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SUNSHINE COAST COUNCIL WINNER 2026 GALLERY AND MUSEUM ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) was delighted to announce the **Sunshine Coast Council** as the Winner in the **Sustainable Practices: Open** category for its project ***Revitalising Landsborough Museum*** at the **2026 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards (GAMAA)**, proudly hosted by **Ipswich Art Gallery** on Thursday 8 October.

Now in their twenty-second year, the GAMAA are Queensland's premier awards program for the museum and gallery sector, recognising excellence, innovation and leadership across the State. Special guest, **Ipswich City Council Mayor Teresa Harding**, congratulated this year's recipients and presented winners with individually crafted trophies by acclaimed Queensland glass artist **Jarred Wright**.

Sunshine Coast Council has been named the winner in this GAMAA category for *Revitalising Landsborough Museum*, a transformational project that demonstrates exemplary leadership, partnership and strategic investment in regional cultural heritage.

Over four years, Sunshine Coast Council worked closely with the Landsborough & District Historical Society to address significant governance, operational and infrastructure challenges, securing the long-term future of one of the region's most important social history museums. Guided by comprehensive planning and aligned with strategic heritage priorities, the project delivered a holistic program of governance reform, heritage conservation, collections management, accessibility improvements and audience-focused exhibition renewal.

Major building upgrades, enhanced collection care, digitisation initiatives and new public programs have significantly strengthened preservation outcomes while improving visitor experiences and community engagement. The transformation established sustainable organisational systems, embedded professional museum standards and created a strong foundation for future growth and development.

With visitation increasing by more than 500 per cent, Landsborough Museum has evolved into a thriving cultural hub that preserves local stories, supports lifelong learning and strengthens connections across the Sunshine Coast community.

Museums & Galleries Queensland Executive Director, Rebekah Butler, praised the Sunshine Coast Council's Cultural Heritage Service team, saying "*Revitalising Landsborough Museum* is a standout example of what can be achieved through strong partnerships, strategic investment and a shared commitment to preserving local heritage. Through its collaborative

approach, Sunshine Coast Council has delivered lasting benefits for the Museum, its collection and the community, creating a vibrant cultural hub that will continue to connect people with the region's history and stories for generations to come."

This year's awards attracted nominations from across the state, recognising excellence in exhibitions, public programs, collections management, First Nations and community engagement, leadership, innovation and volunteer contribution.

M&G QLD congratulates each of this year's winners, highly commended recipients and finalists. Their achievements exemplify the passion, creativity and commitment that continue to enrich Queensland's cultural landscape and inspire excellence across the sector.

ABOUT MUSEUMS & GALLERIES QUEENSLAND

Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) is the peak professional industry body for the public museum and gallery sector in Queensland.

Our purpose is to inspire and support excellence in Queensland museums, galleries and keeping places, fostering innovation, connection and cultural leadership.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 2026 GAMAA SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

The 2026 GAMAA are proudly supported by the **Ipswich Art Gallery** and sponsored by **Public Galleries Queensland** and **Australian Museums and Galleries Association Queensland**.

The 2026 GAMAA trophies are generously supported by **Brian Tucker**.

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