

# source

VOLUME 18 NUMBER 3 SUMMER 2022/2023



See inside front cover for image credit.

**museums  
& galleries**  
QUEENSLAND

**122 GERLER ROAD  
HENDRA QLD 4011**

**P: 07 3059 9740**

**Freecall 1800 866 101**

**E: [information@magsq.com.au](mailto:information@magsq.com.au)**

**W: [www.magsq.com.au](http://www.magsq.com.au)**

## IN THIS ISSUE

**Announcement of the Winners and Finalists  
of the 2022 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards  
Pages 2 – 4**

**You can also read the inspiring stories of each of the  
nominations on Pages 10 – 20**

Front cover image:

**2022 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards (GAMAA)  
trophy by Queensland artist, Donna Davis.  
The trophy pictured was presented to Logan Art Gallery,  
Logan City Council for their winning GAMAA nomination,  
*My story: the unbroken spirit of the Kalkadoons (Kalkadunga).*  
Photo courtesy of Donna Davis.**

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### WOULD YOU LIKE TO MAKE A DONATION TO ASSIST US IN SUPPORTING QUEENSLAND'S MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES?

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## calendar :

### ■ Touring Exhibitions | M&G QLD

Due to the impacts of weather events and COVID nation-wide, the following dates and venues may change. Please check the M&G QLD website ([www.magsq.com.au](http://www.magsq.com.au)) for itinerary updates.

■ *Legacy: Reflections on Mabo*  
Rokhampton Museum of Art, QLD  
22 October 2022 – 5 February 2023  
This is the final venue of the exhibition tour.

■ *Lost in Palm Springs*  
HOTA Home of the Arts, Gold Coast, QLD  
11 March – 21 May 2023

■ *Paint the Town*  
Mundubbera Regional Art Gallery, QLD  
10 March – 29 April 2023

■ *Pattern & Print: Easton Pearson Archive*  
Rockhampton Museum of Art, QLD  
18 February – 14 May 2023  
This is the final venue of the exhibition tour.

■ *The Interior*  
Logan Art Gallery, QLD  
17 March – 29 April 2023  
Warwick Art Gallery, QLD  
25 May – 8 July 2023

■ *Three Echoes – Western Desert Art*  
Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery, QLD  
4 March – 7 May 2023

■ *ZOONOSES*  
Bundaberg Regional Art Gallery, QLD  
23 January – 26 March 2023  
Grafton Regional Gallery, NSW  
22 April – 25 June 2023

### ■ Sector Development | M&G QLD

■ **Museum and Gallery Recovery and Preparedness Workshop Series**  
Where: Scenic Rim, Southern Downs, Lockyer Valley, Somerset regions  
See pages 7–8 of this issue for details.

### ■ Sector Development Events | Other

■ **DATE CLAIMER:**  
**Launch of the *National Standards for Australian Museums and Galleries v2.0***  
Where: Online  
When: 22 March 2023 (time to be confirmed)

■ **DATE CLAIMER:**  
***Creative Spaces* National Public Galleries Summit 2023**  
Where: Adelaide, South Australia  
When: 18–20 July 2023  
Go to <https://www.rgasa.org.au/creativespaces2023>

## about us :

### ■ Welcome to 2023

We hope you had a happy and safe festive season. The Staff and Board of M&G QLD thank you for your valuable support throughout 2022 and look forward to working with you again in 2023.

### ■ M&G QLD Staff

In December 2022, M&G QLD Staff together with colleagues and friends gathered to farewell our valued staff member, Leisha Walker, who took some well-earned leave for most of 2022 and has made the decision to undertake other pursuits.

Leisha has been with M&G QLD since February 2007. With her versatile skill set, she has worked in roles in information and communication, the exhibition development and touring program, and most recently in the training and professional development (TPD) program. One of the highlights of her work in TPD was M&G QLD's 2019 State Conference, held in Cairns, which Leisha and then TPD Manager, Deannah Vieth, delivered flawlessly.

Leisha has contributed enormously to M&G QLD in many other ways, outside of her set duties; for example, applying her extensive IT knowledge to developing new systems and platforms for the Company.

She has also made a valuable contribution to the sector through her work with organisations such as the emerging professionals network, and by volunteering her design skills on various projects and events.

We miss Leisha greatly and wish her all the very best in her current and future pursuits.

## sector development :

### ■ 2022 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards (GAMAA) Winners and Finalists

The Winners and Finalists of the 2022 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards (GAMAA) were proudly announced by M&G QLD on Monday 12 December, at a special awards presentation held at the Queensland State Archives, Runcorn, Brisbane, and live-streamed across the State.

Please see pages 10–20 of this issue of *source* for the inspiring stories of each of these nominations.

The Winners in each category were presented with an exquisite trophy by Queensland artist, Donna Davis.

M&G QLD sincerely thanks the 2022 GAMAA Judging Panel for their time and expertise:

- \* Michelle Blair, Regional Arts Officer, Regional Arts Services Network
- \* Karina Devine, Gallery Director, Warwick Art Gallery
- \* Kate O’Hara, Director, Umbrella Studio Contemporary Arts

We also thank Queensland State Archives for hosting the presentation event; and Public Galleries Queensland (PGQ) and Australian Museums and Galleries Association Queensland (AMaGAQ) for generously sponsoring the 2022 GAMAA.

The Winners and Finalists of the 2022 GAMAA categories are:

### INDIVIDUALS: PAID

#### WINNER

Robyn Daw  
*Logan City Council*

#### FINALIST

Tracy Cooper-Lavery  
*HOTA, Home of the Arts, Gold Coast*



2022 GAMAA trophies by Queensland artist, Donna Davis. Photo courtesy of Donna Davis.





Some of the Winners and Finalists at the 2022 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards presentation at Queensland State Archives. L-R: Michael Wardell and Sophie Chapman (Logan City Council), Phillip Tanner (National Trust of Australia Queensland), Colleen Sam (Artist, *My story: the unbroken spirit of the Kalkadoons [Kalkadunga]* exhibition), Tegan Burns (North Stradbroke Island Museum on Minjerribah), Alexandra Tuite (The University of Queensland Art Museum), Tracy Cooper-Lavery (HOTA Home of the Arts), Ebony and Rianna Weribone (daughters of Colleen Sam), Rhianna Patrick (Co-Curator, *Island Futures* exhibition), Aunty Evelyn Parkin (North Stradbroke Island Museum on Minjerribah), Imelda Miller (Co-Curator, *Island Futures* exhibition, Queensland Museum Network), Bianca Acimovic (formerly Rockhampton Museum of Art | Rockhampton Art Gallery), Joy Wilson (Museum of Nursing History, Royal Brisbane Hospital Nurses Association Inc.), Cathy de Silva (Museum of Brisbane), Rachel Arndt (Somerset Regional Council).

