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QUEENSLAND MUSEUM HIGHLY COMMENDED RECIPIENT 2026 GALLERY AND MUSEUM ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) was delighted to announce **Queensland Museum** as a Highly Commended recipient in the **Projects: Organisations With 7+ FTE Paid Staff** category, for its ***Croc! Lost Giants to Living Legends*** exhibition at the **2026 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards (GAMAA)**, proudly hosted by **Ipswich Art Gallery** on Thursday 8 October.

Now in its 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**.

Queensland Museum has been recognised as a Highly Commended recipient for *Croc! Lost Giants to Living Legends*, an ambitious exhibition that brings together science, culture, history and storytelling to explore one of Australia's most iconic animals.

Developed through a major partnership between Queensland Museum, the Australian National Maritime Museum and the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, the exhibition takes visitors on an immersive journey through 130 million years of crocodilian evolution. Featuring internationally significant specimens, interactive experiences and contemporary First Nations artworks, *Croc!* presents cultural and scientific perspectives side by side, offering audiences a deeper understanding of the enduring significance of crocodiles in Australia's natural and cultural heritage.

By challenging perceptions and inspiring curiosity, the exhibition demonstrates innovation, collaboration and leadership. Through its engaging and interdisciplinary approach, *Croc!* connects diverse audiences with complex stories of evolution, ecology, culture and conservation.

Museums & Galleries Queensland Executive Director, Rebekah Butler, said "*Croc! Lost Giants to Living Legends* is a remarkable example of how museums can bring together science, culture and storytelling to create engaging and meaningful experiences for audiences. Through strong industry partnerships and the inclusion of both scientific and First Nations perspectives, Queensland Museum has delivered an exhibition that deepens understanding of Australia's

natural and cultural heritage while inspiring curiosity and learning. We congratulate the Museum and its partners on this well-deserved recognition.”

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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