

Profile

Beenleigh & District Historical Society M&GSQ Standards Program 2008



An organ donated by the Radke family and situated in Radke Cottage in the Village.



Hay Baler and Shed donated by the Holm family. It was used at their farm in Pimpama.



A black velvet cape inherited in 1915, along with a Beenleigh property, by Auguste Braur, from her aunt Anna Nothing

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Hours: Seven days a week
9.30am-3.30pm

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Presented by Museum & Gallery Services Queensland in partnership with Beenleigh & District Historical Society. Images courtesy of Beenleigh & District Historical Society.

Acknowledgement: BayJournal for *A rum story from Beenleigh* 04 Jan 2008 for information on 'Bosun Bill'

http://bayjournal.com.au/joomla/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1595&Itemid=1

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

- ◆ The Village has a 'Bosun Bill' figurehead with dozens of hotel labels attached to its neck. 'Bosun Bill' was the Beenleigh Rum Distillery mascot for many years. The name 'Bosun Bill' refers to a local character, James Stewart, known as 'The Bosun', who owned a flat-bottomed stern wheel steamer called the SS Walrus. The boat operated as the Pioneer Floating Sugar Mill, though it acted solely as a distillery, producing rum from the sugar cane it collected from the plantations around Moreton Bay, many years before the Beenleigh plant was established. The Beenleigh Distillery bought the still from the Walrus after the floating distillery ceased operation. The 'Bosun Bill' character appeared on rum bottles, coasters and other Beenleigh Rum paraphernalia.
- ◆ The Village has in its collection the Gooding Family Bible. The Goodings were a founding family of Beenleigh. They were farmers, one of the first to grow sugar cane in the area, and operators of a sugar mill and rum distillery. The Village stands on land that was once farmed by the Gooding & Davy families. These two families named Beenleigh after Beenleigh Manor, in Devon, UK, from where they emigrated in 1862.
- ◆ The Village has an original wood tumble washing machine belonging to the Heck family. The Heck family established the Rocky Point sugar mill in 1879 and it remains an operating, privately-owned mill today.

Our Profile

The Beenleigh Historical Village has over 20 buildings on site with historical significance to the local area. These include the original church, school, boot-makers shop, railway station, post office, jail, council chambers, and several historic cottages from the Beenleigh area.

The heritage buildings and village grounds contain: local farming & sugar machinery; artefacts connected to pioneer families; family photos and histories; a Beenleigh rum distillery display; photographic record of Beenleigh Shire and Albert Shire; original war documents including a POW dog tag from Changji; and, an American Civil War display linking to the Beenleigh area.

The Village also encourages school groups to visit by providing hands on activities for children including old-fashioned washing, blacksmithing, bush-painting, caring for farm animals and lessons in the late 1800s school.

What the Standards Program has meant for our Museum

Significance Assessment

We were hoping for some 'museum know-how' and we are now more focused. We are looking at significance and have started on object files and a master plan for our future.

Planning for the Future

There have been many 'light-bulb moments' where things have slotted into place. We are now more aware of where we are at, where we need to go and how to proceed.