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## **Tablelands Heritage Network (TheN) Honoured at Queensland Gallery and Museum Awards**

**Museums & Galleries Queensland** (M&G QLD) proudly announced the Winners of the **2015 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards** (GAMAA) at a gala event hosted by The University of Queensland Art Museum on Thursday 19 November 2015. This year's award Winners were presented with an exquisite trophy specially created for the event by Queensland artist Madeleine Brown.

The **Tablelands Heritage Network (TheN)**, located in the Atherton Tablelands, was announced the **Winner** for its outstanding achievement in the category of 'Projects: Organisations Volunteer Run' for its exhibition **Anzac Treasures of the Tablelands**. In awarding TheN as the Winner in this category, the judges recognised the strong collaboration and achievements of the groups involved.

TheN is an unincorporated heritage network comprising museums, historical societies and visitor information centres in the Atherton Tablelands Region. *Anzac Treasures of the Tablelands* was designed to enable these entities to showcase their First World War related collections and represented the first time that groups in the Network have collaborated to create an exhibition.

Working with the Museum Development Officer, the groups developed a thematic approach to the exhibition and used hands-on, participatory workshops to pull the exhibition together. The groups prepared their contributions for the exhibition individually and then presented them to the larger network group. The project provided positive promotion of the work that volunteers at museums and historical societies do within the broader community.

This significant outcome, which was one of the initial drivers for developing the exhibition, means that the communities have a strong sense of the value of museums and the work they undertake to protect and preserve important cultural artefacts and material culture. Inspired by this project, some of the different groups have gone on to create their own First World War Exhibitions.

Dr Joanna Wills, Museum Development Officer – Far North Queensland, Queensland Museum Network said: “The award is a reflection of the Tableland Heritage Network’s ongoing commitment to preserving local culture and their willingness to share their knowledge. As Queensland Museum’s representative in the far north, it is a great pleasure to work with this volunteer group and share in their achievements.”

Presented by Museums & Galleries Queensland, the **GAMAA celebrate** the **outstanding achievements, professional excellence,** and **innovation of Queensland’s museum and gallery sector.** It also recognises the valuable contribution that our State’s museums and galleries make to enriching their local and wider communities, and honours the extraordinary commitment and talents of paid professionals and volunteers working in the industry.

**M&G QLD Executive Director, Rebekah Butler, said,** “It is with great pleasure that M&G QLD congratulates the winners and finalists of the 2015 GAMAA. We commend all those who nominated for their remarkable achievements and contribution to the sector. This year’s awards recognise a range of inspirational people and projects.”

For a full list of GAMAA recipients go to the M&G QLD website at [www.magsq.com.au](http://www.magsq.com.au).

The 2015 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards were presented by M&G QLD and generously supported by The University of Queensland Art Museum. The GAMAA are proudly sponsored by Brian Tucker Accounting. We also acknowledge the Regional Galleries Association of Queensland and Museums Australia Queensland.

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