The beginning of the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Queensland
Written by Kim Haddon the Founder

The Bernese Mountain Dog Social Club of Qld was formed on the 8th August 1999 at Zeigen Bernese in Toowoomba.
In attendance were 58 adults, 1 baby, 14 children and around 40 dogs ....   not counting my own.

It was a beautiful sunny winters day and Wayne Haddon cooked camp oven lunches of lamb casserole, sweet and sour pork, rice and buttered bread rolls.
ABC TELEVISION attended on the day, filming and interviewing owners with their dogs.

Original Office Bearers and committee members were:

President: Kim Haddon
Vice President: Trudy Adamson
Secretary: Catherine Cairns
Treasurer: Ken Chardon
General Committee: Sarah Ward, Louise McDougall, Vicky Wyness, Maria Pembroke, Lesley Lovett, Mike O'Hara
Rescue Committee: Kim Haddon, Catherine Cairns, Louise McDougall, Michael O'Hara, Trudy Adamson.

On this day we celebrated Ken and Julie Chardon's boy Aspen (Zeigen Aspen's) 11th Birthday and this became the start of our Annual Celebration to Our Oldies Presentation for our Berner's 9 yrs and older, inspired by the Swiss saying:
"Three years a young dog,
Three years a good dog,
Three years an old dog
......And anything beyond this is a Gift from God."

This is a tradition we continue to this day.

Our bimonthly hard copy Newsletter "Bernabout" was born and meetings were voted to be held every second month.

Following the meeting and lunch, we judged the funniest Party Hat competition. This was won by Wendy Osborne's boy Jake. (Zeigen Erzahlen).

An Official letter of Recognition for the Affiliation of our Bernese Mountain Dog Social Club of Qld was received on the 24th November, 1999.

On the 3rd October 1999, we held our first General meeting held at Durack Tavern, Brisbane and recorded 38 new memberships bringing the total to 78 Individual members and 60 Bernese.

After due process, an official letter from the Canine Control Council Qld, acknowledging the recognition and Affiliation of the Bernese Mountain Dog Social Club of Qld was received, dated the 24th November, 1999.

Our very first rescue Berner was "Beefer", who had been left at a pound and marked for euthanasia because of a lump in her foot. Beefer was approx 9 yrs old and was gentle sweet and loving. following a full vet examination she was immediately adopted by Louise McDonalds daughter Justine.

Our first Christmas Party was held at Lockyer Creek Park on the 5th December 1999 where Wayne cooked a sausage sizzle and we had a prize for the best dressed Berner prior to refreshing swim in the creek.

Every year for ten years prior to the official formation of the BMDCQ, Kim Haddon, "Zeigen Bernese" one of the founders of the Bernese Mountain Dog in Australia, held social gatherings for Bernese owners throughout Qld totally organised and funded by herself.