

3RD EDITION

CELEBRATING 150 YEARS

PROGRAM OF EVENTS



Visit cairns.qld.gov.au/c150 for more information



**CAIRNS
HARDWARE**

CONSIDER IT DONE

Building the Far North together for over 50 years



Extensive network of stores



Specialist centres

Tools, Paint, Bathroom
& Kitchen, Heavy Building,
Plasterboard, Outdoor Living
(Glass & Aluminium Pool
Fencing/Balustrading)



**Everything from
footings to fit-out**



**Proudly supporting
our local communities**



Local manufacturing

Windows, Doors, Roofing,
Trusses & Wall Frames

Mayor's Welcome

IT is with profound respect and immense pride that I reflect on Cairns Celebrates 150 Years, a milestone that honours our city's founding in 1876 and the story of all who have called this place home across time.

This anniversary has been more than a date on a calendar. It has been an opportunity to reflect on who we have been, celebrate who we are, and imagine who we might yet become.

Before there was a city, there was Country.

The Gimuy Walubara Yidinji, Yirrganydji, Djabugay and neighbouring peoples have cared for these lands and waters for countless generations. Their custodianship is not the prologue to Cairns' story; it is the heart of it. Their languages, laws and knowledge continue to shape this place through connection, respect and continuity.

When Cairns was proclaimed in 1876, it was built on courage and conviction, on swamp and spirit. Those who arrived did not come for certainty. They came with hope, laying the foundations for a city that would grow as diverse as it was determined.

From gold and sugar to defence, trade and tourism, Cairns has

continually redefined itself. Yet through every transformation, one truth has endured: the strength of this city lies not in its skyline, but in its people.

We have stood together through cyclones, floods and times of hardship. We have grieved together, rebuilt together and celebrated together. When adversity has tested us, Cairns has answered with unity and the belief that we can and will begin again.

As we mark 150 years, we honour every hand that helped build this city: the visionaries and volunteers, teachers and tradies, artists and advocates, dreamers and doers. We thank the community groups, schools, historians, local champions and Cairns Celebrates 150 Years Advisory Committee who brought this program to life.

Most of all, we honour the everyday people who serve, create and care.

You are the living story of Cairns.

Throughout this anniversary year, we have celebrated Cairns in all its diversity: welcoming the Australian Festival of Chamber Music, gathering beneath the stars with the Queensland Symphony Orchestra, celebrating our multicultural identity through the Unity Cup,



recognising our Defence community, welcoming our Sister Cities and watching thousands line our streets for the nostalgic return of Fun in the Sun.

Together, these moments have painted a picture of a city confident in its identity, proud of its heritage and optimistic about its future.

As the 36th Mayor of Cairns, it has been one of the greatest privileges of my life to help lead our city through this milestone year. I know I am only one chapter in a much longer story, and I do so with enormous gratitude.

While there are still memories to make, I hope Cairns 150 reminds us that a city's greatest legacy is never found in its buildings or milestones. It is found in its people.

The story of Cairns is still being written, and every one of us has a part to play in its next chapter.

Mayor Amy Eden
36th Mayor of Cairns

Let's Celebrate

LET'S Celebrate - Come with us on a journey to celebrate Gimuy/Cairns, walking through history of Yidinji people for over 60,000 years, and Walk with us through a journey of 150 years since the British colonial history in Gimuy/Cairns.

Lets celebrate, with pride, respect and compassion.

Henrietta Marrie AM

Member Advisory Committee
Cairns Celebrates 150 Years



Acknowledgment of Country

CAIRNS Regional Council acknowledges the First Peoples within our region who are the Traditional Custodians of this country: the Djabugay; Yirriganydji; Bulawai; Gimuy Walubara Yidinji; Mandingalbay Yidinji; Gunggandji; Dulabed and Malanbara Yidinji; Wanyurr Majay; Mamu and NgadjonJii peoples.

We pay respect to Elders past, present and future and extend that respect to all other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians within our region.

CAIRNS CELEBRATES 150 YEARS - PROGRAM GUIDE
published by Cairns Local News Pty Ltd,
268B Mulgrave Road, Westcourt, Qld, 4870.
ACN 643 194 932

General enquiries
07 4031 7678 | admin@cairnslocalnews.com.au

Printed by Spot Productions

This brochure is for information only and is provided in good faith. Cairns Local News is under no liability to any person in respect of any loss or damage (including consequential loss or damage) which may be suffered or incurred, or which may arise directly or indirectly, in respect of reliance by any person on the information contained in this brochure.

All pictures supplied by the Cairns Historical Society and Museum unless otherwise stated.

Bree James MP Member for Barron River
HAPPY 150 years Cairns!

Every day, I am reminded how fortunate I am to represent such a passionate, generous and resilient community as the Member for Barron River.

This celebration is a chance to honour who we are as a community, to share our stories, celebrate our diversity, and look ahead to the next 150 years of growth, innovation and the unmistakable energy of Cairns.

Looking ahead, there is so much to be excited about, from the world-class

Smithfield Mountain Bike Park launching in 2028, the billion-dollar investment into our Hospital, the Wangetti Trail, upgrades to Barlow Park ready for the Olympics, and many more projects that will strengthen our economy and enhance our lifestyle.

I look forward to Cairns taking its place as Australia's reef, rainforest, riding and adventure capital in the lead-up to the 2032 Olympic Games and beyond.

I am incredibly proud to call this place home, to serve this community, and to share this journey with the people who make Cairns what it is: bold, vibrant, welcoming and full of opportunity.



Matt Smith MP Member for Leichhardt

CAIRNS shines as a place where stories of land, sea, and sky are woven into every horizon.

From the deep cultural roots of the Yirrganydji and Gimuy Walubara Yidinji peoples to the adventurous spirit that shaped a modern Tropical city, Cairns stands as a celebration of culture, resilience, and connection.

