

REVIEWERS COMMEND A HEALTHY MUSEUM

Museum and Gallery Services Queensland (M&GSQ) congratulates **Discover Eumundi Heritage & Visitor Centre**, based on the Sunshine Coast, and one of nine museums and galleries who have completed a challenging year-long program assessing their existing practices and policies against the **National Standards for Australian Museums and Galleries**.

Since 2005 Museum & Gallery Services Queensland has assisted 37 community museums and regional galleries to review their own practice and identify strategic priorities for improvement and development, setting participants on the path to achieving the outcomes they have identified as key to their future operations. Participants in the Standards Program have access to the support and advice of important industry networks, including M&GSQ, regional colleagues and experienced museum & gallery professionals in planning for a healthy future.

On Thursday 3 December Debra Beattie, General Manager of Museum & Gallery Services Queensland welcomed participants to a formal event at Cobb & Co Museum Toowoomba celebrating their achievements and completion of the program. **Discover Eumundi Heritage & Visitor Centre** received a certificate of recognition from Ms Beattie in acknowledgment of their commitment and dedication to the Standards Program.

Reviewers, Ken Brooks and Christine Ianna, who played a vital role in providing professional advice and assistance throughout the program, free of charge, congratulated **Discover Eumundi Heritage & Visitor Centre** saying:

'Discover Eumundi Heritage and Visitor Centre, is a very healthy museum. It is run by a community association, The Eumundi and District Historical Association (EHA), which has operated the financially successful Eumundi markets for 30 years. The museum has successfully recruited volunteers and continues to do so and it is well run with a cohesive team of volunteers, paid staff and the committee.'

They praised **Discover Eumundi Heritage & Visitor Centre** saying,

'The museum is at the forefront of museum practice with an agreement with two Aboriginal groups, the Undambi and the Dalungbara, which recognises the museum as a 'keeping place' for local Aboriginal material. The museum is also to be congratulated for its interest in contemporary history and its work developing new and changing displays.'

While Discover Eumundi Heritage and Visitor Centre is one of the smallest museums on the Sunshine Coast, it is one of the most visited with approximately 10,000 visitors a year. The Centre provides visitor information and historical objects, photographs and interpretive displays. Well designed and produced displays depict the museum's collection of Aboriginal artefacts and

the area's natural and social history. The museum strives to remain relevant to the local community by documenting the contemporary. This includes the recent photo documentation of the Australian Body Art Carnivale.

The museum has a good relationship with its vibrant local artist community and there are exciting plans for museum and artist involvement in a range of events in 2010.

Wendy Birrell, Manager, Discover Eumundi Heritage and Visitor Centre explained what they gained from participating in the Standards program:

'Volunteers now have a better understanding of museum practices and an increased motivation to be more involved in all levels in the day to day running of the museum and the management of the collection.'

In 2010 the Museum Standards Program will be offered by M&GSQ in the Brisbane metro and surrounding regions.

Full program information is available at

http://www.magsq.com.au/01_cms/details.asp?ID=509

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

For media enquiries, please contact:

1. Wendy Birrell – Manager, Discover Eumundi Heritage & Visitor Centre

Phone: **0438 118 452**

Email: manager@discovereumundi.com.au

2. Ann Baillie, Manager - Training & Professional Development, M&GSQ

Phone: **07 3215 0845** Freecall: **1800 680 433** (within Queensland)

Mobile: 0419 729 533

Email: ann.baillie@magsq.com.au

IMAGE CAPTIONS:

Image 1 – Discover Eumundi Heritage & Visitor Centre receives their Certificate of Recognition.

L-R: Debra Beattie, General Manager, Museum & Gallery Services Queensland – Wendy Birrell, Manager, Discover Eumundi Heritage & Visitor Centre

Photo Acknowledgement – Bruce Cowell

Image 2 – Memorial Fig Tree

Photo Acknowledgement – Discover Eumundi Heritage & Visitor Centre

Image 3 - Discover Eumundi – Heritage & Visitor Centre

Photo Acknowledgement – Discover Eumundi Heritage & Visitor Centre

Image 4 – Setting up the Markets. These innovative stilts were used to set up the market stalls.

Photo Acknowledgement - Discover Eumundi Heritage & Visitor Centre, 1999.

END RELEASE