

source

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We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians 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.



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The Museum and Gallery Services Queensland Donation Account is a tax deductible fund listed on the Register of Cultural Organisations under Subdivision 30-B of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997. Donations of \$2.00 or more are tax deductible.

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Account: Museum and Gallery Services Queensland Donation Account

Image above: Delegates at M&G QLD's 2024 Conference, *Belonging*, Toowoomba. Photograph by Katie Bennet, Embellyish.

Front cover image: Andrew Quilty, *Qala-e Musa, Kabul City, Kabul Province, 24/1/2018* (detail), inkjet pigment print on Alupanel, 31 x 46.5cm.

From the touring exhibition *Afghanistan* by photojournalist Andrew Quilty, curated by Ellie Waterhouse and presented in partnership with Museums & Galleries Queensland.

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M&G QLD Calendar

Due to the impacts of weather events nationwide, the following dates and venues may change. Please check the M&G QLD website (www.magsq.com.au) for program and itinerary updates.

Touring Exhibitions

<i>How Soon is Now?</i> Caloundra Regional Gallery, QLD	22 May – 28 June 2026
<i>Lost in Palm Springs</i> Bundaberg Regional Art Gallery, QLD	1 May – 18 July 2026
<i>Shifting Ground</i> The Condensery – Somerset Regional Art Gallery, Toogoolawah, QLD Bundaberg Regional Art Gallery, QLD	2 May – 12 July 2026 24 July – 4 October 2026
<i>Afghanistan</i> Noosa Regional Gallery, QLD	24 April – 14 June 2026
<i>Three Echoes – Western Desert Art</i> Logan Art Gallery, QLD	17 April – 13 June 2026
<i>The Interior</i> University of Sunshine Coast Art Gallery, QLD	2 May – 18 July 2026
<i>The Brothers Gruchy</i> QANTAS Founders Museum, Longreach, QLD	1 July – 30 September 2026
<i>POSTWORLD</i> QANTAS Founders Museum, Longreach, QLD Rockhampton Museum of Art, QLD	10 April – 28 June 2026 28 November 2026 – 21 February 2027
<i>Billy Missi'n Wakain Thamai</i> Bunbury Regional Art Gallery, WA	8 August – 25 October 2026

Training & Professional Development

<i>First Nations Collections and Contemporary Collecting</i> workshop presented by Olivia Robinson, Cairns Art Gallery, QLD	28 July 2026
<i>Disaster Preparedness</i> workshop presented by Christine Ianna, Cairns Art Gallery, QLD	29 July 2026
<i>First Nations Collections and Contemporary Collecting</i> workshop presented by Olivia Robinson, Atherton Coordination Centre, QLD	30 July 2026
<i>Disaster Preparedness</i> workshop presented by Christine Ianna, Atherton Coordination Centre, QLD	31 July 2026

about us

M&G QLD 2025 Annual General Meeting

M&G QLD held our Annual General Meeting on 27 April, where our 2025 Annual Report was presented to company members, Public Galleries Queensland and the Australian Museums and Galleries Association (Queensland).

Highlights from 2025 include:

- M&G QLD's touring program presented nine exhibitions to 29 venues in Queensland and nationally, attracting 106,219 visitors. These exhibitions profiled the work of seven curators and 100 artists – this included 60 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists.
- 220 participants took part in 14 M&G QLD training and professional development activities in 2025.
- M&G QLD staff responded to over 1,496 sector enquiries.
- M&G QLD's industry resources and publications were downloaded 4,732 times.

To read M&G QLD's 2025 Annual Report, visit <https://magsq.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/MG-QLD-2025-Annual-Report.pdf>

M&G QLD acknowledges the collaborative efforts of our Board, staff, constituents, and industry partners in honouring the company's purpose, vision, and values, and supporting us to deliver meaningful outcomes for Queensland's museum and gallery sector.

Board Changes

At M&G QLD's AGM, Karina Devine, Director, Warwick Art Gallery, stood down from the Board after 13 years of extraordinary service, including eight years as Chairperson.

Since joining M&G QLD's Board of Directors in February 2013, Karina has given much to our organisation. Her thoughtfulness and genuine commitment to both M&G QLD and the wider sector have made a lasting impact. She has guided M&G QLD with generosity, integrity, and care, and her

steady presence has been valued by fellow Board members, staff, and industry partners.

We are sincerely grateful for Karina's time, knowledge and dedication, and we look forward to maintaining our strong connection. We thank her for everything she has contributed over the years.



Image: M&G QLD's Executive Director, Rebekah Butler, Karina Devine and Chairperson, Andrew Moritz.

Filling this vacancy is Tracey Heathwood, Director at Artspace Mackay.

At Artspace Mackay, Tracey leads the strategic direction and delivery of a dynamic contemporary visual arts program for the Mackay region. With extensive experience working across regional and public gallery contexts, Tracey is deeply committed to strengthening the sustainability, visibility, and impact of regional galleries across Queensland. She currently serves as President of Public Galleries Queensland, advocating for the professional, cultural, and economic value of public galleries and fostering collaboration across the statewide network. Tracey is also a board member of Crossroad Arts Inc., supporting inclusive arts practice and community-driven cultural development. Tracey brings a strong passion for regional galleries as vital civic and cultural institutions, championing access to high-quality arts experiences regardless of geography. Her leadership is underpinned by a belief in the power of the arts to reflect local identity, support artists, and enrich regional communities.

We congratulate Tracey on her appointment and look forward to working with her.



Image: Tracey Heathwood, Director, Artspace Mackay. Courtesy of Tracey Heathwood.



Image: M&G QLD Exhibition Program Officer, Nadya Wilson. Courtesy of Nadya Wilson.

M&G QLD Staff

M&G QLD's Training & Professional Development Officer, Madeleine Green, commenced her 6-month parental leave on 6 February 2026. Maddy gave birth to a little girl on 24 February, and both are doing well. We extend our congratulations to Maddy and her family.

M&G QLD's Exhibition Program Officer, Sharna Barker, is currently on secondment with Griffith University Art Museum as Acting Collections Manager. M&G QLD is pleased to support this significant professional development opportunity for Sharna, which sees her employed with GUAM until 31 December 2026.

To cover this period, we are delighted to have Nadya Wilson join the team. Nadya has completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts at Griffith University's Queensland College of Art and Design and is a casual staff member at Logan Art Gallery. She has also worked at Museum of Brisbane, in addition to being a talented practising artist.

International Museum Day 2026

On 18 May, we celebrated the incredible work of museums and galleries across Queensland and beyond, preserving stories, sparking curiosity, inspiring creativity, and connecting communities.

Organised annually by the International Council of Museums (ICOM), the event is dedicated to highlighting the transformative role museums play in society. The theme of the 2026 International Museum Day was "Museums Uniting a Divided World", and highlighted the potential of museums to act as bridges across cultural, social, and geopolitical divides, fostering dialogue, understanding, inclusion and peace within and between communities worldwide.