**FINALIST**

Bianca Acimovic  
Formerly Rockhampton Museum of Art |  
Rockhampton Art Gallery

**FINALIST**

Rachel Arndt  
Somerset Regional Council

**INDIVIDUALS: VOLUNTEER**

**WINNER**

Joy Wilson  
Museum of Nursing History, Royal Brisbane  
Hospital Nurses Association Inc.

**FINALIST**

Julie Weger  
Miles & District Historical Society Inc.

**PROJECTS: ORGANISATIONS WITH PAID STAFF**

**JOINT WINNER**

Cooktown Museum, National Trust of Australia  
Queensland  
*Reimagining James Cook Museum in partnership  
with Relative Creative*

**JOINT WINNER**

Noosa Regional Gallery  
*Floating Land: at the edge of ideas*

**FINALIST**

Queensland Museum Network  
*Island Futures: What lies ahead for Zenadth Kes*

**FINALIST**

State Library of Queensland  
*The Great and Grand Rumpus*

## PROJECTS: ORGANISATIONS VOLUNTEER RUN

### WINNER

North Stradbroke Island Museum on Minjerribah  
*Getting Equal: Australia's First Successful Aboriginal Wages Case*

No Finalists were shortlisted in this category.

## ENGAGEMENT: ORGANISATIONS WITH PAID STAFF

### WINNER

Logan Art Gallery, Logan City Council  
*My story: the unbroken spirit of the Kalkadoons (Kalkadunga)*  
This is Logan Art Gallery, Logan City Council's sixth consecutive GAMAA win.

### FINALIST

Museum of Brisbane  
*MoB Learn Assist: Improving Access to Museum Learning*

### FINALIST

HOTA Gallery, Home of the Arts  
*HOTA Collects*

## SUSTAINABILITY: ORGANISATIONS WITH PAID STAFF

### WINNER

The University of Queensland Art Museum  
*Carbon Neutral Certification for the "Oceanic Thinking" exhibition*

No Finalists were shortlisted in this category.

## ■ M&G QLD State Conference moved to 2024

M&G QLD has moved delivery of our State Conference to 2024, due to the impacts of weather events, COVID and staffing capacity. It was originally planned to be delivered in 2023. The 2024 State Conference will coincide with the 20-year anniversary of the formation of the Company.

## ■ Visits to Museums and Galleries in Queensland by M&G QLD Staff

M&G QLD Staff visited the following museums, galleries and cultural venues in Queensland from October to December 2022:

- Attended the Small Museums Conference at the Redland Museum and participated in Conference workshops and tour of North Stradbroke Island.
- Attended opening of the *AIR* exhibition at Gallery of Modern Art, South Bank, Brisbane.
- Visited Queensland State Archives and viewed Judy Watson's exhibition, *skeletons*, Runcorn, Brisbane.
- Visited Lockyer Valley Art Gallery, Gatton.
- Attended opening of the Redland Art Awards, Cleveland.
- Attended VIP preview event of *A MURRIALITY* exhibition by Gordon Hookey at the Institute of Modern Art (IMA), Fortitude Valley, Brisbane.
- Undertook a tour of the Queensland College of Art Graduate Exhibition, South Bank, Brisbane, and attended the opening event.
- Attended opening event for the exhibition, *Confessions*, by Scott Breton at Lethbridge Gallery, Paddington, Brisbane.
- Viewed the exhibitions, *Horizons* by Joe Furlonger, and *Embodied Knowledge* at Queensland Art Gallery, South Bank, Brisbane.
- Attended opening event of *Speculative Archeology* by Bruce Reynolds and *Szephyr* by Steve Szell at artisan, Bowen Hills, Brisbane.
- Visited Queensland Transport Museum, Gatton.
- Viewed the exhibition, *Two Places*, by Marina Strocchi at Jan Murphy Gallery, Brisbane.
- Attended Public Galleries Queensland's Directors Forum, Toogoolawah.

- Viewed the exhibition, *Natural State*, and artist talk by Caitlin Franzmann at The Condensery, Toogoolawah.
- Attended opening of *Between Spaces* group exhibition at Woolloongabba Art Gallery.
- Viewed the exhibition, *Making Waves: A Century of Australian Coral Reef Science*, at Queensland Museum.
- Toured the new Living Museum of Logan at Logan City.
- Viewed the exhibitions, *Hidden in the folds* by Chrys Zantis, and *The Skeen Mob: Family, Culture, Resilience* at Logan Art Gallery, Logan City.
- Attended the opening of the *Holdings 2022* group exhibition and *Recent Works 2022* by Dai Li at Jan Manton Gallery, Teneriffe, Brisbane.
- Viewed the exhibition, *Oceanic Thinking*, at The University of Queensland Art Museum, St Lucia, Brisbane.

## exhibition touring and development program :

### ■ M&G QLD receives Visions of Australia funding to tour Bruce Reynolds' exhibition

M&G QLD has received funding from Visions of Australia to tour a new national exhibition showcasing the cast relief works and two-dimensional collaged linoleum works of acclaimed contemporary artist, Bruce Reynolds, titled *How Soon Is Now? Works about time and space in two and a half dimensions*.

For this exhibition, Bruce has used an antique process that favours direct material involvement to cast works from liquid to solid that, when carved, create lively manifestations of thoughts on time, deep time and everyday archaeology.

*How Soon Is Now?* will tour nationally from August 2023 until early 2026.



