

Johnstone Shire Council Library Looks to a Bright Future!

Museum and Gallery Services Queensland (M&GSQ) congratulates the Johnstone Shire Council Library, 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. Johnstone Shire Council Library received a certificate of recognition from Paul Brinkman, Director, Cairns Regional Gallery in acknowledgment of their achievement and hard work.

Reviewers, Tamara Lavrencic and Denise Neville who provided professional expertise free of charge throughout the program, congratulated the Johnstone Shire Council Library saying 'Library staff are very carefully preserving their local history collection, which, as the Library develops better public access, will certainly be valued by the local community.'

They praised the Johnstone Shire Council Library saying 'Potentially, very interesting historic information will evolve from reviewing the photographic collection and developing better collection management systems.'

The Library collects newspapers, photographs and printed and audiovisual material relating to the history of the Johnstone Shire. It holds hard copies as well as microfilm versions of the "Innisfail Advocate" newspaper from 1928 to 1980. It collects works produced by local authors and organizations. The collection also includes original photographs of the local area, including the aftermath of cyclones from 1918, 1986 and 2006, as well as photos of Council staff and their activities.

Johnstone Shire Council Library will seek funding for training on rehousing and cataloguing the collection. Once the collection is properly documented, Johnstone Shire Council Library plans to involve local community members in researching its contents and develop stronger connections with the local Historical Society. They also plan to develop stories for displays and actively engage the community by seeking to include borrowed material to support their photographic collection.

Alexis Adams, Library Services Co-ordinator of the Johnstone Shire Council Library explained what they gained from participating in the Standards program, 'We have come to recognise that telling the stories of the community requires greater involvement of community members and organisations in developing and researching local history material. In addition the development of a prioritised action plan will help staff to achieve an accessible and usable local history collection in a reasonable time frame.'



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Museum & Gallery Services Queensland Ltd. is funded by the Queensland Government, through Arts Queensland and is supported by the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy, an initiative of the Australian, State and Territory Governments, and by the Commonwealth through the Australia Council its arts funding and advisory body.

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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

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