

23/11/2023

## **BABINDA MUSEUM**

### **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.

**Babinda Museum** was announced as **Winner** for its outstanding achievement in the category of Projects by Organisations that are Volunteer Run for its project for ***Building the Babinda Museum***.

In 2017, a small group of local people with an interest in Babinda's history formed a steering committee with the intention of starting a museum. The steering committee became a subcommittee of Babinda District Community Association Inc, a not-for-profit community organisation supporting the health, community and economic development initiatives in Babinda, and from there it grew, with the Babinda Museum officially opening its doors to the public in January 2023.

The steering committee had a vision to create an innovative heritage hub that promotes Babinda's unique rainforest culture and environment, preserves history and heritage through creative displays, encourages engagement with local community, stimulates cultural tourism economic opportunities, and supports remembrance, reconciliation, regrowth and resilience.

Working with the Queensland Museum's Senior Museum Development Officer in FNQ, Dr Jo Wills, this included but is not limited to:

- The development of a strategic plan
- Undertaking extensive community engagement
- Securing funding through multiple project grants, sponsorship, and community fundraising drives
- Curatorial concept development
- Undertaking training in museum practices and collection management
- Developing policies and procedures
- Exhibition design and installation

At all times during the Museum's development, the committee held strong their commitment to inclusive representation and reconciliation.

Taking a family story approach to facilitate inclusion, they liaised with Traditional Elders to integrate local First Nations stories and artifacts into the displays to bring their community's history, culture and identity to life and, in doing so, have created a place of reconciliation.

**Museums & Galleries Queensland** (M&G QLD) Executive Director, Rebekah Butler said, "The Babinda Museum Steering Committee is recognised as Winner in this category for their meticulous planning, enthusiasm and determination! Going into this project, none of the volunteers had any experience of museum work or fully understood the ability of culture to drive community wellbeing. To their credit, not only have they created a quality museum and cultural attraction for Babinda, but they have also grown in confidence and developed valuable new skills."

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**.

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