

**[EMBARGOED until 6pm Saturday 17 November 2012]**

## **Cherbourg Historical Precinct Group wins prestigious State Award**

**Museum and Gallery Services Queensland (M&GSQ)** proudly announced the winners of the **2012 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards (GAMAA)** at a gala event hosted by the Abbey Museum of Art and Archaeology, Caboolture, on Saturday 17 November. Special guest, Hon Ros Bates, Minister for Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts congratulated this year's recipients and presented the winners with a specially commissioned trophy created by Queensland artist, Donna Marcus.

The **Cherbourg Historical Precinct Group** was **recognised for its outstanding achievement** in the category of 'Organisations: Staff of under 5' for its ***Strong Women Shadow Boxes*** project.

The *Strong Women Shadow Boxes* project engaged nineteen Indigenous women elders and young women from Cherbourg, an Aboriginal community in South East Queensland, in diverse story-sharing processes that remembered women in their lives who had given them strength and encouragement. Facilitated by Carol Low and Katina Leedie, the project brought generations together in yarning circles. The women then created a memory box with photos, objects and archival material that told their personal stories. Guided and supported by a collaborative team, the process was a deeply emotional one for participants as they recalled times of loss and hardship as well as those of hope and encouragement. The workshops concluded with a ceremony to plant a bunya tree as a symbol of hope and strength for all women around the world. The nineteen shadow boxes, accompanied by the participants' photos and words describing their story, were displayed in an exhibition curated by Carol Low and designed by Peter Trail at the Ration Shed Museum, Cherbourg. An 8-minute film produced by Robyn Hofmeyr documented the journeys of the workshop participants and provided a moving experience for viewers as part of the exhibition.

In declaring Cherbourg Historical Group as the **Winner**, the Judges recognised ***Strong Women***

**Shadow Boxes** as an inspirational model for other communities. The project engendered a strong commitment by the participants and clear ownership by the organisation and the community, resulting in a powerful and engaging exhibition of stories and objects that provided connection and meaning between the generations, and opportunities for trust, sharing and healing.

Presented by **Museum and Gallery Services Queensland**, the GAMAA is a prestigious annual event designed to celebrate the outstanding achievements, professional excellence and innovation of Queensland's museums and galleries. The Awards recognise the valuable contribution our State's museums and galleries make to enriching their local and wider communities, and honour the extraordinary commitment and talents of paid professionals and volunteers working in the industry.

**The Executive Director of Museum and Gallery Services Queensland, Rebekah Butler, said today**

'It is with great pleasure that M&GSQ congratulates the winners of the 2012 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 winners, go to the M&GSQ website at [www.magsq.com.au](http://www.magsq.com.au)

The 2012 GAMAA were proudly sponsored by the Abbey Museum of Art and Archaeology, Brian Tucker Accountant, 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 and Gallery Services Queensland**

Phone: **07 3215 0822** Freecall: **1800 680 433** (within Queensland) Mobile: **0422 579 180**

Email: [rebekah.butler@magsq.com.au](mailto:rebekah.butler@magsq.com.au) Website: [www.magsq.com.au](http://www.magsq.com.au)

**MEDIA RELEASE END**



Museum & Gallery Services Queensland Ltd. acknowledges the assistance of the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland and is supported by the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy, an initiative of the Australian, State and Territory Governments, and by the Commonwealth through the Australia Council its arts funding and advisory body. ABN 32 109 874 811