

10/09/2025

## **Noosa Regional Gallery**

### **Finalist at State Awards**

The Winners, Highly Commended and Finalists of the **2025 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards** (GAMAA) were proudly announced by Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) on Tuesday 9 September, at a special awards presentation hosted by Museum of Brisbane. Special guest, **Hon John-Paul Langbroek MP, Minister for Education and the Arts**, congratulated this year's recipients and presented the winners with individually crafted trophies by artists Vanessa Cannon, Laurence Gibson, Gregory Salt, and Lorna Shuan, from the Yalanji Arts Collective, Kuku Yalanji Country, Mossman Gorge, Far North Queensland.

**Noosa Regional Award** was announced as a **Finalist** in the category of **Projects: Organisations with 1-6 FTE Paid Staff**, for the installation ***Imagine featuring Pip & Pop: Sunshine Daydream***.

Boldly transforming the Gallery into a magical, pastel rainbow wonderland, Pip & Pop's (Tanya Schultz) stunning installation, *Imagine featuring Pip & Pop: Sunshine Daydream*, captivated over 11,000 visitors during the winter school holidays in 2024. To put this in context, it represents almost a third of the Gallery's annual visitation achieved in just 20 days.

Made from everyday re-used materials and celebrating the local Noosa Biosphere, this project featured engaging interactive components, including collaborative workshops with Pip & Pop and local artists, crafting stations and a community garden, encouraging visitors to participate creatively and connect with each other. A grand sensory wall and puppet play sessions enhanced the experience, making art accessible and inclusive for all, particularly benefiting neurodiverse audiences and memory care groups.

*Imagine* exemplified innovative community engagement, with local schools and stakeholders collaborating on the project.

The Gallery's commitment to accessibility, environmental awareness, mentoring, and cultural enrichment was evident in every aspect of this project. Evaluation methods revealed strong audience engagement and educational outcomes, particularly among families. With impressive online engagement metrics, including a 666.1% increase in Facebook reach, Noosa Regional Gallery continues to raise the bar for inclusive, environmentally conscious arts programming.

Noosa Regional Gallery impressed the judges with its vision and leadership, delivering an inspired, high-quality experience that not only upskilled staff and volunteers, but also empowered

local artists, students, and community groups through inclusive, hands-on collaboration, creative learning, and cultural connection.

**Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) Executive Director, Rebekah Butler**, said, "Noosa Regional Gallery is a truly deserving finalist in this category. We congratulate the Gallery for its leadership, commitment to sustainability practices, and its collaborative approach, as well as its ability to engage audiences in creative and meaningful ways."

Ms Butler continued, "This year, we undertook a comprehensive review of the award categories and introduced several new ones, which led to an unexpectedly high number of nominations. This response is a testament to the remarkable work being done by museums and galleries of all sizes throughout Queensland. It is a privilege to shine a spotlight on the achievements of so many deserving individuals and organisations."

**Minister for the Arts, John-Paul Langbroek**, said, "Queensland has more than 400 museums and galleries, all of which play an important role in sharing our stories, activating and connecting communities and attracting visitors to our regions."

"Congratulations to everyone who has taken part in this year's Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards, which celebrate individuals and organisations who support community and visitor engagement with arts and cultural experiences."

"The Crisafulli Government is proud to invest in Museums & Galleries Queensland through the Organisations Fund 2026-29, which supports delivery of our 10-year arts and culture strategy, *Queensland's Time to Shine* and its vision for a thriving creative sector supporting a statewide vibrant arts scene."

Now in its twenty-first 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 2025 GAMAA are proudly supported by the **Museum of Brisbane** and sponsored by **Public Galleries Queensland** and **Australian Museums and Galleries Association Queensland**.

The 2025 GAMAA trophies are generously supported by **Brian Tucker**.

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- ABN 32 109 874 811 is supported by the  
Queensland Government through Arts Queensland.