

9/10/2026

ROMA ON BUNGIL GALLERY HIGHLY COMMENDED RECIPIENT 2026 GALLERY AND MUSEUM ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Roma on Bungil Gallery received a **Highly Commended** in the **Volunteer Museum / Gallery of the Year** category at the **2026 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards (GAMAA)**, presented by Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) at **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**.

Roma on Bungil Gallery has been recognised as a **Highly Commended** recipient in the **Volunteer Museum / Gallery of the Year** category for *The Wealth: Portraits of Maranoa Locals*, a powerful community-led exhibition celebrating the people, stories and unique character of the Maranoa region.

Developed through a partnership between Roma on Bungil Gallery, Creative Injune and acclaimed portrait artist Daniel Butterworth, the project featured 30 large-scale portraits alongside photographs and stories representing more than 70 local residents. Capturing the diversity, resilience and spirit of the region, the exhibition honoured the individuals whose contributions help shape and sustain Maranoa communities.

Supported by the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR), Origin Energy, Denison Gas and Maranoa Regional Council, *The Wealth* attracted new audiences to the Gallery while fostering community pride and strengthening regional partnerships. The project demonstrated the important role of the arts in regional communities, using storytelling and portraiture to create meaningful connections between people, place and identity.

Through its collaborative approach and artistic excellence, *The Wealth: Portraits of Maranoa Locals* showcased the richness of regional Queensland while reinforcing the important role volunteer-led galleries play in celebrating and preserving local stories.

Museums & Galleries Queensland Executive Director, Rebekah Butler, said "*The Wealth: Portraits of Maranoa Locals* was a wonderful celebration of community, identity and belonging. By placing local people and their stories at the heart of the project, Roma on Bungil Gallery has created an exhibition that resonates deeply with audiences while strengthening community pride and connection. This recognition reflects the Gallery's commitment to collaboration, storytelling and showcasing the extraordinary people who make the Maranoa region such a vibrant and resilient community."

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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- ABN 32 109 874 811 is supported by the
Queensland Government through Arts Queensland.