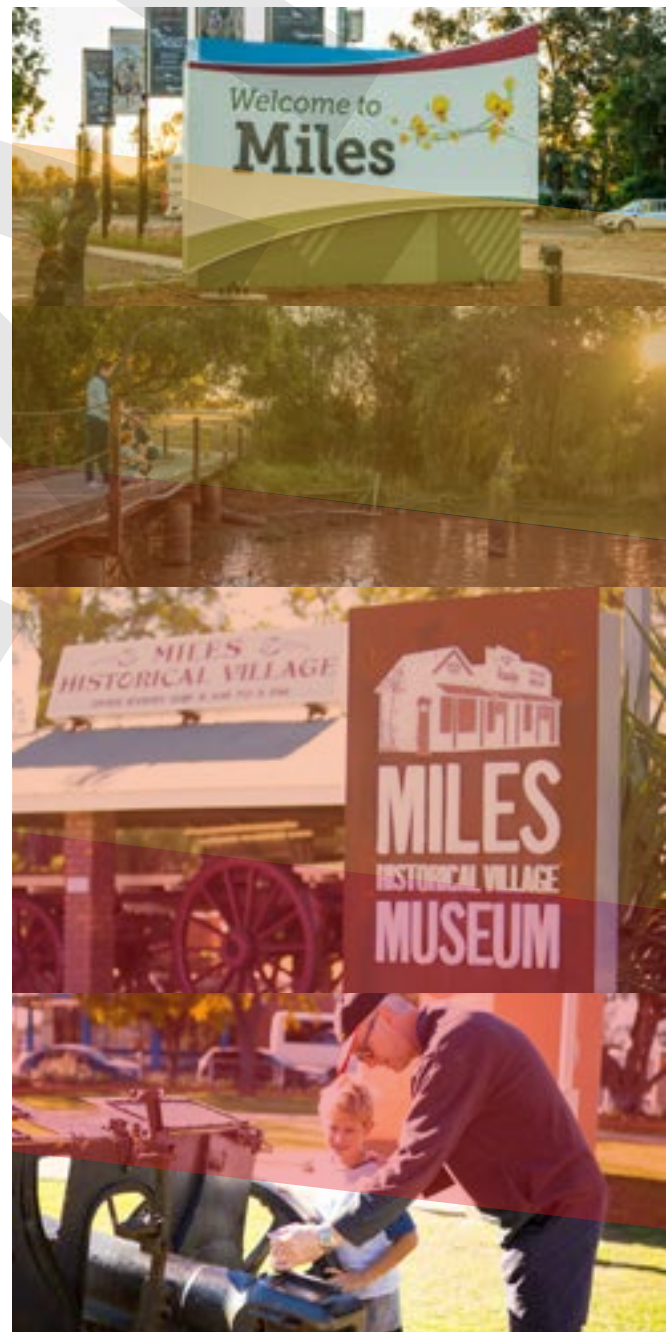
MILES

The charming town of Miles sits at the T-junction of the Warrego and Leichhardt Highways. It's home to one of Australia's finest historical museums, a vibrant arts community and the bi-annual Back to the Bush Festival, held when the first wildflowers appear in Spring.

Originally named Dogwood Crossing in 1844 by explorer Ludwig Leichhardt, after the endemic Dogwood shrub tree in the area, Miles was later named in honour of William Miles, Minister for the Railways and local member of Parliament.

Its wide streets are a legacy of the times when bullock wagons turned here at the teamster's camp.

For more information on the region and to book your accommodation, please head to www.westerndownsqueensland.com.au





ABOUT WESTERN DOWNS

With the now completed Toowoomba Second-Range Crossing, the Western Downs is a comfortable three hour drive from Brisbane. The Warrego Highway traverses the region, an area which covers some 38,000 sq. km and is considered the Energy Capital of Queensland with major resource stakeholders operating in gas, coal, solar and wind energy. The region's stability is backed by a well-rounded and diverse economy in intensive agriculture, broad-acre farming and manufacturing industries.

This region has positioned itself as a destination for visitor's seeking authentic experiences. Our iconic attractions include historic Jimbour House, the Condamine Bell, Possum Park and the Meandarra Anzac Museum.

Visitors to the region enjoy exploring the great open spaces, big blue skies, vivid sunsets and wonderful starry nights.

Those seeking adventure can enjoy a water ski on the long meandering Caliguel Lagoon or take a drive to the Bunya Mountains and marvel at the ancient Bunya Pine trees which tower in the mist above the many hiking trails.

