

Tamborine Mountain Heritage Centre Creates Action Plan for a Healthy Future

Museum and Gallery Services Queensland (M&GSQ) congratulates Tamborine Mountain Heritage Centre, one of nine community collecting organisations from the Gold Coast, Hinterland and Scenic Rim areas who have **completed the 2008 Standards Program**. Their achievements were recognised at a formal event hosted by the Scenic Rim Regional Council on Wednesday 3 December.

The Standards Program is a year long supportive program for Queensland's museum sector, designed to help participating museums plan for a healthy future by recognising their achievements, raising their profile and identifying strategic priorities for improvement and development.

Tamborine Mountain Heritage Centre received a certificate of recognition from Rebekah Butler, Executive Director, Museum & Gallery Services Queensland in acknowledgment of their achievement and hard work.

Reviewers, Ian Jempson and Dan Robinson, who provided professional expertise free of charge throughout the program, congratulated the Tamborine Mountain Heritage Centre saying

'the Museum's achievements reflect the continued support of a significant number of volunteers with a wide range of useful skills'.

The Reviewers praised the Society for the quality of their displays, such as the timber getters rainforest display and the Curtis waterwheel display, which are of the highest professional standard. They also recognised that the collections are supported by extensive and well organised archival research records of the Mountain and its settlers.

The Tamborine Mountain Heritage Centre is dedicated specifically to the history of Tamborine Mountain. The collection features the "Fashion House", a significant collection of early clothing worn by settlers on the mountain including a dress worn to the opening of federal parliament; a scale model of the water-wheel which drove the Curtis sawmill; ingenious displays representing pioneer settlement lifestyles; and, a number of early photographs, documents and tape recordings of interviews of the families of early settlers. The collection is housed thematically in a number of original and reconstructed buildings typical of the period of early settlement, from the 1880s onwards. These include Pioneer Hall (a weatherboard re-located church), the Auditorium (meeting space, storage for documents and archives), Machinery Hall, Shop, Dairy and Blacksmith, Slab Cottage and an open style machinery shed.

The Standards Program has inspired the Society to institute a formal approach to researching its objects and developing significance statements, before information is lost on key items in the collection. Ron Pokarier, President of the Tamborine Mountain Historical Society invites anyone interested in being a volunteer for this Significance project to contact the Society.

The Society has also committed themselves to improving interpretive signage around the site to aid visitors in understanding the significance of the buildings, and their current use, in the chronological context of pioneer settlement of Tamborine Mountain.

Tamborine Mountain Historical Society is dedicated to sharing the history and heritage of the Mountain through promoting the value and relevance of their collection to the Tamborine Mountain community and visitors to the region. Their resources have been the focus of a series of short stories about early life on Tamborine Mountain, which have featured for many years in the local newspaper and are now being collated into a book soon to be published.

Ron Pokarier, President of the Tamborine Mountain Historical Society explained what they gained from participating in the Standards program:

'We have gained further knowledge on collection documentation processes and will be implementing methods for recording details of acquisition, preservation and restoration activities, as well as focusing on significance. We will also be developing a more consistent approach to interpretation of the buildings and displays through standardised signage. We'd like to help visitors to gain a better understanding of the displays in terms of the chronological context of the settlement of Tamborine Mountain.'

In 2009 the Museum Standards Program will be offered by M&GSQ in Toowoomba and surrounding regions with the support of the Museum Development Officer (Southern Inland Qld).

Full program information is available at

http://www.magsq.com.au/01_cms/details.asp?ID=373

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

For media enquiries, please contact:

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Image Captions

Image G: Standards Participants 2008 including representatives from Beaudesert Historical Museum, Beenleigh & District Historical Village, Garden Hill at Lost World Museum, Gold Coast & Hinterland Historical Museum, Rathdowney Area Development & Historical Association, Tamborine Mountain Historical Society, Upper Clarence Historical Society, Yugambah Museum, Heritage & Language Research Centre. Others present include Museum & Gallery Services Queensland staff Rebekah Butler, Ann Baillie & Kerri Laidlaw. Stakeholders present include Cr David Cockburn (Beaudesert & President,



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. Museum and Gallery Services Queensland is assisted by the Commonwealth through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body.

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Rathdowney Area Development & Historical Association), Cr Virginia West (Beaudesert, Darlington & Canungra), Cr Richard Adams (Tamborine southern), Kevin Liepins - Business Development Officer, Logan City Council & Sue and Rob Overell.

Image M: Tamborine Mountain Heritage Centre receiving a certificate of participation from Rebekah Butler. **L-R** Rebekah Butler - Executive Director, Museum & Gallery Services Queensland and Ron Pokarier - President, Tamborine Mountain Historical Society

Image R: Tamborine Mountain Heritage Centre **L-R** Margaret Thorndike, Ron Pokarier - President, Joycelyn Rosser, Cr Richard Adams, Jan Bates, Frank Thorndike



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