To mark the occasion, the Museums & Galleries Queensland team had the pleasure of visiting QM Loans in Hendra, where we had our photos taken with some of the many fascinating specimens available for loan - from dinosaur bones to toads, turtles and typewriters!

QM Loans is Queensland Museum's object library for Queensland schools, early years, aged care, and community groups. The collection features thoughtfully curated kits and sets of museum objects that support the Australian Curriculum, early learning, and community engagement. It is an incredible resource, providing thousands of children hands-on access to Queensland Museum's collection and inspiring a lifelong love of learning and Queensland stories.

about us

Our thanks to Brooke for generously guiding us through QM Loans and enabling us to showcase this wonderful service.



Image: M&G QLD's Ben O'Dwyer, Nadya Wilson, Stephen Coppard and Andrea Higgins, pictured with Brooke Stapylton (centre).

To learn more about QM Loans, visit <https://www.museum.qld.gov.au/learn-and-discover/qm-loans/>.

Advocacy

This year, M&G QLD has contributed to two key federal processes: the Australian Government's *Inquiry into Arts and Cultural Philanthropy* and the *National Cultural Policy Review*.

In its submission to the *Inquiry into Arts and Cultural Philanthropy*, M&G QLD highlighted that while philanthropy plays an important role, it cannot and should not replace consistent government funding. Relying too heavily on private giving is not a sustainable solution, especially in parts of Australia where a strong culture of philanthropy is still developing. M&G QLD called for strategic and targeted government action to stimulate and incentivise philanthropic support, while maintaining essential public funding.

This approach is critical to ensure the ongoing stability of the broader arts and cultural ecosystem, including peak bodies, service organisations, museums, galleries, and small-to-medium arts organisations.

M&G QLD's submission to the *National Cultural Policy Review* focused on the vital role that museums, galleries, and keeping places play in caring for, presenting and sharing Australia's arts

and cultural heritage. It also stressed the need for stronger recognition of the visual arts and movable cultural heritage within national policy settings.

Across both submissions, M&G QLD called on the Australian Government to take a clear leadership role, supporting a stronger, more sustainable sector that reflects the value of museums, galleries, visual arts and movable cultural heritage in communities across the country.

A new venture for M&G QLD

M&G QLD is working towards becoming a sector-led Registered Training Organisation (RTO) to deliver targeted vocational education training for the broader museums, galleries and the cultural heritage sector: CUA30625 Certificate III and CUA40825 Certificate IV in Arts and Cultural Administration (Galleries and Museums). Developed by industry, for industry, these programs will strengthen workforce capability across priority skill areas and build sector resilience, particularly in regional communities.

We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who took the time to respond to our industry survey in March. The strong level of support we received contributed to M&G QLD securing Futureproof funding 2026-2027, from the Tim Fairfax Family Foundation (TFFF), which will support M&G QLD in the next stages of becoming an RTO.

We acknowledge the wonderful team and Trustees at TFFF, as well as Karen Graham, Industry Skills and Jobs Advisor, for their ongoing encouragement and support. Their backing has been invaluable in helping us advance this important initiative.

sector development

2026 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards

Nominations for the 2026 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards (GAMAA) are now open.

Since its establishment in 2004, the GAMAA have recognised and celebrated the outstanding achievements of individuals and organisations in Queensland's museum and gallery sector. The awards aim to encourage continuous improvement, enhance the profile of cultural organisations, inspire best practice, and acknowledge the vital contributions of both staff and volunteers in the sector.

2026 Award Categories

Organisation Award Categories

- Projects:
 - Organisations with 1–6 FTE Paid Staff
 - Organisations with 7+ FTE Paid Staff
- Engagement:
 - Organisations with 1–6 FTE Paid Staff
 - Organisations with 7+ FTE Paid Staff
- First Nations: Open to all organisations
- Sustainable Practices: Open to all organisations
- Volunteer Museum / Gallery of the Year: For organisations with less than 1 FTE staff

Individual Award Categories

- Individual: Paid Staff
- Individual: Volunteer

The GAMAA continues to play a crucial role in:

- Encouraging excellence and ongoing development across Queensland's galleries and museums
- Raising the profile of cultural organisations within their communities and beyond
- Inspiring best practice and innovation in the sector
- Recognising the contributions of both paid staff and volunteers, whose efforts underpin the success and sustainability of these organisations.

The winners will be announced at a special presentation event being held at Ipswich Art Gallery in October 2026.

The 2026 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards (GAMAA) are proudly supported by Ipswich Art Gallery.

The 2026 GAMAA trophies are proudly supported by Brian Tucker.

The 2026 GAMAA are sponsored by Public Galleries Queensland and Australian Museums and Galleries Association Queensland



Nominations Now Open

Closing 10am, Monday 13 July 2026

www.magsq.com.au



in focus

Dr Sandi Robb

In this edition of *source*, M&G QLD invited Dr Sandi Robb, Executive Officer (EO) of the Cairns Historical Society and Cairns Museum in Far North Queensland, to feature in our 'In Focus'.

We asked Sandi to respond to five questions and to reflect on her role at the Cairns Museum. Here is what she had to say...

Q. What do you love about your job?

I am very lucky to have the opportunity to work as Executive Officer of the Cairns Historical Society (the Society) in tropical Cairns. I have been at the Society for nearly four and a half years, having commenced briefly as the Collection Manager in early 2022 before stepping into the role as EO. The delight for me about working in this position, is that I am able to apply my knowledge and understanding of Queensland history, heritage, collection management, interpretation/visitor experience and administration skills, which I have gained throughout a career spanning 30 years in the history and heritage sector. As a professional historian, it is a joy to work late in my career in a role which is both challenging, stimulating and includes truth-telling.

Every day is different. As a community organisation dependant on external funding and volunteer workers to operate, I have to be across all aspects of both the Cairns Historical Society and Cairns Museum business. While the role itself has a clear emphasis on strategic and financial planning, in reality it is very hands-on and operational. On any day, I could be working on reception, delivering an educational talk to students, taking a guided tour, assisting someone with research, or writing socials and stories for marketing – all of which is on top of strategic planning, securing resources, providing oversight to staff and managing Human Resources. It is not the traditional Executive Officer role! This makes the role challenging at times but also conversely, provides deep satisfaction when it all comes together.

Q. What achievement are you most proud of?

Over the last four years, there are three main achievements I am most proud of:

1. Successfully implementing the Strategic Plan 2021-2024 when I first came into the role by growing our business post COVID and securing

funds for major future projects.

2. Building on this plan by writing and delivering our new road map for the future - Strategic Plan 2025-2030, which focuses on pivoting the organisation to meet the challenge of rural and remote workforce demands and pressure from an increasingly digital environment.
3. Writing, securing funds, managing and delivering a large program of events to celebrate Cairns Sesquicentennial Celebration (C150) with the Cairns local community (we are halfway through). The Cairns Museum is hosting six exhibitions, ten public lectures, and a free locals' day throughout 2026, in addition to producing Cairns' only celebratory publication to mark 150 years of shared history: *Cairns, A Tropical Town Takes Shape*.

