

14/12/2021

QUEENSLAND WOMEN'S HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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.

Queensland Women's Historical Association was recognised as a **Finalist** for its achievements in the category of Projects: Organisations Volunteer Run for its project ***High Society 1860–1960 – an exhibition of evening attire worn to theatrical and social events in early Brisbane.***

Operating from the beautiful, historic Miegunyah House Museum, Bowen Hills, Brisbane, the **Queensland Women's Historical Association's** (QWHA) costume collection contains some exceptional individual pieces with demonstrated national significance. The *High Society* exhibition aimed to bring some of these costumes to the public fore but in the context of the time when the outfits were worn. The exhibition consisted of a selection of evening costumes, jewellery, accessories, photographs, invitations, programs and memorabilia associated with the social custom of attending theatrical and evening events in Brisbane between the years 1860–1960. All of the items on display were from the QWHA collection.

Another aim of this project was to look long-term and show that conservation of some of the costumes on display was important in maintaining the links to history of early and colonial Queensland society. The work of Dr Michael Marendy, a conservator of national standing and a

member of QWHA, enabled some significant Queensland costumes to be displayed. A podcast "The Little Black Dress" was made to talk about the conservation techniques needed to be able to display the 1890s reception dress given by the Archer family, early pioneers of Queensland. A History Grant from the Brisbane City Council enabled conservation of this and other costumes to occur.

Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) Executive Director, Rebekah Butler said, "The Queensland Women's Historical Association is to be commended for this ambitious and insightful exhibition. COVID-19 impacted some of the initial plans for the exhibition, such as a Gala opening in evening dress, however this dynamic volunteer-run organisation did not let this hamper their activities or intentions. Instead a Virtual Tour of the exhibition was made and placed on the QWHA's website and Facebook page. This, together with the podcast, was an inspired foray into digital delivery and broke new ground for the volunteers involved."

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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