

Women's History – Dress, Crafts, Domestic Textiles & Children's Items

The collection includes an extensive range of costumes, accessories, domestic crafts, textiles, toys and children's objects. The earliest item of clothing is a men's silk waistcoat brought to Australia in the 1850's by the Ormsby-Martin family (below left).



There is an interesting group of costumes from the mid nineteenth to the early twentieth century with provenance to prominent Manning Valley families such as the Richardson's, Cooper's and Summerville's. Some of these costumes are on the Australian Dress Register.



One example is a dress that belonged to Nancy Broomfield (above) – a Scottish immigrant that arrived in Australia with her parents in 1839 and wed Robert Broomfield (who also arrived on the 'Formosa').

We are also lucky to have an extensive collection of costumes and vintage clothing generously donated by Costumier, Lyn Catt. This collection includes clothes donated from her costume hire business, which have been used extensively in local fashion shows, parades and theatrical productions.

Wingham Museum has a diverse range of women's domestic crafts, from the sophisticated to the everyday, evidence of the creativity and ingenuity of women living in the Manning Valley, from all classes of society.

Of note is a patchwork wagga quilt made by Sarah Elizabeth Glenn c.1910 (see left). It is believed the quilt was made at the time her husband David was working as a carrier during construction of the Taree railway and the family was living in a tent.

There is also a fine example of a late nineteenth century knitted bedspread made by Elizabeth Richardson, nee Gore, and other high-quality domestic crafts including a crazy patchwork tea cosy. Other typical examples of domestic crafts include a fine group of beadwork items, as well as numerous sewing machines, boxes and sewing tools.



The collection includes a representative range of late nineteenth and early twentieth century children's toys such as wind up tin toys, dolls and doll's tea sets, picture blocks, tops, and toy musical instruments.

