

[EMBARGOED until 6pm Saturday 17 November 2012]

Warwick Foote 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.

Warwick Foote, volunteer, **Queensland Maritime Museum** was **recognised for his outstanding achievement** in the category of 'Individuals: Volunteer'. Warwick was a chief instigator in establishing the Museum in 1971 and has given 41 years' service, 38 of those as honorary curator, until his retirement in May 2012.

A key member of Queensland Maritime Museum team, Warwick has been a driving force in the development of the Museum's exhibitions, collections and policies. Starting with no formal background in museum practice but with a passion to preserve Queensland's vanishing maritime heritage, Warwick has striven to raise his level of professionalism, undertaking scrupulous research and embracing change and technology to develop diverse and creative display techniques, often with limited resources. Warwick has served the Museum through periods of major development, such as preparation of the dry dock to receive the internationally significant ex-navy frigate HMAS *Diamantina*. Expo 88 signalled a period of rapid growth of the collection and site, attracting over 1 million visitors to the Museum during the event and resulting in the subsequent decision to expand normal opening hours from weekends to 7 days a week. In 2002, an extension to the Museum provided a temporary exhibition gallery and facilitated the need for Warwick to increase rotation and change of exhibitions to maintain the Museum's high standards of visitor experience. In 2006, Warwick was awarded an OAM for his services to the museum sector.

In choosing Warwick as the **Winner** in this category, the judges commended his outstanding service to the Queensland Maritime Museum over an extensive period of time, not only through his extraordinary contribution as volunteer curator but also as Board member, duty manager, and currently as advisor. They praised Warwick's ongoing commitment to best practice in increasing his knowledge and adding to his already significant skills to ensure high standards of exhibition curation, conservation and research. Warwick was recognised for his instrumental role in a vast number of projects through many facets of change at Queensland Maritime Museum.

Warwick Foote said today,

'I feel honoured to be selected as the winner in the "Individuals" category, and I pay a special tribute to the fellow volunteers at the Queensland Maritime Museum who, over approximately 30 years, devoted a great deal of their time and effort in assisting me to plan, set up and maintain displays and exhibitions. Without their enthusiastic and dedicated moral and physical support my task as honorary curator would not have been as pleasurable as it has been.'

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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