

Beenleigh & District Historical Village Creates Action Plan for a Healthy Future

Museum and Gallery Services Queensland (M&GSQ) congratulates Beenleigh & District Historical Village, one of nine community collecting organisations 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.

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

Reviewers, Ian Jempson and Ken Brooks, who provided professional expertise free of charge throughout the program, congratulated the Beenleigh & District Historical Village saying:

'Beenleigh & District Historical Village deserve congratulations for the progress they have made over many years and their willingness to undertake the Standards Program. Much hard work has been undertaken assembling the collection and they are now moving into a new phase of collection management and making good progress.'

The Beenleigh & District Historical Village has over twenty buildings on site with historical significance to the local area. These include the original church, school, boot-makers shop, railway station, post office, jail, council chambers, and several historic cottages from the Beenleigh area. The heritage buildings and village grounds contain: local farming & sugar machinery; artefacts connected to pioneer families; family photos and histories; a Beenleigh rum distillery display; photographic record of Beenleigh Shire and Albert Shire; original war documents including a POW dog tag from Changi; and an American Civil War display linked to the Beenleigh area.

Inspired by the Standards Program workshop, the Village will undertake object research to establish and record the provenance of significant items in the collection, and to formalise this procedure with the development of their own object file system.

The Village plans to improve interpretive signage around the site to assist visitors to better understand the history of the buildings and their themed display of collections. The Village also



intends to develop a master plan for the site as a forward planning activity to assist them with arrangements for building and site works, and displays for the future.

The Beenleigh & District Historical Village is keen to share the heritage of the area with young people. School groups are encouraged to visit and learn about their local history through hands on activities including old-fashioned washing, blacksmithing, bush-painting, caring for farm animals and lessons in the late 1800s school. The Village has found that their collections are of interest to school groups who often return after a visit to borrow objects for their own displays in the community.

Anker Laursen, President of the Beenleigh & District Historical Society explained what they gained from participating in the Standards program:

'We were hoping for some 'museum know-how' and we are now more focused. We are looking at significance and have started on object files and a master plan for our future. We are now more aware of where we are at, where we need to go and how to proceed.'

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

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

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Image Captions

Image D: L-R Linda Hetet - Weddings Coordinator, Kevin Liepins (Business Development Officer, Logan City Council), Wendy Charter - Secretary/Collection Manager, Anker Laursen - President Beenleigh & District Historical Village & Rory O'Connor - Education Director, Yugambah Museum, Language & Heritage Research Centre

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

Image H: Beenleigh & District Historical Village receiving a certificate of participation from Rebekah Butler. **L-R** Rebekah Butler - Executive Director, Museum & Gallery Services Queensland and Anker Laursen - President, Beenleigh & District Historical Village.



THE VISUAL ARTS AND CRAFT STRATEGY

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