

14/10/2019

LOGAN ART GALLERY, LOGAN CITY COUNCIL

Winner at State Awards – Four Years Running!

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.

Logan Art Gallery, Logan City Council was announced as **Winner** for outstanding achievement in the category of Engagement: Organisations with Paid Staff for its project, ***He kākano āhau (I am a seed)***.

He kākano āhau (I am a seed) showcased contemporary Māori arts and culture at Logan Art Gallery in late 2018. This remarkable project comprised an exhibition of artworks by local Māori artists; a large collaborative artwork made by Logan's Māori community under the guidance of artists; and complementary public programs including a cultural family fun day.

In initiating and planning this project, Logan Art Gallery was specifically seeking to engage with the local Māori community, the largest non-European community in Logan.

He kākano āhau was the result of an extensive period of planning and consultation with local Māori community groups as well as Australian and New Zealand First Nation Elders. It formed part of a long-term strategy to highlight and celebrate the various cultural influences that richly contribute to Logan's diverse community and to foster closer relationships between the Gallery and these cultural groups.

A major aim of this project was to create a new collaborative exhibition development model, which allows greater accessibility and ownership for diverse cultural communities working with Logan Art Gallery. Gallery staff saw themselves as facilitators, and not decision makers. A Coordinator was contracted by the Gallery

to provide a liaison between the artists, the Māori community and the Gallery; to provide cultural advice; and to mentor the Māori artists.

Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) Executive Director, Rebekah Butler said, "Logan Art Gallery, Logan City Council is to be congratulated for winning a GAMAA for the fourth consecutive year – a remarkable achievement in itself!"

Ms Butler continued "*He kākano āhau (I am a seed)* is a wonderful initiative that once again demonstrates Logan's commitment to empowering its local artists and community. The project has established a new model for how the Gallery inclusively engages with its culturally diverse community, reaches new audiences and fosters opportunities for inter-cultural exchange."

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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