

14/10/2019

MICHELE PICKERING

Finalist 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.

Michele Pickering, Coordinator of Brisbane's Living Heritage Network, was recognised as a **Finalist** for her outstanding achievement in the category of **Individuals: Paid Staff**.

Described as a quiet achiever, Michele is recognised for her years of service and commitment to Brisbane's heritage sector. In her role as Coordinator at BLHN, Michele identified that a number of the members were struggling to stay open due to rising rates, electricity and insurance costs. Michele used information gleaned from member consultations and research to actively lobby Brisbane City Council and make them aware of the struggles facing Brisbane's heritage sector.

This year, Brisbane City Council announced a new Historical Organisation Assistance Grant Program that will help the heritage sector struggling with day-to-day operational expenses. This new grant can be partly attributed to the persistence of passionate campaigners like Michele.

Museums & Galleries Queensland (**M&G QLD**) **Executive Director, Rebekah Butler said**, "Michele Pickering works hard to advocate for and raise the profile of Brisbane's Living Heritage Network members and to increase public awareness of the heritage sector more broadly. Her passion and enthusiasm for the heritage sector is infectious! So much so that, under her watch, BLHN membership has increased to its highest ever level in 2019."

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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