

14/12/2021

GLADSTONE MARITIME MUSEUM

Finalist 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.

The **Gladstone Maritime Museum** was recognised as a **Finalist** for its achievements in the category of Projects: Organisations Volunteer Run for its project ***Relocation of Museum to East Shores Parklands***.

The **Gladstone Maritime Museum** houses a significant collection including vessels, model ships, navigational aids, shipwreck relics plus a library with hundreds of papers and journals, and the *HMAS Gladstone*. The Gladstone Maritime Museum's overarching aim is to engage and share with its community and visitors, the many facets of the Gladstone region's maritime history. This includes First Nations history; to Matthew Flinders' visit; to settlement and agricultural aspects; to the present-day Port which handles varied cargoes associated with mining and industry.

When the Gladstone Maritime Historical Society was contacted by the Gladstone Ports Corporation, the Museum's landlord, advising that they wanted the Museum to relocate to East Shores Parklands to complement the Parklands which had recently been given a makeover, the volunteers embraced this opportunity.

The new location is much more convenient to access and is more visible to residents and visitors to the region. And, by good fortune, the new Museum site is adjacent to where *HMAS Gladstone* is displayed, which has streamlined operations.

The volunteers worked hard to ensure the Museum was fitted out to a high standard to match the standard of the Parklands, and to ensure that the displays met the needs of Museum visitors. To achieve these results, the volunteers engaged external professional expertise and secured grant funding to purchase items such as display cabinets.

Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) Executive Director, Rebekah Butler said, "The Gladstone Maritime Museum volunteers are to be commended for their remarkable efforts. The Museum has operated for 25 years, and while this move was a significant undertaking for a volunteer-run organisation, the relocation has enhanced the organisation's activities in so many ways. The relocation was a catalyst to review the Museum's collection and to use best practice when in displaying it in the new premises. The project gave the volunteers a clearer understanding of their role, and enhanced the Committee's expertise within the organisation to achieve a mutually beneficial outcome."

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.

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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