

[EMBARGOED until 7pm Friday 22 November 2013]

Kombumerri Aboriginal Corporation for Culture Wins 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 **Kombumerri Aboriginal Corporation for Culture**, Beenleigh, was **recognised for its** outstanding achievement in the category of 'Organisations: Staff of Under 4' for its **Haiku, Write into Art, and Language App** project.

The Kombumerri Aboriginal Corporation for Culture was formed in 1984 to research and promote Aboriginal language and cultural knowledge of the Yugambeh region of south-east Queensland. *Write into Art* was developed with extensive community consultation and newly formed partnerships to invigorate use of the Yugambeh Aboriginal language. This innovative program comprises three elements:

- The creation of **Queensland's first Aboriginal language dictionary App**, available free on iPhones and Androids and featuring more than 1,000 words and phrases.
- The creation of **Australia's first Aboriginal Haiku poetry program**, providing an accessible way for general public to begin to use and engage with Aboriginal language, culturally approved by local community.
- The creation of **Write Into Art – Art Inspired by the Written Word**, a pilot program offered to Year 11 and 12 students through selected schools, requiring them to nominate a piece of their artwork inspired by an Aboriginal word. As a result of the program, 26 winners were given a three-day workshop hosted by Logan City Council and Yugambeh

Museum, showing students how to turn their art into a profession.

In declaring the **Kombumerri Aboriginal Corporation of Culture** as the winner in this category, the judges recognised the **organisation's leadership** in developing a **highly innovative and diverse range of programs to engage with and revitalise the Yugambeh language**.

Mayor Pam Parker, City of Logan, said

'I congratulate everyone involved with the creation of this incredible language app. The Museum is widely regarded as one of Australia's leading language and cultural organisations. This prestigious award recognises the Museum's work in sharing and teaching about their local indigenous culture, keeping important traditions and languages alive for future generations.'

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.

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

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