

## Beaudesert Historical Museum congratulated for their achievements in State Standards Review Program

Museums & Galleries Queensland (M&G QLD) was pleased to congratulate the **Beaudesert Historical Museum**, during the Standards Review Program celebration event, held on 2 February 2024 at The Centre, Beaudesert. They were recognised for completing the intensive year-long Standards Review Program, where they assessed their practice against *The National Standards for Australian Museums and Galleries*.

The Beaudesert Historical Museum is located at 54 Brisbane Street in Beaudesert and is home to many thousands of objects that showcase the region's rich history from Moreton Bay's Settlement until the present. Many historical buildings occupy the site, including the original Beaudesert Tramway office which became the Tabragalba Divisional Board Building, and later the Beaudesert Shire Council Chambers. It also holds an original railway Tent Hut used during the construction of the Queensland Railway, a pioneer Slab Hut from the Kerry Valley, built in 1875, and many other fascinating historical buildings. Within each building and across the site there is an array of collection items that range from small and delicate fine China crockery to large industrial equipment – much of which still operates. The site is managed by the dedicated volunteers of The Historical Society of Beaudesert Inc. and is open between 10am and 2pm, seven days a week for visitors to enjoy.

**Did you know** Mr. Norm Rice was a beekeeper and pioneer in the beekeeping industry in Beaudesert? He pioneered the artificial insemination of queen bees and was a key figure in generously sharing his knowledge with others involved in the beekeeping and honey production industries. Rice's Bee Farm exported queen bees around the world, and the *Angels of Agriculture Project* exhibition pays tribute to the important work that the family performed.

Volunteer Claire Hardke and Mark Plunkett, the Beaudesert Historical Museum President, said,

"We knew we had to review our practices, but needed assistance to create a coordinated plan. The M&G Queensland staff & Reviewers helped us clarify procedures and improve specific areas.

We understand the value of our extensive and varied collection. However, we needed guidance to develop policies and practices around the collection, and have since developed policies and processes based on this advice. We particularly needed help with how to politely say "no" to new donations.

Through the commitment of those associated with the Standards Review Program, we have had some difficult discussions and made some important decisions.

Completion of the program has given us a more strategic direction and has enabled us to update our business plans to guide the future of our museum.”

M&G QLD’s Executive Director, Rebekah Butler, said,

“The Beaudesert Historical Museum is to be congratulated for what they have achieved through their participation in the 2023 Standards Review Program and for their commitment to preserving the region’s history.”

Industry experts, Maggi Solly and Jim McCann (M&G QLD’s Reviewers for the Standards Review Program) said,

“The Beaudesert Historical Museum is to be commended for highlighting the history of the region. Also noteworthy, is their ability to operate seven days a week considering it has been challenging to recruit active volunteers. The Museum should also be congratulated for the successful relocation of Westwood Cottage to the Museum grounds and the Museum’s ability to get so many local businesses on board to assist with the project.”

Both Reviewers offered their service on a pro-bono basis to the Beaudesert Historical Museum and have been pivotal across 2023 in providing professional assistance and guidance to the Standards Review Program participants in the Beaudesert region.

M&G QLD’s Standards Review Program supports museums and galleries to build skills and capacity; plan for a sustainable future; identify strategic priorities for improvement; and ensure the safe-guarding and accessibility of community collections and stories.

**For media enquiries, please contact:**

Rebekah Butler, Executive Director, Museums & Galleries Queensland

Phone: (07) 3059 9744

Email: [rebekah.butler@magsq.com.au](mailto:rebekah.butler@magsq.com.au)

Website: [www.magsq.com.au](http://www.magsq.com.au)

Beaudesert Historical Museum

Phone: (07) 5541 3740

Email: [info@beaudesertmuseum.org.au](mailto:info@beaudesertmuseum.org.au)

Website: <https://beaudesertmuseum.org.au/>



**Image Caption:** Exterior of the Beaudesert Historical Museum.  
**Acknowledgement:** Courtesy of Beaudesert Historical Museum.



**Image Caption:** Volunteers after the completion of the Hay Loader Project.  
**Acknowledgement:** Courtesy of Beaudesert Historical Museum.



**Image Caption:** Angels of Agriculture Project.

**Acknowledgement:** Courtesy of Beaudesert Historical Museum.



**Image Caption:** Beaudesert Historical Museum Volunteer, Claire Hardke and President, Mark Plunkett receiving Beaudesert Historical Museum's Certificate of Recognition from Mayor, Greg Christensen, Scenic Rim Regional Council.

**Acknowledgement:** Courtesy of Museums & Galleries Queensland.