

[EMBARGOED until 7pm Friday 22 November 2013]

The Workshops Rail Museum, Ipswich, Honoured at Prestigious State Awards

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.

The Workshops Rail Museum, Ipswich, was recognised for outstanding achievement in the category of 'Organisations: Staff of 4 or More' for its exhibition ***I've Been Working on the Railway***. This exhibition provided a compelling insight into the little-known Australia-wide story of the thousands of Torres Strait Islanders, Aboriginal people and Australian South Sea Islanders who worked on Queensland's railways in the mid-twentieth century, and signified the Museum's first exhibition co-created with these communities.

In awarding **The Workshops Rail Museum a Special Commendation** in this category, the **judges commended the Museum for developing a high-quality exhibition** that was stimulating, innovatively designed, and which presented stories that have had little public exposure to date. The judges congratulated the Museum's success in forging new partnerships, and for the sense of pride and ownership the project provided for both individuals and the communities involved.

Director of The Workshops Rail Museum Andrew Moritz said he was delighted the exhibition received a Special Commendation.

“Our team enjoyed developing the exhibition and learnt so much from the various communities we engaged with while gathering personal stories,” Mr Moritz said.

“We’re excited that the exhibition is now on a national tour to bring the stories of these communities to a wider audience across the country.”

Presented by Museum & Gallery Services Queensland, the **GAMAA celebrates 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.

For media enquiries or images, please contact:

Rebekah Butler, Executive Director

Museum & Gallery Services Queensland

Phone: **07 3215 0820** Freecall: **1800 680 433** (within Queensland) Mobile: **0422 579 180**

Email: rebekah.butler@magsq.com.au Website: www.magsq.com.au

MEDIA RELEASE END



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