

### Atmospheric Heritage Jewel awaits Discovery

Museum and Gallery Services Queensland (M&GSQ) congratulates **Mercy Heritage Centre**, one of nine museums and galleries from Brisbane and surrounding areas who have completed a challenging year-long program assessing their existing practice against *The National Standards for Australian Museums and Galleries*.

Reviewers, Richelle Leane, Helen Pithie and Christopher Salter, who played a vital role in providing free professional advice and assistance throughout the program, praised **Mercy Heritage Centre**:

‘for its exceptionally high standard of overall achievement. Their exhibitions are of the highest quality. The themes are well chosen, clearly articulated and the design and layout are sensitive and appealing. The objects are displayed most professionally. The layering of building interpretation, personal accounts, and interpretation of objects, artefacts and personalities is interwoven throughout each of the spaces and this assists the visitor to build up a comprehensive understanding of the life and the work of the sisters.’

Coinciding with the Sisters of Mercy 150 years in 2011, Mercy Heritage Centre will finalise its expansion across both floors of the Museum incorporating 26 new exhibitions. Visitors can step into the atmospheric Mercy Heritage Centre in one of Brisbane’s oldest surviving buildings. The core of the building ‘Adderton’ was built in 1858 by John Petrie.

A convent for more than 149 years, visitors now have the unique opportunity to explore this historic residence, gaining insights into the Sisters of Mercy daily life through intimate encounters of the nun’s living conditions and instructional training.

The Museum’s interactive exhibitions, demonstrations and guided tours reveal the full breadth and depth of the rich and diverse history of the Sisters of Mercy Brisbane, the origins of the Mercy Order and its key ministries, the All Hallows’ School and rare aspects of Catholicism. Also awaiting discovery are the magnificent Chapel and an incredible collection of religious relics.

With the assistance of the expertise of Standards Program Reviewers, the Mercy Heritage Centre is working towards strategic enhancements in marketing, signage and engagement with audiences including the planned development of best practice educational resources for school students at targeted year levels.

Peter Connell, Director, Mercy Heritage Centre explained what they gained from participating in M&GSQ's Standards program:

'The Standards Process enabled us to refocus on the amazing museum we work in – this has allowed us to take a step back, rethink, and develop different marketing and communications strategies.'

Rebekah Butler, Executive Director M&GSQ, commended the Mercy Heritage Centre and gratefully acknowledged the pro bono work of the Standards Reviewers, Helen Pithie, Richelle Leane and Christopher Salter, undertook with the Museum and the support of the reviewers' workplaces, the Queensland Museum and the Museum of Brisbane, for their vital contribution to M&GSQ's Standards Program.

In 2011 the M&GSQ Standards Program will run in the Tablelands and Cook Shires of Far North Queensland.

Full program information is available at  
[http://www.magsq.com.au/01\\_cms/details.asp?ID=709](http://www.magsq.com.au/01_cms/details.asp?ID=709)

The Museum profile and print quality images from the Museum are attached.

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**IMAGE CAPTIONS:**

**Image 1 – Mercy Heritage Centre with their Certificate of Recognition. L to R: Deborah Miles, Director, Creative Communities, Arts Queensland and Peter Connell, Director, Mercy Heritage Centre**

**Acknowledgement – Graeme Mackay**

**Image 2 – Mercy Heritage Centre, All Hallows' Convent**

**Acknowledgement - Mercy Heritage Centre**

**Or Image 2 - Catherine McAuley, Green Parlour**

**Acknowledgement - Bruce Cowell Photography**

**Image 3 - Saints and Relics, Instruction Room**

**Acknowledgement - Bruce Cowell Photography**

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