

MEDIA RELEASE
For immediate release

Exciting Future for the Abbey Museum of Art & Archaeology

Museum and Gallery Services Queensland (M&GSQ) congratulates the Abbey Museum of Art & Archaeology, one of six community museums who have completed a year long groundbreaking program for Queensland's museum sector: a Standards Program in South East Queensland. 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.

2006 is the second year of a three year pilot for Museum & Gallery Services Queensland, funded by Arts Queensland. The other museums to complete the program in 2006 are:

- Logan City Historical Museum Society Inc.
- Redland Museum
- Kingaroy Heritage Museum
- Landsborough Museum – A Caloundra City Heritage Centre
- Queensland Ambulance Museums - Wynnum

On Friday 15 December at the offices of Museum & Gallery Services Queensland, Fortitude Valley, the Abbey Museum of Art & Archaeology received a certificate of recognition from Jenny Menzies, Executive Director, Arts Development, Arts Queensland in acknowledgment of their achievement and hard work. Participants also presented their plans for the future and provided feedback on their experience of this pilot program.

Reviewers, Dr Jan King and Tamara Lavrencic, congratulated the Abbey Museum of Art & Archaeology saying *'the collection is a remarkable one to find in Caboolture'*. The reviewers praised the Museum saying *'the volunteer staff appear to be well organised and produce very professional results, the website and object database being particularly impressive projects that museums with paid staff would envy'*. The Standards Program reviewers are long standing, museum professionals who volunteer their expertise for desk reviews and site visits to assist the museums with practical and strategic advice.

The Abbey Museum of Art & Archaeology have many exciting ideas for the future, including plans for the development of a new gallery to house and display their significant art collection, including works by Old Masters such as Rubens, Van Honquist and Tintoretto. The Museum also has big plans to move to a new site, recently launched, for their annual Abbey Medieval Tournament, which attracted over 18 500 people in 2006. Funds are also being sought to develop a permanent medieval village on the site, with the help of international experts. The Abbey is exploring ways to become more child-friendly. Another priority is the restoration of their collection of stained glass, a large proportion of which originates from the Medieval, Renaissance and Pre-Raphaelite periods.

Edith Cuffe, CEO explained they elected to participate in the Standards program: *'to highlight areas within the organisation, administration and collection management that could be improved and to explore ideas for the further development of Museum activities and services'*.

In 2007 the Museum Standards Program will be offered by M&GSQ in Far North Queensland with the support of the Museum Development Officer (FNQ).

**Media Profiles for each Museum, including images, are available at www.magsq.com.au.
Print quality images from the Presentation Ceremony are also available on request by
contacting the number below.**

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