Here, ancient rainforests whisper wisdom older than memory, and the Great Barrier Reef reminds us of the wonder that thrives when nature & community are honoured.

Cairns' history is one of openness – welcoming explorers, dreamers, and creators who add their own threads to its vibrant tapestry. Its markets, festivals, and streets pulse with diverse voices, each contributing to a shared identity grounded in respect and opportunity.

To celebrate Cairns' 150th anniversary is to celebrate unity, heritage, and the courage to grow.

I'm honoured to be your federal representative, standing proud, looking forward with hope, and remembering that extraordinary stories begin in places just like this.



Terry James MP Member for Mulgrave

AS the Member for Mulgrave, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate the City of Cairns on its 150th birthday.

If the people of 1876 could see Cairns today, I am sure they would be amazed by how far our city has come. As someone who has lived and worked in Cairns my entire life, I have a deep appreciation for the vibrant, diverse and thriving city it has become.

As we celebrate this significant milestone, we must never lose sight of our history or forget the generations of people whose hard work, vision and

determination helped build Cairns into what it is today. Not only is this one of the most beautiful places to live in Australia, but it is also home to some of the most remarkable people, whose spirit, generosity and sense of community make our city so special.

I am delighted by the success of the celebrations so far. Cairns Regional Council has done a superb job in commemorating this important occasion, and I eagerly look forward to the events and festivities still to come.

Happy 150th birthday, Cairns.



Michael Healy MP Member for Cairns

LONG before Europeans arrived, First Nations groups lived peacefully for thousands of generations in a place they called Gimuy. The first recorded landing of white men near Cairns was on 10 June 1770, when Lt. James Cook and his crew came ashore at Cape Grafton to collect freshwater. Cairns itself wasn't established until 1876, driven by the discovery of gold in the Palmer River region.

From its beginnings as a small

fishing community, Cairns grew into an agricultural hub and later became a world-renowned tourist destination, offering easy access to the Great Barrier Reef and ancient rainforests.

Over the past 150 years, Cairns has evolved into a diverse, multicultural community. People from around the globe now call Cairns home, and as we continue to grow, we invest in a future that honors our past, ensuring this unique place thrives for generations to come.



The Cairns Celebrates 150 Years Advisory Committee

The Cairns Celebrates 150 Years Advisory Committee provides support and advice to Cairns Regional Council to ensure the successful delivery of the celebratory program. Advisory Group members have helped shape the program by:

- Providing initiatives, ideas and suggestions as to the content of the Cairns Celebrates 150 Years program.
- Providing advice to Cairns Regional Council regarding program delivery.
- Helping promote the program

through community and business networks.

The Advisory Committee is:

- Mayor Eden, Chair
- Cr. Zeiger, Deputy Chair
- Destry Puia
- George Bell
- Janine Bowmaker
- Jon Fearon
- Henrietta Marrie
- Russell Millage
- Sandi Robb
- Ranjit Singh
- Kesa Strieby.



Cairns Celebrates 150 Years – Official Artist: Hayley Gillespie

CAIRNS based artist Hayley Gillispie has collaborated with Council to add her artistic flair to Cairns Celebrates 150



Years, capturing the essence of our city through her vibrant and distinctive style.

Hayley's work reflects the colour, energy and natural beauty of the tropics – from reef and rainforest to the rhythm of daily life in our community. Her artwork for the 150-year celebrations brings together the past and present, weaving symbols of local heritage, culture and environment into a joyful expression of what makes Cairns unique.

Her artwork will feature across the Cairns Celebrates 150 Years program, events and promotions throughout 2026.

"I arrived in Cairns on a warm, balmy December day in 1996 as a wide-eyed backpacker from London – and instantly

felt at home. I was captivated by the vivid colours intensified by the tropical sunlight, the lush, oversized foliage, and the wonderful wildlife. The vibrant iconography of everything that makes Cairns 'Cairns' quickly became my creative inspiration.

Since then, my artistic journey has evolved to include a wide range of work: from exhibiting in galleries to commercial illustration, from designing sets and costumes for theatre to creating artwork for tourism, public art projects, and private commissions. My style continues to celebrate the colour, life, and energy of Far North Queensland – the place that stole my heart and continues to inspire every brushstroke."

The Violet - The Official Plant of Cairns Celebrates 150 Years

THE *Viola hederacea*, commonly known as the native violet, has been selected as the official plant of Cairns Celebrates 150 Years.

With its soft purple and white blooms and lush green foliage, the violet is a fitting emblem for a celebration that honours Cairns' natural environment.

Its presence in local gardens, parks and public spaces makes it a fitting emblem for a celebration rooted in community and environment.

In true community spirit, the violet is

being lovingly propagated and nurtured by the dedicated horticultural team at the Cairns Botanic Gardens, in partnership with the Friends of the Botanic Gardens. Together, they are raising hundreds of native violet plants especially for the anniversary year.

Throughout 2026, the native violet will be featured at civic ceremonies, community celebrations and commemorative plantings across the region. Guests and dignitaries will receive potted *Viola hederacea* as a living keepsake of the 150-year milestone, representing the growth and resilience of Cairns over time



As the violet continues to bloom long after the celebrations conclude, it will serve as a lasting reminder of Cairns Celebrates 150 years.



Official Merchandise - Team Elite

TEAM Elite is proud to be the official merchandise partner for Cairns Celebrates 150 Years, helping our community wear its pride and mark this historic milestone in style. With a reputation for quality, creativity and local spirit, Team Elite has designed a vibrant range of apparel and accessories that capture the essence of Cairns—its people, places and proud 150-year journey.

From shirts and hats to collectable items, there's something for everyone who wants to be part of this once-in-a-century

celebration. Whether you're attending community events, representing your organisation, or simply showing your hometown pride, you'll find merchandise that's both stylish and meaningful. Community members can explore and order directly from the Cairns Celebrates 150 Years Community Range Portal.

