

23/11/2023

DR JO WILLS

Joint Winner at State Awards

The Winners and Finalists of the **2023 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards** (GAMAA) were proudly announced by Museums & Galleries Queensland on Wednesday 22 November, at a special awards presentation proudly hosted by Logan City Council at the Kingston Butter Factory Cultural Precinct, Kingston.

Dr Jo Wills, Senior Museum Development Officer (MDO), Far North Queensland, was announced as **Joint Winner** for her outstanding achievement in the category of **Individuals: Paid**.

With more than 20 years' experience in the museum and heritage sector, Dr Jo Wills is highly regarded for her professional excellence and commitment to Queensland's built and moveable cultural heritage collections.

Jo was nominated by the Babinda Museum for the exemplary advice, supervision, and hands on support she provided to the Babinda Museum Steering Committee – a small group of volunteers who had no money, a very small collection and no experience in museum development – to build their award-winning Museum.

The Babinda Museum however, is just one of many examples that highlight the professional support Jo provides to organisations in her role as Senior Museum Development Officer, FNQ.

With a deep understanding of the challenges faced by small museums and collecting organisations, Dr Jo Wills goes above and beyond to support those she works with, to grow their understanding of best practice, and to help these organisations to prosper. She generously shares her knowledge and expertise through mentoring, community consultation and more.

Jo is an inspiring role model who actively fosters connections, upskills staff and volunteers in best practice museum standards through hands-on training and advice, and brings communities together through culture.

Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) Executive Director, Rebekah Butler said, "As the Joint Winner in this category, Dr Jo Wills is recognised for her outstanding leadership, professional guidance, project management skills and her generous spirit."



Ms Butler continued, "The Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards are a celebration of the professional excellence, innovation and leadership within Queensland's arts and cultural heritage sector. We extend our congratulations to this year's worthy Winners and Finalists."

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 2023 Winners received an exquisite trophy by Queensland artist, **Nicole Jakins**, commissioned by M&G QLD. Nicole's works explore environmental concerns, drawing on the beauty and fragility of nature.

The 2023 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards are proudly supported by **Logan City Council** and sponsored by **Public Galleries Queensland** and **Australian Museums and Galleries Association Queensland**.

For media enquiries please contact:

Rebekah Butler, Executive Director, M&G QLD
Museums & Galleries Queensland

Phone: 07 3059 9740 Freecall: 1800 866 101 Mobile: 0422 579 180

Email: rebekah.butler@magsq.com.au

Website: www.magsq.com.au

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