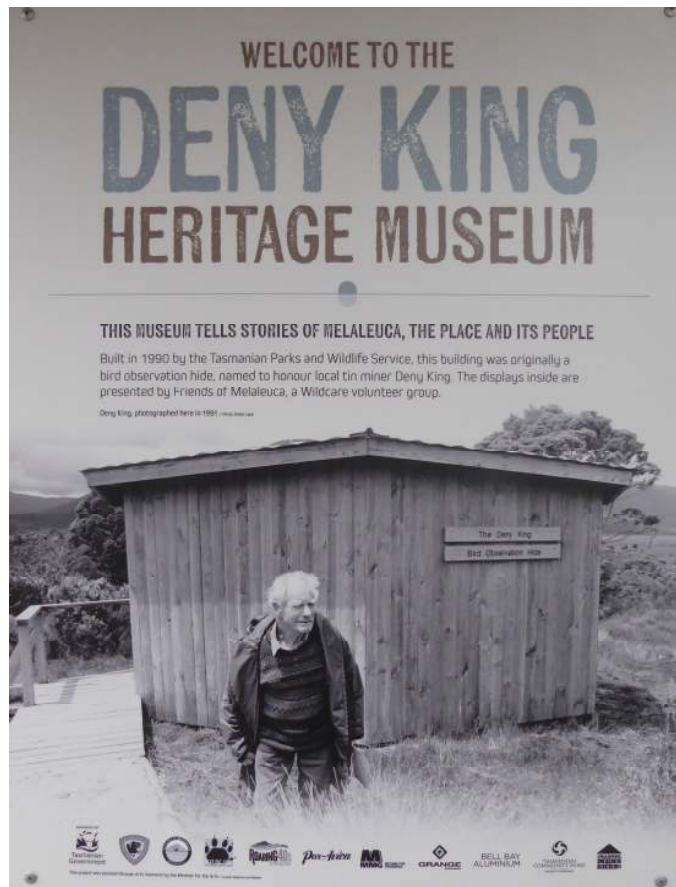




Friends of Melaleuca, Wildcare Tasmania

Deny King Heritage Museum Melaleuca

Collection Policy, 2021



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Purpose of the collection:

The museum collection is intended to enhance public understanding of the cultural and natural heritage of the Melaleuca area. The museum will conserve and interpret relevant movable heritage pertaining to the history and natural history of Melaleuca for the public.

The museum will conserve portable heritage from relocation, disposal, damage or deterioration.

Purpose and scope of the policy:

This collection policy will be used as the guiding document for the development and management of the collection.

The museum will collect:

The museum will collect objects that relate to the themes and stories told in the museum. Key themes relate to the social and industrial history of Melaleuca and Port Davey in far southwest Tasmania, and the unique natural environment.

Objects are selected using the following criteria:

- Objects are prioritised that tell a story that illustrates or adds to the interpreted topics.
- Illustrate changing local mining heritage and techniques from 1930s to 2011.
- Describe lifestyle of the miners and their families at Melaleuca, demonstrating the ingenuity and improvisation characteristic of work and family life.
- Illustrate other aspects of the cultural heritage of the area, including aviation; arts and culture; volunteering.
- Contribute to displays of relevance to the natural environment, focusing on aspects that make this landscape unique: weather, geology, flora, fauna, fire, and ecology.
- Pertain to the history of the greater Port Davey area, Cox Bight and far Southwest, on the grounds of their telling a story which expands the understanding of Melaleuca in the historical and geographic context of the greater Southwest area. This includes the Nineteenth century huon pinning and whaling industries in Port Davey; prospecting; track-cutting, fishing and tourism.
- Pertain to the life of Win and Clyde Clayton, fishers who lived in Port Davey/Bathurst Harbour from 1949 until 1976. Display these objects at the Claytons' historic cottage where practicable.

- The museum only collects objects that relate to the museum's purpose and key collecting areas. Objects with provenance outside the far Southwest will not be included unless they contribute significantly to the story of Melaleuca/Southwest Tasmania.
- Any object's robustness or vulnerability, suitability for display (including security) will be taken into consideration.
- Priority will be given to objects where the history of the object is known and associated documentation and support material can be provided.
- Objects may be prioritised if they are an excellent representative example of a particular kind of object.
- Objects that duplicate objects already in the collection will not be accepted unless they are of superior condition and/or historic value.
- The museum will only accept objects where the donor/vendor has legal title to the object.
- The museum collects printed material that relates to the museum's purpose and key themes. This is located on shelves for reference within the museum, the bushwalkers huts and at Claytons.

A Heritage Mining Trail is planned around the historic mine sites, to expand on the interpretation and collection within the museum. Mining objects and artefacts will be left in situ to better tell these stories.

Methods of acquisition:

The museum shall acquire objects for the permanent collection by donation, bequest, purchase or transfer. The museum will not accept conditional donations.

The Friends of Melaleuca committee will decide if a donation will be accepted.

Accepted procedures of acquisition and cataloguing will be carried out, including numbering and photographs.

Storage and conservation:

The museum aims to achieve high standards of collection care and storage within the limitations of the site.

Deaccessioning and disposal:

An object can be deaccessioned from the museum's collection if:

- It does not comply with the current collection policy of the museum.
- It is damaged beyond repair.
- the conservation and storage costs are beyond the means of the museum.
- It is a lesser quality duplicate of an object the museum owns or is offered.
- It lacks supporting information to enable proper identification or to establish its relevance to the collection.

- A substantial request for the return of the object to its original owner/donor is received.

Removal:

An object is deaccessioned only with the agreement of the current Friends of Melaleuca committee.

An object removed from the collection is firstly offered to the donor or family before disposal by other means.

Loans:

- The museum may lend and borrow material to meet its purpose.

Oral histories:

The museum may make provision for collection of oral histories in the future.

Access:

The museum, including the reference material, is open to the public during daylight hours 7 days per week.

The museum may make its collection more widely accessible via a website

Review:

This policy should be reviewed in five years.

Endorsement:

Date: 30 November, 2021

Signed



Janet Fenton, President,
for the Committee, Friends of Melaleuca,
Wildcare Incorporated (Wildcare Tasmania)