

Gold Coast & Hinterland Historical Museum Creates Action Plan for a Healthy Future

Museum and Gallery Services Queensland (M&GSQ) congratulates Gold Coast & Hinterland Historical Museum, 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.

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

Reviewers, Lisa Jones and Christine Ianna, who provided professional expertise free of charge throughout the program, congratulated the Gold Coast & Hinterland Historical Museum saying:

'It's exciting to see the progress being made and the enthusiasm of the group towards Standards. Everyone is so committed to their museum and the Standards process, it's so nice to see.'

The Reviewers praised the Museum saying the collection is well-housed and they should be congratulated for taking the initiative in applying for a National Library of Australia Community Heritage Grant for a collection management workshop (to be held at the Museum in 2009).

The Gold Coast & Hinterland Historical Museum is situated on an historic piece of land at Bundall on the Gold Coast. Set on a side street from Bundall Road it creates an oasis from the hustle and bustle of traffic using this busy traffic thoroughfare, and is less than two kilometres from the existing coastline. The grounds were the site of an Aboriginal gathering place and are positioned on a remaining section of an extensive section of a sand dune that was formed 120,000 years ago. In addition to being the site of an Aboriginal midden, the grounds have been used as a cemetery for local sugarcane workers and remain a consecrated site though rezoned in 1972 for use as a Historical Society.

The museum precinct consists of a number of replica and original heritage buildings. These include the studio of Vincent Sheldon, a prominent Queensland etcher; 'Boowaggan' a reproduction of the Veivers family home, pioneers from the area; Dolan's Barn, which houses a collection of farming tools and machinery and items from the Pacific Cable Station Bauer St, Southport; the steam engine building that displays two sawmill engines from the original Johnston and Freeman sawmill established in Southport in 1876. 'The Hall of History' is the museum's principal area for displays including bikinis, photographs, swatches and albums from renowned coast designer Paula Stafford; and, a collection of items from the ship, the Scottish Prince, which sank in 1887 out from the Southport bar.

The Standards Program has inspired the Museum to establish formal collection management and documentation procedures. The Museum will host a collection management workshop in 2009 that will be open to other museums involved in the Standards Program.

The Society has committed themselves to improving their displays, starting with the significant Paula Stafford collection. With the assistance of Reviewers this display has recently been revitalised incorporating best practice in preventive conservation. Plans are also underway to repaint the Vincent Sheldon Memorial, taking into consideration important conservation issues.

The Gold Coast & Hinterland Historical Museum is dedicated to sharing the history and heritage of the Gold Coast through promoting the value and relevance of their site and collection to the Gold Coast community and visitors to the region. One way they are doing this is through their involvement in the 2009 Open Garden scheme. The Gardens have been developed to represent pre & post European history on the site including wallum, littoral rainforest and banksia woodland, as well as an edible plant path.

Bob Nancarrow, President, Gold Coast & Hinterland Historical Museum explained what they gained from participating in the Standards program:

'We now have a better understanding of our Museum's collection and have reassessed the significance of important items in the collection. Our involvement in the Standards Program has meant a better understanding of requirements to enhance our displays and an awareness of the requirements for care of the collection.'

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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Museum & Gallery Services Queensland Ltd. is funded by the Queensland Government, through Arts Queensland and is supported by the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy, an initiative of the Australian, state and territory governments. Museum and Gallery Services Queensland is assisted by the Commonwealth through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body.

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Image Captions

Image F: Gold Coast & Hinterland Historical Museum **L-R** June Redman - Secretary, Penny Thorpe, Desley Acton, Gene Rosser – Treasurer

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, Heritage & Language 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 L: Gold Coast & Hinterland Historical Museum receiving a certificate of participation from Rebekah Butler. **L-R** Rebekah Butler - Executive Director, Museum & Gallery Services Queensland and Penny Thorpe, Gold Coast & Hinterland Historical Museum



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