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QLD's gallery and museum workers recognised in State Awards

Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) proudly announced the recipients of the **2016 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards (GAMAA)** at a gala event hosted by Creative Arts Redlands – Redland Performing Arts Centre and Redland Art Gallery, on Tuesday 22 November 2016.

Albert (Buddy) Thomson who has a leadership role with the Management Committee at Boondooma Museum & Heritage Association Inc. in the South Burnett region **was recognised** as a **Finalist** for his outstanding achievement in the category of 'Individuals: Volunteer'.

Buddy's parents were the last private owners of the Boondooma, which cemented his strong bond with the property. In 1975, Boondooma was heritage listed and purchased by local government, but unfortunately the homestead and adjacent structures fell into disrepair.

Buddy had left home in his late teens and returned to the property in the early 1980s, in total disbelief that the property had fallen into ruins. It was his vision to restore the homestead using bush skills dating back to the 1850s – he is one of the very few 'bushmen' left who has retained and further developed these skills.

The homestead complex is now owned by the South Burnett Regional Council and leased to Boondooma Museum & Heritage Association Inc. Buddy has managed the effective restoration of the homestead and ongoing restoration and maintenance of out buildings and heritage gardens. Many of the objects for the museum collection have been provided by Buddy and he has encouraged others to be involved in the classification and recording of the collection. He has also galvanised a group of 300 known as the Friends of Boondooma.

Buddy's hard work, leadership and determination has established the property as a historic site, community and cultural centre, hosting festivals and many events, to ensure the development and survival of the complex and its financial viability. Importantly, it has allowed Boondooma Homestead to grow into the significant heritage site and tourism attraction that it is today.

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 in 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 the GAMAA continue to recognise and celebrate the remarkable achievements of our museums and galleries and are testament to the skill, ingenuity and professionalism of the sector.

"This year's GAMAA recipients reflect a diverse range of large and small organisations. M&G QLD extends its congratulations to all of the 2016 GAMAA winners, finalists and nominees. We also thank our 2016 judges, sponsors and partners in supporting this important industry event," Ms Butler said.

For a full list of GAMAA recipients go to the M&G QLD website at www.magsq.com.au.

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