

Upper Clarence Historical Society Pioneer Cottage & Bicentennial Museum Creates Action Plan for a Healthy Future

Museum and Gallery Services Queensland (M&GSQ) congratulates Upper Clarence Historical Society Pioneer Cottage & Bicentennial Museum, one of nine community collecting institutions 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.

Upper Clarence Historical Society Pioneer Cottage & Bicentennial Museum received a certificate of recognition from Rebekah Butler, Executive Director, Museum & Gallery Services Queensland in acknowledgment of their achievement and hard work.

Reviewers, Ken Brooks and Josh Tarrant, who provided professional expertise free of charge throughout the program, congratulated Upper Clarence Historical Society Pioneer Cottage & Bicentennial Museum saying

'the museum committee have shown dedication to implementing the actions devised in partnership with Reviewers through the Standards Program and have made considerable headway into the work at hand'.

The Upper Clarence Historical Society was established to collect and record the history of the region and to provide a resource of knowledge, ideas, stories and memories of its early settlers. The Upper Clarence Historical Precinct contains two buildings: a pioneer cottage and the Bicentennial Museum. The cottage of Cuthbert and Mary Lamb was constructed of local timbers at Legume in 1892 and was moved to its present site in Urbenville in 1977. In 1980 (in time for the cottage's centenary celebrations in 1982) its separate kitchen building was also brought to the site. The cottage buildings display a collection of early pioneer local domestic life and memorials of local World War 1 servicemen. The Bicentennial Museum houses collections reflecting the region's gold mining, timber and dairy industries as well as the social history of the local communities.

The Museum is making positive changes on a number of fronts. The Historical Society is currently researching the significance of the collections in order to better display the objects and their local

stories. They plan to refurbish the exhibition spaces, to improve environmental conditions for the collection and improve displays in preparation for the 2012 Urbenville Centenary. They have also identified the need for a strategic plan, updated their collection policy and taken action to increase their volunteer numbers. Collection management processes and systems are being carefully considered to ensure that the collection is documented in a way that aligns with best practice.

With the help of Reviewers the Museum has identified, what could potentially be a really significant object for the region. A Chinese urn, thought to be related to the Tooloom gold diggings in the 1860-70s, has yet to be further researched, but has already evoked a wealth of stories and memories from locals. This find emphasises the importance and diversity of community museum collections.

Kerry Brown, Chairperson, **Upper Clarence Historical Society Pioneer Cottage & Bicentennial Museum** explained what they gained from participating in the Standards program:

'Through being involved in the Standards Program we have received help in identifying significant items in our collection and assistance with understanding object files and significance statements. This has benefited the Society greatly allowing a starting point to be established for cataloguing. The Standards Program has enabled us to focus and define our goals, to update our collection policy and to implement a strategic plan.'

In 2009 the Museum Standards Program will be offered by M&GSQ in the Toowoomba region 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>

Media 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, 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.



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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Image K: Upper Clarence Historical Society receiving a certificate of participation from Rebekah Butler. **L-R** Rebekah Butler - Executive Director, Museum & Gallery Services Queensland and Kerry Brown – Chairperson, Upper Clarence Historical Society

Image S: Upper Clarence Historical Society **L-R** Kerry Brown - Chairperson, Carolyn Wright



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