

Profile

Beaudesert Historical Museum M&GSQ Standards Program 2008



The Dennis Fire Engine, dedicated to the Fire Services by Queensland Governor Sir Leslie Wilson in 1936



Big Thing "Aussie Bee" from Rice's Honey Bee Farm



Tent Hut from Beaudesert's rail history

Beaudesert Historical Museum
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Hours: Seven days a week
9.00am – 4.00pm

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Presented by Museum & Gallery Services Queensland in partnership with the Beaudesert Historical Museum
Images courtesy of Ann Baillie, M&GSQ

'Did You Know' – intriguing facts about the Museum & its collection

- ◆ The Museum has in its collection a Beaudesert Big Thing, the "Aussie Bee" which stood above the fence on the Mt Lindesay Highway on the corner of Rice's Honey Bee Farm. "Aussie Bee" was the brainchild of Heather Rice who asked a Beaudesert signwriter, Tony Pellinkhof, to produce an advertising image for "Aussie Bee" with an Australian Army slouch hat, a shearers Jackie Howe singlet, army marching boots and a bucket of honey. The Big Thing was produced by a local fibreglass worker based on Tony's painting. Both the advertising sign and the "Aussie Bee" were donated to the museum.
- ◆ In February 1937 a Stinson airliner crashed in the rainforests of the McPherson range. Four people died in the crash and resultant fire. When Bernard O'Reilly (of O'Reilly's guesthouse and author of *Green Mountains*) found the tangled and charred wreck of the plane ten days later, only two of the three survivors were still alive. The museum displays the thermos flask used by the men and presented to the Beaudesert Historical Society by John Proud, along with a watch and cigarette case belonging to James Graham, who died in the crash. The museum display also contains parts of the wrecked plane and photographs of the rescue taken by Herb Meissner, who did work for the newspapers and was staying locally at the time.
- ◆ Two springboards made and used c1902 by Billy Drumley, a local Aboriginal man and champion with the broadaxe. Springboards were used to get above the buttresses and the gnarled root systems of the large trees, making the job of timber felling easier. Standing on a springboard while chopping or using a crosscut saw required excellent balance.

Our Profile

Beaudesert Historical Society, a volunteer organization, was founded in 1961 to collect and record the history of the shire. Today they operate the Beaudesert Historical Museum and Visitor Information Centre in Brisbane Street Beaudesert. The site houses a number of buildings from the area and a collection of more than 10,000 donated objects, photographs and archival records relating to local settlement, industries and community history.

A favourite photographic opportunity for visitors is the Milbanks Pioneer Cottage built in 1875 by Patrick Milbanks on his Kerry district selection out of local timber. The cottage was donated to the society by the grandchildren of Patrick and Margaret Milbanks (the local midwife) and relocated to its present site in 1979. In 2008 another significant building was acquired for the site - a tent hut used for the accommodation of railway workers. In 1888 when the Beaudesert Branch Railway opened, the town became a prosperous transport hub for the region's industries. The tent hut is an example of an individual detached bed-sitter tent hut for single men, prefabricated and portable, of a size readily transportable on narrow gauge railway wagons. The ventilated roof structure is of technological interest as an example of practical climate control.

What the Standards Program has meant for our Museum

Committee Structure

Through the assistance of M&GSQ we now have a working Executive Committee. This means that we can start working on the recommendations made on the field visit.

Mission Statement

The Executive Committee has had its first meeting and has plans to develop a Mission Statement for the Museum, to be released by the end of January 2009.