Businesses, clubs and groups seeking bulk or branded orders can visit the Corporate and Wholesale Portal. Join in the celebration and wear your Cairns pride with Team Elite – the official merchandise partners for Cairns Celebrates 150 Years.

PROGRAM OF EVENTS

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
18 Sep	7.15pm	Vika & Linda	Tanks Arts Centre	tanksartscentre.com
18 Sep	9am - 4.30pm	Energy Exhibition 2026	Tanks Arts Centre	tanksartscentre.com
19 Sep	6:00pm - 10:00pm	Cairns Celebrates 150 Years Ball	Cairns Esplanade, Eastern Events Lawn	cairns.qld.gov.au
19 Sep	9:00am - 2:00pm	Ganeshotsav 2026	Edge Hill State School	cairnshindusamaj.org.au
19 - 21 Sept		Australian Retirement Trust Cardiac Challenge 2026	Cairns to Cooktown	cardiacchallenge.com.au
19 Sep	7.15pm	Tiki Taane	Tanks Arts Centre	tanksartscentre.com
21 Sep	10am	Morning Melodies - What's New Pussycat?	CPAC	ticketlink.com.au
22 Sep	7am	60th Anniversary Cairns Black Marlin Tournament Sailpast	Cairns Breakwater, Marlin Marina	cpgfa.asn.au
25 Sep	5pm - 9pm	Three Moons 150 Years Cairns Chinese Celebration	Cairns Esplanade	cadcai.org.au
26 - 27 Sep		Mudcrabs 7s Tournament	Yorkeys Knob	cairns.qld.gov.au
26 Sep	7.30 & 9.30am	Yoga & Live Music	Tanks Arts Centre	tanksartscentre.com
27 Sep		PNG's Family & Cultural Day - 51st Independence Anniversary	Fogarty Park	cairns.qld.gov.au
27 Sep	7.15pm	Sunny Coast Rude Boys	Tanks Arts Centre	tanksartscentre.com
27 Sep	8am - 1pm	Tanks Market Day	Tanks Arts Centre	tanksartscentre.com
1-4 Oct	9am - 6pm	Ski to Wakeboard World Stage Weekend	Cairns Wake Park	cairnswakepark.com
2 Oct	5pm - 10pm	SIX60	Munro Martin Parklands	ticketlink.com.au
2 Oct	7.15pm	Mood Swing & Chevy Base	Tanks Arts Centre	tanksartscentre.com
6 Oct	7:30pm	Macbeth by Bell Shakespeare Co	CPAC	cairnsperformingartscentre.com.au
9 - 25 Oct		Cairns Pride Festival	Fogarty, Tank 4. Tank 3	cairnspridefestival.com.au
9 Oct	7.00pm	Understory High Film Festival	Tanks Arts Centre	tanksartscentre.com
10 Oct	10:00am	Yorkeys Knob Time Capsule Burial	Yorkeys Knob Boating Club Memorial Garden	yorkeysknob.com
11 Oct	1pm - 6pm	Rotary Beach Vibe	Vasey Esplanade, Trinity Beach	rotarytnq.org.au/personnel/cairns-northern-beaches
16 Oct	7.15pm	Lior & String Quintet	Tanks Arts Centre	tanksartscentre.com
17 Oct	4pm - 9pm	Barron River Food Fest	Stratford Dolphins Football Club	facebook.com/barronriverfoodfestival
17 Oct	1.30-4.00pm	Cairns Historical Society Free Public Lectures: Recent Archaeological Investigations	Cairns Museum	cairnsmuseum.org.au
17 Oct		Great Barrier Reef Ocean Swim	Moore Reef	greatbarrierreefswims.com.au
17 Oct	10am - 2pm	Cairns Durga Puja 2026	Edge Hill State School	facebook.com/events/1433845808780505
23 Oct	6:00pm - 10:30pm	TNQ Tourism Industry Excellence Awards		tourism.tropicalnorthqueensland.org.au
24 Oct	4:00pm - 10:00pm	Cairns Diwali Mela (Fair) 2026	Fogarty Park	www.cairnshindusamaj.org.au
24 Oct	3pm - 9pm	Big Talk One Fire Cultural Festival	Munro Martin Parklands	umiarts.com.au
24 Oct	10am - 4pm	St Rita's School Babinda Centenary Celebration	St Rita's, Babinda	stritasbabinda.qld.edu.au
25 Oct	8am - 1pm	Tanks Market Day	Tanks Arts Centre	tanksartscentre.com
30 Oct	12.00pm-5.30pm	Cairns 7s Rugby Tournament 2026	Stan Williams Park, Cairns	facebook.com/Cairns7sOfficial
30 Oct	5:30pm - 10pm	Celebrating Gimuy 60, 150 Years - Yidinji Gala Dinner	Cairns Convention Centre	trybooking.com/events/landing/1593416
31 Oct	4.30pm - 7.30pm	Tunnel of Terror	Mary Parker Bridge	redlynch.wordpress.com
31 Oct	7.00pm	Tullara - Rebound Album Launch	Tanks Arts Centre	tanksartscentre.com/
6 Nov	6pm - 11:30pm	Cairns Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards	Cairns Convention Centre	cairnschamber.com.au
6 Nov	4-9pm	Tanks Twilight Markets	Tanks Arts Centre	tanksartscentre.com/
7 Nov	7.15pm	Bullhorn & Fat Picnic	Tanks Arts Centre	tanksartscentre.com/
14 Nov 26 - 18 Mar 27		Cairns Museum Exhibition: - Future Tense, Cairns Historical Society	Cairns Museum	cairnsmuseum.org.au

