

14/12/2021

AUSTRALIAN AGE OF DINOSAURS

Winner at State Awards

Australian Age of Dinosaurs was announced as **Winner** for its outstanding achievement in the category of Sustainability: Organisations with Paid Staff for its project ***Our past, your museum. Building a sustainable Museum of Natural History in Outback Queensland.***

Over 11 years, the Australian Age of Dinosaurs has been developing in stages. These stages have been planned to ensure the long-term viability of the Museum and, as visitation increases, that the necessary supporting infrastructure (such as accommodation, food outlets and transportation facilities) in Winton is also developed to meet demand.

The final stage of the Museum's infrastructure development is its most challenging: the construction of a multi-million-dollar Museum of Natural History (MNH). Building the MNH is a massive undertaking. Its viability has been endorsed by the completion of a comprehensive Bankable Feasibility Study, compiled by internationally recognised consultancy firm, Grant Thornton.

This Study has built the capacity of the Museum by clearly outlining the necessary steps to complete construction of the MNH within the next three to five years. In readiness for this, plans to broaden the Museum's reach through the development of further products and experiences, such as dark-sky astronomy initiatives and virtual excursions to school classrooms, have now been implemented along with development of new tours and a broad range of unique merchandise options. Likewise, the Study has highlighted the urgency to further build the Museum's fossil collection in readiness for the MNH, and a range of collecting and exchange initiatives with other museums around Australia is now underway.

Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) Executive Director, Rebekah Butler said, "Australian Age of Dinosaurs is to be congratulated for its vision and commitment to preserve and promote Australia's geological past, and helping to secure the long-term sustainability of communities throughout regional Australia."

Ms Butler continued, "This is the Australian Age of Dinosaurs' second consecutive GAMAA!"

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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