

Rathdowney Historical Museum Creates Action Plan for a Healthy Future

Museum and Gallery Services Queensland (M&GSQ) congratulates Rathdowney Historical Museum (Rathdowney Area Development & Historical Association Inc.), one of nine community collecting institutions 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.

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

Reviewers, Lisa Jones and Christine Ianna, who provided professional expertise free of charge throughout the program, praised Rathdowney Historical Museum saying

'The Museum is well on its way to accomplishing some of its bigger goals such as the reorganisation of collection display and storage areas, interpretation of significant collection items and general improvement of display and the organization of the museum collection and buildings.'

The Rathdowney Historical Museum was opened in November 1984 and is housed in the Information Centre building, 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 artefacts from the local region since settlement in the 1860s. A collection of historic buildings from around the local area includes 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.

With the expertise of Reviewers the Museum has developed plans to improve the general layout of the museum and heritage buildings, including interpretation of significant items, such as Fred Johnson's cream truck (a well known local cream carrier operating in the region from 1938-1973) and improving the theming of exhibitions and interpretive and directional signage. With funds obtained from the Queensland Government's 150th celebrations the Museum has plans to build a



model of the Rathdowney tramway system (1911-1944), and to develop a permanent display on Pioneering Women of the region including Indigenous, European and Australian women from 1850 up to 1930. The Official Opening of the model tramway system and the pioneering women display will be held at the 14th annual Rathdowney Heritage Festival on Sunday 5th April 2009 at the Rathdowney Memorial Ground. It will be a celebration of Queensland's 150th birthday and the Rathdowney region's pioneering days featuring demonstrations of traditional trades such as blacksmithing and wheelrighting along with displays of period costume, tools, machinery and historical photographs. The Rathdowney Historical Museum is dedicated to sharing local history and heritage with the community and visitors to the region.

Another creative and interesting use of the Museum's historical research and resources is the recent publication by artist Janet Hauser, 'Grandfather grew Mangel-Wurzels'. This beautiful full-colour hardback book, supported for publication by the Regional Arts Development Fund and the Scenic Rim Regional Council, features botanical illustrations, heritage plants, pioneers and places of the Scenic Rim Region. Through this publication the artist provides a new perspective on local history.

Catherine Drynan, Secretary of the Rathdowney Historical Museum explained the benefits of participating in the Standards program:

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

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

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

For media enquiries, please contact:

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Image Captions

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 &



THE VISUAL ARTS AND CRAFT STRATEGY

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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Canungra), Cr Richard Adams (Tamborine southern), Kevin Liepins - Business Development Officer, Logan City Council & Sue and Rob Overall.

Image I: Rathdowney Area Development & Historical Association receiving a certificate of participation from Rebekah Butler. **L-R** Rebekah Butler - Executive Director, Museum & Gallery Services Queensland and Catherine Drynan – Secretary & Ellaine Taylor, Rathdowney Area Development & Historical Association

Image P: Rathdowney Area Development & Historical Association **L-R** Cr Dave Cockburn, Lesley Klan, Catherine Drynan - Secretary, Ellaine Taylor, Cr Virginia West



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