

14/10/2019

MATTHEW JACKSON

Finalist at State Awards

The Winners and Finalists of the **2019 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards** (GAMAA) were proudly announced on Thursday 19 September at a special presentation event, held at the recently opened Cairns Performing Arts Centre, Far North Queensland.

Matthew Jackson, Volunteer with the Cassowary Coast Regional Council, was recognised as a **Finalist** for his outstanding achievement in the category of **Individuals: Volunteer**.

Matthew is recognised for his contribution and commitment to preserving and sharing the history of Cardwell with locals and visitors to the region. He has volunteered with the Cardwell Visitor Information & Heritage Centre since 2012, and during this time has presented a number of displays focusing on the region's modern history.

In January 2019, Matthew presented a display entitled *Era of Crime* which showcased three prominent local crime stories from the 1920s and 1930s, and highlighted the Italian gangster folklore of Far North Queensland. This project allowed Matthew to showcase his research skills and his interest in modern history, and provided an opportunity for him to present his work to the community.

In March 2019, Matthew presented a display, *Here Lies a Japanese Pearl Diver*, which showcased one of the local resident's kindness in restoring a grave marker on Gould Island which was set there to honour the Japanese Pearl Divers who lost their lives during the 1918 Cyclone. As part of this display, Matthew invited the local primary school children to display Japanese origami art as a gesture to the Guest of Honour, the Consul General of Japan. Through working on and presenting these displays, Matthew further developed his research and public speaking skills.

Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) Executive Director, Rebekah Butler said,

"As a Finalist in this category, Mathew Jackson is recognised for his valued contribution to the Cardwell Visitor Information & Heritage Centre and his wider community. The success of Matthew's displays in attracting audiences, in garnering media attention, and increasing numbers to the heritage precinct, have inspired other volunteers to create and curate their own displays focusing on their own areas of interest of Far North Queensland history."

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.

Robert Ryan, the Senior Co-ordinator Community Programs for Mackay Regional Council and 2019 GAMAA judge, presented awards to this year's Winners and Finalists. The Winners received an exquisitely crafted trophy by Queensland artist, Lucy Quinn. Commissioned by M&G QLD, the trophies are generously sponsored by our long-standing Awards supporter, Brian Tucker Accounting.

The awards were hosted at Cairns Performing Arts Centre in front of representatives of Queensland's public museum and gallery sector, including delegates of M&G QLD's 2019 State Conference, *Opening Doors*, also presented in Cairns.

M&G QLD acknowledges the tremendous support of the 2019 GAMAA sponsors: Brandi Projects; Cairns Regional Council; Brian Tucker Accounting; Public Galleries Queensland; and Australian Museums and Galleries Association (Queensland).

For the full list of GAMAA Winners and Finalists see: <http://www.magsq.com.au/cms/page.asp?ID=5036>

For media enquiries or images, please contact:

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