

14/10/2019

CRAIG MAHER

Winner at State Awards

The Winners and Finalists of the **2019 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards** (GAMAA) were proudly announced on Thursday 19 September at a special presentation event, held at the recently opened Cairns Performing Arts Centre, Far North Queensland.

Craig Maher, Volunteer with the Cairns RSL Sub-branch – Kokoda Hall Museum, was announced as **Winner** for his outstanding achievement in the category of **Individuals: Volunteer**.

Since commencing as a volunteer for the Cairns RSL Sub-Branch Kokoda Hall Museum after discharging from the Royal Australian Navy in 2011, Craig has made an outstanding contribution towards improving the material state of the Museum exhibits, initiating and implementing new displays, and sourcing new items of memorabilia. His contributions, enthusiasm and vision have combined to establish him as a role model for his fellow Museum volunteers and has inspired them to undertake further important initiatives.

Craig has demonstrated exemplary professionalism in delivering outcomes that add value to the Museum's collection. He has contributed to raising the standards of practice of the Kokoda Hall Museum, with some of his notable achievements including:

- refurbishment of over 100 Military crests and remounting on dedicated display boards which he manufactured;
- construction and installation of cabinets for weapons in a dedicated collection for display;
- sourcing of historically significant uniforms and cleaning and refurbishment of the uniforms for display;
- construction of a mezzanine storage area by reinforcing the roof of the Museum's Vietnam War exhibit "Bob's Bunker", with an authentic façade for "Bob's Bunker"; and
- sourcing funding for a 1/50 scale model of Cairns-based Attack Class Patrol Boat *HMAS Barricade* ... to name a few.

Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) Executive Director, Rebekah Butler said,

“Being announced as Winner in this category is testament to Craig’s energy, innovative approach and strategic vision for the direction of the Cairns RSL Sub-Branch Kokoda Hall Museum. His ideas are underpinned by specific themes relevant to the history of Cairns’ important role in the defence of the nation.”

The GAMAA were established by Museums & Galleries Queensland in 2004 to honour the achievements of our State’s individuals and organisations in striving towards excellence.

Robert Ryan, the Senior Co-ordinator Community Programs for Mackay Regional Council and 2019 GAMAA judge, presented awards to this year’s Winners and Finalists. The Winners received an exquisitely crafted trophy by Queensland artist, Lucy Quinn. Commissioned by M&G QLD, the trophies are generously sponsored by our long-standing Awards supporter, Brian Tucker Accounting.

The awards were hosted at Cairns Performing Arts Centre in front of representatives of Queensland’s public museum and gallery sector, including delegates of M&G QLD’s 2019 State Conference, *Opening Doors*, also presented in Cairns.

M&G QLD acknowledges the tremendous support of the 2019 GAMAA sponsors: Brandi Projects; Cairns Regional Council; Brian Tucker Accounting; Public Galleries Queensland; and Australian Museums and Galleries Association (Queensland).

For the full list of GAMAA Winners and Finalists see: <http://www.magsq.com.au/cms/page.asp?ID=5036>

For media enquiries or images, please contact:

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