

## **Community cultural hub creates opportunities for emerging and established artists**

Museum and Gallery Services Queensland (M&GSQ) congratulates **Wondai Regional Art Gallery**, one of nine museums and galleries from Brisbane metropolitan and surrounding regions who have completed a challenging year-long program assessing their practice against *The National Standards for Australian Museums and Galleries*.

Reviewers, Elizabeth Bates and Audrey Hoffman, who played a vital role in providing free professional advice and assistance throughout the program, congratulated the **Wondai Regional Art Gallery**,

‘The Wondai Regional Art Gallery are commended for their participation in, and contribution to, the Standards Program in order to benchmark their operation against national standards.’

They praised **Wondai Regional Art Gallery** saying,

‘The Gallery continues to evolve from a small community run gallery to being a cultural hub for the whole community. The Gallery offers a range of activities which aim to build community appreciation for the visual arts and provide support for artists.’

The Wondai Regional Art Gallery has grown over the last twelve years through the enthusiastic support of volunteers. From day one the Gallery has opened 7 days per week providing visitors and community members access to the facilities.

The Gallery is proud to provide both emerging and established artists the opportunity to exhibit within the three gallery spaces. The exhibition program rotates on a monthly basis, with an Opening Night on the first Friday of each month. The Gallery also provides ‘*Blue Poles*’, a public art outreach project that extends the physical reach of the Gallery by providing local artists with a series of outdoor ‘canvases’ on which to produce work. This project also is growing to sites beyond the Wondai community.

The Gallery's permanent collection is growing with eleven pieces presently on display. The permanent artworks have been gathered from the June 2010 acquisitive competition, one of four competitions held throughout the year. The Gallery eagerly looks forward to installing a new purpose built workspace to bring professional artists and workshop presenters to the Wondai area.

With assistance of the expertise of Standards Program Reviewers, Wondai Regional Art Gallery is working towards developing their vision and mission statement and revising their collection management procedures which will include an audit of Council's collection.

Elaine Madill, President, Wondai Regional Art Gallery, explained what they had gained from participating in M&GSQ's Standards Program:

'The Standards Program has highlighted the direction that we have to take for the preservation of our collection in the future. It has made us more aware of the art gallery's role within the community and how we can improve. The Gallery entered into the program with anticipation and gained more than we imagined. The help and the support from the facilitators was outstanding, and the networking opportunities immense.'

Rebekah Butler, Executive Director, M&GSQ, commended the Gallery and gratefully acknowledged the pro bono work of the Standards Reviewers, Elizabeth Bates and Audrey Hoffmann, and the support of Museum of Brisbane, for their vital contribution to M&GSQ's Standards Program.

In 2011 the Museum Standards Program will be run in the Tablelands and Cook Shires of Far North Queensland.

**Full program information is available at**  
**[http://www.magsq.com.au/01\\_cms/details.asp?ID=709](http://www.magsq.com.au/01_cms/details.asp?ID=709)**

**The Museum profile and print quality images from the Museum are attached.**  
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## IMAGE CAPTIONS:

**Image 1** – Wondai Regional Art Gallery with their Certificate of recognition L to R: Aimee Board, Coordinator, Training and Professional Development, Museum and Gallery Services Queensland and Elaine Madill, President, Wondai Regional Art Gallery

**Acknowledgement** – Graeme Mackay

**Image 2** – L to R: Mayor David Carter, South Burnett Regional Council, Elaine Madill, President, Wondai Regional Art Gallery and, Robyn Dower, Vice President, Wondai Regional Art Gallery.

**Acknowledgement** – Robyn Dower

**Image 3** – Wondai Regional Art Gallery workshop activities

**Acknowledgement** – Robyn Dower

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