

Garden Hill at Lost World Museum Creates Action Plan for a Healthy Future

Museum and Gallery Services Queensland (M&GSQ) congratulates Garden Hill at Lost World 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.

Garden Hill at Lost World Museum received a certificate of recognition from Rebekah Butler, Executive Director, Museum & Gallery Services Queensland in acknowledgment of their achievement and hard work.

Reviewers, Christine Ianna and Dan Robinson, who provided professional expertise free of charge throughout the program, congratulated Garden Hill at Lost World Museum saying:

'Garden Hill at Lost World should be commended for their work to date collecting and sharing the unique history and heritage of the Kerry Valley and for their plans to establish a public museum to open up the site to locals and visitors alike.'

Garden Hill at Lost World Museum is situated on a small property located in the Lost World Valley, about 32km south of Beaudesert. The museum buildings are mainly split slab and galvanised iron and have been re-erected from local farm buildings rescued from demolition as farmers restructure. These have been sensitively adapted for use as exhibition spaces for historical displays and art.

The museum has a wide-ranging collection drawn from the Kerry Valley and rural Queensland which includes farming machinery, timber industry equipment, horse drawn vehicles, harness and saddles, tools, household items, toys and photographs.

One building is used as a refreshment room, and a second accommodates changing displays drawn from the collections. Artworks on consignment are also featured. The museum is open to the public for special events or by appointment.

The Standards Program has inspired Garden Hill at Lost World to adopt a formal Museum structure and operations. The Museum plans to establish a public not-for-profit entity linked to



the Museum's operations. They will take on best practice approaches to collection management including formal collection documentation procedures and the establishment of object files. The Museum is dedicated to improving storage conditions for collection items, and interpretation for each of the buildings and the collections in them. They have plans for standardised interpretive labels and are currently reviewing the storage of significant collection items.

Garden Hill at Lost World Museum is dedicated to sharing the history and heritage of the Kerry Valley through promoting the value and relevance of their collection to the community and visitors to the region. In a recent project, a historian from the Scenic Rim has interviewed local bullockies to collect their stories to add to the oral history and photographic collection of the early years of the timber industry in Darlington.

Cherrol McGhee, Garden Hill at Lost World Museum explained what they gained from participating in the Standards program:

'The Standards Program has given us practical advice on how to document our collection and connect some of the items to the stories of our community. By discussing aspects of planning and management with the reviewers on site we were able to focus on the priorities and create a timeline for what needs to be achieved.'

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.

For media enquiries, please contact:

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Image Captions

Image E: Garden Hill at Lost World **L-R** Cr Virginia West, Sue Overell, Cherrol McGhee, Rob Overell

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 J: Garden Hill at Lost World receiving a certificate of participation from Rebekah Butler. **L-R** Rebekah Butler - Executive Director, Museum & Gallery Services Queensland and Cherrol McGhee, Garden Hill at Lost World



THE VISUAL ARTS AND CRAFT STRATEGY

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