

14/10/2019

## **SUNSHINE COAST COUNCIL**

### **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.

**Sunshine Coast Council** was recognised as a **Finalist** for outstanding achievement in the category of Projects: Organisations with Paid Staff for its project, ***Expanding Experience – Bankfoot House Heritage Precinct***.

Bankfoot House is the oldest surviving residence in the Glass House Mountains. Built in 1868, this State heritage-listed site was once the lunch stop and staging post for Cobb & Co coaches on the Brisbane to Gympie goldfields route. It was gifted to Sunshine Coast Council by the Ferris family in 2004, on condition that the house is open to the public and the story told of the three generations of the same family who lived there for 134 years.

To increase visitor experience, Sunshine Coast Council undertook a multi-faceted project to enhance the Bankfoot House Heritage Precinct's existing exhibition displays and to develop new permanent exhibitions within previously under-utilised spaces. Council also opened the Precinct's first-ever temporary exhibitions program and expanded its public and education programming. This ambitious project involved five buildings and a total of seventeen spaces, including re-launching the Mary Grigor Centre as an exhibition space, and restoring the heritage shed. Significantly, the project was completed in time for Bankfoot House's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in October 2018.

**Museums & Galleries Queensland** (M&G QLD) Executive Director, Rebekah Butler said, "Sunshine Coast Council is to be commended for its Bankfoot House Heritage Precinct Exhibitions Project. It was a major undertaking which saw Council working closely with Queensland Museum, M&G QLD, consultants, conservators and archaeologists to complete all stages leading up to and including the Bankfoot House Heritage Precinct Exhibitions Project. The Friends of Bankfoot House were involved in all stages of the project and are recognised as integral to the Precinct's continued success."

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>

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