Enjoy great hospitality and local characters at one of the many country pubs in the region, picnic in the new Chinchilla Botanic Parkland and capture your memories with a photograph in front of the one and only Big Melon slice.

Miles, in the heart of the Western Downs is the perfect venue for the 2021 QICA Conference.



MAP OF WESTERN DOWNS REGION



DAY OF ARRIVAL

TUESDAY 12 OCTOBER

Time	Activity	Location
	Delegates arrive throughout the day & free time	
	Feel free to head to the Miles Visitor Information Centre and Historical Village Museum to say hi to the team. Perhaps get a sneaky peak at the Museum or get the good oil on all there is to do in Miles.	
5.45pm	Meet and Greet Welcome Function Tour of the John Mullins Memorial Art Gallery and display	Dogwood Crossing Leichhardt Hwy
8pm	Close	

SPEND YOUR FREE TIME SEEING THE SIGHTS OF THE WESTERN DOWNS

NEARBY LOCALITIES



DRILLHAM

Twenty kilometres west of Miles and once a thriving settlement, Drillham's railway weir on the creek provided water for steam locomotives. Reminders of these times can still be seen by the creek and roadside.



DULACCA

A further 22km west along the Warrego Highway, Dulacca was established in 1879 with the coming of the railway. Discover the town's history and wartime contribution at the Roy Henderson Park. Enjoy a cold drink at the Waterhole on the Hill, dating from 1908.



WANDOAN

A town jam-packed with history - take yourself on a self-guided heritage trail tour, see Mick the lifesaving dog's statue, reminisce down the Soldier Settler's Avenue of Honour and experience the original site of the European settlement - the Juandah Head Station.



DAY TWO

WEDNESDAY 13 OCTOBER

Time	Activity	Location
7am	Optional activity Dogwood Walk to Chinaman's Lagoon	Chinaman's Lagoon
8.30am	Registration desk opens	
9am	Welcome and Conference Commencement Housekeeping, Appointment of Local Charity and Welcome to Country	
9.30am	Official Welcome Western Downs Regional Council Representative	Leichhardt Centre Dawson St, Miles
9.45am	Regional introductions and what's new	
10am	Tourism and Events Queensland Update	
10.30am	Morning tea	
11am	Queensland Explore Centres Update Mel Sands, Visit QLD	
11.30am	Guest Speaker Liz Rivers and Kim Morgan, Grey Nomads Awards <i>Supporting Regional Experiences</i>	Leichhardt Centre Dawson St, Miles
12pm	Mini Break - Comfort Stop	
12.30pm	Travel to Condamine	
1pm	Lunch - Condamine Pub	
2pm	Walk around Condamine Flood Marker/Bell	Condamine
3.30pm	Bus to Chinchilla via Caliguel Lagoon, Chinchilla Botanic Parkland and Chinchilla VIC	Chinchilla
5.30pm	Return to Miles - Get ready for evening	
6pm	Sunset Drinks Bus will pick up delegates from accommodation	
7pm	Dinner Theme Country Hat Competition	Dulacca



DAY THREE

THURSDAY 14 OCTOBER

Time	Activity	Location
7.30am	Optional activity Water Aerobics Class	
8.30am	Housekeeping and messages	
8.45am	QICA AGM and Feedback session	Leichhardt Centre Dawson St, Miles
9.15am	Guest speakers Krista Hauritz and Joe Abbott, Sunset Way <i>Creating a new highway</i>	
10.15am	Morning tea	
10.30am	Guest Speaker Chris Parsons <i>Travel experiences from a TV presenter Point of View</i>	Leichhardt Centre Dawson St, Miles
11am	Guest speaker Peter Homan, Southern Queensland Country	
11.30am	Guest speaker Robbie Dalton, Neural Digital	
12pm	Lunch	Anzac Park
12.30pm	Retail Therapy	
1.30pm	Head to 'The Village' and explore	Miles Historical Village Museum
2.30pm	Afternoon tea	
3pm	Travel to Possum Park	
5pm	Close of Day	
6pm	Bus pick up commences	
6.30pm	QICA 2021 VIC of the Year Awards Including 2022 Host Presentation	Miles Historical Village Museum
	Guest speaker Tash Johnston, Drought Angels	



SPONSORS

Thank you to all our valued sponsors for making this conference possible.



Thank you to the team at Western Downs Regional Council for hosting the 2021 QICA Conference.

WESTERN DOWNS REGIONAL COUNCIL

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**Find out all there is to experience in the Western Downs at
www.westerndownsqueensland.com.au**