

AN EXCITING FUTURE FOR THE MILES HISTORICAL VILLAGE

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

Reviewers, Steve Chaddock and Christine Ianna, who played a vital role in providing professional advice and assistance throughout the program, free of charge, congratulated the **Miles Historical Village and Museum** saying,

'The participants in the Standards Program displayed excellent enthusiasm, and volunteers, paid staff and the committee alike are to be congratulated on the quality of their achievements.'

The Miles Historical Village was officially opened in 1971, and over the years has developed into one of the premier tourist attractions within the region: a place for connecting to memories of a disappearing country lifestyle.

There are currently over 35 buildings in a streetscape with amazing collections and links to a bygone era. As the Village likes to say, 'if you remember it, we have it!'

Original buildings at the Village include the Hippong slab hut homestead. Originally located just north of Miles, the name of this property is derived from an early Chinese shepherd, Hip Pong. The Columboola Hall, Dalwogan Railway Siding, Andersen's Smithy, Jimbour CWA, Village School, Dairy, Gaol, Dulacca Presbyterian Church and the Australian Bank of Commerce are all important original buildings in the Village complex. Recreated buildings in the streetscape include The Red Rose Café, a replica of the first Greek café built in Miles in 1925, the boot maker, union hotel, hospital, butcher, barber shop, laundry, garage, post office, bakery and printery - The Murilla Express.

Other significant collections displayed include:

- The **War Museum**: a tribute to Australian service men and women from the Boer War to Vietnam displaying photographs, documents, uniforms and life size models.
- The **Norman Donpon Lapidary Display**: a local's collection of over 4000 fossil woods, ferns, agates, crystals and minerals from around the world.

Western Downs Regional Council and the Miles Historical Village have developed a strong partnership for the future and the local community are encouraged to become involved with the Village People volunteer program. The reviewers also commended the village for the community engagement evident in its exciting event program.

The Miles Historical Village is keen to enhance the visitor experience and with the assistance of the Standards Program undertook an interpretation planning exercise. Through this exercise the Village identified a key theme and suitable interpretive tools for different audiences, creating a comprehensive Action Plan to guide them through the complex task of researching and implementing new interpretation strategies.

The Miles Historical Village are dedicated to caring for their collection for future generations to enjoy and are working hard on planning preventive conservation strategies, undertaking Significance Assessment, cataloguing the collection and undertaking object research.

Kylie Bourne, President of the Miles Historical Society explained what they gained from participating in the Standards program:

'We identified through the Standards Process that interpretation was of a high priority. We aim to continue development and progress in this area as we know this will help with the visitors experience and as word of mouth is one of our major marketing strategies- experiences and interactions mean a great deal.'

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 and event are attached.
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IMAGE CAPTIONS:

Image 1 - Miles Historical Village & stakeholders

Back row L-R: Anne Croft, Site Manager, Miles Historical Village

Kylie Bourne, President, Miles Historical Society

Front row L-R: Cr Carolyn Tillman, Western Downs Regional Council

Sally Hinz, Cultural Development Coordinator, Dogwood Crossing @ Miles

Photo Acknowledgement – Bruce Cowell

Image 2 - Condamine Bell Collection sample

Photo Acknowledgement - Claire Croft

Image 3 - Miles Historical Village Streetscape
Photo Acknowledgement - Miles Historical Village

Image 4 – From the Norman Donpon Lapidary Display
Photo Acknowledgement – Steve Chaddock

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