

Violet Leona

This exhibition pays tribute to a very talented and energetic woman, Violet Leona Hanlon, better known as LEONA KYLING. During her lifetime, 1888 to 1975, this versatile lady was a dressmaker, milliner, jam maker, artist, sculptor, film maker, photographer and philanthropist. Perhaps her most significant achievement, though, was the donation of a 22 acre parcel of land in Thornlands, on which the first Redland retirement village was built. Originally called "Allawah", meaning "Rest Here", this is now known as Pres Care Lake Sherrin.

The exhibition features these talents in many different genres and media: documents, film footage, news clippings, models, photos, videos... Let's look at some of these now.

One of the most striking photos is the scene of the first show in July, 1952, in the Cleveland Showgrounds. It covers the eastern windows of the wing in which the exhibition is housed. This scene is formed by piecing together four segments of a 16mm film taken by Leona herself. In the late 1970s Wellington Point resident, Norm Wogan, purchased a 16mm projector from the late Leona's sister, Daisy Crabbe, who at that time was a resident of Lake Sherrin Retirement Village. Daisy also offered Norm a reel of 16mm film produced by her versatile sister. Norm was surprised to find that it contained numerous photos of the Redlands area. On the southern windows is a view of Long Street, photographed at the same time, July, 1952. Daniel Bunce was responsible for piecing these segments together. These reflect the era of Leona's time perfectly, adding an extra dimension to the exhibition. In addition to these photos, there are also nine others taken from the film reel. These include an elephant running down Middle Street in Cleveland, the 1864 light house, St. Paul's Anglican Church, boating scenes...



Another very striking feature of the exhibition is a life-size papier mâché model of Leona in middle age produced by Redlander Jeremy Power. This features many different facets of Leona's life and a variety of her talents. It is in THE NOOK, the room adjacent to the main display, as is one of the videos of Leona's film footage. Also in The Nook is a glass cabinet containing items from the Sherrin family and their descendants. Included in these are a heart shaped locket, a blouse and skirt, a crocheted doily, a hardanger sampler, the 1851 Sherrin family Bible, six cards and four photos.

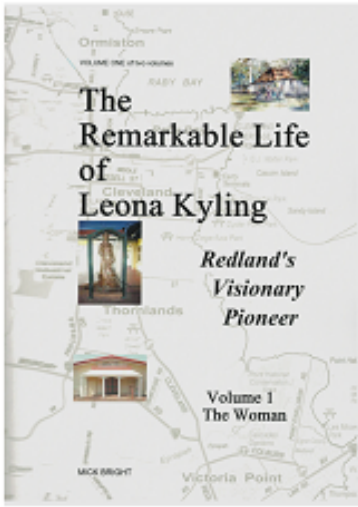
Leona's cooking and jam making skills are represented by copies of her 1951 cookbook and a display of her jam bottles and labels. The photo on the right was taken by Daniel Bunce. A large collection of Daniel's photos of the exhibition taken on 6th April at the opening may be accessed and ordered from his website www.genrephotography.com/vlk



Leona's life is represented in six large hangings which contain a series of photos from her life. As if all this were not enough to catch ones attention, there is also a cabinet which belonged to Leona. This was lovingly restored by Museum volunteer, Kellie Kingston, assisted by Cody Newnham, who was doing work experience with us at the end of 2013.

Four films and videos are running continuously in this exhibition.

Outside the exhibition wing on the southern side of the Museum is a white statue of Leona sculpted by the lady herself. This was until recently in front of the Administration building at Lake Sherrin and was moved to its present position on 4th April, where it makes a great addition to the Museum and an adjunct to the exhibition. Unlike the exhibition, which closes at the end of May, the statue will remain a permanent fixture. This is a very complex and detailed exhibition which pays tribute to a talented and versatile lady.



Museum volunteer Mick Bright has recently published a book, "The Remarkable Life of Leona Kyling", which provides further details and photos. It is A4 format, has 150 pages and 100+ photos and was launched at the opening. The cost is \$39.00 and orders may be placed by contacting the Museum on 32863494. Sandra Davis.

The Museum wishes to thank Street's Imaging Services of West End, Brisbane for their contribution towards this exhibition. For anyone interested in what they have to offer, their web site is www.streetsimaging.com.au

We also thank Daniel Bunce for his photographic contribution including the many photos he took at the opening which can be viewed at www.genrephotography.com/vlk. Daniel can be contacted at lanolot@gmail.com