

## **Praise for Pioneer Valley Museum Volunteers**

Councillors Kevin Casey, Chris Bonanno, Laurence Bonaventura and Alison Jones, Mackay Regional Council, joined Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) at a presentation event on Tuesday 8 December 2015, in congratulating Pioneer Valley Museum at Mirani on completing a challenging year-long program assessing their practice against *The National Standards for Australian Museums and Galleries* (2014).

Pioneer Valley Museum at Mirani offers stories of personalities, places and objects that tell the local history of the Valley and give fascinating glimpses of the past.

M&G QLD's Executive Director, Rebekah Butler, said today,

"M&G QLD commends Pioneer Valley Museum at Mirani for its participation in the 2015 Standards Review Program. The Museum is to be congratulated for its high standard of achievement."

According to M&G QLD's Standards Program Reviewers, Dr Geraldine Mate and Ken Brooks, industry experts who played a vital role in providing pro-bono professional advice and assistance throughout the Program:

"Pioneer Valley Museum at Mirani volunteers are to be applauded for their continued dedication to the Museum. We were impressed by the long-standing work that has gone into documenting the collection.

Volunteers have an in-depth understanding of the local history and the Museum tells numerous stories of the Valley. They are continuing to work towards changing displays of local stories, cataloguing the collection and ensuring objects are cared for appropriately.

They have embraced the idea of future planning to ensure the continued care and management of this important local history collection and associated stories."

Carmel Kelly, Volunteer Coordinator, Pioneer Valley Museum at Mirani, says,

"Participating in the Standards Review Program has reinforced the direction that our group is taking in developing the stories of local identities, particularly as this has already encouraged increased local interest in the Museum."

M&G QLD's Standards Review Program supports museums and galleries to build skills and capacity, plan for a sustainable future, identify strategic priorities for improvement, develop an action plan and ensure the safeguarding and accessibility of community collections and stories. For more information on the Standards Review Program, please visit <http://www.magsq.com.au/cms/page.asp?ID=5520>

M&G QLD is pleased to acknowledge the support of Mackay Regional Council and the Regional Arts Development Fund, which allowed M&G QLD to deliver this program to the region. The Regional Arts Development Fund is a partnership between the Queensland Government and Mackay Regional Council to support local arts and culture in regional Queensland.



**Pioneer Valley Museum's profile is attached.**

**For media enquiries or images, please contact:**

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### **Image Caption**

Pioneer Valley Museum at Mirani volunteers receiving a Certificate of Recognition and being supported by their stakeholders.

### **Acknowledgement**

Photographer: Reflections from Life. Courtesy of Museums & Galleries Queensland.

**MEDIA RELEASE END**



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