

[EMBARGOED until 6pm Saturday 17 November 2012]

James Donaldson receives Special Commendation at prestigious Gallery and Museum State Awards

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.

James Donaldson, Museum Senior Administrative Officer, *RD Milns Antiquities Museum* at the University of Queensland, was **recognised for his outstanding achievement** in the category of 'Individuals: Paid'. Since joining the Museum four years ago James has proven a dedicated member of the team, beginning as a volunteer then progressing to tour guide and student coordinator until two years ago when he was appointed to his current position.

James played an integral role in 2010/2011 in the relocation of the Antiquities Museum collection of almost 6,000 artefacts to a temporary home while a new gallery space was created and project-managed the rehousing of the collection in its new space. He also played a key role in developing the Museum's public engagement programs, developing its social media presence and preserving and strengthening links with patrons, supporters and community members. He manages the Museum's primary and secondary schools' program and has transformed and modernised it over the last three years.

In awarding James a **Special Commendation** in this category, the Judges recognised the achievements he has made in a relatively short career. The Judges agreed James has proven capabilities and has worked hard at developing his knowledge and standards of professional practice, with both the Museum's collection and its public programs. He has demonstrated strong

communication skills to connect with audiences of all ages, and is employing social media and new technologies to develop the Museum's online community.

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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