Bruce Reynolds, *Vessel with Sea Worms*, 2017. 38 x 24 x 21 cm. Courtesy of the artist.

## training and professional development program :

### ■ Standards Review Program 2022

Participants continue to work hard on the various activities associated with the Standards Review Program. On-site reviews were conducted at the Queensland Transport Museum and Lockyer Valley Art Gallery, Gatton, in November 2022.

These visits were highly productive and provided opportunities for the Reviewers Christine Ianna, Lisa Jones, Deannah Vieth and Karina Devine to build on the work undertaken at the Field Visit earlier in the year, to offer practical advice and to undertake strategic planning activities with the participating organisations to inform their Action Plans.

M&G QLD's Debra Beattie attended the on-site review for the Queensland Transport Museum with the Reviewers Christine and Lisa on 18 November, and M&G QLD's Dandan Feng and Rebekah Butler attended the on-site review for the Lockyer Valley Art Gallery with the Reviewers Deannah and Karina on 24 November 2022. The participating organisations' stakeholders were invited to attend both sessions, providing valuable support and

encouragement of the work being undertaken to date. This also provided an opportunity for the Reviewers to share their observations, including the organisation's achievements and areas of improvement identified for their Actions Plans.

The final debrief and celebratory event for 2022 Standards participants will be held in early 2023.

## ■ Standards Workshop

As a part of the Standards Review Program, M&G QLD organises a skills development workshop to support participating organisations. The focus of the workshop is identified through consultation with the participants, Reviewers and program activities.

The 2022 workshop focussed on public program initiatives and was presented at the Lockyer Valley Cultural Centre on 17 November 2022 by Rachel Arndt, Curator, The Condensery | Somerset Regional Gallery.

Rachel delivered an engaging session that sparked a multitude of ideas and provided valuable networking opportunities for the participants. These included staff and volunteers from the Queensland Transport Museum, Lockyer Valley Art Gallery, Pittsworth Pioneer Village and Ipswich Historical Society. The workshop was kindly supported by Lockyer Valley Regional Council and Southern Queensland Regional Arts, with Michelle Blair also attending.



**The Standards Reviewers with participants from the Lockyer Valley Art Gallery.**

100% of participants rated the workshop overall as 'Excellent' or 'Good'.

When asked what they took away from the workshop, participants responded:

*'Ideas to make things happen.'*

*'So, so much – fabulous!'*

*'Concrete plans to enhance our museum and visitor experience. Engagement plans for the 'children'.'*

*'How to connect with the audience and present a public program.'*



**Standards Workshop.**  
L-R: Tracy Vellacott, Katie Pegg, Rachel Arndt (workshop presenter), Michelle Blair, Libby Coultas, Carmel Crimean, Barbara Walker, Steff Luckman.



■ **M&G QLD 2023 Standards Review Program**

In 2023, M&G QLD will continue to deliver its valuable Standards Review Program in partnership with Museums & Galleries of New South Wales. This year marks 19 consecutive years of this highly successful and important collaboration.

The Standards Review Program is an opportunity for participating museums and galleries to undertake a 'health check' by assessing their practices and policies against *National Standards for Australian Museums and Galleries*. It is an intensive year-long program that results in participants developing an Action Plan to guide their sustainable futures.

Supporting this work are Standards Reviewers who generously volunteer their time and professional expertise to the Program and help the participating organisations to achieve their identified goals.

On 9 December 2022, M&G QLD's Dandan Feng and Rebekah Butler presented a Standards Review Program information session to Logan City Historical Museum volunteers and Logan City Council staff, who have now signed on for the 2023 Program.

In addition to Logan City Historical Museum, M&G QLD will be working with three organisations from the Scenic Rim region in 2023. These participating organisations are:

- Templin Museum, Boonah
- Canungra and District Historical Association
- Beaudesert Historical Museum

We look forward to another full and productive year working with each of these organisations.

■ **M&G QLD Museum and Gallery Recovery and Preparedness Workshop Series**

As previously announced, M&G QLD had the good fortune of receiving funding through the Australian Government's Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants Program to offer a Museum and

Gallery Recovery and Preparedness Workshop Series to public museums and galleries in four local government areas impacted by the 2019–2020 bushfires. Due to COVID and flooding events in 2022, delivery of these workshops had to be rescheduled. We are pleased to announce that they will now take place in 2023.

The workshop series is aimed at staff and volunteers from public galleries, museums and community groups in each of these local government areas: Scenic Rim, Southern Downs, Lockyer Valley and Somerset. They will cover the following key topics:

**Workshop 1  
Mental Health and Wellbeing Essentials**

This workshop will focus on staff and volunteers' own wellbeing and strategies to help others.

**Workshop 2  
Collection Management 101: Understanding and managing museum collections**

This workshop will provide museums, galleries and other relevant community groups with an overview of collection management principles, including cataloguing, storage and handling.

**Workshop 3  
Digitisation and Access**

This workshop will cover collection digitisation, digital access for the public and the safety of digital records of the collections in case of natural disasters.

**Workshop 4  
Disaster Preparedness**

This workshop will help attendees to understand how to effectively plan and prepare for natural disasters and care for their collections and organisations.

**Workshop 5  
Contemporary Collecting**

This workshop will equip participants with sound and practical knowledge about collecting objects, photographs and oral histories of events that have happened in recent times, such as local natural disasters, as well as storage and handling of sensitive materials.

## **Workshop 6 Revitalising Your Volunteer Program**

This practical workshop will focus on the changing nature of volunteering, the importance of providing experience and how to support volunteers in contemporary times.

The workshop series has been designed in response to consultation with the community and with Council staff from each local government area. Each workshop will be presented in person by an expert and specially tailored for each region's needs. The six workshops are scheduled in February, April, June, July, September and November. Please check the M&G QLD website for updates and information about the workshop series and registration, [www.magsq.com.au](http://www.magsq.com.au)

## sector news :

### ■ **2023 AICCM Disaster Preparedness Calendar posted to Queensland organisations**



Museums & Galleries Queensland is pleased to have again supported the Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Material (AICCM) to produce the 2023 Disaster Preparedness Calendar.

