

[EMBARGOED until 7pm Friday 22 November 2013]

Museum Development Officers Honoured for 2013 Flood Response 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 **Museum Development Officer Program (MDO)**, Queensland Museum was **recognised for its outstanding leadership and achievement** in the category of 'Organisations: Staff of 4 or More' for the **2013 Queensland Museum MDO Flood Response**.

In early 2013, the regionally-based MDOs rallied to provide invaluable professional expertise, support and training to assist museums in the Wide Bay/Burnett area devastated by floods. Hiring a campervan to live in, the MDOs delivered first-response conservation and museum disaster procedures on-site, working side by side with affected volunteers and staff in the midst of mud, water, mould and debris.

The MDOs returned to Gayndah in October where they assisted in the treatment of paper and photographic collection items that had been frozen for conservation immediately after the flood event.

In declaring the Queensland Museum's MDO Program the winner in this category, the **judges recognised the MDOs' exceptional efforts**, both professional and personal, in harnessing their training and knowledge to provide best practice, front-line support to communities in recovery.

Queensland Museum Network CEO Professor Suzanne Miller applauded the work of the Museum Development Officers in winning the award.

"Our Museum Development Officers support more than 400 collecting organisations across Queensland and have an impact on 100% of the state's local government authority areas every year," Professor Miller said.

"Over the past two years in particular, their coordinated response to regional Queensland's communities in need, salvaging and conserving precious collections that have been damaged following natural disasters, has been truly outstanding.

"This is well-deserved recognition for the vital work of our Museum Development Officers who enable Queensland's regional communities to better care for and preserve our cultural heritage for future generations to experience and enjoy."

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