

10/12/2018

## **MULGRAVE SETTLERS MUSEUM**

### **Winner at State Awards**

The winners of the **2018 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards** (GAMAA) were proudly announced on Friday 7 December at a special presentation event, held at the picturesque **Bankfoot House Heritage Precinct**, Sunshine Coast.

**Mulgrave Settlers Museum** was announced the **Winner** for outstanding achievement in the category of Engagement: Organisations Volunteer Run, for its ***Visiting the Ancestors*** project.

*Visiting the Ancestors* is a remarkable project comprising three sections: Streets Ahead (identifying the people/families that streets were named after); Cataloguing of Graves; and Ghosts of Gordonvale Cemetery and Ghosts of Babinda Cemetery (telling stories of the cemetery inhabitants).

Mulgrave Shire Historical Society was invited by the locally-produced magazine, *Pyramid Views*, to write a regular column about the town's original inhabitants (now buried in the local cemetery) and the Gordonvale streets named after them. Each month, one of the volunteers organises for the family members of several generations to be photographed at the street sign, and an article is written about the person/family the street was named after. Public response to the column has been so great, that it has now grown to a full page!

Cataloguing the graves has involved photographing all of the graves in the Gordonvale Cemetery, and adding basic information to 'Find a Grave'.

When searching for information on the graves, the Society realised that many of the residents had interesting stories contributing to the history of Gordonvale. Initially, they chose to focus on twelve cemetery inhabitants and researched these using oral family history; the Society's

bulletins; published and unpublished books on local family histories; war records; births, deaths and marriage registers; historical newspapers; and TROVE.

The Society worked with students from Gordonvale High School who dressed in period costume and delivered scripts for these characters in front of 200 attendees.

**Museums & Galleries Queensland** (M&G QLD) Executive Director, Rebekah Butler said, "In awarding Mulgrave Settlers Museum Winner in this category, they are recognised for their remarkable efforts to capture and present the inspiring stories of their local community, past and present."

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.

Sunshine Coast Councillor Rick Baberowski presented awards to the Winners and Finalists of the 2018 GAMAA. The Winners received a beautifully crafted trophy by Queensland artist, Bruce Reynolds. Commissioned by M&G QLD, the trophies are generously sponsored by our long-standing Awards supporter, Brian Tucker Accounting.

The awards were hosted at **Bankfoot House Heritage Precinct**, in front of representatives of Queensland's public museum and gallery sector including local and state government stakeholders.

Ms Butler used the GAMAA presentation to acknowledge the wonderful support of the 2018 GAMAA sponsors: the Sunshine Coast Council's Cultural Heritage Levy; Brian Tucker Accounting; Public Galleries Queensland; and Museums Galleries Australia (Queensland). She congratulated not just the winners and finalists, but all those who contribute to and support Queensland's public galleries and museums. She acknowledged the far-reaching impacts of our sector, including its important contribution to the culture and wellbeing of Queensland communities.

**For media enquiries or images, please contact:**

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