M&G QLD has now posted copies of the printed calendars to many organisations across Queensland. If you did not receive one, please contact M&G QLD on P: Freecall 1800 866 101 or E: [information@magsq.com.au](mailto:information@magsq.com.au)

You can also download an electronic version from the AICCM website, [https://aiccm.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Disaster-Preparedness-Calendar\\_2023.pdf](https://aiccm.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Disaster-Preparedness-Calendar_2023.pdf)

Australia is experiencing an increasing number of natural disasters, some truly devastating in their impact. While there are some disasters that we can't prevent, we can reduce their impact on our collections by:

- Practising risk reduction;
- Focusing on disaster preparedness;
- Reviewing policies;
- Developing resilient communities.

The 2023 Disaster Preparedness Calendar aims to help cultural organisations act in a timely manner and be prepared for the hazards prominent in their region. Looking through the calendar, you will see various reminders on specific dates throughout the year. Some of these are annual, such as changing the batteries in your smoke detector; others are more frequent, such as clearing gutters. These activities can help you and your organisation to be ready to respond to emergencies that might strike your locality.

### ■ **New appointments/staff changes**

- Kate Tuart has been appointed as Director (Curator/Senior Officer) at Gympie Regional Gallery. She previously held positions with Bank Art Museum Moree, NSW, including Assistant Director and Acting Director.
- Emma Bain has left her position as Director of Redland Art Gallery to take up the position of Director Exhibitions and Creative Services, Collections, Research and Exhibitions, Queensland Museum Network.
- Edith Cuffe, Director of the Abbey Museum of Art and Architecture and the Abbey Medieval Festival, Caboolture, has stepped down from her role after dedicating over thirty years of service. Edith continues to support the organisation as a Board member, as a valued volunteer at the Museum, and as Lady Edith of Abbeystowe at the Abbey Medieval Festival.

- Chloe Tanner has been appointed to the role of Executive Director at the Abbey Museum. She has a background in the arts, food and wine industries, higher education and professional services.
- Tina Wilson has left the Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery to take up the position of Curator – Exhibitions at Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre, NSW.
- Renai Grace has left her position as Director/CEO of Museum of Brisbane to take up the position of Executive Director, Museums and Engagement, Queensland Museum Network.
- Claire Sourgnès has left her position of Chief Executive Officer at artisan to take up the position of Director of Ipswich Art Gallery in February 2023.
- Robert Leonard is returning to head up the Institute of Modern Art (IMA), Brisbane. Robert was Director of IMA from 2005 to 2013. Robert has held curatorial posts in New Zealand at Wellington's National Art Gallery, New Plymouth's Govett-Brewster Art Gallery, Dunedin Public Art Gallery, Auckland Art Gallery, and City Gallery Wellington, and has directed Auckland's Artspace.
- Dr Holly Arden has resigned from The University of Queensland Art Museum (UQAM). Holly undertook a number of roles at the Museum including Education Manager, Associate Director and Interim Director.
- The University of Queensland Art Museum did not appoint a new Director following their recent recruitment search and will conduct a new search later in the year. Senior Curator Peta Rake will step into the role of Acting Director.

## re : source

### ■ Gambling Community Benefit Fund \$100,000 Super Round Open

Round 116 (\$100k super round) of the Gambling Community Benefit Fund (GCBF) opened in mid-January 2023 and will close at midnight on 28 February 2023. The GCBF is Queensland's largest one-off community grants program and distributes approximately \$60 million each year to not-for-profit community groups.

In 2023, the GCBF program has 4 funding rounds available:

1. \$100,000 super round for all priorities — closes 28 February.
2. \$35,000 standard grant round — closes 31 May.
3. \$35,000 standard grant round — closes 31 August.
4. \$35,000 standard grant round — closes 31 October.

For information on the GCBF, including the \$100,000 Super Round, go to <https://www.justice.qld.gov.au/initiatives/community-grants>

### ■ Cultural Sector Disaster Support Network for NSW

Museums & Galleries of New South Wales (M&G NSW) has created a Facebook group as a point of connection for the NSW Cultural Sector in the case of disasters. This is a place to share knowledge and resources, to provide real-time updates on disaster situations as they unfold and for organisations to reach out for assistance. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/nswculturalsectordisastersupport>

Queensland has its own support network. The Queensland Culture and Heritage Disaster Forum has a Facebook page for sharing information on disaster preparedness and planning for Galleries, Libraries, Archives, Museums, Records, Heritage and Keeping Places in Queensland. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/QDisForum/>

## The Winners and Finalists of the 2022 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards

### **INDIVIDUALS: PAID**

#### **WINNER**

**Robyn Daw**  
*Logan City Council*



Robyn Daw (1958–2022) was a highly regarded artist, writer, curator, educator, arts administrator and cultural leader, who contributed greatly to the gallery, museum and arts sector in Australia over a career spanning more than 30 years.

As Logan City Council's Creative Industries Program Leader for the past decade, Robyn led the team responsible for the services and programs delivered through Logan Art Gallery, Mayes Cottage house museum and the Living Museum of Logan. In her extensive role, she also capably led Public Art, Local Heritage specialist services, arts grants and Cultural Development.

An astute professional, Robyn's career and achievements were built around a keen understanding of the value of arts and culture, as well as a passion for ongoing education and skills development. Throughout her long career, Robyn shared her knowledge and expertise with great

verve and generosity, supporting the careers and aspirations of many artists and emerging arts professionals. She deeply understood the power of inclusiveness and keeping local people at the heart of all placemaking initiatives. Many Logan artists' careers have blossomed through Robyn's encouragement, generous guidance and inclusive approach. A thoughtful mentor, Robyn was always there to gently encourage her peers to dream bigger, achieve the impossible and be all they aspire to be.

As the Winner in this category, Robyn is recognised for her professional excellence and her vast contribution to the visual arts sector within Queensland and nationally. Under Robyn's stewardship, Logan City Council has won many accolades for the outstanding work it has achieved in nurturing local artists and developing and promoting the region's rich arts and culture. A natural leader, she made all those she worked with feel valued and appreciated.