Q. What makes your community special?

We would not be able to keep our doors open without the support and commitment of the Society's special community consisting of the Board of Directors, dedicated staff and all of our fifty five magnificent volunteers. So a shout out to everyone at our organisation. You are the best!

Q. What is the most unusual item in your museum/gallery's collection?

Hmmm, this is very difficult to answer...so much to choose from. Is it the puffer fish lamp? Is it the Lit Sung Goong temple chop? I have it, it's the late 20th century - Seabob!



Image: Dr Sandi Robb, Executive Officer Cairns Historical Society and Cairns Museum listening to speaker at an evening event on the heritage listed School of Arts veranda. Courtesy of Dr Sandi Robb.

exhibition touring & development program

***Afghanistan* launches at Logan Art Gallery**

M&G QLD's newest touring exhibition, *Afghanistan*, made a powerful debut at Logan Art Gallery on 30 January 2026, where it remained on display until 4 April. The opening and its accompanying public programs offered an insightful introduction to the exhibition, fostering genuine connection, and bringing the community together in thoughtful conversation.

Curated by Ellie Waterhouse, *Afghanistan* is a profoundly moving and compelling photographic exhibition by award-winning photojournalist and author Andrew Quilty. Living in Kabul for almost a decade, from 2013 to 2022, Quilty's images capture the complex tapestry of daily life throughout the country.

M&G QLD's Exhibitions Coordinator, Andrea Higgins, and Exhibition Program Officer, Sharna Barker, had the pleasure of working with the team at Logan Art Gallery to support the installation of *Afghanistan*, in the lead up to the launch of its national tour.

We thank Niomi Sands, Chris Bennie and the team for warmly hosting Andrea and Sharna's time at the Gallery.



Image: (L-R) Logan Art Gallery's Chris Bennie, Briar Faulkner, and Nadya Wilson, with M&G QLD's Andrea Higgins and Sharna Barker, installing *Afghanistan* at Logan Art Gallery.

More than 120 people attended the opening event, filling the Gallery with a sense of anticipation and curiosity. M&G QLD Exhibitions Coordinator, Andrea



Images: Top: Lorraine Finlay, Human Rights Commissioner, speaking at the opening of *Afghanistan*.

Bottom: Guests attending the *Afghanistan* opening event. Photographs by Louis Lim, courtesy of Logan Art Gallery.

Higgins, and special guest, Lorraine Finlay, Human Rights Commissioner, spoke at the event, highlighting the significance of sharing Andrew Quilty's work with Australian audiences, including the importance of presenting globally relevant stories within regional contexts.

The following day, this energy carried into a dedicated *Afghanistan* Symposium, hosted by Logan Art Gallery and attended by over 60 people. Running across four hours, the symposium created space for deeper engagement with the exhibition's themes, blending discussion, reflection, and live performance.



Image: Andrew Quilty in conversation with Ellie Waterhouse. Photograph by Andrea Higgins, courtesy of M&G QLD.

The morning began with an intimate session featuring Andrew Quilty in conversation with curator Ellie Waterhouse. Together, they unpacked the images at the heart of the exhibition, offering insight into Quilty's decade living in Kabul and the relationships and experiences that shaped his work. It was a thoughtful entry point for audiences, grounding the photographs in his experience while providing context around Afghanistan's culture and history.



Image: Andrew Quilty in conversation with Daniela Gavshon, Australia Director of Human Rights Watch. Photograph by Andrea Higgins, courtesy of M&G QLD.

The second session shifted the focus outward, examining the broader implications of Western involvement in conflict-affected regions. Quilty was joined by Daniela Gavshon, Australia Director of Human Rights Watch, for a wide-ranging discussion

that connected the personal narratives within the exhibition to global political realities. The conversation encouraged audiences to consider not just what they were seeing, but how those stories are framed and understood.

A pause in the program offered a change of tone, as guests gathered in the Gallery's courtyard for tea and a moving live performance by Afghan-born singer-songwriter Zahra Elham.

Zahra Elham is a renowned Afghan-Australian artist and Afghan Star winner and features in Quilty's exhibition. Her presence added a deeply human dimension to the day, connecting the exhibition's themes to the here and now. Supported by BEMAC and SSI, the performance was one of the many highlights for those attending the symposium. Our thanks to Hannah Attwood, National Arts and Culture manager, BEMAC and SSI, and Rose Vearing, Head of Community Health & Wellbeing, SSI, for their tremendous support.



Images: Zahra Elham performing at the symposium event at Logan Art Gallery. Photographs by Andrea Higgins, courtesy of M&G QLD.

exhibition touring & development program

The final session brought Quilty and Waterhouse back together with Elham to reflect on the human and economic costs of war, as well as the differing experiences of life in Afghanistan. Drawing on images from the later stages of Quilty's time in Kabul, including the fall of the city, the discussion was both sobering and deeply affecting. Elham's perspective, as someone who has lived through these realities, added a powerful layer to the conversation.

The weekend was rounded out with Andrew Quilty delivering an insightful *Photographing in Public*

workshop on Sunday, which was enjoyed by all who participated.

Together, the opening weekend demonstrated the power of touring exhibitions. At Logan Art Gallery, *Afghanistan* became a space for listening, learning, and exchange, showing how audiences are not only ready for complex and challenging content but also eager to engage with it and learn.



Image: Zahra Elham, Andrew Quilty in conversation with Ellie Waterhouse. Photograph by Andrea Higgins, courtesy of M&G QLD.



Images: Above: Andrew Quilty conducting his *Photographing in Public* workshop at Logan. Photograph courtesy of Logan Art Gallery. Below: (L-R) Niomi Sands, Chris Bennie, Zahra Elham, Ellie Waterhouse, Andrew Quilty, Andrea Higgins, Sharna Barker, Jimmi James (Heckler), Grainne Schafer and Angela Golding (Goldi Design). Photograph by Louis Lim, courtesy of Logan Art Gallery.



"It has been a privilege to be involved in the installation and presentation of the exhibition, and I would like to extend particular thanks to Andrew and Ellie for your vision, generosity, and passion for the project. Seeing the exhibition come together so powerfully was a testament to your care and commitment, and to the collaborative spirit shared by everyone involved.

Thank you also to Andrea, Sharna, Rebekah, Hannah for your leadership and support in bringing all elements together. The exhibition installation itself, alongside the performance, symposium and workshop, created a rich and considered experience that resonated deeply with audiences and participants alike.

The symposium was a particular highlight, bringing insight, warmth and moments of joy, and the workshop offered an equally meaningful opportunity for learning and exchange.

What a wonderful start for this extraordinary exhibition tour."

Niomi Sands, Manager Creative Industries,
City of Logan.

The exhibition was next displayed at Noosa Regional Gallery, QLD, from 24 April until 14 June 2026, and is touring nationally until 2029.



