

Blacktown Bicentennial Museum

Ward 1 Property 2



Ward 1 Property 2 – Blacktown Bicentennial Museum

PROPERTY NAME	Blacktown Bicentennial Museum
ADDRESS	Garfield Road East, Part Lot 2 DP 588227, Riverstone
DESCRIPTION	A T-shaped single storey brick building with corrugated iron roof and skillion verandah roof along the elongated portion of the building. The Masonic Hall addition was completed in 1931 in classical design.
HISTORICAL CONTEXT	The building has important educational and social significance as it was used as a school from 1883. The building reverted to use as a Masonic Hall from 1929 until the late twentieth century. It was officially opened as a museum on 3 December 1988, in celebration of Australia's Bicentenary.
LISTINGS	Blacktown City Council LEP
STRENGTHS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In fair/good condition • Suitable existing use • Small and enthusiastic volunteer community group attached • Potential for expansion • Good parking • Main street location • Close to town • Park and swimming centre adjoin • Reasonable community support • Sympathetic to heritage feel of town • Multiple entries • Separate toilets • Some building works money available in 04/05

WEAKNESSES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No kitchen • Unattractive fencing • No phone • Limited opening hours • Museum collection needs sorting • Best space taken up by cinema pieces (private collection) which clutters area • Difficult to keep clean • No serious restoration work done • Duplication of resources expenditure through Museum and Historical Society • Small group of volunteers • Susceptible to possible break-ins
OPPORTUNITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Museums and Galleries advisor to help with collection development • Broader community involvement • Development of new workshop/display area/signage • Cross destination marketing of museum, pool and park • Link to heritage tourism as part of Historic Riverstone • Bring management under Council's control to free volunteers for core work • Resources to contribute to historic displays across Council
THREATS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The volunteer group is fragile and small • Potential for limited success in recruitment of new members • No heritage management plan • Potential for on-going maintenance issues • Potential poor performance of Museum may affect possible funding of other projects • Potential for new Council staff to be unsympathetic to heritage issues when maintaining site • Potential for break-ins and on-going security issues for site
CONCLUSION	Retention of the site for Museum uses is appropriate but assistance is needed in terms of site development and general management.

RECOMMENDATIONS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintain as a museum in line with recommendations made by the regional Museum Advisor, Shar Jones, in her draft report <u><i>Representing Blacktown's Diversity: Museums in the Blacktown Area</i></u> 2. Investigate potential for new capital works to provide space for a workshop and large equipment display area 3. Consider providing assistance for building and landscape maintenance not currently formally undertaken by Council
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REFERENCES	Jonathan Falk Planning Consultants P/L et.al. <i>Blacktown Heritage Study</i> , 1988. Local Studies Files – Blacktown Bicentennial Museums Shar Jones. <i>Representing Blacktown's Diversity: Museums in the Blacktown Area (Draft Report)</i> , 2004.
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Minimum Budgetary Estimates							
Property	Ward	Proposed Purpose	Project	Priority	Reason for priority	Date	Estimated Cost (\$)
Blacktown Bicentennial Museum	1	Museum Development	Undertake workshop and display area development	4	society keen but currently not in position to do this. May be something for future consideration by Council	2007-2010	352 000

Non Budgetary and Optional Budgetary Items							
Property	Ward	Proposed Purpose	Project	Priority	Reason for priority	Date	Estimated Cost (\$)
Blacktown Bicentennial Museum	1	Museum Development	Consider providing assistance for building and landscape maintenance not currently formally undertaken by Council	3	currently not in position to do this themselves	2005+	5000 p.a
Blacktown Bicentennial Museum	1	Museum	Maintain as Museum in line with recommendations by Council's regional Museum Advisor	3	review currently taking place	2005+	\$0
Blacktown Bicentennial Museum	1	Museum Development	Investigate potential for new capital works to provide workshop and outside display area	4	society keen should be investigated for future consideration	2006-2007	\$0

Recommended Use – Retain as museum

Minimum required budget

\$352 000

Recommended minimum non budgetary and optional budgetary items

\$5 000 p.a

TOTAL UPFRONT FUNDING REQUIRED

\$357 000