

2/11/2017

[EMBARGOED UNTIL 9PM THURSDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2017]

## **QUEENSLAND MUSEUM NETWORK Joint 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.

**Queensland Museum Network**, was **announced the Joint Winner** for outstanding achievement in the category of 'Engagement: Organisations With Paid Staff' for its nomination ***World Science Festival Brisbane 2017***.

The Queensland Museum Network holds the exclusive license to host the World Science Festival in the Asia Pacific from 2016 to 2021. It is the only global extension of this popular initiative, reinforcing Australia's position as a knowledge economy and igniting new and challenging discussions in and about science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Attracting over 180,000 attendances in 2017, the program featured a stellar line-up of international physicists, marine biologists and environmental scientists for five days of thought-provoking discussions, interactive workshops and theatrical performances.

**Museums & Galleries Queensland** (M&G QLD) Executive Director, Rebekah Butler said, "We congratulate the Queensland Museum Network for being recognised as the joint Winner in this category. To its credit, the Queensland Museum Network extended the 2017 Festival's regional program to include Gladstone, Toowoomba, Townsville and Chinchilla. In total, the 2017 Festival delivered 128 performances across 21 venues including 49 world premieres and 49 full houses – a remarkable achievement."

The Festival's Education Program deepened engagement with the Museum's existing schools audience. The specially curated Lifelong Learning Program saw more than 2,900 students and teachers interact with, and hear directly from, pioneers, leaders and subject-matter experts in

traditional and non-traditional STEM fields.

With Academic Partners (Griffith University, QUT and The University of Queensland) and Program Partners (QIMR Berghofer and TRI) the Festival delivered 12 Apprentice Programs. Designed for senior students, these immersive workshops in the fields of genetics, microbiology, bioengineering, robotics, palaeontology, quantum physics, environmental science and cancer biology gave students a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience the wonder of STEM by working in laboratories alongside subject-matter experts.

*Cool Jobs* brought students from Years 4–10 face-to-face with scientists to learn what it takes to do some of the coolest scientific jobs on earth!

Those who missed the 2017 festival will have an opportunity to experience it next year, with the **World Science Festival Brisbane 2018** being held from 21 – 25 March. Regional dates are yet to be announced.

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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