PROGRAM OF EVENTS

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
21 Nov	10am - 10pm	Celebrate the 8th Cairns Thai Cultural Loy Krathong Festival	Cairns Esplanade	
21 Nov	7.00pm	Understory Film Festival: Screening and Awards Presentation	Tanks Arts Centre	tanksartscentre.com
22 Nov		T20 Cairns Gold Clash	Cazalys Stadium Cairns	goldclash.com.au
27 Nov	7.15pm	Tex Perkins & Matt Walker	Tanks Arts Centre	tanksartscentre.com/
29 Nov	5:00pm - 8:00pm	Christmas Tree Light Switch-on	Cairns Esplanade	cairns.qld.gov.au
29 Nov	8am - 1pm	Tanks Market Day	Tanks Arts Centre	tanksartscentre.com
30 Nov	10am	Morning Melodies - The Best of Buble Christmas Experience	CPAC	www.ticketlink.com.au
4 Dec	5pm - 8.30pm	Redlynch Community Twilight Markets	Xavier Herbert Park, Redlynch	redlynch.wordpress.com
5 Dec	5pm - 9pm	Joy to the World Carols & Fireworks	Cairns Showgrounds	
6 Dec	4.30pm - 7.30pm	Gordonvale Community Christmas Carols	Norman Park, Gordonvale	facebook.com/profile.php?id=100086987567360
6 Dec		Friends of Botanic Gardens Large Plant Sale	Saltwater Depot Nursery	www.botanicfriendscairns.org.au
11 Dec	5.30-9.00pm	Freshwater Christmas in the Park	Richmond Park, Freshwater	facebook.com/freshwaterfestival/
11 Dec	7.15pm	Tanks Blues - Backsliders	Tanks Arts Centre	tanksartscentre.com
12 Dec	7.15pm	Robert Ross	Tanks Arts Centre	tanksartscentre.com
13 Dec	4:00pm - 8:30pm	Carols in the Park	Munro Martin Parklands	cairns.qld.gov.au
31 Dec	5:00pm - 9:30pm	New Years Eve Celebrations	Cairns Esplanade	cairns.qld.gov.au

The new-look My Cairns app



Download the latest version
to take advantage of new
features and improvements.



GET IN ON
Google Play



GET IN ON
App Store



Cairns Port

CAIRNS was established as a port in 1876 to serve the nearby Hodgkinson goldfields, with early infrastructure made up of simple timber jetties. The town quickly developed around the port, with a dedicated Harbour Board established in 1906 to manage port improvements.

In the 1800s, it shipped gold from Herberton and tin from Chillagoe. Sugar followed, loaded by hand into sailing ships before mechanical loaders arrived. The port also brought goods in—timber, hardware, and newsprint for the growing town.

During WWII, the harbour hosted Navy ships, troop carriers, and supply vessels. In modern times, the port supports a mix of freight, fishing, defence, and cruise tourism. The Reef Fleet Terminal, marina precinct, and adjacent shipyards all reflect the port's enduring versatility and economic importance.

The port of Cairns has been central to its development since the first ships arrived in Trinity Inlet.

In the 1800s, it exported gold, tin, sugar, and timber from inland towns like Herberton and Chillagoe. The Cairns Harbour Board, formed in 1906, professionalised the wharf's operations, and the later Cairns Port Authority modernised its facilities.

The port has hosted Navy vessels, cruise liners, and cargo ships. With the rise of tourism, the Reef Fleet Terminal transformed maritime access for reef trips and island adventures.

The port remains a lifeline for freight, defence, and fishing.



Wharves from the air and to the right, the corner of Wharf and Lake Street, Cairns 1937.



Busy scene on Cairns wharf, 1889.



Fishing boats at the wharf in Cairns, 1927.



The Australian Defence Forces has long utilised the port of Cairns.



Ships berthed at Cairns Wharf in 1935.



Australian Retirement Trust Cardiac Challenge

**Saturday 19th – Monday
21st September
Cairns to Cooktown**

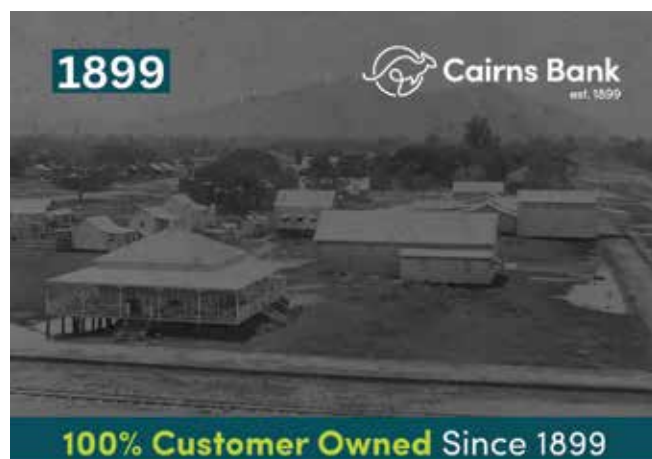
FOR 20 years, the Australian Retirement Trust (ART) Cardiac Challenge has brought Far North Queensland together for a great cause.

What began in 2006 as local cyclist Pete McNally's idea to ride from Cairns to Cooktown and raise funds for cardiac care has grown into one of the region's best-known fundraising events.

This year, more than 340 cyclists will tackle the challenging 319km route over three days, supported by around 100 volunteers along the way.

It's a big test of endurance, but the reward is knowing the ride is helping improve healthcare close to home. Since its launch, the Cardiac Challenge has raised more than \$6 million for cardiac and related health services across regional and remote communities.

Now in its 20th year, it's a remarkable example of community spirit in action.



1899

Cairns Bank
est. 1899

100% Customer Owned Since 1899

Pop in and visit our local team at 22-24 Grafton Street, Cairns City



Cairns is 150.

Our history is still
being written.

As we celebrate 150 years, explore the stories that built this region and the history still unfolding.

