

14/12/2021

WONDAI REGIONAL ART GALLERY

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 **Wondai Regional Art Gallery** was recognised as a **Finalist** for its achievements in the category of Projects: Organisations Volunteer Run for its project ***Gallery Extensions***.

Located in Queensland's South Burnett region and run by a passionate group of volunteers, the **Wondai Regional Art Gallery** presents an engaging program of visual arts exhibitions for its community and visitors.

In 2019, recognising the need to expand their storage space to meet operating requirements and that the Gallery's kitchen was in need of an upgrade, the volunteers set about making changes!

Volunteers are an essential part of Wondai Regional Art Gallery's operations, providing all the 'workpower'. The volunteers assessed the best design to fit with the existing historic building, and once appropriate grants and other financial contributions were sourced, the next step was to plan the extension build with minimum disruption to the everyday work of the Gallery and its current exhibitions.

The completed project has had a tremendous impact on the Gallery's operations. For example, in June 2020 the gallery hosted the late artist Vincent Serico's exhibition, *Some people are stories*. This was particularly poignant for the Gallery as Vincent was brought up in the region and his

work is especially relevant to the local Indigenous community. It would not have been possible to host this exhibition without the storeroom to safely and securely accommodate the large number of crates. The extensions have also enabled the Gallery to have a quick turn-around of each month's exhibitions as work can now be stored securely prior to being displayed, thereby ensuring that the gallery has no 'blank walls' between exhibitions.

The kitchen extensions have meant that the Gallery can store and cater for openings nights in a hygienic and food-safe workspace.

Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) Executive Director, Rebekah Butler said, "Wondai Regional Art Gallery is to be commended for its remarkable achievements. This project has enabled the Gallery to raise its standards and to enhance the cultural and artistic experience for exhibiting artists, visitors and the wider community. Volunteers also have an improved workplace which they report is more enjoyable to spend time in and, as a result, the Gallery's volunteer numbers have increased."

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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