Through her lifelong dedication to inclusiveness, open-hearted support towards recently arrived migrant artists, and a deep respect for our First Nations Peoples, Robyn's legacy to the Queensland gallery and museum sector lives on through her work, achievements, connections and friendships.

*Photo of Robyn Daw courtesy of Logan City Council.*

#### **FINALIST**

**Tracy Cooper-Lavery**  
*HOTA Home of the Arts*

With a lifelong passion for visual arts, Tracy Cooper-Lavery has an extensive career in Australian public galleries. Currently the Director – Gallery & Visual Arts, HOTA, her previous positions include Director of Rockhampton Art Gallery, and Senior Curator at Bendigo Art Gallery, Victoria.





Significantly, Tracy led the development of the award-winning HOTA Gallery – Australia’s largest public art gallery located outside of a capital city – and was instrumental in the early planning and final development of Rockhampton Museum of Art. Her passion is to demonstrate the role and value of regional galleries and their collections, and their significance in telling our collective stories.

As a Finalist in this category, Tracy is recognised for her leadership and ‘big ideas’, as well as her innate ability to understand audience appetite and interests, and to develop customised creative programs in response.

Tracy has brought her international experience to HOTA and embraced the opportunity to partner with one of the world’s largest private collectors to present an exhibition of international contemporary art. This is a first of its kind for the organisation, positioning HOTA as an influencer in the arts sector in Australia.

Tracy adopts a lifelong approach to her learning and professional development. She keeps abreast of emerging industry trends through her Board roles, and her active membership with numerous industry organisations. Tracy has cultivated a strong and diverse peer network both nationally and internationally and, through her studies, work practices and ongoing learning, she has raised the level of professionalism at the galleries she has managed.

She is a strong advocate for effective governance, administration and dynamic leadership.

*Photo courtesy of Tracy Cooper-Lavery.*

#### **FINALIST**

**Rachel Arndt**  
**Somerset Regional Council**

Rachel commenced as Gallery Curator at The Condensery, Somerset Regional Council, in May 2021 during a time when the Gallery was in need of a new direction.

Over this relatively short period, Rachel has achieved significant goals, creating an audacious strategic plan, a new bold branding proposition, and a vibrant program with accompanying public programs that now book out with every exhibition.

The outstanding level of professionalism that Rachel has brought to The Condensery is evidenced by programs that succeed in educating new audiences; working with community; developing new partnerships; increasing community engagement; contributing to community wellbeing; and delivering outcomes for under-represented minorities in the region – specifically First Nations, youth and LGBTIQ+ peoples.

Rachel has introduced new models of visitor engagement, including a significant partnership with The University of Queensland Art Museum; and strategic partnerships with University of



Southern Queensland School of Creative Arts and Griffith University Queensland College of the Arts for student placements, internships and research projects.

Rachel's artistic program is focused on relevant local, national and global cultural conversations, showcasing excellence.

Responsive to community cultural aspirations, she has introduced new ideas and creative practice to the Somerset region, and makes a valued contribution to enriching the lives of the community and visitors.

*Photo courtesy of Rachel Arndt.*

## **FINALIST**

**Bianca Acimovic**  
*formerly Rockhampton Museum of Art |  
Rockhampton Art Gallery*



Bianca was the Gallery Director of Rockhampton Art Gallery | Rockhampton Museum of Art from 2016–2021. In this role, she made the Gallery a place of thoughtful exchange and networking, inspiring creativity. Her energy, passion and understanding brought people together and allowed many to flourish and find their strengths. Local artists report that she was a mentor, providing invaluable support to those who came to the Gallery seeking guidance or direction.

Bianca created a Gallery space that was active and vibrant, introducing programs and events for the community to enjoy. She transformed the Gallery into a meeting place where the community was encouraged to visit, shop and socialise and to engage with the extraordinary artworks on display.

An excellent networker, Bianca brought together artists, industry leaders, arts organisers, community and gallerists to build their own networks and exchange of ideas.

With a keen sense of inclusion and social justice, Bianca led a solid and active relationship between First Nations communities, Indigenous state government departments and the Gallery; recognising the role and power of art in Reconciliation.

Bianca invested considerable time and energy into realising the new Rockhampton Museum of Art. Almost six times the size of the old Gallery, the new Rockhampton Museum of Art was officially opened to the public in February 2022.

*Photo courtesy of Bianca Acimovic.*

## **INDIVIDUALS: VOLUNTEER**

### **WINNER**

**Joy Wilson**  
*Volunteer, Museum of Nursing History, Royal  
Brisbane Hospital Nurses Association Inc.*

Joy Wilson, the honorary curator of the volunteer-run Museum of Nursing History at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, is nominated for her ongoing and exceptional contribution and commitment over a number of years with the Museum.

Joy devoted her whole working career as a Nurse and Nurse Educator. Whilst working, she developed a love of the history of nursing and pursued a path of life-long learning, not only to further her career but also to increase her knowledge of nursing history and how to preserve it.



Joy is extremely proactive in developing relationships with any organisation or expert who can assist in her quest to improve the Museum's practice. She also volunteers at the Army Museum South Queensland.

*Photo of Joy Wilson courtesy of Museum of Nursing History, Royal Brisbane Hospital Nurses Association Inc.*

#### **FINALIST**

**Julie Weger**

**Volunteer, Miles & District Historical Society Inc.**

Since 2003, Joy has been actively involved with the Museum of Nursing History and has been directly responsible or involved with many major milestones connected with the Museum. This includes the challenging relocation of a collection.

Joy has pursued every opportunity to learn skills in museum management in a concerted effort to improve the Museum of Nursing History's practical applications. She has taken advantage of an extraordinary number of workshops, seminars and conferences to further her skills and encourages colleagues from the Museum to also attend.

Joy's workload increased substantially early in 2022. Whilst on well-earned extended leave from her curatorial position, Joy was asked back as a matter of great urgency to deal with the disastrous consequences of the February 2022 flood event. Many precious items from the Museum of Nursing History collection, housed in two containers, were badly water-damaged and Joy's leadership and expertise were called upon to coordinate the management of this disaster. Joy knew expert help was needed and quickly enlisted assistance from M&G QLD and members of the Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Material who jumped in with their considerable salvage expertise. These expert conservators are still providing practical hands-on support and Joy follows their advice and techniques assiduously. Joy is still dealing with the process of salvaging damaged items, and the challenge of storing salvaged items.

