

A HIVE OF VISUAL ARTS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITY

Museum and Gallery Services Queensland (M&GSQ) congratulates **Warwick Art Gallery**, 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, Susi Muddiman and Elizabeth Bates, who played a vital role in providing professional advice and assistance throughout the program, free of charge, congratulated the **Warwick Art Gallery** saying,

'Warwick Art Gallery is advanced in their professional practice and presentation. The organisation has a heightened sense of awareness in terms of their goals, their performance and their position within the industry. Through their strategic planning and the setting of realistic and achievable goals, their position can only further improve.'

They praised **Warwick Art Gallery** saying,

'Warwick Art Gallery is clearly a hive of visual arts and cultural activity, and the efforts of the staff are to be commended, especially given the operational resources of the institution. The achievements of the Gallery are impressive, and it is obvious that the current Director has injected further professionalism and dynamism to the operations of the Gallery during her tenure.'

The Gallery is at the forefront of cultural activities in the Southern Downs region of Queensland. Committed to community activities, the Gallery aims to identify, promote and celebrate the community's artistic and cultural identity and support community-based festivals, exchanges and events. The Gallery's major event, the outdoor Winter festival, *Jumpers and Jazz in July*, has a focus on textile arts and jazz music and showcases more than 100 artworks made for the bare trees lining the streets of the CBD.

The Gallery program brings to Warwick traveling exhibitions set to inspire and educate. In recent years it has created strong links to local art groups in the region by encouraging exhibition partnerships and supporting new group initiatives. The Gallery also provides meaningful opportunities for local children to participate and exhibit art creations in the Gallery celebrating creativity and local stories in a fun way.

With the assistance of the expertise of Standards Program Reviewers the Warwick Art Gallery have drafted a Strategic Plan to guide them into the future. Through their Strategic Plan the Gallery aims to foster and document their development through strategic directions that identify their focus and ensure the expression of the Gallery's special positioning in the community, and their individuality, through creative and unique programming.

Debra Beattie, General Manager M&GSQ, congratulated the two participating regional galleries from the Southern Downs Regional Council, Warwick Art Gallery and Stanthorpe Regional Art Gallery, for their commendable collaboration to enrich the cultural life of their communities.

Karina Devine, Director, Warwick Art Gallery explained what they gained from participating in the Standards program,

'The Standards Program has highlighted the potential of the Gallery's built environment and organisational capacity to provide a regular program of inspirational and inclusive art experiences for the community.'

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 Gallery profile and print quality images from the Gallery and presentation ceremony are attached.

For media enquiries, please contact:

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IMAGE CAPTIONS:

Image 1 - Warwick Art Gallery receives their certificate of recognition.

L-R: Debra Beattie, General Manager, Museum & Gallery Services Queensland – Karina Devine, Director, Warwick Art Gallery – Loretta Grayson, Gallery Assistant, Warwick Art Gallery.

Photo Acknowledgement – Bruce Cowell

Image 2 - Connect Exhibition 2009, Warwick Art Gallery

Photo Acknowledgement - Ron Hildred

Image 3 - The Warwick Egg Incident Exhibition, Warwick Art Gallery

Photo Acknowledgement - Karina Devine

Image 4 - Tree Jumper, Jumpers & Jazz in July Festival, Warwick Art Gallery

Photo Acknowledgement - Loretta Grayson

END RELEASE