

[EMBARGOED until 6pm Saturday 17 November 2012]

Ian Jempson wins prestigious Gallery and Museum 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.

Ian Jempson, CEO, **Queensland Maritime Museum**, was **recognised for his outstanding achievement** in the category of 'Individuals: Paid'.

In choosing Ian Jempson as the **Winner** in this category, the Judges acknowledged him as a role model for best practice throughout an impressive career. Ian is recognised in his capacity as the Chief Executive Officer of the Queensland Maritime Museum, for his previous position as General Manager at the Waltzing Matilda Centre, Winton, and for his overall contribution to Queensland's museum and gallery sector.

Since taking up the position seven years ago, Ian's vision and commitment to the Queensland Maritime Museum has seen the organisation develop into an outstanding facility that undertakes best-practice management of its significant collection, and supports and trains its staff, interns and volunteers to maintain the Museum's high professional standards. Ian has focused on improving the visitor experience, developing innovative public programs and embracing new technologies to improve displays as well as upgrading visitor and retail point-of-sale systems. His exceptional leadership was clearly demonstrated during the 2011 Brisbane floods when preventative measures were put in place to secure the vessels, buildings, displays and records in less than 48 hours and, following the deluge, had the clean-up and repairs underway and the doors re-opened within five days. Ian's leadership and commitment to the sector is also evidenced through his role as Chair of Brisbane's Living Heritage Network and the extensive

hours he volunteers as an Industry Reviewer with Museum and Gallery Services Queensland's Standards Review Program.

The Judges concurred that Ian's leadership and outstanding contribution to the museum and gallery sector in a range of positions, both in an employed capacity and in the many voluntary roles he has undertaken, makes him a worthy recipient of this award.

Ian Jempson said today,

'In accepting this award I pay tribute to my outstanding team of staff and volunteers both at the Queensland Maritime Museum and at the Waltzing Matilda Centre who have always given excellent support. Similarly I've been very privileged to work with many very talented people in the museum and gallery sector and I have greatly benefited from their wealth of knowledge and experience.'

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

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.

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