Julie Weger has been volunteering at the Miles Historical Village Museum since 2016. Involved in many aspects of the Village, Julie is an all-rounder Volunteer who actively contributes wherever she can. This has included working with other volunteers to electronically record photos and items for accessioning. She and a co-worker have also spent numerous hours measuring the buildings in the Historical Village to create an electronic mapping system.

Julie takes pride in looking after the collection items in the various buildings and ensuring that they are well maintained. Attendance at the 2020 Queensland Small Museums Conference informed and inspired Julie to confidently restore a number of badly deteriorated leather artefacts. It set Julie on a journey of rehabilitating many of the Museum's artefacts – she has recently undertaken, of her own accord, to restore the Museum's mannequins.



Julie strives to maintain the authenticity of the displays, and eagerly engages with visitors within the Historical Village Museum to explain or discuss many of the artefacts and the restorative projects she is working on.

She is a great role model for new staff members and is always willing to share her knowledge and offer assistance with tasks that are new to them. Her quiet yet exuberant personality creates shared energy and interest with her colleagues working at the Historical Village Museum, cultivating a commitment to maintain and enhance the quality of displays and improve visitors' experience.

*Photo of Julie Weger courtesy of Miles & District Historical Society Inc.*

## **ORGANISATIONS WITH PAID STAFF:** **PROJECTS**

### **JOINT WINNER**

**Cooktown Museum, National Trust of Australia Queensland**  
*Reimagining James Cook Museum in partnership with Relative Creative*

Formerly named James Cook Museum, Cooktown Museum has been reimagined to proudly tell the fascinating stories of the region and peoples who have lived there. Cooktown Museum is a heritage-listed former convent and school built in 1888–1889, owned by the National Trust of Australia, Queensland.



The Museum tells the story of the first recorded act of reconciliation between the Guugu Yimidhirr peoples, the Traditional Owners of the land, and Lt. James Cook. This largely untold story involves events during the 48 days when Lt. James Cook and his crew of *HMB Endeavour* repaired their ship after running aground on the Great Barrier Reef. Told from both perspectives, the story relates the interactions between Cook and the Bama (Guugu Yimidhirr people) over the capturing of turtles by the crew. Its outcome is integral to the story of Reconciliation in Australia.

In 2018, National Trust of Australia, Queensland engaged strategic design studio Relative Creative to design and lead community engagement as part of the broader project to redevelop James Cook Museum for the 21st Century. To date the project has included the development of a visitor experience framework to guide the reimagining of the museum experience, including interpretation; rebranding the Museum; and the interpretation, design, manufacture and install of two museum rooms, The Maritime Room and The Bama Room. The Bama Room in particular captures significant concepts explored through a Guugu Yimidhirr lens, drawing on historic events and hopes for the future.

*Image courtesy of Cooktown Museum, National Trust of Australia Queensland and Relative Creative. Photo: Warren Davel.*

### **JOINT WINNER**

**Noosa Regional Gallery**  
*Floating Land: at the edge of ideas*

Conceived in 2001 as an outdoor sculptural program held every two years, *Floating Land* invites visitors to experience thoughtful, challenging and environmentally aware works that engage sensitively with Noosa's spectacular natural environments.

The 2021 *Floating Land: at the edge of ideas* marked the 11th iteration of this internationally acclaimed biennial art and environment event, delivering 28 projects featuring in excess of 70 artists, complemented by a program of performances and artist talks that were seen by an estimated audience of more than 57,000





people over the event's 16 days. Importantly, each creative project left no physical trace on the environment at the conclusion of the event.

A high standard of artistic outcomes and cultural experiences lie at the heart of what *Floating Land* sets out to achieve. In 2021, it was delivered despite the challenges of COVID-19, with closed borders and local lockdowns impacting the development and delivery of the event; limiting the ability of the event to work with artists from further afield; and impacting engagement with interstate and international tourists.

Noosa Regional Gallery was awarded the Joint Winner in this category for the quality and professionalism of this impressive event and for achieving key outcomes in areas including:

- Strengthening *Floating Land*, and the arts more broadly, as an alternative tourism offering for the region;
- Engagement with a new generation of artists and audiences. Strategic effort was directed towards engaging with younger artists and audiences; and
- Digital Engagement. Partially in response to COVID lockdowns and actual and perceived limitations on in-person engagement, the 2021 *Floating Land* saw a significant increase in digital engagement. More than 232,000 people were reached through social media across the 16 days of *Floating Land* – an average of almost 15,000 per day.

Image: Fabrizio Biviano, 'Black Swan Theory'. Photo: Warwick Gow. Courtesy of Noosa Regional Gallery.

## FINALIST

### Queensland Museum Network *Island Futures: What lies ahead for Zenadth Kes*

As part of Queensland's past, present and future vision, the Queensland Museum Network seeks to share and celebrate the story of the people, places, history and culture of our state's First Nations Peoples.

Coinciding with the 150th anniversary of the Coming of the Light – the introduction of Christianity throughout Torres Strait – *Island Futures: What lies ahead for Zenadth Kes* was an empowering exhibition focused on bringing to the forefront Torres Strait Islanders as narrators of their own stories, history and culture. More than an exhibition focused solely on antiquated objects, *Island Futures* highlighted contemporary voices and conversations about Torres Strait Islanders' contribution to Queensland's cultural landscape, as well as their place in contemporary Australia.

The outcomes of this project were numerous, but the single most important outcome was the increased agency for Torres Strait Islanders to be able to tell their own stories in their own ways. It enabled the Queensland Museum Network to reinforce its role in acting as a platform for First Nations' community voices to be heard, and for expression through curation, film and visual arts.

The exhibition showcased the richness, vibrancy and diversity within the more than 200 islands of



the Torres Strait. It demonstrated new narratives around Indigenous Futurism and encouraged discussion around contemporary issues including land and sea management by discussing climate change, rising sea levels, sea pollution (ghost nets) and material culture spread in museums around the world.