Image: Andrew Quilty at the opening of *Afghanistan* at Noosa Regional Gallery. Photograph by Harley Waterhouse.

Top right: *Afghanistan* exhibition catalogue and Education Resource, designed by Goldi Design.

Right: Jimmi James, Heckler, filming Andrew Quilty speaking about the exhibition. Photograph courtesy of Ellie Waterhouse.

The exhibition is supported by a beautiful catalogue featuring essays by Quilty, Waterhouse, and Human Rights Commissioner, Lorraine Finlay; curriculum linked Education Resource written by Waterhouse; and a short film documenting Quilty's time in Afghanistan and exhibition insights directed by Waterhouse, with cinematography and editing by Jimmi James, and sponsored by Heckler.

Afghanistan is a Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) touring exhibition presented in partnership with photojournalist and author Andrew Quilty, and curator Ellie Waterhouse. This project has been assisted by the Australian Government's Visions of Australia program. It is proudly sponsored by Heckler and supported by Human Rights Watch.

exhibition touring & development program

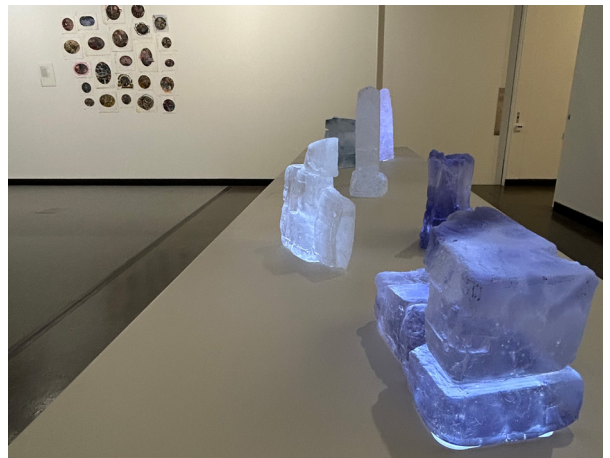
POSTWORLD – QANTAS Founders Museum, Longreach

Co-curated by Kate O’Hara and Daniel Qualischefski from Umbrella Studio Contemporary Arts, Townsville, *POSTWORLD* features Australian artists who create parallel universes. Audiences are invited into the playful, sublime, poetic and cautionary elements of this exhibition. Drawing on the detritus of human experience, these worlds have their own internal languages, existing in alternate time and space.

On 24 March 2026, M&G QLD’s Exhibitions Coordinator, Andrea Higgins, flew into a very green Longreach to install *POSTWORLD* in the QANTAS Founders Museum’s exhibition gallery. She was collected from the airport by Tony Cullen, CEO of the QANTAS Founders Museum, and after depositing her bags at Saltbush Retreat, was introduced to the Museum and its staff.

During her four-day visit, Andrea oversaw the installation of the exhibition in the gallery spaces alongside David Masel, Assistant Curator at the QANTAS Founders Museum.

M&G QLD would like to thank both David and Tony for their excellent recommendations regarding accommodation and dining in Longreach. A special thank you to Tony for the bottle of insect repellent that meant Andrea only attracted a hundred midge bites instead of a million, thanks to the recent rain!



Images: Top: Jenny Mulcahy’s *Plight of the Benthos* displayed in the *POSTWORLD* exhibition at the QANTAS Founders Museum, Longreach. Centre: David Masel, Assistant Curator at the QANTAS Founders Museum installing Ron McBurnie, Catherine Parker and Stephen Spurrier’s, *Cosmic Witness series 1-48* featured in the *POSTWORLD* exhibition. Bottom: Sunset in Longreach. Photographs by Andrea Higgins, courtesy of M&G QLD.

Image: Exhibitions Coordinator, Andrea Higgins installing Jenny Mulcahy’s *Plight of the Benthos* in the *POSTWORLD* exhibition at the QANTAS Founders Museum, Longreach. Image courtesy of M&G QLD.



Image: (L-R) David Masel, Stephen Spurrier, Catherine Parker, Ron McBurnie and Kate O'Hara pictured at the opening of *POSTWORLD*. Courtesy of Catherine Parker.

The exhibition opened on Saturday, 11 April and included a Curator and *Cosmic Witness* Artist Talk with artists Ron McBurnie, Catherine Parker and Stephen Spurrier, and co-curator Kate O'Hara.

The following day, artists Ron McBurnie, Catherine Parker and Stephen Spurrier conducted a *Cosmic Witness Collaboration Workshop* working with students from Longreach State High School. The artists reported that it was a great experience teaching these students who showed so much passion and initiative for the creative process.



Image: (L-R) Catherine Parker, Ron McBurnie and Stephen Spurrier arrive in Longreach. Courtesy of Catherine Parker.

POSTWORLD is a touring initiative co-curated by Kate O'Hara and Daniel Qualischefski, developed by Umbrella Studio Contemporary Arts (Umbrella), commissioned by NAFA and toured by Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD). This project has been assisted by the Aust Government's Visions of Australia program & by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland.



Image: Guests viewing *Three Echoes - Western Desert Art* at the opening event at Logan Art Gallery, QLD. Photograph by Louis Lim, courtesy of Logan Art Gallery.

***Three Echoes - Western Desert Art* last venue as national tour comes to an end**

M&G QLD's Exhibitions Coordinator, Andrea Higgins, and Exhibition Program Officer, Nadya Wilson, had the pleasure of working at the Logan Art Gallery in April, to support the installation and condition reporting of the *Three Echoes - Western Desert Art* exhibition at its final tour venue.

Curated by Djon Mundine OAM FAHA, celebrated curator, writer, artist and activist, *Three Echoes - Western Desert Art*, showcases 83 artworks by 57 acclaimed artists from the Ikuntji (Haasts Bluff), Papunya and Utopia Aboriginal communities in the Western Desert regions of the Northern Territory, Australia.

Also being installed at the Gallery at this time was *Thread: Connecting Stories and Community*, an exhibition that traces the relationships between garments and the histories, labour and knowledge systems of First Peoples, and offers pathways for deeper cross-cultural understanding. This beautiful exhibition was co-designed and co-curated by the National Portrait Gallery, Logan Art Gallery, and local artists and creatives as a pilot project to develop new ways of working with communities across Australia.

It was a strong pairing of exhibitions that shared significant and important First Nations practice, culture and stories. Our staff enjoyed meeting staff travelling from the National Portrait Gallery and having lunch with them and the Logan team.

exhibition touring & development program

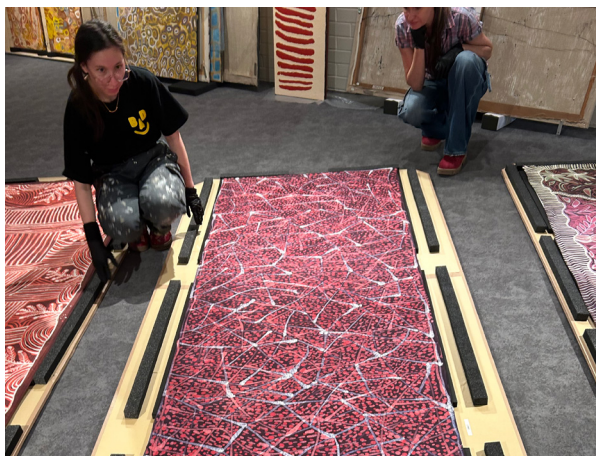


Image: Exhibition Program Officer Nadya Wilson and Sylva Cooper assessing Gloria Petyarre's *Body Painting* batik artwork during the installation of the *Three Echoes* exhibition at the Logan Art Gallery. Photograph by Andrea Higgins, courtesy of M&G QLD.

