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Caloundra Regional Gallery Recognised as Finalist at Queensland Gallery and Museum Awards

Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) proudly announced the recipients of the **2015 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards** (GAMAA) at a gala event hosted by The University of Queensland Art Museum on Thursday 19 November 2015.

The Sunshine Coast Council's, **Caloundra Regional Gallery** was recognised as a **Finalist** for its outstanding achievement in the category of 'Engagement: Organisations with Paid Staff' for its **community engagement project, *Sunshine Coast Satellite Reef***. In awarding the Gallery as a Finalist in this category, the judges recognised the Gallery's role in bringing the community together to create this innovative project.

The project attracted hundreds of community members, together with art and science lovers, in the collaborative making of crochet coral forms to create the *Sunshine Coast Satellite Reef*.

The project was envisioned, developed and initiated by Caloundra Regional Gallery curatorial and education staff, and was launched on World Environment Day, 5 June 2014. The collaboration of art, science and the environment was the platform that enabled the Gallery to engage with the community in a much broader scope than a purely visual art program.

Participation with Reef Check Australia, other environmental groups and schools, created opportunities for the Gallery to connect to new audiences. Local residents gathered weekly over a 10-month period to connect, make and collaborate, gradually gathering momentum and outreaching to other groups and locations. Giving participants artistic flexibility with the hyperbolic crochet pattern enabled them to express their individual voice, contributing to a truly unique response. Participants developed deep connections to others in the process and have continued to regularly meet and create new projects.

Presented by Museums & Galleries Queensland, the **GAMAA** celebrate the **outstanding achievements, professional excellence, and innovation of Queensland's museum and gallery sector**. It also recognises the valuable contribution that 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&G QLD Executive Director, Rebekah Butler, said, "It is with great pleasure that M&G QLD congratulates the winners and finalists of the 2015 GAMAA. We commend 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&G QLD website at www.magsq.com.au.

The 2015 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards were presented by M&G QLD and generously supported by The University of Queensland Art Museum. The GAMAA are proudly sponsored by Brian Tucker Accounting. We also acknowledge the Regional Galleries Association of Queensland and Museums Australia Queensland.

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