

23/11/2023

MAPOON CULTURAL CENTRE

Finalist 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.

Mapoon Cultural Centre was recognised as a **Finalist** for its outstanding achievement in the category of Engagement: Organisations with Paid Staff for its inspiring project ***Creating a new cultural centre for Mapoon.***

In February 2023, the Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council opened the Mapoon Cultural Centre, an exciting new, multi-purpose cultural centre that caters for locals and visitors to the community. Designed as an integrated centre, it comprises:

- A cultural keeping place
- An Indigenous Knowledge Centre
- An arts studio space
- A recording studio
- Outdoor, undercover performance and activities areas
- A full serviced kitchen/catering facility
- A gallery

The Mapoon Cultural Centre is a direct outcome of a whole of community master planning project that was initiated in 2016 by the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships with Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council and undertaken by AECOM Australia PTY LTD.

By liaising and engaging specialists and stakeholders from the planning and the cultural sectors, Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council has ensured that their new Cultural Centre is informed by best practice and industry standards. They are also commended for investing in their staff – this training and professional support in areas including exhibition displays, collection storage and management, has been a valuable part of the project and its success.



Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) Executive Director, Rebekah Butler said, "Our congratulations to the Mapoon Aboriginal Shire Council for their incredible vision, planning and hard work. For a remote community with a small population of around 350 residents, the Mapoon Cultural Centre is an outstanding achievement that delivers strong social, cultural, education, economic, employment and wellbeing outcomes. It also demonstrates community empowerment and leadership, providing a model for other small communities to emulate."

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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