

2/11/2017

[EMBARGOED UNTIL 9PM THURSDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2017]

**QANTAS FOUNDERS MUSEUM****Winner 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.

**Qantas Founders Museum**, was **announced the Winner** for outstanding achievement in the category of 'Sustainability: Organisations with Paid Staff' for its nomination ***Powering on Sustainably***.

Five years ago, Qantas Founders Museum recognised that the issue of sustainability was crucial on a number of levels. There was an overarching need to protect and preserve the Museum's exhibits, but also a general concern for the environment and a recognition that one of the major costs to the Museum each year was power, which had the potential to threaten its financial sustainability. A decision was made to convert, as much as possible, to solar power and LED lighting as a staged process. Most directly and urgently, the Museum's 1959 Boeing 707, the first civil jet registered in Australia and a highly significant collection object, needed protection because of the 'VIP' treatment of timber and leather used extensively throughout the interior. A major challenge for the Museum was getting these new power sources inside the aircraft without causing any damage to the structure.

**Museums & Galleries Queensland** (M&G QLD) Executive Director, Rebekah Butler said, "Being recognised as the Winner in this category is testament to Qantas Founders Museum's ability to adopt sustainable energy practices in a way that is financially viable and practical. The project has served as an example to other organisations in the region, who have seen the benefits and have installed similar systems relevant to their needs."

Qantas Founders Museum was the first establishment of its kind in western Queensland to adopt solar power and LED lighting. The project was planned in stages to enable the Museum to 'feel' its way into the new technologies and to ensure that all expenses were kept within operating budgets. Expert advice was obtained for each step and grants assisted with the cost of installing the Stage 2 LED lighting.

The project has delivered greater certainty to the well-being of the Museum's existing collection, while significantly reducing power and maintenance costs, and Museum staff have developed a greater understanding of solar and LED technologies.

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:**

**Rebekah Butler, Executive Director, M&G QLD**

**Museums & Galleries Queensland**

Phone: **07 3059 9740** Freecall: **1800 866 101** Mobile: **0422 579 180**

Email: **rebekah.butler@magsq.com.au** Website: **www.magsq.com.au**

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