Become a member. Visit. Explore. Contribute.

cairnsmuseum.org.au | Corner Lake & Shields Streets



Cairns Suburbs - Redlynch

REDLYNCH was an integral part of the development of the Cairns - Atherton Tablelands railway line. The first stage of the line was from Cairns to Redlynch, with Redlynch then being known as Eight Mile Camp. This first section of line was opened in 1887 and from there the Range section of the railway was constructed.

The name of the settlement was subsequently changed from Eight Mile Camp to Redlynch, with the origin of the name Redlynch, open to opinion. One version is that Redlynch is named after the English village of Redlynch, in Wiltshire. A second version is that the name honours the red haired, Irish, railway construction foreman, "Red" Lynch.

'Red' Lynch's cottage at Freshwater Station.



Direct Mail Solutions

We Always Deliver

Local Print and Direct Mail Specialists

OUR SERVICES INCLUDE:

1



Print Collateral

- Marketing
- Stationery
- Promotional
- Graphic Design

2



Mail Distribution Nationally

- Direct Mail
- Bulk Mail
- Letterbox Drops
- Addressed Mail

3



3PL Fulfilment

- 3PL Services Wholesale, B2B, & B2C Logistics
- eCommerce Fulfilment Store Pick Pack and Ship Orders
- POS Marketing Materials

Experts in business letter processing, precise targeting and custom printing...

LET'S GROW YOUR REACH!

www.directmailsolutions.com.au

sharon@directmailsolutions.com.au

PROUD OF OUR HISTORY, CHEERS TO THE FUTURE.

BRINGING OUR COMMUNITY
TOGETHER FOR OVER 50 YEARS



Cazalys
HOME OF AFL IN CAIRNS



MEET . DRINK . EAT . PLAY

Three Moons Light Display

Friday 25th September to Sunday 27th September, 5.30pm to 10pm
Cairns Esplanade Lagoon Plaza

CELEBRATE 150 years of Cairns' Chinese community with Three Moons, a spectacular light display at the Cairns Esplanade Lagoon Plaza.

Presented by the Cairns & District Chinese Association Inc (CADCAI) and Cairns Regional Council, the display tells the story of the Chinese community through three glowing moons representing the past, present and future.

The gold moon reflects the early years of Chinese migration from 1876 and the important role Chinese migrants played in the region's development. The red moon celebrates the present with the 12 Chinese zodiac animals and CADCAI's annual Chinese New Year festivities. The largest moon looks to the future and the planned Chinese Culture and Heritage Centre.

The opening night will feature cultural performances, with the display continuing throughout the weekend.



Mudcrabs Summer 7s Tournament

Saturday 26th - Sunday 27th September
Mudcrabs Rugby Union Club
Wattle St, Yorkeys Knob

GET ready for a full day of fast footy, friendly competition and plenty of fun at the Northern Beaches Mudcrabs Summer 7s Tournament.

Hosted at the Crabpot in Yorkeys Knob, the tournament brings together eight men's teams and four women's teams for a relaxed and social day of rugby as the senior season rolls into summer.

Summer 7s is a favourite on the Mudcrabs calendar, combining competitive rugby with a great community atmosphere. Whether you're returning for another year or entering a team for the first time, it's a chance to get back on the field, test your skills and enjoy the day with teammates.

Players, supporters and families are all welcome to come along and enjoy another great Mudcrabs day at the Crabpot.



