

## **Croydon Heritage Centre Looks to a Bright Future!**

Museum and Gallery Services Queensland (M&GSQ) congratulates the Croydon Heritage Centre (CHC), one of six community collecting institutions in Far North Queensland who have completed a year long groundbreaking program for Queensland's museum sector. The Standards Program is designed to help participating museums plan for a sustainable future by recognising their achievements, raising their profile and identifying strategic priorities for improvement and development.

On Wednesday 21 November Leslie Sparkes, Manager, Community and Cultural Development, Cairns City Council welcomed participants to a formal event celebrating their completion of the program. Croydon Heritage Centre received a certificate of recognition from Paul Brinkman, Director, Cairns Regional Gallery in acknowledgment of their achievement and hard work.

Reviewers, Lisa Jones and Ken Brooks, who provided professional expertise free of charge throughout the program, congratulated the CHC saying 'The Croydon Heritage Centre has lovely buildings which incorporate a visitor centre and displays on the contemporary and historical life of the community. This site is very significant for the cultural preservation of the region'.

The reviewers also praised the work of CHC employees, 'All of the staff at the CHC are very committed to improving the displays and caring for the collections.'

Croydon's Heritage precinct consists of the Police Sergeant's Residence (c.1898), Police Station and Gaol (c.1896), Court House (c.1887) and Croydon Town Hall (c.1890s). Croydon was established after gold was discovered in the area in 1885, leading to the development of a prosperous town centre still evident in the architecture of this precinct. The buildings feature artefacts and photographic displays interpreting Croydon's rich heritage and are open to visitors free of charge.

The CHC has now identified some key areas for future development such as further community engagement and a review of their collection policy. The Croydon Shire Council also has plans to build a new Visitor & Information Centre on the vacant block opposite the Centre's current location, which will provide better storage and maintenance for the archives and library room.

Once the move takes place Croydon Heritage Centre will relocate the Outdoor Museum, which is a collection of mining equipment from various locations around Croydon, to the new site. Careful planning will ensure the fragile objects are unharmed during the move.

The CHC will also expand the exhibition spaces of the Courthouse, which contains original furniture and ring bound books with extracts of stories from local newspapers. Smaller rooms attached to the back of the Courthouse, originally used by the mining office and clerk of the court, are being prepared for future displays and exhibitions.

William Kerwin, CEO Croydon Shire Council explained what the Centre gained from participating in the Standards program 'It has helped us to improve our policies and assisted future planning for our displays and the correct storage and documentation of our collection. Meeting the other participants at the Standards workshop and building stronger networks was also very valuable for sharing and developing ideas.'



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Next year M&GSQ will offer the Museum Standards Program to another region in Queensland, to be announced in early 2008.

Full program information is available at

[http://www.magsq.com.au/01 cms/index.asp?view\\_mode=subsection&ss\\_id=18](http://www.magsq.com.au/01 cms/index.asp?view_mode=subsection&ss_id=18)

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

For media enquiries, please contact:



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