

Media Release 13/5/09

For Immediate Release

Gladstone Regional Art Gallery & Museum Joins in the Worldwide Celebrations for Museums & Cultural Tourism

Culture and technology come together with this year's *Museums Alight!* celebrations from 16-24 May 2009 with participating museums and galleries being linked to Google Maps.

To mark this year's International Museum Day theme of *Museums and Tourism* **the Gladstone Regional Art Gallery & Museum will join more than 90 other museums and galleries across Queensland by being linked to Google Maps**, whilst joining cultural institutions throughout the world as they recognise International Museum Day on 18 May.

Presented by Museum & Gallery Services Queensland (M&GSQ), *Museums Alight!* is an annual state-wide event for museums and galleries in every region of Queensland to showcase their collections and exhibitions to the public.

This year's exciting initiative will be useful for planning your next visit to one of our State's many cultural attractions, planning a holiday, or simply assisting you to find out more about culture and heritage in your local area.

Join the celebrations of this special week by visiting the Gladstone Regional Art Gallery & Museum and exploring their collection. Highlights include a Gladstone Bag belonging to British politician William Ewart Gladstone, Colonial Secretary in 1846 and four times Prime Minister. The city of Gladstone was named after William Ewart Gladstone, as was the Gladstone Bag, apparently he always carried one. The Gladstone Bag was donated by Peter Gladstone, William's great grandson.

Did you know the Gladstone Regional Art Gallery & Museum presents a busy program of varied and innovative exhibitions and events throughout the year? During *Museums Alight!* the following exhibitions will feature at the Gallery: *ANZAC Day - Lest We Forget* (3 April to 30 May 2009), a tribute exhibition to those who have served Australia, featuring photographs and memorabilia from the RSL and Gladstone Regional Art Gallery & Museum collection, and *Looking Back, Looking Forward: 1854 - 2009 and Beyond* (9 April to 6 June 2009), presenting 155 years of change from the Port Curtis Government Residency to the Gladstone Regional Council, featuring artifacts and photographs from the Calliope, Miriam Vale and Gladstone archives.

The 2009 program includes Australian Government Vision of Australia assisted travelling exhibitions such as *Talking Tapa: Pacifika Bark Cloth in Queensland*, *Liz Williamson Textiles*, *Living Treasures*, *Max Dupain on Assignment* - locally generated exhibitions including *Arts Naidoc: Honouring our Elders, Nurturing our Youth*, the annual *Golding Showcase: Port Curtis Callide Valley Youth Art Exhibition*, and the 34th *Rio Tinto Alcan Martin Hanson Memorial Art Awards and Exhibition* in November.

Discover the Gladstone Regional Art Gallery & Museum's collection from Monday to Saturday from 10am to 5pm.

Rebekah Butler, Executive Director of Museum and Gallery Services said today, "Queensland is home to more than 400 museums and public galleries. This year's theme, *Museums and Tourism*, highlights the great contribution Queensland's museums and galleries make to our State's cultural tourism and their local communities."

Explore the unique historical and cultural achievements of your community. Take a look at the map to find a museum or gallery near you, then see the real thing and be part of this year's celebrations!

Visit the Museum & Gallery Services Queensland website www.magsq.com.au for full details of participating Queensland venues, the map and related special events.

Image and contact details follow...

Images:

- 1. Caption:** Gladstone Bag belonging to William Ewart Gladstone. Presented to the Mayor of Gladstone Alderman Col Brown on behalf of the people of Gladstone by Mr Peter Gladstone on 13 May 1988 while visiting the city as a guest of the Port Curtis Bicentennial Committee.
Image Courtesy: Gladstone Regional Art Gallery & Museum
- 2. Caption:** Gladstone Regional Art Gallery & Museum at dusk
Image Courtesy: Photographer Stephen Walker

For media enquiries, interviews and further information, please contact:

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