Andrea and Nadya convey their special thanks to Chris Bennie, Niomi Sands, Lizzie Walker, Briar Faulkner, Rowan Hamlett, Sylva Cooper and Lesley Nicholson, who were a pleasure to work with and extremely supportive. They particularly enjoyed the lovely morning coffees and treats!

M&G QLD's Executive Director, Rebekah Butler, and Exhibition Program Officer, Nadya Wilson, were proud to join the *Three Echoes - Western Desert Art* opening event at Logan Art Gallery on 17 April for its thirteenth and final venue. Having been shared with around 65,000 people across the country, the exhibition's journey speaks not only to the strength and beauty of the works showcased in the exhibition, but also to the deep interest audiences have in contemporary Aboriginal art and the stories, knowledge and cultural connections embedded within these works.

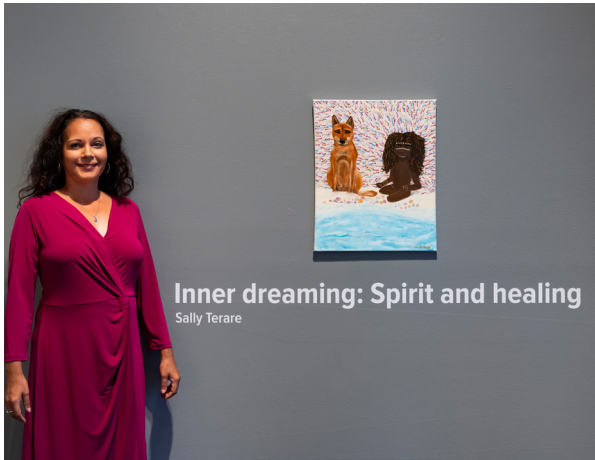
Rebekah and Nadya celebrated this important occasion alongside local Traditional Elders, exhibition curator, Djon Mundine, Logan Art Gallery staff, Councillors, and members of the wider community.

The opening was made all the more meaningful through the warm Welcome to Country delivered by Alexis Coolwell and Lucy Davis, who also conducted a smoking ceremony before guests entered the Gallery. Their generosity, presence and cultural

Images: Top right: Djon Mundine speaking at the opening of the *Three Echoes - Western Desert Art* exhibition at the Logan Art Gallery. Centre: Lucy Davis conducting the smoking ceremony. Bottom: Alexis Coolwell warmly welcoming guests to Country. Photographs by Louis Lim, courtesy of Logan Art Gallery.

leadership created a powerful and welcoming atmosphere for the evening, and we extend our sincere thanks for their important contribution.





Inner dreaming: Spirit and healing
Sally Terare



Images: Top: Local artist Sally Terare at the opening of her exhibition at Logan Art Gallery, taking place alongside *Three Echoes - Western Desert Art*.
Bottom: Guests viewing the *Thread: Connecting Stories and Community* exhibition concurrently on display.
Photographs by Louis Lim, courtesy of Logan Art Gallery.



Image: Top (L-R) Chris Bennie, Karin Schack, Andrew Arnott, Rebekah Butler and Niomi Sands. Pictured in front of batiks by Gloria Petyarre and Rosie Pwerle, from the Anmatyerre language group. Photo by Briar Faulkner.
Bottom: Andrew Arnott viewing the exhibition at Logan Art Gallery. Courtesy of M&G QLD.

Guests also heard from Gallery Coordinator, Chris Bennie, M&G QLD's Executive Director, who reflected on the significance of the exhibition, and from curator Djon Mundine, a proud Bundjalung man, who shared insights into the development and history of the exhibition, how the collection came to be, and his role in this major touring initiative.

Also opening alongside *Three Echoes - Western Desert Art* was *Inner dreamings: Spirit and Healing* by local Springwood artist, Sally Terare. Guests attending the opening events not only had the pleasure of viewing Sally's exhibition and *Three Echoes*, but also *Thread: Connecting Stories and Community*.

Three Echoes - Western Desert Art was displayed at Logan Art Gallery from 11 April to 13 June 2026. In its final week, collectors, Andrew Arnott and Karin Schack, travelled to Logan to view the exhibition, where M&G QLD's Executive Director, had the pleasure of introducing them to the Gallery's team and sharing the success of the exhibition's display in the Logan community.

Three echoes - Western Desert Art is an initiative of Museums & Galleries Queensland developed in partnership with Karin Schack and Andrew Arnott, and curated by Djon Mundine OAM FAHA. This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through its Visions of Australia program and through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body. It is supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland.

training & professional development program

CHG Skills Workshops in Far North Queensland

In July 2026, our Training & Professional Development Officer, Madeleine Green, and Information Officer, Ben O'Dwyer, will facilitate four free workshops in Cairns and Atherton. These workshops are supported by the Australian Government's Community Heritage Grant program:



Image: Olivia Robinson. Photograph by Lewis James Media, 2023. Courtesy of Olivia Robinson.

First Nations Collections and Contemporary Collecting

Presented by Olivia Robinson, a proud Bidjara woman, this practical full-day workshop is aimed at volunteer-run, community museums and galleries. It will cover essential information and skills for best practice in caring for First Nations collections and in contemporary collecting.

The workshop will be presented at Cairns Art Gallery on 28 July 2026, and again at the Atherton Coordination Centre on 30 July 2026.

About Olivia Robinson

With a love of collections and storytelling, Olivia has worked in cultural heritage and community engagement for 30 years. Olivia's experience is as a manager, strategist, curator, creator, researcher, and facilitator across libraries and museums. She has contributed her knowledge and expertise to multiple leadership bodies advising government at

all levels and across disciplines. Currently, Olivia leads curation and engagement with collections and is a former Queensland-Smithsonian Fellow with qualifications in history, business, and public relations. Olivia's traditional Country is in southwest Queensland.



Image: Christine Ianna. Courtesy of Christine Ianna.

Disaster Preparedness

Presented by Christine Ianna, this full-day workshop will equip staff and volunteers of museums and galleries with the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively plan and prepare for natural disasters. It will provide participants with strategies and practical tools to develop their own disaster preparedness plan, mitigate risks and care for their collections and organisations.

The workshop will be presented at Cairns Art Gallery on 29 July 2026, and again at the Atherton Coordination Centre on 31 July 2026.

