

2/11/2017

[EMBARGOED UNTIL 9PM THURSDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2017]

## **TEXAS QLD INC.**

### **Winner at State Awards**

The strength, ingenuity and talents of Queensland's public galleries and museums were triumphantly demonstrated tonight with the announcement of the winners of the **2017 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards** (GAMAA) at a gala presentation event, proudly hosted by Old Government House, QUT.

**Texas Qld Inc.**, located near Queensland's southern border, was **announced the Winner** for outstanding achievement in the category of 'Projects: Organisations Volunteer Run' for its nomination ***Restoration of Texas Rabbit Works***.

The Texas Rabbit Works is the last intact example of a rabbit processing plant left in Australia. Texas Qld Inc. purchased the Rabbit Works in 2002, which at the time was in a state of serious disrepair. To save this important piece of Australian history, volunteers began restorations through funding secured from various grants and donations. In 2015, major funding was received to complete the restoration, and the unique historical venue opened in May 2017. Texas Rabbit Works tells the story of rabbits in plague proportions in Australia from the 1930s to the 1960s, and the subsequent processing of rabbits as a major industry, exporting to England and America.

**Museums & Galleries Queensland** (M&G QLD) Executive Director, Rebekah Butler said, "Being recognised as the Winner in this category is testament to Texas Qld Inc.'s determination and great effort to restore this historic facility and to tell this unique piece of Australian history."

The Rabbit Works not only records local history but also references the industry throughout Australia. It has facilities for the collection and recording of individual stories to add to the historical content of the displays. The Rabbit Works has been well supported by the community and the organisation is actively developing its capacity to make it a 'must-see' tourist attraction

for the region.

Ms Butler said, "This year's winners and finalists stood out from an exceptional group of nominations. These accolades embody outstanding examples of our sector's achievements, professional excellence, and innovation. They also highlight the valuable contribution and achievements of professionals and volunteers working in our industry."

The GAMAA were established by Museums & Galleries Queensland in 2004 to honour the achievements of our state's individuals and organisations in striving towards excellence.

Winners of the 2017 GAMAA received an exquisite trophy crafted by Queensland artist, Lincoln Austin. Commissioned by M&G QLD, the trophies are generously sponsored by our long-standing Awards supporter, Brian Tucker Accounting.

**For media enquiries or images, please contact:**

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