

Profile

Rathdowney Historical Museum (RADHA Inc) M&GSQ Standards Program 2008



Fred Johnson cream truck – operated in the Rathdowney area from 1938 to 1973 collecting and carting cream from Barney View farms for processing



Research on Pioneering Women at the Rathdowney Historical Museum



Rathdowney Historical Museum from the Mt Lindesay Highway

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

- ◆ The Museum has in its collection the Fred Johnson cream truck, which operated in the area from 1939 to 1973. The truck, a D35 International, which cost £800 to buy new at the Brisbane Exhibition in 1938, was used to collect and cart cream from the Barney View farms to the Rathdowney Tramway Station. After the Station was closed in 1944 the cream was then transported to Beaudesert factory, a distance of 50 miles one way. Fred also would do shopping for the farmers and deliver mail, meat, bread and any other provisions they needed.
- ◆ The Museum has in its collection the Tamrookum Buggy (1900) used by local resident Mrs R.M. Collins (1857-1931) of Tamrookum Station as her mode of transport before the advent of the motor vehicle. Mrs Collins entertained the Duke and Duchess of York at Tamrookum Station in 1927 during the only weekend their Royal Highnesses spent in Queensland. Later, the Duke became King George VI and the Duchess, Queen Elizabeth (the Queen Mother).
- ◆ The Rathdowney Visitor Information Centre and Museum is housed in the old Commercial Bank of Australia Ltd (1911 – 1965). The CBA bank was situated in Collins Street, Rathdowney and opened in 1911 with one employee, the manager, who lived on site, receiving a salary of £160 a year with a £26 a year horse allowance. The total cost of opening the branch is recorded as a modest £74.13.8. The branch closed in the 1960s and was transported to the present site on Mt Lindesay Highway in 1978. It is difficult to imagine one person conducting a full banking business on his own but it was done successfully with the one person acting as the teller, ledger-keeper, accountant and manager and, after hours and on weekends, doing his inspection of properties on horseback. For protection, the Bank was issued with a point 38 long barrel revolver when, if it was ever carried, would need to be concealed in a sugar bag. This gun type was surrendered to the Police in about 1950.

Our Profile

The Rathdowney Historical Museum was opened in November 1984 and is housed in the Information Centre building, which was formally the Commercial Bank of Australia, Rathdowney Branch 1911-1978.

The collection relates to local history including pioneering families, pioneering women, timber & dairying industries, and artifacts from the local region since settlement from the 1860s onwards.

A collection of historic buildings from around the local area include the Rathdowney Tramway Station, Glenapp & Dulbolla Railway Sidings and a Hut from the Palen Creek Prison Farm. These buildings house an interesting range of objects that were used in everyday life and include a horse-drawn buggy, bullock wagon, drays and wagons.

The Museum is located approximately 90 kilometres south of Brisbane on the Mt Lindesay Highway within the Scenic Rim Regional Council.

What the Standards Program has meant for our Museum

Significance

The Standards Program has helped us to refocus and identify significant items in our collection, which has assisted us in the development of a marketing strategy.

Documentation

Being involved in the Standards Program has reinforced the need for documentation, cataloguing, and identifying & recording the provenance of objects in the collection.