Other significant outcomes of this project included:

- Employment of Torres Strait Islander Lead Curator, highly regarded journalist and cultural advocate, Rhianna Patrick.
- A new commission from the world-renowned Erub Arts and new acquisitions of artworks by well-known artists Christopher Bassi and Dylan Mooney.
- Engagement of Torres Strait Islander filmmakers Eric Murray Lui and Margaret Harvey.
- Engagement of Torres Strait Islander Instagram content creators.
- Students at St Margaret's School in the Torres Strait were also invited to reflect on and share their hopes for the next generation, which resulted in a reimagining of the future that was displayed on a wall within the exhibition.

*Photo courtesy of the Queensland Museum Network.*

## FINALIST

### State Library of Queensland *The Great and Grand Rumpus*

The origins of *The Great and Grand Rumpus* exhibition lie in the limitless imaginations of children. The fifteen-month-long community engagement project invited children from around Brisbane to expand their imaginations and, in doing so, dream up a collection of the most fantastic, astonishing and magical things one could expect to see. State Library of Queensland (SLQ) staff worked with young people to create a larger-than-life immersive exhibition that brought a sense of intergenerational play and whimsy to SLQ Gallery.

Over the course of the project 1,562 participants were intimately engaged in the Imagine, Design and Build phases of the project. The participant body was made up of 414 primary students, 414



secondary students, 531 tertiary students and 203 members of the public.

During project development, participants involved in the Design and Build stages of the project were brought into The Edge and guided by SLQ staff through a design thinking and fabrication process where they learned to build large-scale cardboard creatures and integrate immersive technology and lighting in order to bring to life the imagined creatures of *The Great and Grand Rumpus*.

The judges commended State Library of Queensland for its leadership and vision, being a place where the community can gather to engage in project-directed education, and for offering the community access to tools, expertise, and one another in an immersive, hands-on, intergenerational and intersectional learning context.

*Photo courtesy of State Library of Queensland.*

## **ORGANISATIONS VOLUNTEER RUN: PROJECTS**

### WINNER

#### North Stradbroke Island Museum on Minjerribah *Getting Equal: Australia's First Successful Aboriginal Wages Case*

The North Stradbroke Island Museum on Minjerribah is a not-for-profit community-run museum which is on unceded Quandamooka Lands.



shared for the first time. This included documents that showed that award wages were extended to Aboriginal women workers as well as men.

The most important community aspect of this exhibition was the film 'Banding Together', an 18-minute film and audio compilation of the stories of today's community members.

*Photo: Buildings at the Dunwich Benevolent Institution, North Stradbroke Island, ca.1935. Negative number 62921, John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland. Courtesy of North Stradbroke Island Museum on Minjerribah.*

### **ORGANISATIONS WITH PAID STAFF: ENGAGEMENT**

#### **WINNER**

**Logan Art Gallery, Logan City Council**  
***My story: the unbroken spirit of the Kalkadoons (Kalkadunga)***

*My story: the unbroken spirit of the Kalkadoons (Kalkadunga)* is the title of a truth-telling exhibition of work by First Nations artist Colleen Sam (Ngungurnnumma Kalkadoon) and furniture designer Keith Weribone (Mandandanji), shown at Logan Art Gallery. This exhibition was a collaborative curatorial project between Colleen Sam and the Logan Art Gallery team and ran from 23 April to 5 June 2021.

For four generations, since the Frontier Wars in the Kalkadunga (Kalkadoon/Mt Isa) region, the Sam family has passed down their stories of survival in secret. They include accounts of massacres, Kalkadoon (Kalkadunga) resistance, and frontier battles.

In responding to the oral histories through art, film and design, the exhibition reflects on how Colleen's people have survived and built spiritual and cultural strength through these experiences. Nationally acclaimed First Nations filmmaking company, Doublewire Productions, produced a truth-telling film as part of the exhibition which, importantly, allowed Colleen's family's story to be recorded in a First Nations-led and culturally appropriate process.

A highly original project, the exhibition *Getting Equal: Australia's First Successful Aboriginal Wages Case* was presented by the Museum from July 2021 to July 2022. It shares the significant story of the Aboriginal Gang of the Dunwich Benevolent Asylum and their fight for equal wages. The campaign began with a strike in 1918 and continued with 25 years of industrial, community and political action.

It tells of Aboriginal people working at the Asylum successfully campaigning to be the first Aboriginal workers in Australia to be paid the same as white workers doing the same work. This remarkable achievement, in 1944, happened 22 years before the granting of equal pay in the pastoral industry and more than two decades before the 1967 Referendum.

The exhibition also marked the 75th anniversary of the closure of the Dunwich Benevolent Asylum in 1946. *Getting Equal* was conceived as a community exhibition, involving the families of those who were part of the wages campaign in the planning, content and presentation of the exhibition and its events. Photographs, memories and stories, documents and artefacts were provided by community members and were augmented by oral histories from the Museum's collection. The Museum undertook two years of community engagement and research to bring the project together and to achieve community consensus for the story which was then publicly



Intergenerational trauma is an ongoing issue that impacts Indigenous health and wellbeing. One of the major aims of the project was to broaden understanding of these issues and to facilitate conversations around healing and reconciliation with communities. Working together with the Sam family, Logan Art Gallery hosted culturally sensitive engagement sessions with new health and community sectors, including First Nations Elders aged care services from Logan and the wider Brisbane area.

The exhibition and complementary public programs were well received by the wider community of Logan. Over 1,700 people visited this exhibition over five weeks. The artist held a series of online talks and film screenings, and posted copies of the catalogue and supplementary information to regional and remote communities not able to physically view the exhibition. 90 people attended these online and alternative community outreach sessions across remote Kalkadunga communities situated in St George, Alice Springs and Mt Isa.

