

# New era for historic village

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CONNIE and Craig Kimberley's love of history has found its perfect match.

The former Just Jeans clothing chain owner was on a visit to the Tablelands last year when the Herberton Historic Village caught his eye ... and the rest, as they say, is history.

The historic village was started by locals Harry and Ellen Skennar more than 30 years ago, but it has not been open to the public now for six years.

Connie and Craig will change all that on April 5 when the revamped facility re-opens to the public — brighter and better than before.

The village, a collection of buildings of artefacts and antiques including a watchmaker, jeweller and pub, was the Skennars' passion for decades.

When the upgrade to the village is fully completed in a few years, there will be 42 buildings overall.

Thirty of the buildings will be open early next month, with the oldest



These antique buildings are part of a collection that date back to 1868.

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Mr Kimberley and his wife were driving through Herberton last year, saw the dormant buildings, felt an instant attraction to the town and bought the historic village six months later.

"We did a U-turn and had a closer look at it," Mr Kimberley said.

"This is a major attraction of Aus-

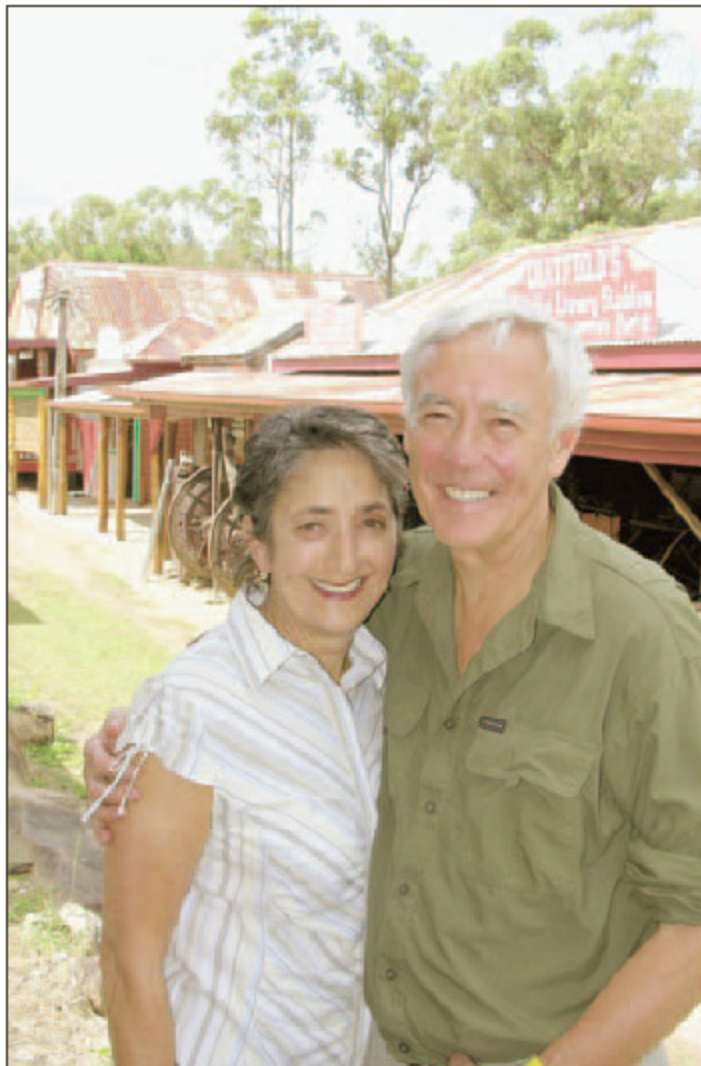
traliana and a great piece of history for Herberton to have."

Mr Kimberley said his great, great grandfather was a convict and came to Australia in the first fleet in 1790.

"We're original Australians and we feel we're giving something back to the community," he said.

"We hope it will generate more tourism and is used as an educational tool for students."

About 50 local tradespeople were working on the site to have it opened, but Mr Kimberley said he hoped it would be fully restored in three years.



Connie and Craig Kimberley are the new owners of The Herberton, Historic Village that will open to the public on April 5.

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