About Christine Ianna

Christine Ianna, is a museum conservationist of 40 years. Christine has held positions with the Queensland Museum, Queensland State Archives and State Library of Queensland. She is a member of the Australian Society of Archivists (QLD Branch) and is on the Disaster Preparedness Committee of the Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Material (AICCM).

For more information or to register for these workshops, visit www.magsq.com.au, email

information@magsq.com.au or call 07 3059 9740.

These workshops are funded by the Community Heritage Grants (CHG) program, which is an Australian Government partnership between the Office for the Arts; and four national collecting institutions - the National Archives of Australia; the National Film and Sound Archive of Australia; the National Museum of Australia and the National Library of Australia (who manages the program on behalf of the partners).

End of an Era: M&G QLD's Final Guest Lecture to UQ Museum Studies Students

On 27 March 2026, M&G QLD marked a significant moment in its long-standing relationship with The University of Queensland (UQ) by delivering its final annual guest lecture to students in the Master of Museum Studies program. Presented by Executive Director Rebekah Butler, the lecture explored the foundations of museum and gallery operations in contemporary practice, including governance frameworks, organisational structures, human resource management, financial stewardship, and stakeholder engagement. In touching on these themes, she spoke about sector-wide expectations for museums and galleries to operate with transparency, accountability, and strategic vision while responding to community needs and cultural responsibilities.

Back in the office, M&G QLD staff reflected on the significance of this final lecture and the relationship between M&G QLD and UQ's Museum Studies program over its twenty-year history. The program has fostered strong connections between academia and industry, with M&G QLD contributing through annual guest lectures, facilitating student placements, and collaborating on industry seminars in partnership with The University of Queensland Art Museum. These initiatives provided students with valuable practical insights and professional pathways, bridging theoretical study with real-world experience, as well as fostering important networking and discussion across the sector.

M&G QLD acknowledges the contributions of the various course convenors and staff we have worked with over this period, and who shaped the program across its lifespan, including Professor Dr. Amareswar Galla, Gillian Ridsdale, Dr Gary Hickey, Dr Graeme Were, Hon. Associate Professor Diana Young, Dr Caroline Wilson-Barnao, Lisa Enright, and Dr Madeleine King. Their collective efforts

provided an important training ground for museum professionals in Queensland and beyond.



Image: Radar Bear and Robby Rabbit beading at the Teddy Bears' Picnic. Courtesy of M&G QLD.

Teddy Bears' Picnic, Industry Networking Event, Mount Coot-tha

M&G QLD partnered with the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) QLD to deliver a Gallery, Library, Archives, Museum and Records Management (GLAMR) networking event on Saturday, 20 June at the Botanic Gardens, Mount Coot-tha.

Held on the picturesque Fig Tree Lawns, this was a relaxed day out with colleagues. Thanks to Ashleigh Lowrey, ALIA QLD Secretary, for organising, and to Erin, Jack and the team from Fraser Coast Libraries, Hervey Bay, for providing the large-scale Connect Four and other games to entertain us. We also enjoyed learning about the dedicated Makerspace at Cleveland Library, Redland City Council, and doing some beading with their team members attending the event.

sector news

New appointments/staff changes

Nathan Schroeder has left Artspace Mackay as the Curator, with Jim Cullen filling this role.

Angela Goddard was appointed Director of the Cairns Art Gallery, following ten years as Director of Griffith University Art Museum. Angela commenced in this role in early 2026.

Renai Grace was announced as Chief Executive Officer of Queensland Museum, after previously holding the position of Deputy Director within the organisation. Renai commenced in this role in early 2026 following Dr Jim Thompson's retirement in December 2025.

Bianca Acimovic has stepped into a new role as Director, Corporate and Community Services at Barcaldine Regional Council.

Nina Pye was appointed Museum Manager at The Abbey Museum of Art & Archaeology, Caboolture.

Sophie Chapman left her role as Exhibitions Producer, at the State Library of Queensland to take up the position of Gallery Curator at The Condensery | Sommerset Regional Gallery.

Sonia Warrell has joined the team at Umbrella Studio Contemporary Arts, Townsville, as their new Marketing and Communications Manager.

QAGOMA's long-standing Curator of Contemporary Asian Art, Reuben Keehan, was appointed as the inaugural Artistic Director of the new Kontempo - Centre for Contemporary Art, Philippines.

Sarah Johnson has left her role as Senior Curator at QANTAS Founders Museum to take up a new position as Head of Collections at The Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory.

Phil Manning has been appointed Curator at Museum of Brisbane.

Jonathon McBurnie has left his position as Director at Rockhampton Museum of Art (RMOA) to take up a new role, as Director, Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery in Launceston, Tasmania. Shanna Muston is currently acting Director at RMOA.

HOTA's new Curatorial and Engagement Manager is Pippa Mott, who joined the team earlier this year.

Bridget Purtill, has been appointed to the role of Senior Learning and Engagement Officer at Caloundra Regional Gallery. Bridget relocated from NSW, where she was the Curator at the Glasshouse Regional Gallery, Port Macquarie.

Trudie Leigo has recently moved to Canberra to join the Art Across Australia team at the National Gallery of Australia.

Madeleine Johns has been appointed to the role of Social History Project Curator at Museum of Brisbane.

Celebrating 40 Years of Umbrella Studio Contemporary Arts

On 16 May, M&G QLD's Executive Director, Rebekah Butler, and Exhibitions Coordinator, Andrea Higgins, were fortunate to attend a special event hosted by Brian Tucker to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Umbrella Studio Contemporary Arts: a milestone that speaks volumes about the strength, resilience, and vision of the organisation.

The event brought together a special mix of long-time supporters, artists, Umbrella staff and Board members, and colleagues from across the sector. It was a fitting reflection of the diverse and connected community that Umbrella has cultivated over four decades.

Director Kate O'Hara and Treasurer Brian Tucker both spoke beautifully, acknowledging not only the organisation's significant achievements but also the many individuals, partnerships, and moments that have shaped its journey. Their reflections highlighted Umbrella's enduring impact, from nurturing emerging artists to fostering meaningful engagement within the broader community.

For Rebekah, attending in her capacity as a partner organisation, and as a past Director of Umbrella, the event was particularly special. During her time in Townsville, she had the unique opportunity to experience Umbrella's evolution firsthand, including three key relocations that marked important chapters in its story. From its home on the Bridge

under Robert Barton's leadership, to Flinders Street Mall, and later to the old gas building at 482 Flinders Street. These moves weren't just physical; they symbolised growth, shifting needs, and a continued commitment to remaining accessible and relevant to North Queensland's vibrant arts community.

Umbrella has always placed people at its heart, creating spaces where artists can take risks, audiences can connect, and ideas can flourish. That commitment has been a defining strength across its 40-year history, and it was evident in many of the conversations and stories being shared by guests. Our congratulations to Kate and the team, and all those who have contributed to Umbrella's journey, past and present. It was lovely to be part of the celebrations!



Image: Kate O'Hara and Brian Tucker (left) speaking to invited guests at Umbrella Studio's celebratory event, held on 16 May. Photograph by Andrea Higgins.

