

[EMBARGOED until 7pm Friday 22 November 2013]

Volunteer, Peter Almond, Wins Prestigious Gallery and Museum Achievement Award

Museum & Gallery Services Queensland (M&GSQ) proudly announced the winners of the **2013 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards (GAMAA)** at a gala event hosted by Museum of Brisbane on Friday 22 November 2013. Special guest, Hon Ian Walker, Minister for Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts congratulated this year's recipients and presented the winners with specially commissioned trophies created by artists, Theresa Beeron, John Murray, Charlotte Beeron and Ethel Murray, represented by Giringun Aboriginal Art Centre.

Peter Almond, Volunteer Collections Manager and Team Leader, Hervey Bay Museum, was **recognised for his outstanding achievement** in the **category of 'Individuals: Volunteer'**.

Peter has been with the Museum since 2003, during which time he has made a valued contribution to improve its professional practices and exhibition development. His passion and commitment to best practice in managing the collections of the Hervey Bay Museum has contributed to many positive outcomes including procurement of key grants and significant donations and loans which have set new benchmarks for the Museum's displays, collections and public programs.

This year, Peter is retiring after ten years of service to the Museum. His focus on research, education and public programs, and communication strategies, and his encouragement of training and professional development for the volunteers has contributed to many successful achievements for the Museum and the Fraser Coast community.

In **awarding Peter Almond** as the **winner** of this category, **the judges acknowledged his outstanding leadership** in engaging support for the Museum, particularly in developing strategic partnerships and building ongoing relationships with Hervey Bay Council and raising the professional standards and long-term sustainability of the Museum.

Fraser Coast Mayor Gerard O'Connell said

'On behalf of Council and residents of the Fraser Coast I congratulate Peter on receiving this award.'

'It is the volunteers such as Peter which make the Fraser Coast such a vibrant place. His work at the Hervey Bay Museum and Historic Village has been outstanding.'

'His love of history and its preservation is matched only by his love of motorcycles.'

Peter Almond said today

'I am honoured to accept this award as an acknowledgement of the great work done by Community Museum Volunteers.'

Presented by Museum & Gallery Services Queensland, the **GAMAA** celebrate the **outstanding achievements, professional excellence, and innovation of Queensland's museum and gallery sector**. It also recognises the valuable contribution our State's museums and galleries make to enriching their local and wider communities, and honours the extraordinary commitment and talents of paid professionals and volunteers working in the industry.

M&GSQ Executive Director, Rebekah Butler, said today

'It is with great pleasure that M&GSQ congratulates the winners of the 2013 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.'

For a full list of GAMAA recipients go to the M&GSQ website at www.magsq.com.au.

In 2013, the GAMAA celebrates its tenth anniversary. To mark the occasion, a special one-night-only exhibition of past GAMAA trophies will be displayed at the Museum of Brisbane.

The 2013 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards are presented by M&GSQ in partnership with Museum of Brisbane and proudly sponsored by Brian Tucker Accounting, Brandi Projects, Archival Survival, Regional Galleries Association of Queensland and Museums Australia Queensland.

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Museum & Gallery Services Queensland Ltd. acknowledges the assistance of the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland and is supported by the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy, an initiative of the Australian, State and Territory Governments, and by the Commonwealth through the Australia Council its arts funding and advisory body. ABN 32 109 874 811