

24/11/2015

CEO of Qantas Founders Museum Honoured in 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.

Tony Martin, CEO of the **Qantas Founders Museum**, Longreach, was announced **Joint Winner** in recognition of his outstanding achievement in the category of 'Individuals—Paid'.

Tony has been the General Manager and then CEO of the Qantas Founders Museum since 2008 and has made many substantial contributions to the Museum, the way it tells its story and its place within the community of Longreach and Western Queensland.

In awarding Tony Martin as Joint Winner of this category, the **GAMAA judges recognised that Tony is a person who leads by example** and that **his impact on the culture of the organisation itself has been considerable**. Training and participation are important ingredients in Tony's approach to management. The Museum has become a place where visitors and staff want to be and maintains a successful balance as both a tourist attraction and a museum to tell the story of the people and planes which made Qantas.

Tony has created many reasons for people to see the Museum as a local community facility. Temporary exhibition galleries bring in displays that would not otherwise be seen in this region. The award-winning café is recognised as one of the best eateries in Longreach. The Museum gallery and lawn host musical events ranging from opera to classical to country to rap.

Tony takes part in and supports many local activities. The Museum was one of the first organisations to offer support to drought-affected families with a free lunch in the gallery. They also offered assistance to Winton when the Waltzing Matilda Centre burned down this year.

Tony's management has seen the Museum win Tourism Awards and successfully apply for grants to enable the first major upgrading of displays in the hangar for thirteen years. In 2011, the Australian Institute of Management presented Tony with their Rural Remote Manager of the Year award and he is currently undertaking a Master of Business Administration.

Tony said he was incredibly proud to receive recognition at this year's GAMAA.

"Qantas Founders Museum has had an extraordinary year with achievements and accolades, with this GAMAA award making it a total of five alongside Outback Queensland and state awards, and all in the year that our wonderful airline turned 95, which in itself is an incredible achievement," Tony said.

"The museum team are very proud to be the custodians of our national heritage and for me to receive this award identifying my achievements and commitment to an industry I love is also testament to the amazing commitment of all my team, board of directors and community that are such an important part of the culture that is Qantas Founders Museum."

"I would especially like to acknowledge the incredible team at Museums & Galleries Queensland who continue to inspire and support our industry and I'd also like to acknowledge all the nominees and winners. Here's to an even bigger and better and hopefully for western Queensland, wetter 2016."

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.



Museum & Gallery Services Queensland Ltd trading as Museums & Galleries Queensland – ABN 32 109 874 811 is supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland, and is assisted by the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy, an initiative of the Australian, State and Territory Governments and by the Commonwealth through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body.

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.

For media enquiries or images, please contact:

Rebekah Butler, Executive Director

Museum & Gallery Services Queensland

Phone: **07 3215 0820** Freecall: **1800 680 433** (within Queensland) Mobile: **0422 579 180**

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

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