*This is Logan Art Gallery, Logan City Council's sixth consecutive GAMA win.*

*Exhibition image: Colleen Sam, 'My story: the unbroken spirit of the Kalkadoons (Kalkadunga)'. Photo: Carl Warner. Courtesy of Logan Art Gallery, Logan City Council.*

## FINALIST

### Museum of Brisbane *MoB Learn Assist: Improving Access to Museum Learning*

Museum of Brisbane (MoB) is a social history museum located in Brisbane's CBD that invests in Brisbane artists, designers, writers and local businesses to create innovative design-led exhibitions that tell the stories of Brisbane.

Revitalised in 2021 and 2022, the MoB Learn Assist program has made a tangible contribution to its community by providing free learning opportunities for children, young people and educators from low socio-economic backgrounds in Brisbane and Greater Brisbane. The program was funded through a fundraising campaign and philanthropic support. These curriculum-linked educational programs in the arts, social history and civic citizenship, support the delivery of child and youth-focused, highly engaging arts and cultural experiences. MoB was able to provide transport to and from the Museum, free educational experiences and free morning/afternoon tea to eligible schools and community groups. Significantly, this program removed the financial barriers for children to visit the museum located in the city centre.

MoB Learn Assist supported the children, young people, and their educators from eight schools plus two community organisations. Overall, MoB welcomed 1,242 students and 155 teachers/educational support staff who accessed 32 individual Learn programs, workshops and tours. MoB Learn Assist developed two new partnerships





in 2021: Little Dreamers, an organisation supporting young carers; and Smith Family, supporting educationally disadvantaged young people. By linking up with community-based non-profits who are already targeting disadvantaged children, and who are doing this targeting very well, they were able to reach the most marginalised communities of under-resourced and excluded children and young people.

*Photo courtesy of Museum of Brisbane.*

## FINALIST

**HOTA Gallery, Home of the Arts**  
**HOTA Collects**



HOTA, Home of the Arts, proudly opened HOTA Gallery in May 2021. It is the new home of the City Collection, which was established in 1986 and now contains more than 4,500 artworks, including one of the largest collections of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art in regional Australia.

*HOTA Collects* is the banner name which encompasses all aspects of exhibition, programming and education that are centered around the collection. This includes three floors of exhibitions; two showcases of works; an ongoing program of short documentary commissions about collection highlights; an online, in-classroom, and onsite education and public program offer; and the publication of an extensive collection Handbook – *HOTA Collects* – that features new writing on over 100 Australian artworks.

*HOTA Collects* provides invaluable opportunities to develop and present contemporary conversations within the Gallery and beyond, enabling visitors and audiences to engage with aspects of Australian contemporary and modern art. It highlights areas of the collection that have never been viewed publicly before, as well as rekindling connections with much-loved favourites.

*HOTA Collects* exists in new and accessible formats including a high-quality publication, online presence, education resources, videos, and face-to-face programs. It also features 'must see' exhibitions and public engagement activities that are quintessentially Gold Coast. The associated education and public programs for *HOTA Collects* further contribute to the legacy outcomes for this activity.

*Photo courtesy of HOTA.*

## **ORGANISATIONS WITH PAID STAFF:** **SUSTAINABILITY**

### WINNER

**The University of Queensland Art Museum**  
**Carbon Neutral Certification for the**  
**"Oceanic Thinking" exhibition**

In February 2022, The University of Queensland Art Museum received Climate Active carbon neutral certification for the exhibition *Oceanic Thinking*. Climate Active is Australia's certifying body operated by the Australian Government to provide a rigorous and consistent measure for carbon neutrality. UQ Art Museum's team aimed to receive official certification so that they could model best practice and demonstrate their commitment to sustainability to their audiences, the university community and to the wider museum and gallery sector.

The process to become carbon neutral certified involved assessing the carbon footprint of the organisation or activity being undertaken, including gathering and counting emissions from a range of activities. They weighed rubbish, counted electricity use for everything from air conditioning to the water fountain at the front of the Art Museum and, in their case, also chose

## source : [page 20]

to include optional factors such as freight chains related to artwork shipping and the carbon footprint of their visitors.

Once the data had been collated and their carbon footprint calculated, they looked at how they might remove or reduce this. Any emissions that couldn't be removed or reduced were offset through the purchase of carbon offsets and using UQ's carbon credits.

To their credit, UQ Art Museum is the first Queensland-based museum or gallery to have an officially certified carbon neutral exhibition.

Going through the certification process has informed the Art Museum's strategic planning in areas including sustainability, exhibition development and design. Significantly, they are developing plans to formally share what they have learned with colleagues in the sector, including an educational program on achieving carbon neutrality for regional institutions.



Exhibition installation view. Photo courtesy of The University of Queensland Art Museum.

**We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we work and live, and recognise their continuing connection to land, water and community.  
We pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.**

**M&G QLD Staff :**

**Rebekah Butler** | Executive Director  
rebekah.butler@magsq.com.au  
Phone: 07 3059 9744 (Mon–Fri)

**Debra Beattie** | General Manager  
debra.beattie@magsq.com.au  
Phone: 07 3059 9741 (Mon–Fri)

**Grace Law** | Information Officer  
information@magsq.com.au  
Phone: 07 3059 9740 (Mon–Fri)

**Dandan Feng** | Training and Professional  
Development Officer  
dandan.feng@magsq.com.au  
Phone: 07 3059 9743 (Mon–Fri)

**Andrea Higgins** | Exhibition Program Officer  
andrea.higgins@magsq.com.au  
Phone: 07 3059 9746 (Mon–Thurs)

**Rachael De Groot** | Exhibition Program Officer  
rachael.degroot@magsq.com.au  
Phone: 07 3059 9746 (Mon, Tue, Fri)

**M&G QLD Board :**

**Karina Devine**  
Chairperson  
Director

**Andrew Moritz**  
Deputy Chairperson  
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**Rosi Griffin, *Tumbling Down*, 2022. Photographic print on Perspex, 250 x 150 x 6 cm. Collection, HOTA Gallery. Image courtesy of the artist. From the exhibition *Lost in Palm Springs*, curated by Dr Greer Honeywill. A partnership between HOTA, Home of the Arts and Museums & Galleries Queensland, the exhibition will launch at HOTA on 11 March 2023 and will be on display until 24 May 2023.**

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