

2/11/2017

[EMBARGOED UNTIL 9PM THURSDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2017]

DAVID MASON
Volunteer Archivist, Beaudesert Museum
Historical Society of Beaudesert
Recognised at State Awards

The strength, ingenuity and talents of Queensland's public galleries and museums were triumphantly demonstrated tonight with the announcement of the winners of the **2017 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards** (GAMAA) at a gala presentation event, proudly hosted by Old Government House, QUT.

David Mason, a volunteer Archivist with the Beaudesert Museum, Historical Society of Beaudesert Inc. was **recognised as a Finalist** for his outstanding achievement in the category of 'Individuals – Volunteer.'

David Mason has been a dedicated member of the Historical Society of Beaudesert for a number of years, during which time he has used his training and abilities as a former professional at the State Library of Queensland to greatly enhance the work of the Museum within the community. One of David's greatest achievements has been the indexing of thousands of the Museum's files, both as paper records and as a searchable online document – over 1,600 pages are regularly updated and accessed by historians, students, and family history researchers. David has also researched and written a 363-page book and numerous historical booklets on topics relevant to the Beaudesert region.

Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) Executive Director, Rebekah Butler said, "Being recognised as a Finalist in this category is testament to the value and appreciation of David Mason's contribution to the Beaudesert Museum. His generosity in sharing his experience and expertise has inspired other volunteers to assist with the mammoth task of indexing the Museum's collection.'

David Mason has been a tremendous asset to the Beaudesert Museum in promoting the importance of recording local history, and ensuring that the Museum provides a safe repository that can be accessed by the community and future generations. His research and publications, such as his book containing the records of over 600 soldiers and nurses from the Beaudesert area who served in the First World War, have not only generated income for the Museum but leave a valuable legacy for the community.

Ms Butler said, "This year's winners and finalists stood out from an exceptional group of nominations. These accolades embody outstanding examples of our sector's achievements, professional excellence, and innovation. They also highlight the valuable contribution and achievements of professionals and volunteers working in our industry."

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.

Winners of the 2017 GAMAA received an exquisite trophy crafted by Queensland artist, Lincoln Austin. Commissioned by M&G QLD, the trophies are generously sponsored by our long-standing Awards supporter, Brian Tucker Accounting.

For media enquiries or images, please contact:

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