EOI to host the next SEQ Small Museums Conference

M&G QLD is seeking expressions of interest from community museums or collecting organisations to host the 2027 Small Museums Conference.

The Small Museums Conference has traditionally been run over a weekend and focuses on issues relevant to the small to medium museum and collections sector. The host organisation is responsible for the planning and delivery of the Conference, with M&G QLD providing support through promotion, assistance with speaker ideas,

contacts, collecting feedback and evaluating the event.

The Small Museums Conference is a great opportunity to showcase your region and your organisation, and provides valuable opportunities for networking and information sharing.

The Small Museums Conference has been running since 2005, with previous hosts including: The Abbey Museum of Art and Archaeology, Caboolture; Kingaroy Heritage Museum; Discover Eumundi Heritage & Visitor Centre; Brisbane's Living Heritage Network; Glennie Archives, Toowoomba; Gold Coast Heritage, Gold Coast City Council; Maryborough City Council; and Redland Museum in partnership with North Stradbroke Island Historical Museum.

Please contact M&G QLD to express your interest in hosting the next Small Museums Conference.

Regional Arts Services Network (RASN) Update

On 18 March, the Queensland Government announced its refresh of the Regional Arts Services Network.

Topology was appointed to lead the delivery and statewide management of RASN in 2026-2027.

The five Queensland artform providers, with regionally-based arts advisors are:

- artisan – craft and design
- Ausdance QLD – dance
- Flying Arts Alliance – visual arts
- Jute – theatre
- QMusic - music

For more information and for staff contacts, visit the RASN website <https://rasn.au>

sector news

Wins at National Trust of Australia (Queensland) Heritage Awards

Sunshine Coast Council was announced the winner of the Significance Project 2019–2022 category at the prestigious National Trust of Australia (Queensland) Heritage Awards for its *Sunshine Coast Heritage Plan 2021-2031*.

This award-winning plan provides a comprehensive strategy to protect, manage, and interpret the region's rich history and cultural heritage, and is now being used as a model for other local government authorities (LGAs) developing their own strategic approaches to heritage management.

In developing the plan, Council's Cultural Heritage Services team worked closely with historians, heritage professionals, Traditional Owners, and the wider community to gather stories, records, and knowledge that enrich the region's shared history. This collaborative approach has strengthened planning outcomes and fostered a deeper public appreciation of the Sunshine Coast's unique heritage.



Image: Fiona Gardiner PSM (Board Director National Trust QLD), Peter Connell (Coordinator Cultural Heritage Services, Sunshine Coast Council) and Mark Townend AM (President National Trust QLD). Courtesy of National Trust QLD.

The Council was also shortlisted in the Interpretation, Exhibitions, Tours, Collections 2023-2025 category for its Historian in Residence Program. This initiative has delivered a range of projects, including exhibitions, talks, tours, publications and digital stories. Highlights include

the annual *Grassroots to Glory* sporting exhibition at Landsborough Museum, presented in the lead-up to the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Sunshine Coast Council Strong Community Portfolio Councillor David Law said,

"The Sunshine Coast Heritage Plan 2021-2031, developed with community consultation, gives Council a clear, practical framework to guide how we identify, protect and manage our heritage assets, making sure they're properly considered as our region continues to grow."

"Heritage isn't just about preserving old places – it's about recognising what makes the Sunshine Coast unique and making sure we carry that forward as we plan for the future."

"Five years in, we're seeing the Heritage Plan translate into action, from grants supporting local museums to hands-on conservation work."

"The Historian in Residence program, community heritage activations at places like Bankfoot House and Landsborough Museum, and the digitisation of more than 20,000 images from the Bill Robinson archive are just some of the ways the Heritage Plan is bringing our local history to the fore."

The National Trust's recognition highlights the importance of a proactive and collaborative approach to heritage management. It demonstrates how long-term planning can safeguard cultural heritage, ensuring that a region's stories, places, and character are valued and protected for future generations.

The achievements of The University of Queensland Anthropology Museum were also recognised at the National Trust of Australia (Queensland) Heritage Awards, receiving a Highly Commended honour in the First Nations category for its *Kirrenderri, Heart of the Channel Country* touring exhibition.

Our congratulations to the Cultural Heritage Services team at Sunshine Coast Council, and The University of Queensland Anthropology Museum on these outstanding achievements.



Image: Forgan Smith Tower, The University of Queensland.
Courtesy of The University of Queensland.

New Home for UQ Art Museum Celebrating 50 years

In 2026, The University of Queensland Art Museum (UQAM) celebrates 50 years of supporting art, artists, education, and community. This anniversary coincides with plans for the opening of a new purpose-built, architecturally designed art gallery located inside the historic Forgan Smith Tower in 2027. Many of us will remember that this was the Museum's former home, when it was founded in 1976. The location may be familiar, but the Museum will be very different, with custom spaces for contemporary installations as well as ways to integrate object-based teaching, learning and research.

To mark this pivotal moment of reflection and renewal, UQ Art Museum has launched a new program, titled *groundwork*. Central to the program are opportunities for connection and exchange. Through conversations, workshops, pop-ups, masterclasses, performances, and professional development, *groundwork* brings together artists, students, researchers, and communities.

groundwork is a prelude to UQAM's next chapter. In celebrating 50 years, the Museum is honouring its history, and laying the foundations for this exciting new phase. Our congratulations to UQAM in its 50th year!

Image: Right: Jousting at the Abbey Medieval Festival. Photograph by Glenn Morris Courtesy of Abbey Museum of Art & Archaeology.

Abbey Museum's Award-Winning Momentum Signals a Standout Year

The Abbey Museum of Art & Archaeology is enjoying a defining moment in 2026, with a series of national, state and regional accolades reinforcing its position as a unique cultural attraction in Queensland.

Based in Caboolture, approximately one hour north of Brisbane, the Abbey Museum has built a reputation for combining immersive public programming, strong educational engagement, and thoughtful visitor experience. This year, that work has translated into a remarkable run of recognition across the tourism industry and business sectors.

In March 2026, the Museum's iconic Abbey Medieval Festival, which celebrates its 35th anniversary this year, took out Gold at the Australian Tourism Awards in the Festivals & Events category, officially making it the best festival in the country! The national win followed the Festival's earlier Gold at the 2025 Queensland Tourism Industry Council Tourism Awards, confirming the event's standing as a leading tourism experience.

For a regional, community-driven organisation, these achievements are especially significant. Each year, the Abbey Medieval Festival transforms the Museum grounds into the immersive medieval village of Abbeystowe, complete with jousting, reenactments, artisan markets and interactive experiences. The scale of the event is considerable, supported by more than 1,000 reenactors and performers and over 300 volunteers, while drawing tens of thousands of visitors.



sector news



Image: Celebrations at the Australian Tourism Awards.
Courtesy of Abbey Museum of Art & Archaeology.

