

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **FRASER COAST LOCAL HERITAGE STUDY RECEIVES HERITAGE AWARD**

The Fraser Coast Regional Council and heritage consultants, Converge Heritage + Community, were jointly recognised for their work on the Fraser Coast Local Heritage Study at the National Trust of Queensland Heritage Awards held in Brisbane on Thursday 30 August.

The project received a Silver Governor's Heritage Award for achievement in a local heritage project. The National Trust Heritage Awards have been held annually for more than 30 years and specifically recognise exceptional cultural heritage projects undertaken throughout Queensland.

The Fraser Coast Local Heritage Study was completed by Converge Heritage + Community over the course of a year and resulted in 144 places being entered on the Fraser Coast Regional Council's local heritage register.

These places are representative of the rich and diverse history of the Fraser Coast since European settlement and reflect a range of historic themes and events of significance to the Fraser Coast.

Places range from industrial heritage and archaeological places through to grand houses and impressive commercial buildings and include the site of the original town of Maryborough, the Bogimbah Aboriginal mission and reserve on Fraser Island and the remains of the Burgowan No. 7 Coal Mine near Howard and Torbanlea.

The study received strong support from the Fraser Coast Regional Council, as well as the Council's Heritage Advisory Committee and a range of people with a special interest in the history and heritage of the region, including local historians.

A Council incentive program for owners of commercial buildings to improve their appearance also included incentives for local heritage places. The incentive included free planning advice and dollar for dollar funding for conservation work to commercial buildings entered on the local heritage register of up to \$2,500 as part of the Fraser Coast Streetscape Scheme.

Importantly, Converge Heritage + Community maintain a Fraser Coast office, which ensured that the study was completed by staff that live and work in the region.

“We congratulate Council for their involvement and support for the development of the local heritage register,” Simon Gall, Director of Converge Heritage + Community, said.

“We are proud of the innovative approach utilised within the study and firmly believe that the diversity of the register entries provides a true reflection of the richness of the region’s history, something of which the region can and should be proud.”

Fraser Coast Mayor Gerard O’Connell congratulated Converge Heritage + Community and Council staff for their work in developing the Local Heritage Register.

“Our heritage is very important to us,” he said.

“It is our link to the past; it shows us how we developed our identity, traditions and values.”

Heritage was not something just for museums, he said.

“Maryborough especially is known for its heritage which has developed into an important tourism drawcard and economic driver for the region.”

A photographic exhibition of places drawn from the local heritage study will be displayed at Gataker’s Artspace from 5 October 2012.

Ends.

For further information please contact Simon Gall on 0418 984 883 or [sgall@convergehc.com.au](mailto:sgall@convergehc.com.au).

**Image of the award presentation located on the following page.**



From left: Craig Barrett (Converge Heritage + Community), Lee-Anne Manski (Fraser Coast Regional Council) and Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley AC, Governor of Queensland. Image courtesy of the National Trust of Queensland.