

Mulgrave Settlers Museum Looks to a Bright Future!

Museum and Gallery Services Queensland (M&GSQ) congratulates the Mulgrave Settlers Museum, 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 the completion of the program. Mulgrave Settlers Museum received a certificate of recognition from Paul Brinkman, Director, Cairns Regional Gallery in acknowledgment of their achievement and hard work.

Reviewers, Jan King, Dan Robinson and Ken Smith, who provided professional expertise free of charge throughout the program, commended the Mulgrave Settlers Museum saying 'We congratulate them for their efforts in changing the temporary displays at the Museum on a regular basis and ensuring that a visit to the museum provides a pleasant experience. They showed that the museum has strong links with the community and they are now busy devising strategies to sustain these connections.'

They praised the Museum saying 'The Historical Society manages and operates the museum with the help of 24 volunteers who work very hard to ensure they maintain the collection and displays relevant to the local history of Gordonvale.' The reviewers also acknowledged the valuable support of Cairns City Council who own the building and take care of the maintenance, air-conditioning and gardens without charging for rates, rent or electricity costs.

The volunteer operated Mulgrave Settlers Museum is set amongst the sugar cane fields of Gordonvale and displays objects and stories relating to settlers in the area. Significant objects in the collection include an early 1900s wages book and mill ledgers showing farmers accounts from the Mulgrave Central Mill, a girls' fancy dress costume printed with news of the day at the local Cairns Post Press in 1924 and a linen table cloth, embroidered with the signatures of the guests of an Anglican Church function, including 503rd American Paratroopers who were stationed in Gordonvale during WWII.

With the help of the reviewers, Mulgrave Settlers Museum has now devised a Strategic Plan and an Annual Action Plan for their projects including the development of a new marketing direction and a review and update of their object files and collection database in order to maintain informative and accurate records on the collection.

Brenda Hesp, Museum Coordinator explained 'Participating in the Standards Program has increased our awareness of standards of museum work on a day-to-day basis. Now we often get together to plan our activities and improve communication. We have also selected five objects of significance from our collection that will be of great assistance in promoting the museum in the future.'

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



Australian Government

THE VISUAL ARTS AND CRAFT STRATEGY



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.

ABN 32 109 874 811

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

For media enquiries, please contact:

Madeleine McClelland, Project Officer - Communications, M&GSQ

Phone: **07 3215 0840** Freecall: **1800 680 433** (within Queensland)

Mobile: **0416 446 913** Email: madeleine.mcclelland@magsq.com.au



Australian Government

THE VISUAL ARTS AND CRAFT STRATEGY



**Queensland
Government**
Arts Queensland



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.

ABN 32 109 874 811