

21 December 2010

State Library shares images of Queensland

The State Library of Queensland is sharing 50,000 copyright-free Queensland images from its collections with Wikimedia Commons users.

This is the largest collection donated by any Australian cultural institution to date and the fourth largest total collection made available since the establishment of Wikimedia Commons, an online repository of free-use images, sound and other media files.

The State Library is the primary collector of Queensland's documentary heritage and the donated images form a unique pictorial record of the State of Queensland. The images are a mix of people and places from urban, regional and rural Queensland.

State Librarian Lea Giles-Peters said that this sharing of images is an important part of ensuring the State Library's collections are both easy to find and easy to use.

"Working with Wikimedia Australia is a powerful way to support the fundamental principle of libraries – free access for all and to participate in the development of an open information culture.

"Making our digital content available on Wikimedia Commons allows anyone to add value to the collection by participating in discussion and also enables the creation of new content."

The State Library was one of the first Australian cultural institutions to make its content available on Flickr Commons. More than 1,000 State Library images have been viewed over 580,000 times since they were first made available on 26 January 2009.

"This sharing of our images helps to expose our unique Queensland documentary heritage to a much wider and more diverse audience," Ms Giles-Peters said.

"We understand that the sharing of information has evolved and are actively contributing to this change by making digital content available on the web in places other than traditional library catalogues and repositories."

Visit www.wikimedia.org.au to view and download images from the State Library of Queensland's collection.

Media inquiries

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