

M&GSQ is the peak professional body for the public museum and gallery sector in Queensland, representing a network of more than 400 organisations across the State.

MONTO HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL COMPLEX PLANS TO ATTRACT MORE VISITORS

North Burnett Mayor, Councillor Don Waugh, joined the Mayor of Bundaberg, Councillor Mal Forman, and Museum & Gallery Services Queensland (M&GSQ), at the Bundaberg Regional Council on Friday 30 November in **congratulating Monto Historical and Cultural Complex on a great year of achievement.** The Complex houses a museum and art gallery in a modern, air-conditioned facility situated in well maintained grounds with a group of original relocated pioneer buildings and a large collection of hand-made replicas of horse-drawn carriages and carts.

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

'The Monto Historical and Cultural Complex is to be commended for its achievements during its year-long participation in M&GSQ's Standards Program and for their plans to attract more visitors and volunteers.'

M&GSQ's Standards Program Reviewers, Dr Jan King and Ian Jempson, industry experts who played a vital role in providing pro bono professional advice and assistance throughout the Program congratulated Monto Historical and Cultural Complex:

'The complex is run entirely by volunteers. They should be congratulated for their dedication to the cleanliness of the facility, the pleasant surroundings and well-maintained gardens, for the care of the collection, their welcome to visitors and the regularly changing local exhibitions in the art gallery. Harold Ware's replica coach building and the wheelwright demonstrations are a unique attraction, offering an interactive experience and a valuable insight into skills that have almost disappeared.'

At the well-attended On-Site Review, Monto volunteers worked with the Standards Reviewers and M&GSQ staff to brainstorm key areas for future achievement. They prioritised "attracting visitors" as essential for the sustainability of the Complex. Key steps in their future plan to attract more visitors include improved signage, enhanced and regular opening hours, visitor research and marketing.

If you would like to lend a hand with one of their many projects, Ann Green, Secretary of the Management Committee would love to hear from you on 07 4167 2216.

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 and images, please contact:

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IMAGE CAPTION

Image – North Burnett Mayor Don Waugh, with Mal Forman, Mayor of Bundaberg, present a Certificate of Recognition to Monto Historical and Cultural Complex represented by Carolyn Larsen and supported by Councillor Paul Lobegeier.

Acknowledgement –Photo Paul Beutel

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