

[EMBARGOED until 7pm Friday 22 November 2013]

Miles Historical Society Honoured at Prestigious State 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.

The **Miles Historical Society Inc.** was **recognised for its outstanding achievement** in the category of 'Organisations: Staff of Under 4' for the Miles Historical Village's *Museum Business and Strategic Development* activities.

In awarding the **Miles Historical Society a Special Commendation** in this category, the judges commended the Society's strategic initiatives in planning for the future, and their professionalism in approaching challenges. The judges acknowledged the Society's conscientious commitment to development and sustainability through their efforts to engage audiences and improve their day-to-day delivery.

Western Downs Regional Council Mayor Ray Brown said the Miles Historical Village is nationally and internationally renowned for its historical memorabilia and is a premier tourist destination for the Western Downs region.

'I was delighted to see the Miles Historical Village nominated for this year's Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards. **On behalf of Western Downs Regional Council I would like to congratulate the Council staff and volunteers for a job well done** for their Museum Business and Strategic Planning project,' Mayor Ray Brown said.

'The award fittingly recognises the ongoing efforts and achievement of these passionate and dedicated staff members and volunteers to develop the Village into a popular tourist destination and a facility that the local community can be very proud of.'

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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