

REVIEWERS ACKNOWLEDGE UNIQUE COLLECTION

Museum and Gallery Services Queensland (M&GSQ) congratulates **Milne Bay Military Museum**, one of nine museums and galleries from Southern Inland Queensland who have completed a challenging year-long program assessing their existing practices and policies against the **National Standards for Australian Museums and Galleries**.

Reviewers, Ian Jempson and Josh Tarrant, who played a vital role in providing professional advice and assistance throughout the program, free of charge, congratulated **Milne Bay Military Museum** saying,

'The team at the Milne Bay Military Museum (MBMM) are very dedicated, well led and presenting a quality museum operation. They are to be congratulated for participating in the Standards Program and their willingness to embrace many of the recommendations arising from the Program'.

They praised **Milne Bay Military Museum** saying,

'Milne Bay Military Museum is well managed and has most documentation in place to govern its future operation and to record its past achievements. The Museum is actively engaged with the community of Toowoomba and has a strong base of volunteers, which is to be commended. The Museum has assembled a significant collection of military artefacts covering Australian Defence Force operations over the past 100 years and their collection contains a number of unique and irreplaceable items.'

Milne Bay Military Museum began as a collection of artefacts belonging to 25th Battalion veterans who had served during World War I and II and in the Battle of Milne Bay in 1942. The collection has grown over the years to include all theatres of World War II, as well as the Boer War, World War I, the Korean and Vietnam Wars, and more recent conflicts. Highlights of the Museum include:

- Individual soldiers' stories including photographs, letters and diaries
- Full size replica World War I trenches including a soundscape of exploding shells, and showing the command post and hospital bay
- A replica of the Red Barron's Fokker DR1 tri-plane
- The Conflict Gallery displaying weapons, uniforms, medals and aircraft used between 1951 and 1972
- A dedicated 25th Battalion history room and Wall of Remembrance with its Roll of Honour above a stained glass window commemorating the members of the 25th Darling Downs Regiment who died in battle at Milne Bay and Bouganville.

With the assistance of the Standards Program, the Milne Bay Military Museum have undertaken a review of their Business Plan in order to re-evaluate the direction and focus of the Museum for the next 5 years.

Milne Bay Military Museum is committed to promoting the value and relevance of the Museum and its programmes to the Toowoomba community and visitors to the region.

Barrie Wallis, Curator, Milne Bay Military Museum explained what they gained from participating in the Standards program:

'The Standards Program has strengthened the resolve of the Committee to update its Collection Policy and Business Plan thereby giving a new perspective of the 'big picture', to see our future ahead of us. This Program gave us the assistance to plan for our future and supports the old adage that 'if you do not plan then you plan to fail'.'

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

The Museum profile and print quality images from the Museum are attached.
For media enquiries, please contact:

1. Barrie Wallis – Curator, Milne Bay Military Museum

Phone: **07 4636 4314**

Email: museum25battalion@westnet.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 - Milne Bay Military Museum receiving their certificate of recognition.

L-R: Barrie Wallis, Curator, Milne Bay Military Museum – Debra Beattie, general Manager, Museum & Gallery Services Queensland – Peter Flexman, President, Milne Bay Military Museum

Acknowledgement – Bruce Cowell

Image 2 - Stein belonging to the 25th Battalion Royal Queensland Regiment

Acknowledgement - Kerri Laidlaw, M&GSQ

Image 3 - Trench art - photo frame created from aluminium siding of a plane

Acknowledgement - Kerri Laidlaw, M&GSQ

Image 4 - Milne Bay Military Museum replica full-size WW1 trench

Acknowledgement - Kerri Laidlaw, M&GSQ

END RELEASE