

15/10/2024

Queensland Museum Winner at State Awards

The Winners, Highly Commended and Finalists of the **2024 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards** (GAMAA) were proudly announced by Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) on Tuesday 8 October, at a special awards presentation hosted by the Queensland Museum Cobb+Co, Toowoomba.

Museums & Galleries Queensland is thrilled to announce that Queensland Museum has been honoured with **Winning** the **Sustainability: Organisations with Paid Staff** category at the prestigious **2024 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards** (GAMAA), for its great commitment to meaningful action in advancing reconciliation through the development and implementation of their *Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan* (RAP).

The Queensland Museum was applauded for its *Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan*, which was developed in partnership with Gooreng Gooreng/Taribelang artist Dylan Sarra and Queensland Museum Graphic Designer, Chris Michalas. Dylan's artwork, depicting a contemporary view of a section of Buural Buural (Burnett River), symbolises the Museum's commitment to repatriation initiatives and the amplification of First Nations voices and perspectives.

In awarding Queensland Museum Winner in this category, the 2024 GAMAA judging panel commended the Museum for its leadership and genuine desire to ignite truth-telling, reflect on past actions, and leave a positive legacy for future generations.

This initiative demonstrates a whole of organisation change, developed through extensive and appropriate consultation that is sustainable and strategic in its application.

By completing the actions described in their *Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan*, the Queensland Museum believes it has the power to create a sustainable and deeply embedded narrative, lead by example, and leave a positive legacy for the next generation.

Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) Executive Director, Rebekah Butler said, "Queensland Museum is a worthy winner in this category. Their *Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan* is a result of honest collaboration and partnership with various stakeholders, including artist Dylan Sarra, Reconciliation Australia, First Nations community stakeholders, employees, and volunteers. It actively encourages First Nations peoples to engage with the State Collection, ensuring the preservation and celebration of First Nations voices and perspectives, and demonstrates Queensland Museum's strong commitment to working towards a shared future of respect, understanding, and healing."

Ms Butler continued, "The 2024 Winners, Highly Commended and Finalists were selected from a strong field of nominations received from organisations, large and small, across Queensland. It is an honour to be shining a spotlight on the outstanding work of so many worthy individuals and organisations."

Now in its twentieth year, the GAMAA were established by Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) to honour the achievements of our State's individuals and organisations in striving towards excellence.

The 2024 Winners received an exquisite trophy by emerging Queensland artist, **Monique Burkhead**. Monique is of Polynesian, Maori and Australian heritage and lives and works in Cairns. She is passionate about conserving the environment, and through her art hopes to raise an awareness of the fragile nature of our natural environment and the impacts of climate change.

The 2024 GAMAA trophies are generously supported by **Brian Tucker**.

The 2024 GAMAA are proudly supported by the **Queensland Museum** 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**

MEDIA RELEASE END

