

**Submission  
No 17**

## **INQUIRY INTO MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES**

**Organisation:** Friends of Fagan Park

**Date received:** 29 July 2016

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The Friends of Fagan Park manage a museum complex housed in the original Netherby Homestead and associated outbuildings at Fagan Park, Galston, NSW. It showcases the lifestyle, agricultural and mechanical heritage of the 1900's in the Galston and surrounding districts.

Fagan Park, an area of 55Ha, was bequeathed to the State in 1989, and Hornsby Shire Council was appointed custodian. The park is widely used by the community for passive recreation.

Shortly after the bequest, the Friends of Fagan Park (FoFP) was established as a purely volunteer group, whose role is to conserve or restore items of local significance, ranging from trucks and tractors to photographs and family history. It displays thousands of artefacts, which comprise one of the foremost collections of local history in the Cumberland region. It is of inestimable value to future generations. A cataloguing project is underway at present to better preserve the history and to make it available as a future resource.

FoFP operates largely independently from Council who provide minimal funding, most funds coming from donations. It conducts several major open days each year, and opens the Museums one afternoon each month.

Council is responsible for maintenance of the structures in the heritage area, but there is slow deterioration of slab type buildings and post-and-rail fences due to the ravages of weather and termites. FoFP has great difficulty obtaining publicity for its activities, and would appreciate its listing in the register of museums at the very least. We need to elevate its public profile to the degree it is worthy of. We would also like to become eligible for grants to enable upgrading of basic workshop equipment, most of which has come from donations from members or the public.

To give some idea of the museums and the Park in general, I recommend spending a few minutes viewing the link below created by a visitor to our ANZAC Day open day this year.  
[https://issuu.com/robertfaye/docs/classic\\_photo\\_album\\_-\\_fagan\\_park\\_20](https://issuu.com/robertfaye/docs/classic_photo_album_-_fagan_park_20).