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[EMBARGOED UNTIL 9PM THURSDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2017]

**YUGAMBEH MUSEUM LANGUAGE AND HERITAGE
RESEARCH CENTRE
Recognised 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.

Yugambeh Museum Language and Heritage Research Centre, Beenleigh, was **recognised as a Finalist** for its outstanding achievement in the category of 'Projects: Organisations with Paid Staff' for its nomination ***The Bunyip Story***.

The Bunyip Story is a two-person theatrical play based on the Aboriginal stories and historical accounts of the Yugambeh language region, as a way of telling the land's stories to connect generations and communities, and preserving them for *mobo jarjum* (tomorrow's children). The performance piece was produced in partnership with professional artists, Goat Track Theatre.

Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) Executive Director, Rebekah Butler said, "Being recognised as a Finalist in this category is testament to Yugambeh Museum's unwavering commitment and passion to share their region's language and stories with audiences in creative ways, while preserving these important legacies."

The content of the play – Bunyip stories from the Yugambeh language region – was determined through Aboriginal community consultation over the last fifteen years and research conducted by the Yugambeh Museum. The collaboration between professional artists, Goat Track Theatre, and community organisation, Yugambeh Museum, resulted in the development of a high-quality Aboriginal theatrical piece. Utilising theatre as a storytelling platform, the Yugambeh Aboriginal community had the opportunity to share their local stories with audiences in the community and

with the education sector. The production toured to local schools, and future regional and national touring opportunities are currently being explored.

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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