

14/12/2021

CAPTAIN ADELE CATTS

Winner at State Awards

The Winners and Finalists of the **2021 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards** (GAMAA) were proudly announced by Museums & Galleries Queensland tonight, 14 December, at a special live-streamed presentation.

Captain Adele Catts, in her role as Curator of Army Museum South Queensland, was announced as **Winner** for her outstanding achievement in the category of Individuals: Paid.

Captain Adele Catts is recognised for her years of service to military history, and the wider museum sector. When Captain Adele Catts was appointed as Manager of Army Museum South Queensland in July 2013, her main aims were to open up Victoria Barracks Brisbane to the public and to recruit volunteers. This remains her passion since being appointed as Curator in February 2020.

In 2014, a severe hailstorm damaged the Victoria Barracks buildings and while they were under repair, Adele turned her attention to volunteer recruitment. She took every opportunity to speak to potential volunteers and to outline her plans for the Barracks. Within a year, one volunteer had been joined by five more. The team now numbers thirty-three and is still growing!

Whilst undertaking this initial recruitment, Adele began planning the Museum's first exhibition, *Queensland Goes to War*. From that point on, it was a matter of engaging the public to come to Victoria Barracks, which they have successfully done. Under Adele's leadership, the Army Museum South Queensland has evolved from humble beginnings, to presenting one or two original exhibitions every year. Each exhibition has its own launch to which Adele invites military dignitaries and members of other museums and historical organisations. Adele has also

developed tours which have been well received by individual visitors and groups. She regularly attends schools and other community groups, especially around ANZAC Day and other significant military events, to educate students and the public on the importance of commemorating these special days.

Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) Executive Director, Rebekah Butler said, "As the Winner in this category, Adele is recognised for her outstanding dedication to promote, educate and engage the public in military history. Leading by example, she encourages the volunteers to undertake research in planning the exhibitions, to attend courses to improve their skills in museum best practice, and to visit museums and galleries to critically observe the professional practice and displays. This has, in turn, continually improved the contribution made to Army Museum South Queensland and made the volunteers feel valued and appreciated."

The GAMAA were established by Museums & Galleries Queensland in 2004 to honour the achievements of our State's individuals and organisations in striving towards excellence.

The Winners received an exquisitely crafted ceramic trophy by Queensland artist, **Michelle Yeatman**, courtesy of Yarrabah Arts and Cultural Precinct. Michelle belongs to the Gunggannji people. Her work draws on her intimate knowledge of Country and reflects her relationship with Jilghi Beach at Yarrabah. Commissioned by M&G QLD, this year's trophies are generously sponsored by Public Galleries Queensland and Australian Museums and Galleries Association (Queensland).

For the full list of GAMAA Winners and Finalists and to view the GAMAA presentation visit:
https://magsq.com.au/?page_id=5826.

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