Wellness Embodied

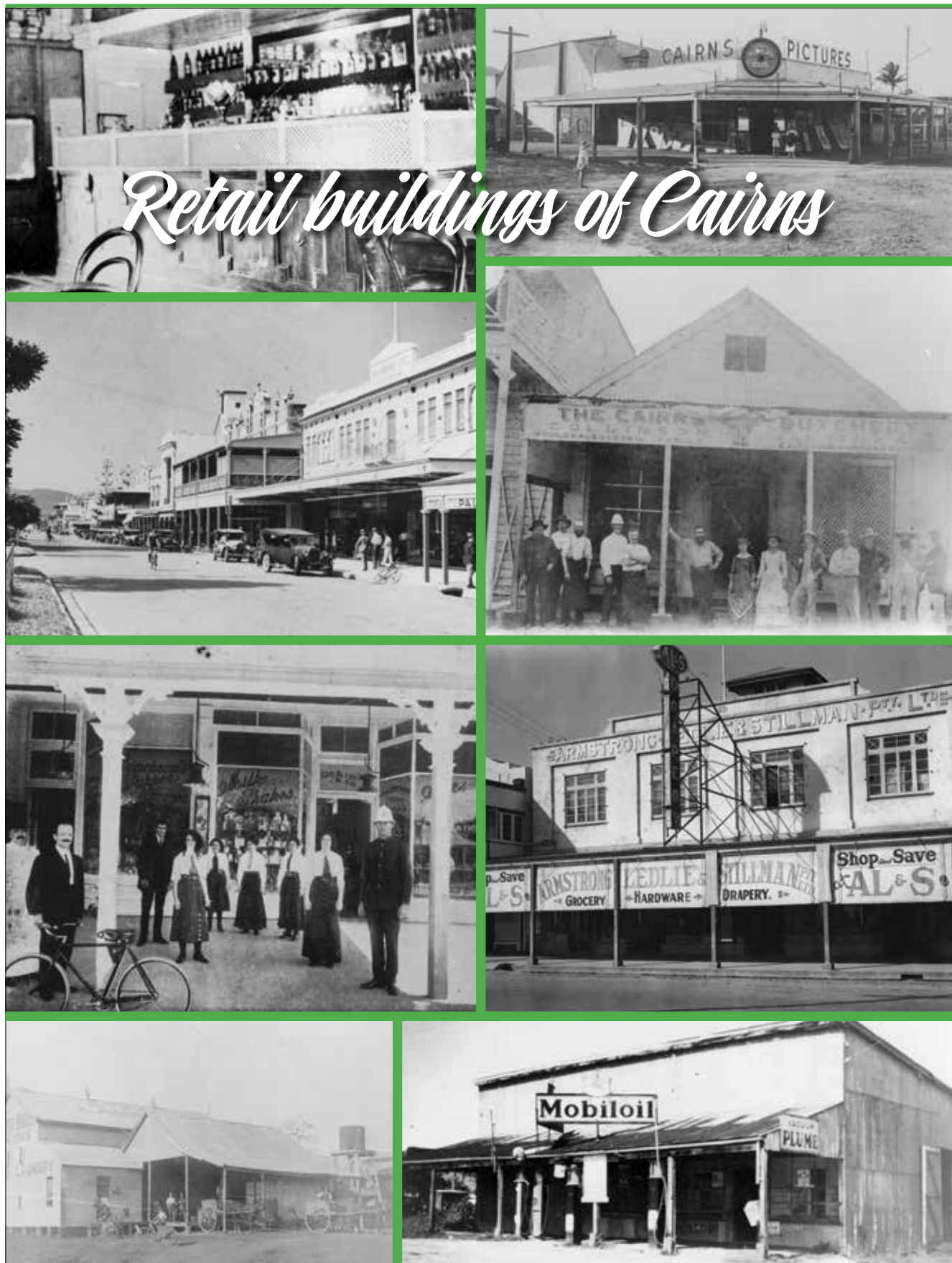


Committed to helping clients get relief from acute and chronic pain and dysfunction.

- Physiotherapy • Osteopathy
- Remedial Massage • Occupational Therapy
- Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy
- Ice Baths • Infra-red Sauna

Cairns | Parramatta Park

07 4231 9777 • wellnessembodiedcairns.com



Retail buildings of Cairns

Clockwise, from top left: Interior of J. Conomos's Cafe Babinda, 1920; Cairns Pictures and Cafe in its heyday, 1923; Large group of people standing in front of the Cairns Butchery shop, 1887; Armstrong, Ledlie and Stillman drapery shop, Lake Street between Shields and Spence Streets 1948; First premises of Sheehan & Jago hardware shop and plumbing works Cairns road opposite railway goods shed Babinda, 1948; Rogers Brothers Ice Works and Steam Laundry, Cairns, 1914; Majestic Cafe owned by Blesas & Co., Abbott Street, Cairns; Shops on Abbott Street, Cairns, 1930.

PNG Family and Cultural Day

Sunday 27th September
Fogarty Park Cairns
Esplanade



CELEBRATE Papua New Guinea's rich culture and community spirit at the Papua New Guinea & Wantoks Association Cairns Inc. (PNGWAC) Family & Cultural Day.

Held as part of Cairns' 150th anniversary celebrations, this free event also marks Papua New Guinea's 51st Independence Anniversary, bringing families, performers and community groups together for a lively day of culture and connection.

Enjoy traditional dances, songs and stories from different regions of PNG, showcasing the traditions of PNG families living in Cairns.

Browse arts and crafts, and enjoy a range of traditional and fusion dishes from local food stalls.

Whether you have a connection to PNG or are simply curious to experience something new, come along and celebrate the diverse cultures that make Cairns such a vibrant community.

UNDERWOODS

SINCE 1926

1926 - 2026







100 YEARS * LOCAL FAMILY * FOUR GENERATIONS STRONG









CAIRNS 150
1876 - 2026

Underwoods - 100 years in business,
 built by four generations of a proud local
 family, shaping our community and standing
 strong as we celebrate our city's 150 years



UNDERWOOD
PARTY HIRE
EVENT SPECIALIST

Postcards from



from Cairns

STREET
SCENES

CAIRNS

HARTLEYS CREEK FAUNA RESERVE
ON COOK HIGHWAY SCENIC DRIVE
NORTH QUEENSLAND UNIQUE CROCODILES, TAIPANS, CASSOWARYS
TREE KANGAROOS, BATS, SNAKES, ANIMALS & BIRDS
SEE . . . THE CROCODILES, CASSOWARYS AND SNAKES ETC. EXHIBITING
THEIR NATURAL ABILITIES IN SPECIAL DEMONSTRATION SESSIONS
MEET OLD CHARLIE

DEMONSTRATION AND NATURE TALKS ARE GIVEN IN SESSIONS

Month	Morning Session 10.30 to 11.00	Afternoon 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
APRIL	Thursdays	Monday & Sunday
MAY/JUNE	Mon., Fri., Sunday	Every Day
JULY/AUGUST	Every Day	Every Day
SEPT.	Mon., Fri., Sunday	Every Day
OCT., NOV., DEC.	Wed. & Sunday	Wed., Sat. & Sunday

Xmas-New Year Holiday period morning & afternoon Sessions daily

Cairns Airport



The arrival of the first flight to new Cairns Airport international terminal in 1990.



Helpers bring Tom McDonald's crashed plane to the southern bank of the Barron Feb 1941.



A tractor hauls a DC3 for positioning at Cairns Domestic Airport.



Heavylift Aviation at the Cairns Airport precinct.

WHAT began as a community dream in the 1930s has become one of Australia's most significant regional airports. Built on the vision of residents who raised funds for a reliable all-weather airfield, Cairns Airport quickly proved its importance during World War II when it was taken over by the Australian Government and upgraded for Royal Australian Air Force operations.

Over the following decades, the airport underwent a series of major expansions, with longer runways paving the way for larger aircraft, jet services and growing passenger numbers. A major milestone came in 1975 when Air Niugini launched the first international flights between Cairns and Port Moresby, opening the door to global connections for the city.

The airport's transformation accelerated through the 1980s and 1990s with the construction of modern domestic and international terminals and the

extension of the main runway to 3,196 metres. International carriers soon followed helping establish Cairns as a key gateway between Australia and Asia.

