

[EMBARGOED until 6pm Saturday 17 November 2012]

Queensland Galleries and Museums Honoured in State Awards

Museum and Gallery Services Queensland (M&GSQ) proudly announced the winners of the **2012 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards (GAMAA)** at a gala event hosted by the Abbey Museum of Art and Archaeology, Caboolture, on Saturday 17 November. Special guest, Hon Ros Bates, Minister for Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts congratulated this year's recipients and presented the winners with a specially commissioned trophy created by Queensland artist, Donna Marcus.

Now in its ninth year, the GAMAA is a prestigious annual event that celebrates the outstanding achievements, professional excellence, and innovation of Queensland's museum and gallery sector. Presented by **Museum and Gallery Services Queensland**, the GAMAA recognise the valuable contribution our State's museums and galleries make to enriching their local and wider communities, and honour the extraordinary commitment and talents of paid professionals and volunteers working in the industry.

The Executive Director of Museum and Gallery Services Queensland, Rebekah Butler, said today

'It is with great pleasure that M&GSQ congratulates the winners of the 2012 GAMAA and commends all those who nominated for their remarkable achievements and contribution to the sector. This year's awards recognise a range of inspirational people and projects.'

Winners of the 2012 GAMAA were recognised in each of the five categories, with a number of nominations being awarded a Special Commendation. The winners and commendations for each category are listed below:

ORGANISATIONS: STAFF OF 5 OR MORE

Winner: Museum of Brisbane, *my own private neon oasis* project, BRISBANE

Special Commendation: Queensland Museum, *Dressed by the Best: Fashion, Glamour and Gwen Gillam* exhibition, BRISBANE

ORGANISATIONS: STAFF OF UNDER 5

Winner: Cherbourg Historical Precinct Group, *Strong Women Shadow Boxes* project, CHERBOURG

ORGANISATIONS: VOLUNTEER RUN

Winner: Pioneer Valley Museum at Mirani, Mackay Historical Society and Museum, Mackay Regional Council Library Service Heritage Collection, Greenmount Homestead, and Sarina District Historical Society and Museum, *Sugar Strike: The Impact of the 1911 Sugar Strike on the Mackay region* project, MACKAY REGION

Special Commendation: Chinchilla Historical Society Inc., *Making the Museum More Relevant to the Local Community* project, CHINCHILLA

INDIVIDUALS: PAID

Winner: Ian Jempson, *Queensland Maritime Museum*, BRISBANE

Special Commendation: James Donaldson, *RD Milns Antiquities Museum*, BRISBANE

INDIVIDUALS: VOLUNTEER

Winner: Warwick Foote, *Queensland Maritime Museum*, BRISBANE

The 2012 GAMA were proudly sponsored by the Abbey Museum of Art and Archaeology, Brian Tucker Accountant, Brandi Projects, Archival Survival, Regional Galleries Association of Queensland and Museums Australia Queensland.

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