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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The charm and elegance of 19th century life

Museum and Gallery Services Queensland (M&GSQ) congratulates **Miegunyah – The Queensland Women’s Historical Association**, one of nine museums and galleries from Brisbane metropolitan and surrounding regions who have completed a challenging year-long program assessing their practice against *The National Standards for Australian Museums and Galleries*.

Reviewers, Lisa Jones and Steve Chaddock, who played a vital role in providing free professional advice and assistance throughout the program praised **The Queensland Women’s Historical Association** saying:

‘The Queensland Women’s Historical Association is commended for its participation in, and contribution to, the Standards Program in order to benchmark the operation of Miegunyah House Museum against national standards. The Committee is to be congratulated for embracing the Standards Program and for recognising their strengths and weaknesses in regard to future planning. They are now well and truly on track and moving steadily forward in a more coordinated manner.’

Miegunyah House Museum, the archives, research and publishing activities are maintained by The Queensland Women’s Historical Association as a Memorial to the Pioneer Women of Queensland.

Built in the 1880s when local tradition was at its most opulent, Miegunyah is one of Brisbane’s most accessible Heritage Homes. Richly decorated with ironlace balustrades, filigree columns and friezes, and furnished in the style of the late 19th century, Miegunyah is a living example of Victorian elegance and charm. Visitors can step through the wide cedar doorway into the House Museum, be

fascinated by exotic collectables from travels afar, learn about the people who lived at Miegunyah and ghosts that never left. Even glimpse the labours of 19th century housekeeping!

With assistance of the expertise of M&GSQ's Standards Program Reviewers, **The Queensland Women's Historical Association** is working towards developing **Miegunyah's** vision and mission statement and revising their collection management procedures which will include auditing of their collection.

Jenny Steadman, Vice President, The Queensland Women's Historical Association, explained what they had gained from participating in M&GSQ's Standards Program:

'The Standards Program has given us valuable insights into our organisation and its management. It has shown us what we do well and where we need improvements. It allows for review of policies and procedures in a positive way.'

Rebekah Butler, Executive Director, M&GSQ, commended The Queensland Women's Historical Association and gratefully acknowledged the pro bono work of the Standards Reviewers, Lisa Jones and Steve Chaddock, and the support of the reviewers' workplaces, Queensland Police Museum and Timeline Heritage Consultants, for their vital contribution to M&GSQ's Standards Program.

In 2011 the Museum Standards Program will be 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

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

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IMAGE CAPTIONS:

Image 1- The Queensland Women's Historical Association with their Certificate of recognition. L to R: Deborah Miles, Director, Creative Communities, Arts Queensland and Jenny Steadman, Vice President, The Queensland Women's Historical Association.

Acknowledgement – Graeme Mackay

Image 2 – Perry family sitting room furnished in 1880's style featuring original fireplace and unique carved Davenport.

Acknowledgement – QWHA

Image 3 – Perry main bedroom features original wall colour, ladies travelling case and hand embroidered quilt

Acknowledgement – QWHA

OR Image 4 – Scullery – where all wet and dirty work was undertaken

Acknowledgement – QWHA

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