museums & galleries QUEENSLAND

MEDIA RELEASE

10/09/2025

North Stradbroke Island Museum on Minjerribah

Highly Commended 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.

North Stradbroke Island Museum on Minjerribah was honoured with a **Highly Commended** award in the category of **Projects: Organisations with 1-6 FTE Paid Staff** for the ***Ngali Dullan – We Remain*** exhibition.

The *Ngali Dullan - We Remain* exhibition at the North Stradbroke Island Museum on Minjerribah is an organisation-altering initiative that showcases the rich Quandamooka culture and history, making it worthy of receiving a Highly Commended in this category. Since opening in June 2024, the exhibition has transformed the Museum's entrance into a vibrant space that immerses visitors in the enduring legacy of the Quandamooka people.

Led by the Museum's administrative manager and supported by the Quandamooka Committee, this project exemplifies a commitment to reconciliation and cultural respect. It features interpretive mapping by nationally acclaimed Quandamooka artist, Megan Cope, and works by local artists, all of which authentically represent Quandamooka stories and artefacts.

With a budget of $71,000, this ambitious exhibition is being recognised for its artistic excellence, which has received overwhelmingly positive feedback from visitors, artists, and historians alike. The *Ngali Dullan* exhibition not only serves as a resource for the Quandamooka community but also fosters pride and engagement, particularly among young people.

Importantly, the exhibition has laid the groundwork for future projects, including a new permanent exhibition focused on the impact of colonisation in the 1820s-1850s. The Museum's dedication to 'walking together' is evident in its ongoing commitment to revising protocols for the use of Aboriginal materials and ensuring that the voices and rights of the Quandamooka people are upheld.

In awarding North Stradbroke Island Museum on Minjerribah as Highly Commended in this category, the 2025 GAMAA judging panel praised the Museum's leadership, resourcefulness and

collaborative spirit, noting that it achieved a beautiful integration of First Nations storytelling, history and art.

Ngali Dullan stands as a model for other organisations striving for inclusive representation, reconciliation, and truth-telling.

Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) Executive Director, Rebekah Butler, said, "We heartily congratulate the North Stradbroke Island Museum on Minjerribah for their culturally powerful exhibition, *Ngali Dullan*. This initiative exemplifies the strength of collaboration and cultural respect, demonstrating what can be achieved when First Nations voices lead the way."

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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