

Memories of Brisbane's old Tramcars

Museum and Gallery Services Queensland (M&GSQ) congratulates **Brisbane Tramway Museum Society**, one of nine museums and galleries from Brisbane metropolitan and surrounding regions who have completed a challenging year-long program assessing their practice against *The National Standards for Australian Museums and Galleries*.

Reviewers, Ken Brooks and Josh Tarrant, who played a vital role in providing free professional advice and assistance throughout the program, congratulated the **Brisbane Tramway Museum Society** saying,

'All members of the Brisbane Tramway Museum committee are to be congratulated on their enthusiasm and interest in promoting the Museum and their efforts to improve their collection management skills and to further understand what it is they have within their collections.'

The Brisbane Tramway Museum holds a large collection of Brisbane tramcars that are dated from a 1901 Californian Combination tram through to the modern streamlined Four Motor (FM) tramcars that were last built in 1964. The collection includes the mighty twelve ton Dreadnought class and the well known Dropcentre tram. There is a collection of 22 tramcars held at the Museum of which six have been restored and are available for people to ride on when the Museum is open to the public.

Many visitors comment on remembering the days when these tramcars supplied public transport to the people of Brisbane and the efficiency with which they moved people to and from the city centre and Fortitude Valley.

The Brisbane Tramway Museum Society is a non-for-profit voluntary organization of people with an interest and passion for the museum and its collections. The committee is now working on a collections audit to determine the needs of the collections and to identify thematic areas where the collection may be lacking. The audit will also help the Museum to identify significant items that may be of use in their new displays.

Peter Hyde, Vice President of The Brisbane Tramway Museum Society, explained what they had gained from participating in M&GSQ's Standards program:

'The program has given our Museum the chance to re-examine itself and for outside people not connected with the Museum to look at how the Museum operates. This has assisted areas such as collection management, recruitment of volunteers and running of the museum. We would encourage any other small or medium museum to participate in this program.'

Rebekah Butler, Executive Director, M&GSQ, commended Brisbane Tramway Museum and gratefully acknowledged the pro bono work the Standards Reviewers, Ken Brooks and Josh Tarrant, undertook with the Museum and the support of the reviewers' workplaces, The Queensland Museum and Brennan and Geraghty's Store Museum, for their vital contribution to M&GSQ's Standards Program.

In 2011 the Museum Standards Program will be run in the Tablelands and Cook Shires of Far North Queensland.

Full program information is available at:

http://www.magsq.com.au/01_cms/details.asp?ID=709

The Museum profile and print quality images from the Museum are attached.

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IMAGE CAPTIONS:

Image 1 – Brisbane Tramway Museum with their Certificate of recognition. **L to R:** Deborah Miles, Director, Creative Communities, Arts Queensland and Glen Dyer, Archival Records Coordinator, Brisbane Tramway Museum Society

Acknowledgement – Graeme Mackay

Image 2 – Tramcars 341, 429 and 554 at the front of depot 1 shed

Acknowledgement –BTMS

Image 3 – Tramcar 65 heading up the hill to the depot Terminus

Acknowledgement – Wayne Chaseling

Image 4 – Inside the museum display area and shop

Acknowledgement – Glen Dyer

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