

## HINKLER HALL OF AVIATION CONTINUES TO CHANGE AND GROW

Mayor of Bundaberg, Councillor Mal Forman joined Museum and Gallery Services Queensland (M&GSQ) at the Bundaberg Regional Council on Friday 30 November in congratulating **Hinkler Hall of Aviation**, an interactive and engaging visitor destination telling the nationally significant story of aviator Bert Hinkler, on **a great year of achievement**.

M&GSQ's Executive Director, Rebekah Butler, said today,

"The Hinkler Hall of Aviation is to be commended for its achievements during its year-long participation in M&GSQ's Standards Program.

The community members and three tiers of government involved in the establishment of the sophisticated Hinkler Hall of Aviation also deserve recognition. Their commitment and vision has ensured Bert Hinkler's story of adventure and innovation will always have a spiritual home in his Bundaberg birthplace."

M&GSQ Standards Reviewers for the Hinkler Hall of Aviation, Dr Geraldine Mate, Senior Curator, Queensland Museum and Leanne Kelly, Project Manager, Museum of Brisbane praised the high standards of museum practice achieved by the custodians of this nationally significant collection:

"The facility has a wonderful resource in the collection developed by the Hinkler House Memorial Museum & Research Association and this collection is well cared for in the purpose built facility. The iconic Hinkler Hall of Aviation beside *Mon Repos*, Bert's English home relocated brick by brick from Southhampton, in Bundaberg's Botanic Gardens provide an award winning quality experience for visitors with a commendable emphasis on customer service."

Visitors experience a soaring exhibition hall featuring interactive exhibits, flight simulator and five full-sized replica aircraft. Not only can visitors climb into the Avro Baby bi-plane replica and email their photo as a flying ace to family and friends, but also thanks to a five year loan from the Queensland Museum, visitors can now see the real Avro baby that Hinkler flew from Sydney to Bundaberg in 1921 in record time. After 8 hours and 45 minutes in the air, Bert landed at the Foundry Green, taxied this very plane to his mother's back yard and announced he was home for tea!

After its participation in the year-long M&GSQ Standards Program, Hinkler Hall of Aviation has plans to refresh its changing displays and programs to attract and engage return visitors and enhance its commercial viability.

M&GSQ's Standards Program supports collecting museums and galleries to build skills and capacity, plan for a sustainable future, identify strategic priorities for improvement, develop an

action plan and ensure the safeguarding and accessibility of these collections for their communities.

**The museum's profile is attached.**

**For media enquiries or images, please contact:**

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#### **IMAGE CAPTION**

**Image 1** – Bundaberg Mayor Mal Forman with Mayor of North Burnett Don Waugh present a Certificate of Recognition to Hinkler Hall of Aviation represented by Colleen Foglia and Yvonne Norris.

**Acknowledgement – Photo Paul Beutel**

**MEDIA RELEASE END**