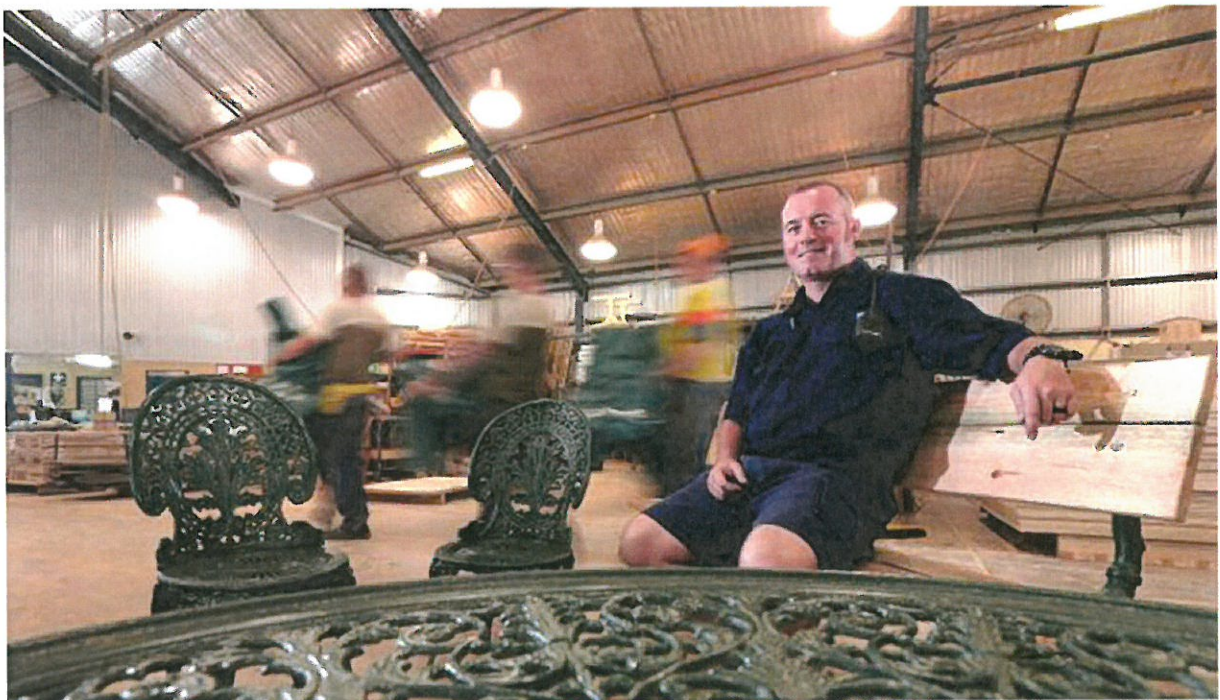


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Prisoners at Wacol's Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre have been tinkering away at a special project behind bars

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👤 Reshni Ratnam Quest Newspapers



Andy Rocks, trade instructor at the Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre. The prisoners have been working to refurbish old furniture for the Wolston House. Pic: Josh Woning.

Prisoners at Wacol's Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre are being taught carpentry skills as part of a specialised program to enhance their talents.

The Wolston House Furniture Restoration Program started three months ago and has proved a success.

Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre finance and administration manager Sidd Mehta said about four prisoners were part of the program aimed at refurbishing old furniture for Wolston House.

"They have had to sand furniture (including tables and chairs) down by hand and paint everything themselves," Mr Mehta said.

"This program is about giving these prisoners new skills under great supervision.

"They are part of a carpentry course which gives them some hands on experience. They just love it."



Andy Rocks, trade instructor and Sidd Mehta, admin manager at the Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre. Pic: Josh Woning.

Mr Mehta said the work done by the prisoners would normally cost a lot of money to get done professionally.

"These guys get a sense of pride when they've done the restorations. A lot of them may not have had a proper job before so this really boosts their self esteem," he said.

Wolston House is the oldest surviving residential farmhouse in Brisbane, a pre-separation structure started in brick and completed in stone.

The house museum, furnished in a way that creates a feeling for and an understanding of the past and is open to the public.