

[EMBARGOED until 6pm Saturday 17 November 2012]

Mackay region museums win 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 **Pioneer Valley Museum at Mirani, Mackay Historical Society and Museum, Mackay Regional Council Library Services Heritage Collection, Greenmount Homestead, and Sarina District Historical Society and Museum** were **recognised for their outstanding achievement** in the category of 'Organisations: Volunteer Run' for their collaborative project ***Sugar Strike: The Impact of the 1911 Sugar Strike on the Mackay region.***

This collaborative project by five museum organisations in the Mackay area, commemorated the 100-year anniversary of the 1911 Sugar Strike. Working with Queensland Museum's Museum Development Officer, Bronwyn Roper, the joint initiative resulted in a cube-like structural display (representative of a sugar cube) that communicates the important role the region played in state and national events, leading to the formation of the Australian Workers Union. The exhibition recognises the significance of the sugar industry in the Mackay region, the role of South Sea Islanders both within the industry and within the local community, and gives an important profile to each of the participating community museums.

In choosing *Sugar Strike: The Impact of the 1911 Sugar Strike on the Mackay region* as the **Winner** in this category, the Judges commended the establishment of new collaborative partnerships between the groups that identified common ground and contributed to raising the profile of all the organisations involved. The Judges also acknowledged that, in working with the

Museum Development Officer on the project, participants developed skills and knowledge in areas such as grant writing, exhibition design, travelling exhibition requirements, display and installation techniques, and preparing exhibition support and publicity materials, that would have flow-on benefits for each of their organisations.

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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