

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.

HERVEY BAY REGIONAL GALLERY TAKES ITS COMMENDED RECORD TO A NEW HOME

Mayor of Bundaberg, Councillor Mal Forman joined Museum and Gallery Services Queensland (M&GSQ) at the Bundaberg Regional Council on Friday 30 November in commending **Hervey Bay Regional Gallery**, for its participation in M&GSQ Standards Program.

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

"As Hervey Bay Regional Gallery relocates from its home of fifteen years to the impressive Fraser Coast Cultural Centre, it is timely to recognise its considerable achievements."

M&GSQ Standards Reviewers for Hervey Bay Regional Gallery, Ross Searle and Elizabeth Bates praised the high standards of gallery practice achieved by the major Category A regional gallery for the Fraser Coast:

"The Gallery has maintained a high community profile since its inception in 1997. As well as presenting an energetic program of local, intrastate and interstate exhibitions, accompanying and independent public programs have become a strong focus of Gallery activities. Part of the Gallery's strong community affiliation has been its ability to recruit and retain an excellent group of volunteers. Volunteers not only assist with reception and customer service activities but also make up the major part of the Gallery's installation team. Volunteers are well trained in Gallery processes including condition reporting and safe handling of objects."

"A diverse range of activities including exhibitions, public programs and learning opportunities is offered by the Gallery with the aim of building community appreciation for the visual arts, providing support for artists and developing a cultural hub for the area."

The reviewers noted many strengths in the Gallery's public programs:

"Interpretive activities such as *Artchat* and *Art in a Box* allow gallery visitors, students and community members to interact directly with artists – local and visiting. These activities articulate the Gallery's commitment to supporting and fostering the local visual art community. Hands on activities such as those offered in the *Pipis* and *Mudskippers club* programs allow younger community members to interrogate the processes of art making. These programs have received industry acclaim for their quality and inventiveness."

M&GSQ's Standards Program, now in its eighth consecutive year of operation, is a supportive program for the museum and gallery sector, designed to help participating organisations plan for a healthy future by recognising their achievements, raising their profile and identifying strategic priorities for improvement and development.

The museum's profile is attached.

For media enquiries or images, please contact:

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 CAPTION

Image 1 – Mayor of Bundaberg Mal Forman presents a Certificate of Recognition to Hervey Bay Regional Gallery represented by Trevor Spohr, Arts and Cultural Officer Fraser Coast Regional Council.

Acknowledgement – Photo

MEDIA RELEASE END