While millions of passengers have passed through its terminals, the airport's apron has told its own story, welcoming everything from military aircraft, international airliners, the supersonic Concorde, and visits from celebrity private jets and some of the world's largest heavy-lift aircraft. If it has wings, chances are it has touched down in Cairns at some point.

Today, Cairns Airport welcomes over 5 million passengers per year and connects millions of passengers each year to destinations across Australia, Asia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea.

From its humble beginnings as an airstrip, Cairns Airport has evolved into a vital aviation hub, driving tourism, trade and economic growth.

Key Dates:

- 1934: The people of Cairns started raising money to build an airport where aircraft were able to always land and take off, particularly in times of emergency.
- 1943: Runway first sealed.
- 1962-1967: The airport was upgraded and the runway lengthened to 2020 metres and strengthened so jets could land.
- 1982: Commencement of Stage I Redevelopment. This involved further lengthening of the runway to 2600 metres (making it the longest runway in Queensland) and construction of a new terminal building.
- 1984: Completion of Stage I redevelopment. Official opening of dual International and Domestic Terminals on 31 March.
- 1990: Completion of main runway extension from 2600 to 3196 metres.
- 1997: Completion of Stage IIIA Redevelopment. Within this redevelopment, a three storey Airport Administration Centre was constructed providing 4000 square 2001
- 2005: Stage one of the Cairns International Airport Terminal Redevelopment completed.
- 2010: Cairns Airport Domestic Terminal Redevelopment completed and officially opened 29 September.

Cairns Pride Festival

**Friday 9th October to
Sunday 25th October
Fogarty Park, Tanks Arts
Centre and more**

CAIRNS Pride Festival returns with a colourful program celebrating LGBTIQ+ Sistergirl and Brotherboy communities, and the wider LGBTQIA+ community across Far North Queensland.

Running from 9–25 October, the festival features a mix of art, music, performance and community events. Highlights include the Night of Entertainment at Fogarty Park on Friday 9th October from 5pm, the opening of the Pride Art Exhibition at Tanks Art Centre on Saturday 10th October at 5.30pm, and the Fair Day at the Tanks Markets on Sunday 25th October.

With plenty more events happening

throughout the festival, there are lots of ways to get involved, connect with others and celebrate Pride in Cairns.

The festival is made possible through the work of the Cairns Pride Inc volunteer committee, community groups, volunteers, council and community grants.

Check Cairns Pride Festival's social media or website for the full program and event details.



WAKE UP WITH

Johnny & Inkie

weekdays 6am - 9am

A promotional image for the radio show "Johnny & Inkie" on ST 102.7. The image features a man with a beard and tattoos (Johnny) and a woman with blonde hair (Inkie) smiling. They are standing in front of a light blue background with a red diagonal stripe. The text "WAKE UP WITH" is at the top, followed by "Johnny & Inkie" in large red letters, and "weekdays 6am - 9am" below it. The ST 102.7 logo is in the bottom left corner.

ST 102.7

60 Years of the Black Marlin

IN 2026, Cairns celebrates a major milestone in its internationally renowned game fishing history, with a full fleet of 50 teams and more than 300 competitors taking part in the 60th Cairns Black Marlin Tournament.

Hosted by the Cairns Professional Game Fishing Association, the event features four days of fishing competition, followed by a Presentation Gala and Cairns Game Fishing Hall of Fame induction ceremony.

The 2026 tournament marks 60 years since Captain George Bransford and Richard Obach landed a 1,064 lb black marlin off Cairns on 25 September 1966, the first marlin weighing more than 1,000 lb caught in Australian waters.

The achievement helped establish Cairns as one of the world's premier black marlin fishing destinations and cemented the region's reputation on the international game fishing stage.

Today, conservation is at the forefront, with more than 99 per cent of black marlin caught in the fishery released. The Cairns Professional Game Fishing Association has supported black marlin research and conservation initiatives over many decades and was instrumental in securing protections against the commercial take of black and blue marlin within the Australian Fishing Zone.

Previous industry estimates have placed the annual contribution of the Cairns marlin fishing tourism industry at more than \$60 million, with much of that spending concentrated within the relatively short black marlin season.



Basil Mitchell's Australian Record fish in 1967.



The first 1000lb black marlin caught in Cairns on 25 September 1966.



Sailpast at the 50th Anniversary Cairns Black Marlin Tournament in 2016.

Women's Service to Country

FAR north Queensland has always been a strategic place when it comes to defending Australia from potential external threats. Our community has always risen to the challenge as men and women have volunteered their services from the colonial Russian scares of the 1880s, to the WWII Pacific War arena of the mid-20th century. Service and sacrifice has always been made in earnest with many individuals

and families touched by the loss of those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

The Australian Women's Army Service or AWAS as they were known, were a dedicated unit of women who served the Nation's war effort by entering work in roles traditionally filled by men. A natural extension to the Australian Women's Australian National Service (WANS), the AWAS was officially formed on the 13th August 1941 with many of

the women who entered the AWAS taking on roles such as driving, typists, ciphers, translators, canteen workers and provosts (military police). This freed up young men to be utilised in active defence positions both at home and abroad.

Among the over 3000 strong AWAS members during the Second World War, were these two groups of AWAS stationed at Tolga. The 13th Australian Advanced Ordinance Depot or 13AAOD Unit undertook a number of tasks including repairs of uniforms, as typists and clerks at Headquarters, as laundry workers, switchboard operators, packers of goods for shipment, drivers of trucks and armed vehicles, as mechanics, and when on their breaks, singing and entertaining damaged and recuperating men from New Guinea at Rocky Creek.

Service women were housed in Tolga at barracks built by the men of the Allied Works Council in timber buildings with basic comforts. Everyone did their bit, and certainly both the WAN, the WAAFs, and the AWAS "did their bit" throughout the war providing great service to their country.



AWAS on Inspection parade outside WAS No 32 barracks at 10 Digger Street North Cairns for Mrs Eleanor Roosevelt, 1943.

