

History on display at Herberton

THE Herberton Historical Village has been given a new lease on life and will next month welcome its first visitors in more than six years.

Former owners of the Just Jeans clothing chain, Craig and Connie Kimberly, yesterday inspected the handiwork of more than 40 tradespeople charged with restoring the collection of Australians.

The couple discovered the village – which closed its doors in April 2003 because of skyrocketing insurance premiums – while driving through the historic mining town last year.

Mr Kimberly yesterday told *The Cairns Post* they were expecting plenty of tourists, but buying the village was more about preserving history.

“We feel we are giving something back to the community. It is not a profit-making exercise,” he said.

The couple hope the village’s reopening will bring local,

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national and international tourists to Herberton and boost local businesses.

“Herberton is a lovely old town in the hills,” he said.

“We hope it gets more people into the area and generates business for the tourism industry.

“We also really want schools to come along and learn what it was like to live 100 years ago.”

On the April 5 opening, 30 of the 42 buildings will be open and visitors can explore more than 150,000 exhibits.

There’s a traditional blacksmith’s workshop, butcher’s shop, and a garage with a working seven tonne Ruston engine.

The centrepiece of the village, collected by Herberton locals Harry and Ellen Skennar over many years, is the Tin Pannikin Pub, built in the style of the famous Ettamoggah Pub.



Yesteryear reborn: Craig and Connie Kimberly, the former owners of clothing retailer Just Jeans, check out two months of restoration at Herberton Historical Village. Below: The restored Cobb and Co building, The Tin Pannikin pub and the blacksmith’s workshop. Picture: JENNIFER ELIOT

