

# 2021 Judging Panel Member



## GARY MEARS

### Retired / Former General Manager The Events Centre Caloundra

Gary Mears has achieved a successful career in marketing, tourism, festivals, events, performing arts and venue management including over 33 years in senior executive management positions.

Gary has overseen many hundreds of significant Queensland major events, concerts and festivals. He led both facility upgrades and business development initiatives as Sunshine Coast Events Centre General Manager from June 2013. He held the position of Ipswich Civic Centre Manager from 2001 to May 2013 including major redevelopment of the venue and opening the creative youth space 'Studio 188'.

His professional career includes;

- Ipswich City Council Marketing Manager,
- Toowoomba Events and Tourism Corporation Chief Executive Officer,
- Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers Chief Executive Officer,
- Sunshine Coast Events Centre General Manager,
- Ipswich Civic Centre - Venue and Performing Arts Manager,
- Manager of his own business Stagesound Promotions,
- Arts Consultant and
- Professional Entertainer.

He has a passion for making a difference in the performing arts sector including the production and promotion of tourism, major events, venues, audience development, innovation and supporting emerging artists.

