

Two Decades of Art in Emerald

Deputy Mayor of Longreach, Councillor Rae Bowden and Deputy Mayor of the Central Highlands, Councillor Gail Nixon, joined Museum & Gallery Services Queensland (M&GSQ) at the Dr Bruce Yeates Memorial Cottage, Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame and Outback Heritage Centre on Thursday 5 December 2013, in congratulating **Emerald Art Gallery**, on **a great year of achievement**. Emerald Art Gallery provides the local community with a high profile exhibition space, purpose-built in 2007, and located in the Central Highlands Regional Council offices in Emerald.

M&GSQ's Executive Director, Rebekah Butler, said today,

"The Emerald Art Gallery is to be commended for its achievements during its year-long participation in M&GSQ's Standards Review Program. The Gallery is managed by a group of dedicated volunteers. This Emerald Art Gallery Committee organise the annual Emerald Art Award as their premier event with Council as the major sponsor. 2013 saw its 20th Anniversary."

According to M&GSQ's Standards Program Reviewers, Dawn Oelrich and Elizabeth Bates, industry experts who played a vital role in providing pro-bono professional advice and assistance throughout the Program:

"The Committee is responsible for programming, budgeting, exhibition installations, opening events, public programs as well as the presentation of the annual art award. All these activities take considerable time and effort and the committee should be commended on their ongoing commitment to the Gallery. The passion of the new Committee is a definite strength for the Gallery."

Ruth Haydon, President, explained the participation in M&GSQ's Standards Program had resulted in the understanding of a need for a MOU between Council and the Gallery Committee and an increased awareness of the significance of the Council's collection. She said,

“A recent inspection of a significant painting in the collection, by a qualified art valuer, has enlightened Council and progress is being made on having the whole collection assessed.”

M&GSQ’s Standards Review Program supports museums and galleries to build skills and capacity, plan for a sustainable future, identify strategic priorities for improvement, develop an action plan and ensure the safeguarding and accessibility of community collections and stories.

M&GSQ Standards Review Program is pleased to acknowledge the support of Central Highlands Regional Council and the Regional Arts Development Fund to bring this program to Emerald. The Regional Arts Development Fund is a Queensland Government and Central Highlands Regional Council partnership to support local arts and culture.

The museum’s profile is attached.

For media enquiries and print quality images please contact:

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IMAGE CAPTION

Image 1 – (L to R) Cr Rae Bowden, Deputy Mayor Longreach Regional Council; Ruth Haydon, President Emerald Art Gallery Committee; Cr Gail Nixon, Deputy Mayor Central Highlands Regional Council

Acknowledgement – Photo Outback Pics

Other images available upon request.

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