

***Our Story in the Street*** — Commemorating 50 years of Torimba's history and the community roots of our forest timber festival.



Magnificent Photos on the mural – Come and have a look up close when you attend the Festival of the Forest display.

On Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> of October, Ravenshoe community gathered to unveil 2 large photographic murals that beautifully capture the timber history of Qld highest town, as well as the commemorative book that details the story behind the last 50 years of Torimba Festival.

Mrs Joan Gentle opened this year's Festival of the Forest on behalf of her late father Arthur Crease, who was the first president of Torimba Festival Committee, a position he held for a number of years. Joan spoke of her involvement with the committee in the early years.

During this period Trevor Lawrence, who was manual arts teacher at the Ravenshoe school broached the idea to hold a cultural timber display in conjunction with Torimba Festival and from this idea the Festival of the Forest was brought to reality. It has always been pleasing to note how the school has supported the festival over the last fifty years, and speaks volumes of the community spirit.

The original idea of the festival was to showcase the beautiful rainforest timbers with all their diverse colours and textures that grow in the rainforests of our district. These timbers were an essential part of Ravenshoe's growth in the town's early years, but due to the closure of the logging areas and the sawmilling industry, they are now much harder to obtain. The festival continues to showcase their natural beauty through the wonderful display of unique craftsmanship of both functional and ornate pieces you can see on display. Mrs Joan Gentle made a heartfelt declaration "on behalf of my dad and all those who have gone before" to open the doors for 2021 Festival of the Forest 50th year.

The Ravenshoe & District Chamber of Commerce have attached these murals to the side wall of the Hall to celebrate the dedication of the '***Festival of the Forest***' & '***Torimba***' committees, acknowledging all the volunteer hours & privately sourced materials, to show thanks and applaud all who have made the festival come to life each year. These committees chose these two specific pictures, which are well recognised locally, to tell a story of Ravenshoe for the community and visitors to the town. The Chamber was able to make this project happen with the support from an RADF grant, which is a Queensland government & TRC partnership that supports local arts & culture in regional QLD. The Chamber has supported Ravenshoe Writers Group to create the commemorative book for ***Festival of the Forest 50 years***, with the official book launch happening on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> Oct at the Ravenshoe RSL Hall, which everyone is welcome to attend.

Ravenshoe encourages everyone in the community, and all visitors in the area to visit the Festival of the Forest which opens daily from 9am-5pm during the 2 weeks of Torimba running from 2<sup>nd</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> Oct. This is a free event with some pieces available for purchase and collection at the close of the festival.



Mrs Joan Gentle with granddaughter Naomi Gentle. Opening the Festival for its 50<sup>th</sup> year.



Kristy Veron TRC  
RADF Committee  
unveiling Murals.



Already great attendance as the first flow of people viewing  
the 2021 Festival of the Forest.