

Queensland Women's Historical Association congratulated for their achievements in Standards Review Program

Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) proudly celebrated the achievements of the **Queensland Women's Historical Association** on Friday 15 November 2024, during a special presentation event held at the historic Miegunyah House Museum, Brisbane. This recognised the **Queensland Women's Historical Association'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).

The passionate volunteers of the Queensland Women's Historical Association (QWHA), own and operate one of Brisbane's most accessible State Listed Heritage Homes, Miegunyah House Museum. Built in 1886 for the Perry family, Miegunyah House is richly decorated with original features including iron lace balustrades, filigree columns and friezes, and furnished in the style of the late 19th century as a living example of Victorian elegance and charm.

The elegant Queenslander is on its original block and has been lovingly restored by the dedicated QWHA volunteers, inviting visitors step back in time and discover the charm of late 19th-century. Many of the furnishings and items on display once belonged to Queensland's pioneer families.

Miegunyah House Museum is open:

- Wednesdays: 12:30pm-3:00pm (Guided tours at 1:00pm)
- Saturdays and Sundays between 12:30pm-4:00pm, (Guided tours at 12:30pm and 2:30pm).

Visitors are warmly welcomed at Miegunyah House Museum by QWHA's volunteers and, upon stepping through its wide cedar doorway, are encouraged to learn about the lives of those who lived there and to glimpse the labours of 19th century housekeeping!

Did you know Leila Perry, the first woman to live at Miegunyah, etched her name and the year 1898 onto the French windowpane of one of the home's original bedrooms (now the Sitting Room). The signature of her friends and her sister are also preserved in the same location. This example of 1890s graffiti gives rise to speculation from visitors and members of the Queensland Women's Historical Association as to why the girls etched their names.

Did you know that the QWHA costume collection includes almost 5,000 pieces dating from the early 1800s. The collection includes wedding dresses, day and evening wear, underwear and outfits from significant times and events relevant to Brisbane's history. One such significant example in the Museum's Collection is Dame Anabel Rankin's ball gown for the Royal dinner in Brisbane in 1954.

Did you know as a gift to Queensland for the Centenary in 1959, the QWHA recognised 87 historical sites with important links to the State. Distinctive blue enamel or bronze plaques were erected in Queensland, Northern New South Wales, the United Kingdom and France. This task spanned over 20 years and acknowledged the first Governor of Queensland in London, Dame Nellie Melba in Brisbane and the Cactoblastis Insect Plaque in Dalby.

Queensland Women’s Historical Association President, Carolyn Polson said, “The Standards Review Program was invaluable in highlighting areas for improvement in the Museum’s structure and governance. It has given the Museum a far better understanding of what processes are required to become more efficient.”

M&G QLD’s Executive Director, Rebekah Butler, congratulated the Queensland Women’s Historical Association on their accomplishments, saying, “Participating in the Standards Review Program for the second time, the volunteers are building on the extraordinary work they have achieved in the past 10 years, and are setting new goals to improve their governance and guide their long-term operations.”

Industry experts, **Erika Taylor and Peter Connell, Standards Program Reviewers**, added, “The Reviewers would like to congratulate the QWHA for their commitment to the Standards Review Program. The organisation has embraced the internal and external review processes, engaged in discussions, and is proactively taking steps in the key area of Management and Governance found in the *National Standards for Australian Museums and Galleries, Version 2.0 (2023)* ... The passion, enthusiasm and hard work of QWHA will continue to be instrumental in forward planning for the organisation. The contributions of every individual are truly appreciated, and its members play an essential role towards ensuring the Museum’s ongoing success and impact in the community.”

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 (right) awarding the QWHA secretary, Robyn Wallace, with the QWHA certificate for completing the Standards Review Program.

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



Image Caption: Miegunyah House Museum, Jordan Terrace, Bowen Hills.
Photograph: Tim Nemeth



Image Caption: The dining room at Miegunyah.
Photograph: Geoff Morrison



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