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STATE LIBRARY OF QUEENSLAND FINALIST 2026 GALLERY AND MUSEUM ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) was delighted to announce **State Library of Queensland** as a Finalist in the **Projects: Organisations With 7+ FTE Paid Staff** category, for its exhibition ***Driven: every car has a story*** at the **2026 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards (GAMAA)**, proudly hosted by **Ipswich Art Gallery** on Thursday 8 October.

Now in their twenty-second year, the GAMAA are Queensland's premier awards program for the museum and gallery sector, recognising excellence, innovation and leadership across the State. Special guest, **Ipswich City Council Mayor Teresa Harding**, congratulated this year's recipients and presented winners with individually crafted trophies by acclaimed Queensland glass artist **Jarred Wright**.

State Library of Queensland was recognised as a finalist in this category for *Driven: every car has a story*, an engaging exhibition that explored Queenslanders' enduring relationship with the motor vehicle through a compelling combination of history, art, innovation and personal storytelling.

Bringing together rare archival material, contemporary artworks and iconic motoring objects, the exhibition examined the many ways cars have shaped identity, community and culture across Queensland. Through a rich and accessible narrative, *Driven* invited visitors to reflect on the social, economic and personal significance of motoring in everyday life.

Supported by an extensive public program of talks, film screenings and community events, the exhibition engaged audiences well beyond traditional motoring enthusiasts. Attracting more than 20,000 visitors and exceeding visitation targets by 197 per cent, *Driven* demonstrated the power of storytelling to connect diverse audiences with Queensland's social history and shared experiences.

Museums & Galleries Queensland Executive Director, Rebekah Butler, said "*Driven: every car has a story* is an outstanding example of how cultural organisations can use storytelling to make history relevant, engaging and accessible to broad audiences. By combining archival collections, contemporary perspectives and personal stories, the State Library of Queensland created a compelling exhibition that explored an important aspect of Queensland life and identity. We congratulate the State Library on this well-deserved recognition."

This year's awards attracted nominations from across the state, recognising excellence in exhibitions, public programs, collections management, First Nations and community engagement, leadership, innovation and volunteer contributions.

M&G QLD congratulates each of this year's winners, highly commended recipients and finalists. Their achievements exemplify the passion, creativity and commitment that continue to enrich Queensland's cultural landscape and inspire excellence across the sector.

ABOUT MUSEUMS & GALLERIES QUEENSLAND

Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) is the peak professional industry body for the public museum and gallery sector in Queensland.

Our purpose is to inspire and support excellence in Queensland museums, galleries and keeping places, fostering innovation, connection and cultural leadership.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 2026 GAMAA SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

The 2026 GAMAA are proudly supported by the **Ipswich Art Gallery** and sponsored by **Public Galleries Queensland** and **Australian Museums and Galleries Association Queensland**.

The 2026 GAMAA trophies are generously supported by **Brian Tucker**.

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