Adding to its growing list of honours, the Abbey Museum has also been named the winner in the 2026 Pumicestone Business Excellence Awards in the Tourism & Attractions category. The recognition highlights the Abbey Museum's role not only as a cultural destination but as a meaningful contributor to the region's economy.

The Abbey Museum houses an impressive collection of approximately 5,200 artefacts spanning more than one million years. It also engages more than 10,000 students annually through its learning programs, underscoring its important role in preserving, displaying, interpreting, researching, and acquiring objects that tell the human story, as well as its significance as a public-facing cultural attraction and educational resource.

Additionally, the Abbey Museum has recently achieved Quality Tourism Accreditation through the Queensland Tourism Industry Council, further signalling its commitment to sustainable tourism and high-quality visitor experiences.

Leadership has also entered a new phase, with Nina Pye appointed Museum Manager at the Abbey Museum of Art & Archaeology. The appointment comes at a time of continued growth and builds on the success of the Museum's recently completed capital works, including the new gallery extension, and sector recognition.

Looking ahead, the Abbey Museum's 40th anniversary programming and major public

events, including the Abbey History Festival, 26-27 September 2026, suggest that this momentum is far from temporary. Rather, it reflects the power of its community and supporters, organisational leadership, strategic investment, and an understanding of how determination and hard work can deliver meaningful impact across multiple fronts.

Our congratulations to the team at the Abbey Museum – it's wonderful to see your efforts being rewarded!

King's Birthday 2026 Honours List

The King's Birthday 2026 Honours List recognised 949 Australians, including awards in the Order of Australia. This year's list included 10 Queenslanders, honoured for their work across the arts and cultural heritage sector:

- Annabelle Alexander for service to the arts, and to the community
- Douglas Alexander for service to the arts, and to the community
- Dr Bianca Beetson for significant service to Indigenous art as an educator, curator and artist
- Jacqueline Gasson for service to the arts as a ceramicist
- Christine Grant for significant service to preserving Indigenous culture and heritage
- Dr Rodney Kirkpatrick for service to community history
- Neville Male for service to photography
- Dr Hope O'Chin for significant service to the Indigenous community as an artist and educator
- Ian Sobbe for service to palaeontology
- Karen Wallwork for service to community history

M&G QLD congratulates each of the recipients for their outstanding contributions to our sector.



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M&G QLD's industry newsletter, *source*, is published two times per year and provides updates on M&G QLD programs, events and services along with Queensland sector news.

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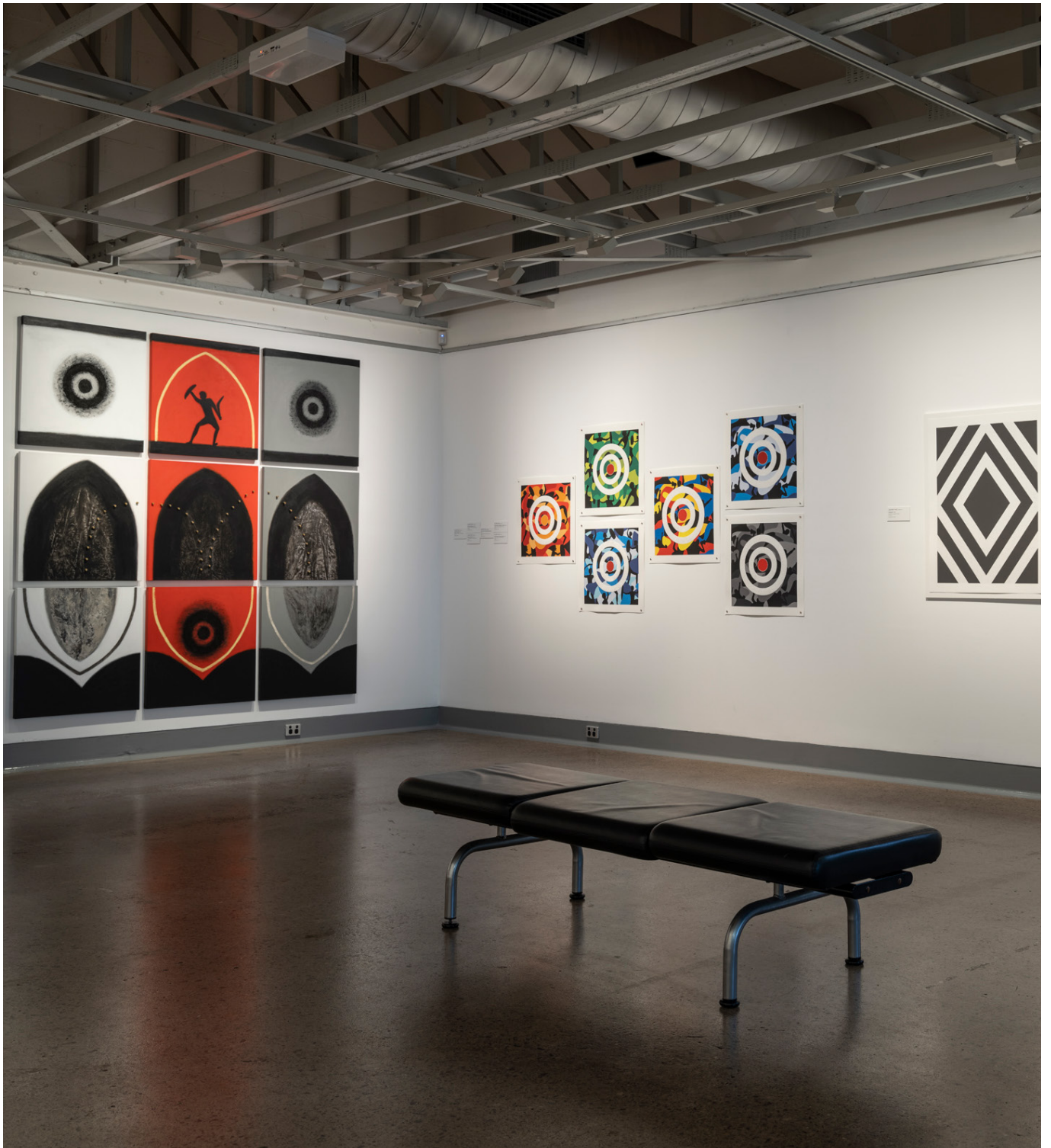


Image: *Veiled Histories: Works by leading First Nations artists - Jennifer Herd (MBarbarum) and Joanne Currie Nalingu (Gungurri)* displayed at Caloundra Regional Gallery. Photograph by Carl Warner. The exhibition will commence its national tour at The University of Queensland Anthropology Museum, St Lucia, QLD, on 25 September 2026.

Veiled Histories: Works by leading First Nations artists - Jennifer Herd (MBarbarum) and Joanne Currie Nalingu (Gungurri) is a touring exhibition curated by Caloundra Regional Gallery, and FireWorks Gallery, and presented in partnership with Sunshine Coast Council and Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD). This project has been assisted by the Australian Government's Visions of Australia program. M&G QLD and this project are supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland.

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