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# Yimbaya Maranoa Arts Collective

## 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 excited to announce that **Yimbaya Maranoa Arts Collective** has been honoured with **Winning** the **Projects: Organisations Volunteer** category at the prestigious 2024 Gallery and Museum Achievement **Awards (GAMAA)**, for ***The Mount Moffatt Residency, 2023 – Time on Country*** project.

The Yimbaya Maranoa Arts Collective is an initiative led by First Nations people, aiming to connect communities and share inclusive stories through art. The Collective includes Indigenous and non-Indigenous artists with ties to the Maranoa region. Through various projects and gatherings, the Collective produces artworks and exhibitions that highlight the cultural, spiritual, and environmental significance of the Maranoa River.

The Collective's activities include immersive gatherings, art residencies, exhibitions, film screenings, and workshops, all aimed at creating resonant echoes on Country and promoting cultural connections.

The Collective's unique approach lies in its commitment to core values of relatedness, respect, and collaboration on Country. It was formed in 2018 when Indigenous Maranoa residents and artists gathered at a junction where Amby and Womallilla Creek meet the Maranoa. This gathering has continued with Traditional Custodians Vernessa Fien, Vicki Saunders, Saraeva Mitchell, Aunty Lynette Nixon, in conjunction with artist Jude Taggart Roberts, and realised through the group formerly known as the Remapping Mitchell Arts Collective.

The Yimbaya Maranoa Arts Collective is a creative group connected through memories of the Maranoa and Indigenous families in the region whose stories continue to inspire and draw them back to the river.

The Maranoa is a region of cultural, spiritual, and environmental significance not just to Gunggari people, but to others who spend time there. While the Collective is creatively linked to the river, it is also connected to Booringa ('place of fire' in Gunggari language), the original name for the local Council based in Mitchell.

*The Mount Moffatt Residency, 2023 – Time on Country* is part of an ongoing series of immersive gatherings on Country. Through these residencies, the Collective is producing a living archive of arts-related works, stories, and perspectives currently absent or less visible in contemporary and historical accounts of the region. The strength of the residency program lies in the continuing, long-term conversations about truth-telling over time that have allowed trust, respect, and cross-cultural awareness to emerge and be reflected in their creative relationships.

In awarding Yimbaya Maranoa Arts Collective Winner in this category, the judges commended the Collective for this exceptional initiative which has led to a deepened sense of place. The Collective's diverse cultural and creative backgrounds have resulted in a series of immersive gatherings on Country, producing a living archive of arts-related works and stories, and facilitated meaningful and potentially profound experiences on Country for participants.

**Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) Executive Director, Rebekah Butler** said, "Our congratulations to The Yimbaya Maranoa Arts Collective. *The Mount Moffatt Residency, 2023 – Time on Country* is a wonderful initiative that showcases the tremendous impact of coming together to create, share, and collaborate for the wellbeing of Country and people, and we are delighted to recognise their outstanding work at the 2024 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards."

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**.

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