

STATE LIBRARY OF QUEENSLAND

# MEDIA RELEASE

Embargoed until 7pm, Thursday 6 October 2022

## Prison farms to home furnishings: awards spark new thinking on history

The healing power of gardens will be explored by the winner of a prestigious State Library of Queensland fellowship announced this evening.

John Oxley Library Fellowship winner, Dr Mimi Tsai, will dig into “the healing stories” and history of prison farming on St Helena Island, Queensland war gardens and Chinese market gardening.

Dr Tsai will also examine how Queenslanders embraced the therapeutic value of gardening during the COVID-19 pandemic. The judging panel noted the research project was “substantial and exciting” and would weave together history, storytelling and connection to place.

The inaugural Rainbow Research Fellowship was awarded to Bianca Martin to establish an abridged contemporary history of LGBTQIA+ zines in Queensland. The project aims to uncover stories of lives that may have been undocumented, overlooked, silenced, or erased.

The winner of the inaugural Christina Boughen OAM Fellowship, Juanita Simmonds, will investigate the life of this talented Queensland musician, while Monica Clare Research Fellow, Dr Maxwell Brierty, will tell the story of colonisation of Kullilli Country from his own standpoint as a Kullilli man.

The history of Brisbane furniture store Tritton’s will also be examined by Queensland Business Leaders Hall of Fame Fellowship winner Mary Howells.

The 10 Queensland Memory fellowships and awards support researchers and creatives to interpret the significant collections of the John Oxley Library with \$100,000 awarded across the award categories.

*The Queensland Memory Awards are made possible by the support of donors through the Queensland Library Foundation.*

### 2022 QUEENSLAND MEMORY AWARDS WINNERS:

- **John Oxley Library Fellowship (\$20,000 plus 12-month residency):** Dr Mimi Tsai for her project ‘Vernacular Landscapes and Queensland Memories: Exploring Queensland’s resilience through narratives of therapeutic environments’
- **John Oxley Library Honorary Fellowship (12-month residency):** A/Professor Anna Johnston for her project ‘History and Fiction: Mapping Frontier Violence in Colonial Queensland Writing’
- **John Oxley Library Award:** Dr Jackie Huggins AM FAHA
- **John Oxley Library Community History Award (\$5,000):** Mithaka Aboriginal Corporation
- **Mittelheuser Scholar-in-Residence (\$15,000 plus 12-month residency):** Greer Townshend for her project ‘I Feel You: Discovering Collections Through Emotion’

#### Media enquiries

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- **Monica Clare Research Fellowship (\$15,000 plus 12-month residency funded by The Siganto Foundation):** Dr Maxwell Brierty for his project 'Mipa Mipumani: The Colonisation of Kullilli Country in South-West Queensland'
- **Queensland Business Leaders Hall of Fame Fellowship (\$15,000 plus 12-month residency):** Mary Howells for her project 'Trittons: Furnishing Queensland'
- **Rainbow Research Fellowship (\$15,000 plus 12-month residency):** Bianca Martin for her project 'LGBTQIA+ zines in contemporary Queensland'
- **Letty Katts Fellowship (\$5,000 supported by the Mellick Family through the Queensland Library Foundation):** Leah Cotterell for her project 'Sunday Nights at the Primitif'
- **Christina Boughen OAM Fellowship (\$10,000 supported by the Boughen Family through the Queensland Library Foundation):** Juanita Simmonds for her project 'Christina Boughen: A Queensland musical artist and woman'
- **State Library of Queensland Medal (Library Board of Queensland award):** Des Crump

#### Quotes from Minister for the Arts Leeanne Enoch:

"The Queensland Memory Awards go far in uncovering new Queensland stories and encouraging exciting new research to reveal more about our history and culture.

"The awards contribute to the State Library's important role in providing access to Queensland's records and helping to create greater understanding of our shared cultural heritage.

"As we continue on our *Path to Treaty*, our collecting institutions including the State Library of Queensland will play an increasingly significant role in the vital and challenging work of Truth Telling.

"Queensland Memory Awards support the Government's *Creative Together* ten-year roadmap for arts, culture and creativity by sharing our stories and celebrating our storytellers."

#### Quotes from State Librarian and Chief Executive Officer Vicki McDonald AM:

"These important State Library fellowships support researchers and creatives to interpret our significant collections."

"The diversity of projects will provide new insights into our history and expand and enrich our understanding of Queensland and its people.

"I congratulate all our winners and thank our generous donors for their ongoing support."

[Media kit](#)



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