

Army Museum South Queensland congratulated for their achievements in Standards Review Program

Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) proudly celebrated the achievements of the **Army Museum South Queensland** on Friday 15 November 2024, during a special presentation event held at the historic Miegunyah House Museum, Brisbane. This recognised the **Army Museum South Queensland's** remarkable achievement in completing the intensive year-long **Standards Review Program** where they assessed their practice against the [*National Standards for Australian Museums and Galleries, Version 2.0*](#) (2023).

Located in the historic Victoria Barracks, which dates back to 1864, the Army Museum South Queensland is dedicated to collecting, conserving, and showcasing military history and artifacts with a distinctive South Queensland connection. The Museum offers fascinating guided tours of the Barracks and engaging presentations that delve into Brisbane's early history and the military's role in the region. The Army Museum South Queensland also presents a program of engaging themed exhibitions that change annually.

While public access is currently suspended due to building renovations, the Museum staff invites interested parties to reach out regarding potential visits. Typically the Museum operates pre-booked tours on Wednesdays, providing guests with a private tour, a historical presentation, and a light silver-service morning tea.

Did you know the Army Museum South Queensland is the home of the 'original' State of Origin trophy? Thought to be the inspiration for the modern NRL State of Origin series, the 'original' competition was played in 1945 in Bougainville, PNG, in September 1945 between NSW and QLD as soldiers were preparing to return home from World War II. The chrome-plated brass trophy was made by servicemen from a Japanese 120mm artillery shell and presented to the winning team – Queensland!

Did you know that Queensland's first Governor (Sir George Ferguson Bowen) was disappointed there was no military presence upon his arrival in 1859, and immediately requested Imperial (British) troops from Sydney be based in Brisbane. Upon their arrival they were accommodated in the old convict military barracks on the corner of William and Queens Streets. He directed that new barracks be built overlooking the city on Green Hills (now Petrie Terrace) that were completed and occupied in October 1864.

Did you know The British soldiers moved out of Brisbane in 1869 (and out of Australia in 1870). The Queensland Police took over the barracks from 1875 to 1884, when it was handed back to the new Queensland Militia (later the Queensland Defence Force) and was formally named Victoria Barracks.



The Army Museum South Queensland's Manager, Murray Nelson said, "This is a great opportunity to reflect upon and adjust what your museum/organisation is trying to achieve. The program takes considerable time if done properly, but the investment of your time is worthwhile."

M&G QLD's Executive Director, Rebekah Butler, said, "The Army Museum South Queensland is to be congratulated for what it has achieved during its participation in the intensive, year-long Standards Review Program."

Industry experts, Joe Hextall and Rob Shiels, Reviewers for M&G QLD's 2024 Standards Review Program, said, "The Reviewers commend the staff and volunteers of the AMSQ for their dedication towards improving the care of their collections. This is exemplified through their participation in this year's Standards Review Program. The AMSQ staff and volunteers are also to be commended for their continued good work in the areas that they have control over. The uncertainty surrounding their relocation timeframe and their new location inside of the Gallipoli Barracks are significant obstacles to daily operations that have not hindered the staff and volunteers from maintaining their usual high standard of work."

M&G QLD's Standards Program Reviewers generously provide their services pro bono and support participating organisations by sharing their professional expertise and guidance.

The 2024 Standards Review Program included participants from Brisbane, Logan and the Scenic Rim regions.

M&G QLD's Standards Review Program supports Queensland's public museums and galleries to build skills and capacity; plan for a sustainable future; identify strategic priorities for improvement; and ensure the safeguarding and accessibility of community collections and stories.

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Image Caption: M&G QLD's Executive Director, Rebekah Butler (centre-right), presenting the workers of the Army Museum South Queensland, Beverly Smith (left), Adele Catts (Centre-left) and Murray Nelson (right) with a certificate of recognition for completing the M&G QLD's 2024 Standards Review Program.

Photograph: Madeleine Green, courtesy of M&G QLD.



Image Caption: The participants of the 2024 Standards Review Program together at QWHA Miegunyah House Museum.
Photograph: Madeleine Green, courtesy of M&G QLD.



Image Caption: The main office building and former soldiers' accommodation at the Victoria Barracks in Brisbane.
Photograph: Ken Smith.



Image Caption: The 'original' State of Origin trophy from the Army Museum South Queensland Collections.

Photograph: Alan Bourne.



Image Caption: Staff and volunteers of the Army Museum South Queensland at a gathering to celebrate the 160th Anniversary of Victoria Barracks, Brisbane on 27 October 2024.
Photographer: Carolyn Barnett.