

Beaudesert Historical Museum Creates Action Plan for a Healthy Future

Museum and Gallery Services Queensland (M&GSQ) congratulates Beaudesert Historical Museum, one of nine community collecting organisations from the Gold Coast, Hinterland and Scenic Rim areas who have **completed the 2008 Standards Program**. Their achievements were recognised at a formal event hosted by the Scenic Rim Regional Council on Wednesday 3 December.

The Standards Program is a year long supportive program for Queensland's museum sector, designed to help participating museums plan for a healthy future by recognising their achievements, raising their profile and identifying strategic priorities for improvement and development.

Beaudesert Historical Museum received a certificate of recognition from Rebekah Butler, Executive Director, Museum & Gallery Services Queensland in acknowledgment of their achievement and hard work.

Reviewers, Josh Tarrant and Ken Brooks, who provided professional expertise free of charge throughout the program, congratulated Beaudesert Historical Museum saying

'the collection contains a large number of locally significant and representative items in fantastic condition that will enrich a visitors understanding of the past events and activities of Beaudesert'.

Beaudesert Historical Society, a volunteer organisation, 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.

Being involved in the Standards Program has inspired the Museum to undertake research and documentation of the collection as a necessary part of the future of the Museum's ongoing collection management, and for the presentation of the history associated with those items and the people from the region. Plans are in place to develop a collection policy, and cataloguing the collection to museum standards was identified as an important activity.

The Museum has committed themselves to improving interpretation with plans to research objects to assist with the redevelopment of themed displays. The establishment of a museum plan will incorporate this activity devising the thematic layout of the exhibition spaces to improve visitor flow and experience, and to provide suitable storage and working conditions for managing the collections.

Beaudesert Historical Museum is dedicated to sharing the history and heritage of Beaudesert through promoting the value and relevance of their collection to the Beaudesert community and visitors to the region. One particularly active member of the community has, for many years borrowed objects from the collection to display at the Brisbane 'Ekka', taking the history of Beaudesert to a broader audience.

Glen Cleary, Secretary of Beaudesert Historical Society explained what they gained from participating in the Standards program:

'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. 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.'

In 2009 the Museum Standards Program will be offered by M&GSQ in Toowoomba and surrounding regions with the support of the Museum Development Officer (Southern Inland Qld).

Full program information is available at

http://www.magsq.com.au/01_cms/details.asp?ID=373

Museum profiles and print quality images from the Presentation Ceremony are attached.

For media enquiries, please contact:

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Image Captions

Image C: Beaudesert Historical Museum **L-R** Doug Drescher - President, Maxine Hodder, Glen Cleary - Secretary



Museum & Gallery Services Queensland Ltd. is funded by the Queensland Government, through Arts Queensland and is supported by the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy, an initiative of the Australian, state and territory governments. Museum and Gallery Services Queensland is assisted by the Commonwealth through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body.

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Image G: Standards Participants 2008 including representatives from Beaudesert Historical Museum, Beenleigh & District Historical Village, Garden Hill at Lost World Museum, Gold Coast & Hinterland Historical Museum, Rathdowney Area Development & Historical Association, Tamborine Mountain Historical Society, Upper Clarence Historical Society, Yugambah Museum, Heritage & Language Research Centre. Others present include Museum & Gallery Services Queensland staff Rebekah Butler, Ann Baillie & Kerri Laidlaw. Stakeholders present include Cr David Cockburn (Beaudesert & President, Rathdowney Area Development & Historical Association), Cr Virginia West (Beaudesert, Darlington & Canungra), Cr Richard Adams (Tamborine southern), Kevin Liepins - Business Development Officer, Logan City Council & Sue and Rob Overell.

Image O: Beaudesert Historical Museum receiving a certificate of participation from Rebekah Butler. **L-R** Rebekah Butler - Executive Director, Museum & Gallery Services Queensland and Doug Drescher - President, Beaudesert Historical Museum



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