

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

Exciting Future for Kingaroy Heritage Museum

Museum and Gallery Services Queensland (M&GSQ) congratulates Kingaroy Heritage Museum, 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
- Abbey Museum of Art & Archaeology
- 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, Kingaroy Heritage Museum 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 Dan Robinson and Ken Brooks, congratulated Kingaroy Heritage Museum '*as a revitalised operation with a remarkable level of recent progress.*' 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.

Kingaroy Heritage Museum announced the focus for their new museum plan: the area's long established and successful peanut industry. New displays will explore and interpret the ingenuity and inventiveness of Kingaroy's pioneer farmers. The reviewers endorsed this direction commenting that, '*The exhibition focus on the major local Peanut industry is a significant strength and one not duplicated in dozens of other Community Museums.*'

Maria Thoumine, Museum Manager explained why they elected to participate in the Standards program: '*Our main reason for participation in the Standards Pilot was to use it as a benchmark to ensure we are dotting all our "i"s and crossing our "t"s. Recent changes in the management structure of this museum makes us responsible to our community and shire, so we owe it to them to manage the museum in a professional manner. The second reason was to help us take a look at the future of the museum, How do we build on what we have? How do we make the museum one the community could be proud to own and the visitor would want to return to.*'

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

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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