

10/09/2025

## **Claire Griffiths**

### **Winner at State Awards**

The Winners, Highly Commended and Finalists of the **2025 Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards** (GAMAA) were proudly announced by Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) on Tuesday 9 September, at a special awards presentation hosted by Museum of Brisbane. Special guest, **Hon John-Paul Langbroek MP, Minister for Education and the Arts**, congratulated this year's recipients and presented the winners with individually crafted trophies by artists Vanessa Cannon, Laurence Gibson, Gregory Salt, and Lorna Shuan, from the Yalanji Arts Collective, Kuku Yalanji Country, Mossman Gorge, Far North Queensland.

**Claire Griffiths** was honoured as **Winner** in the category of **Individuals: Paid Staff** for her transformative leadership and dedication to regional cultural heritage.

As Frontline Coordinator – Museums at Isaac Regional Council (2022–2025), Claire oversaw a diverse museum network including Clermont Museum, Nebo Museum, St Lawrence Centenary Pavilion, and heritage-listed sites Copperfield Store and Chimney. Her time with the Council marked a period of revitalisation, strategic growth, and cultural change that continues to yield positive outcomes.

Claire's holistic approach addressed legacy issues and improved safety, wellbeing, and professionalism across the network. She introduced flexible exhibition models suited to small teams and fostered collaboration between sites, encouraging resource sharing and joint projects. Her strategic leadership, including collaborating with the Queensland Museum's Museum Development Officer Program to implement a Collection Management Plan, elevated Council-wide understanding and support for museum operations.

Claire championed skills development. As a mentor, leader, creative change-maker, strategic planner, and pragmatic visionary, Claire empowered staff to embrace strategic thinking, pursue professional growth, and believe in the potential of regional museum excellence. Her leadership fostered a culture of collaboration, innovation, and possibility—transforming workplace mindsets and driving sustained improvement.

Her community impact included curriculum-linked teaching resources, First Nations partnerships, and interdepartmental collaborations to deliver inclusive events such as art workshops and talks. She also secured funding for the annual steaming and maintenance of the beloved Aveling & Porter traction engine at the Clermont Museum.

**Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) Executive Director, Rebekah Butler**, congratulated Claire Griffiths, saying, "This acknowledgement is a testament to Claire's outstanding leadership. Her compassion, creativity, and strategic vision have had a profound impact on the Isaac Regional Council's museum network, setting a benchmark for excellence in regional museum practice."

Ms Butler continued, "This year, we undertook a comprehensive review of the award categories and introduced several new ones, which led to an unexpectedly high number of nominations. This response is a testament to the remarkable work being done by museums and galleries of all sizes throughout Queensland. It is a privilege to shine a spotlight on the achievements of so many deserving individuals and organisations."

**Minister for the Arts, John-Paul Langbroek**, said, "Queensland has more than 400 museums and galleries, all of which play an important role in sharing our stories, activating and connecting communities and attracting visitors to our regions."

"Congratulations to everyone who has taken part in this year's Gallery and Museum Achievement Awards, which celebrate individuals and organisations who support community and visitor engagement with arts and cultural experiences."

"The Crisafulli Government is proud to invest in Museums & Galleries Queensland through the Organisations Fund 2026-29, which supports delivery of our 10-year arts and culture strategy, *Queensland's Time to Shine* and its vision for a thriving creative sector supporting a statewide vibrant arts scene."

Now in its twenty-first year, the GAMAA were established by Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) to honour the achievements of our State's individuals and organisations in striving towards excellence.

The 2025 GAMAA are proudly supported by the **Museum of Brisbane** and sponsored by **Public Galleries Queensland** and **Australian Museums and Galleries Association Queensland**.

The 2025 GAMAA trophies are generously supported by **Brian Tucker**.

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