

Question on Notice
No. 1249
Asked on 16 September 2009

MRS ATTWOOD asked the Minister for Public Works and Information and Communication Technology (MR SCHWARTEN)-

QUESTION:

How is the Department of Public Works and ICT's contributions to the Q150 celebrations being received?

ANSWER:

Throughout 2009, the Department of Public Works has made a special effort to contribute to Queensland's 150th anniversary celebrations.

The Department of Public Works' high-profile contributions have been the state-wide tours of two major exhibitions, put together by the Queensland State Archives to bring the state's history alive via its archival records. As of end of September, the exhibitions have visited 19 venues from the Gold Coast to Mount Isa to Cooktown, covering the length and breadth of this state. The tours will continue until March 2010 by which time they will have been hosted by 32 venues in Queensland.

One exhibition, Top 150: Documenting Queensland, was a compilation of 150 of Queensland's most significant documents ranked in order of importance eg. number 107 was the scrapbook of gun shearer Mr Jackie Howe. In the scrapbook are reports of his world records – shearing 237 sheep by machine at Barcaldine Station and then a week later hand-shearing 321 'weaners' at Alice Downs.

The other exhibition, Queensland Firsts, showcases 50 history defining state milestones through records found at the Queensland State Archives. The first milestone was the appointment of Sir George Bowen as the first Governor of Queensland in 1859.

These exhibitions have achieved great success with the Brisbane Square Library estimating that 26,000 visitors viewed the exhibitions in June 2009 while they were displayed.

Some of the larger regional centres where the exhibitions were on show, such as Rockhampton and Mount Isa, hosted launches and seminars by leading historians who researched the exhibitions.

The exhibitions have been actively promoted to teachers and school students throughout Queensland. Two worksheets for school students were developed and distributed to schools.

As the Queensland State Archives exhibitions toured Queensland, other parts of the department were also involved in the celebrations. For example, at the Ideas Festival in March 2009, the Government Architect and some young professionals from the department's Architectural Practice Academy ran tours of the South Bank precinct to show festival visitors how the public space around public buildings could best be used in the public interest. Scores of visitors took the tours over the two days of the festival.

For the Queensland Day celebrations at the Roma Street Parkland in June 2009, Project Services compiled a special display on Queensland's built heritage. Since then, this display has been mounted in the foyers of several government buildings in Brisbane where it has attracted a lot of attention.

QFleet's Q150 anniversary booklet on the history of government motoring in Queensland was distributed to visitors at the Going Green Expo at the RNA Showgrounds on 19-20 September 2009. The booklet is also being issued to buyers of vehicles at the QFleet auctions and in cars being serviced at the QFleet workshops at Zillmere.

At this year's RNA Show in Brisbane, one of the highlights of the Government Pavilion was Public Works' interactive display on the Colonial Brisbane Heritage Walk – an online, downloadable audio-guide to the heritage highlights of the Queensland Government precinct in George and William Streets. Launched in May 2009, the audio-guide is a joint project with the Department of Environment and Resource Management. The display caught the attention of many show-goers as did the nearby QBuild display where stonemasons were carving Q150 mementos in sandstone. Queensland State Archives also had a children's version of their Queensland Firsts exhibition in the Public Works stand.

The ICT division has produced 'From Telegraphs to Computers' – a presentation outlining 150 years of ICT in Queensland from the first telegraph post to the opening of the new Polaris Data Centre at Springfield. It is being blended into speeches and other communication with the ICT industry throughout the year.

Other highlights of the Department of Public Works' Q150 celebrations include the opening of the Kurilpa Bridge on 4 October 2009 and the completion of the new Kangaroo Point Park in December 2009. In the regions, the department relocated the former nurses' quarters from the Mount Morgan hospital to the Rockhampton Heritage Museum and reconstructed an historic, nineteenth century windmill at a TAFE college campus near Toowoomba.