

10/09/2025

Queensland Museum Kurilpa Winner 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.

Queensland Museum Kurilpa was recognised as **Winner** in the category of **Projects: Organisations with 7+ FTE Paid Staff** for its inspiring project, ***Say Our Name: Australian South Sea Islanders***.

Say Our Name: Australian South Sea Islanders brought to light the rich history and vibrant culture of Australian South Sea Islanders, showcasing curatorial innovation, and fostering community engagement and cultural recognition.

Led by Imelda Miller, a curator with Australian South Sea Islander heritage, the exhibition presented contemporary artworks alongside archival documentation and artifacts, identified and digitised over a 10-year partnership with Queensland's largest cultural collecting organisations. Through this research and storytelling, Queensland Museum has made important historical narratives accessible and relevant. Attracting over 100,000 visitors since opening on 23 August 2024, including 350 community members to the opening weekend, the exhibition has sparked pride and connection among the Australian South Sea Islander community.

Strategically planned to coincide with 30 years of National Recognition and 25 years since Queensland Government Recognition of the Australian South Sea Islander community, the exhibition is a celebratory and impactful platform for public education and cultural pride.

The exhibition's innovative approach, including the employment of community members and successful public programming initiatives, has cultivated deep cultural respect and authenticity and further enhanced public understanding of Queensland's rich and diverse heritage.

The 2025 GAMAA judging panel recognised *Say Our Name: Australian South Sea Islanders* as an important legacy for future generations, and praised Queensland Museum's leadership, care and integrity in creating a culturally safe space for community-driven reflection, learning and truth-telling.

Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) Executive Director, Rebekah Butler, said, "*Say Our Name: Australian South Sea Islanders* is a shining example of how museums can honour truth-telling and foster authentic connection between communities, history and the public. The Queensland Museum is congratulated for its commitment to collaboration and cultural respect, and enabling powerful Australian South Seas Islander voices to be heard and valued."

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.