

9/10/2026

DOGWOOD CROSSING HIGHLY COMMENDED RECIPIENT 2026 GALLERY AND MUSEUM ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) was delighted to announce **Dogwood Crossing, Miles** as a Highly Commended recipient in the **Engagement: Organisations With 1-6 FTE Paid Staff** category, for its exhibition ***Wildflowering on the Western Downs*** 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**.

Dogwood Crossing, Miles, was recognised as a Highly Commended recipient in this GAMAA category for *Wildflowering on the Western Downs*, an innovative regional arts initiative that celebrated local landscapes, wildflowers and artistic practice through collaboration, mentorship and community participation.

Developed through a partnership between Dogwood Crossing, Western Downs Regional Council and the curators of *Wildflowering by Design*, the project supported regional artists to create new work inspired by the unique ecology and natural beauty of the Western Downs. Through artist retreats, mentorships, workshops and community programs, participants were provided with valuable opportunities to develop their practice while strengthening connections to place and environment.

Presented alongside the touring exhibition *Wildflowering by Design*, the resulting showcase featured works by local and Queensland artists, attracting new audiences, building community pride and strengthening creative networks across the region. By embedding local participation at every stage, *Wildflowering on the Western Downs* demonstrated an innovative model for regional engagement, capacity building and place-based cultural development.

Museums & Galleries Queensland Executive Director, Rebekah Butler, said "*Wildflowering on the Western Downs* is a wonderful example of how regional galleries can harness the unique character of their local environment to inspire creativity, strengthen communities and support

artistic development. Through its combination of mentorship, collaboration and community engagement, Dogwood Crossing has created a project that delivers lasting benefits for artists, audiences and the broader region. We extend our congratulations to the gallery's staff, project partners and the artists involved – well done!"

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 contributions.

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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