

Yugambeh Museum, Language & Heritage Research Centre Creates Action Plan for a Healthy Future

Museum and Gallery Services Queensland (M&GSQ) congratulates Yugambeh Museum, Language & Heritage Research Centre, one of nine community collecting organisations from the Gold Coast, Hinterland and Scenic Rim areas who have **completed the 2008 Standards Program**. Their achievements were recognised at a formal event hosted by the Scenic Rim Regional Council on Wednesday 3 December.

The Standards Program is a year long supportive program for Queensland's museum sector, designed to help participating museums plan for a healthy future by recognising their achievements, raising their profile and identifying strategic priorities for improvement and development.

Yugambeh Museum, Language & Heritage Research Centre received a certificate of recognition from Rebekah Butler, Executive Director, Museum & Gallery Services Queensland in acknowledgment of their achievement and hard work.

Reviewers, Sally Watterson and Dan Robinson, who provided professional expertise free of charge throughout the program, praised Yugambeh Museum, Language & Heritage Research Centre, saying

'the Museum should be congratulated on many fronts. They are an important resource for local Indigenous history, they have developed major events and activities of relevance to Indigenous culture such as the Black Diggers Remembrance Ceremony and the Drumley Walk, and undertaken significant developments on-site with the Cultural Heritage Garden due to open in mid-2009.'

The Reviewers commended the Museum for their professional participation in the Standards Program. Reviewers spoke highly of the Museum highlighting the quality of their travelling displays, their well-planned building space, and commended the Museum for their involvement with the community. The building is used regularly for community meetings. Induction sessions that train developers to protect sites and features of cultural heritage significance are presented in the lecture theatre.

The Yugambeh Museum is committed to the conservation and promotion of the cultural heritage of the traditional Aboriginal people of the Yugambeh Language Region. The region extends from the Tweed River in the south to the Logan River in the north and west.



The museum's collections include ancient and contemporary artefacts, art pieces, family histories, archival records and photographs and an extensive library of books, audio and video tapes and CDs relating to the shared Aboriginal and European history of the region. Great emphasis has been given to the collection of records relating to Yugambeh and other languages of southeast Queensland. It prides itself on being a keeping place for information relating to the local Yugam language, which Museum founders have gathered since it was thought extinct in the 1980s.

Research by the Museum's founders has also led to the establishment of a number of "modern" traditions including an annual Black Diggers memorial service honouring Aboriginal men and women who have served in the Australian military in world wars and overseas campaigns since the Boer War. The Drumley Walk is another major event for the Museum. This popular three day walking pilgrimage through the traditional lands of the Yugambeh Aboriginal peoples includes story-telling and interpretive guiding. Participants in 2008 reached into the hundreds. See <http://www.thedrumleywalk.com> for further information.

2008 was an award-winning year for Yugambeh Museum. The Drumley Walk was recognised by Museum & Gallery Services Queensland's *Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards (GAMAA)* in the 'Organisations: Staff up to 6' category at an awards ceremony at the Gallery of Modern Art (GoMA) in October 2008. In July 2008 Yugambeh Museum was awarded the inaugural ABC Radio National Marvellous Regional Museums Award (Indigenous category) .

The Standards Program has assisted the Museum with the updating of their Collection Policy & Procedures. Much work is being done on the Cultural Heritage Gardens, due to open in mid-2009, with plans to undertake research on potential audiences and the recruitment of young Indigenous people as Interpretive Guides.

The Museum also has plans to develop training sessions for teachers and teacher aides, based on the proposed changes to the national history curriculum, as a means of communicating the Indigenous history of the Yugambeh area to local schools.

Yugambeh Museum, Language & Heritage Research Centre is committed to promoting the shared Aboriginal and European history of the region to a local and national audience. In a recent example, Bilin Bilin King of the Logan and the Pimpama and ancestor of many of today's Yugambeh people features as 'A Different Kind of Warrior' in the National Museum of Australia, Canberra.

Patricia O'Connor, Yugambeh Museum, Language & Heritage Research Centre explained what they gained from participating in the Standards program:

'The Standards Program has brought home to the Museum the importance of formal guidelines for management. The Museum is now dedicated to regularly reviewing and updating its policies and procedures ensuring a manual is readily accessible to all staff. We have also realised the importance of significance assessment and thorough recording of important information about objects, such as provenance. Improved practices in this area will ensure that all known information about an object is recorded on



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the collections database.'

In 2009 the Museum Standards Program will be offered by M&GSQ in Toowoomba and surrounding regions with the support of the Museum Development Officer (Southern Inland Qld).

Full program information is available at

http://www.magsq.com.au/01_cms/details.asp?ID=373

Museum profiles and print quality images from the Presentation Ceremony are attached.

For media enquiries, please contact:

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Image D: L-R Linda Hetet - Weddings Coordinator, Kevin Liepins (Business Development Officer, Logan City Council), Wendy Charter - Secretary/Collection Manager, Anker Laursen - President Beenleigh & District Historical Village & Rory O'Connor - Education Director, Yugambah Museum, Language & Heritage Research Centre

Image G: Standards Participants 2008 including representatives from Beaudesert Historical Museum, Beenleigh & District Historical Village, Garden Hill at Lost World Museum, Gold Coast & Hinterland Historical Museum, Rathdowney Area Development & Historical Association, Tamborine Mountain Historical Society, Upper Clarence Historical Society, Yugambah Museum, Heritage & Language Research Centre. Others present include Museum & Gallery Services Queensland staff Rebekah Butler, Ann Baillie & Kerri Laidlaw. Stakeholders present include Cr David Cockburn (Beaudesert & President, Rathdowney Area Development & Historical Association), Cr Virginia West (Beaudesert, Darlington & Canungra), Cr Richard Adams (Tamborine southern), Kevin Liepins - Business Development Officer, Logan City Council & Sue and Rob Overell.

Image N: Yugambah Museum, Language & Heritage Research Centre receiving a certificate of participation from Rebekah Butler. **L-R** Rebekah Butler, Executive Director, Museum & Gallery Services Queensland and Rory O'Connor - Education Director, Yugambah Museum, Language & Heritage Research Centre.



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