Barron River Foodfest

*Saturday 17th October
Stratford Dolphins Football Club
4pm-9pm*

GET ready for an afternoon and evening of good food, live music and family fun at the Barron River Foodfest, now in its third year at the home of the Stratford Dolphins Football Club.

With more than 15 food vans on site, there'll be plenty of choice, along with a licensed bar run by the Dolphins' volunteer squad.

Kids can enjoy face painting, mini golf, jumping castle inflatables and the dwarf goat petting zoo, while live music keeps the atmosphere going throughout the afternoon and evening.

Hosted by MC the 'Festival Guy', the event will also feature a spectacular fireworks display as part of Cairns' 150th anniversary celebrations.

Bring a picnic blanket or deck chair, settle in and enjoy a relaxed, family-friendly celebration with plenty to see, eat and enjoy.



Philippine Barrio Fiesta

*Saturday 17th October
Western Event Lawn, Cairns Esplanade*

EXPERIENCE the colour, energy and flavour of Filipino culture at the Philippine Barrio Fiesta, returning to Cairns for a big community celebration.

Enjoy lively performances, street parades, music and plenty of delicious Filipino food as the festival brings the spirit of the Philippines to Cairns.

A great day out for families, friends and anyone keen to experience Filipino traditions, good food and a vibrant atmosphere.

Performers, volunteers and food vendors are also invited to get involved and share their talents and passion with the community.

Come along for a day of music, food, culture and connection and see why the Barrio Fiesta is a much-loved celebration in Cairns.



Landscape Supplies

Vines Cafe

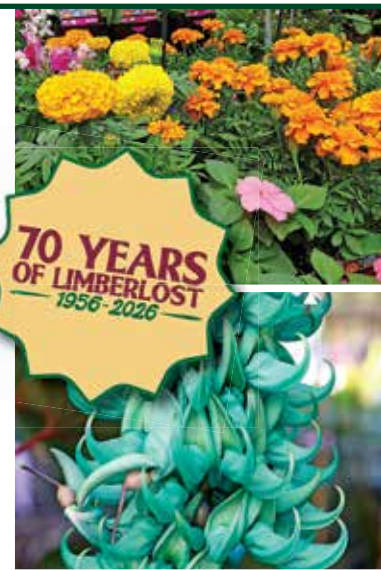
Open 7 Days 8am - 5pm

***For 70 years we've been
one of the largest retail
garden centres in Cairns!***

LOCALLY OWNED

We produce a huge range of our locally grown plants. Expert advice from our Senior Horticulturalists.

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK



113 Old Smithfield Road • 07 4055 1262 • limberlost.com.au

Public Lectures at the Museum

Saturday 17th October
Cairns Museum
1.30pm

DISCOVER more about Cairns' history and changing landscape at this special double-header of public lectures at Cairns Museum.

Dr Kevin Rains will share findings from recent archaeological investigations into Chinese gold mining communities around Ravenswood. Learn about the homes, market gardens and businesses of Chinese miners and traders, and the connections linking Ravenswood with northern goldfields and ports including Cooktown and Cairns.

The second lecture focuses on Cairns itself, with prominent local architect Roger Mainwood, Director of TPG Architects, exploring the development and architecture of the city. Drawing on his experience and knowledge of Cairns, Roger will look at how the city has changed and what its buildings tell us about its history.

The lectures form the finale of the CHS C150 Public Lecture Series.



Future Tense

Saturday 14th November
Ground Floor Gallery, Cairns Museum

THIS is a world of technological advances, innovative communication and the rise of plastic as the Cairns Museum steps into the world of Future Tense from the not-so-distant past. Explore artefacts and stories of the Anthropocene and beyond as the Cairns Museum showcases the late 20th and early 21st Century of Cairns.



The Cairns Historical Society

'CAIRNS: A Tropical Town Takes Shape' brings to life the genesis of Cairns through its first government-gazetted reserves: places which provided the functions and facilities that brought stability and growth to the district. Prolific north Queensland historian Michael Brumby – on behalf of the Cairns Historical Society – explores how, where and why these key reserves were established, developed and remain in use today.

Displayed in an easy to read, illustrative format, this book is printed in a convenient size, easy to slip into a bag or send to family and friends. The book covers all of the familiar buildings and public reserves such as the iconic School of Arts building, Munro Martin Park, McLeod Street Cemetery and the Botanic Gardens. Other areas equally represented include buildings in Abbott Street such as the former Post Office, Courthouse, Customs house and local government buildings as well as the former Mulgrave Shire Council building on the Esplanade.

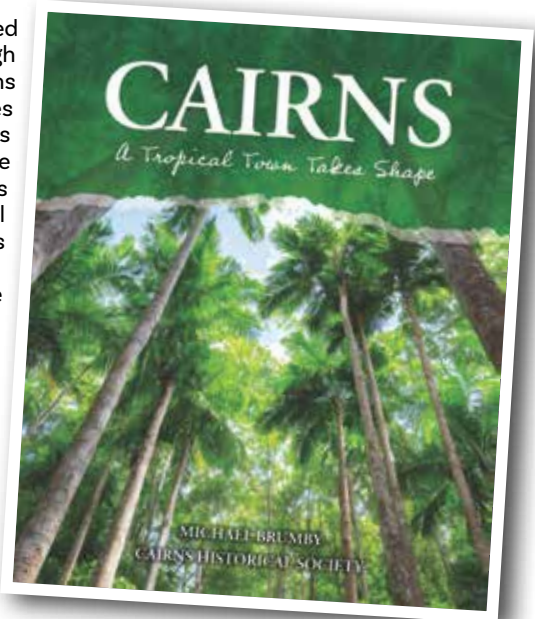
This beautifully designed and richly illustrated book key places, people and

cultural institutions which shaped the region are highlighted through numerous historical photographs and detailed narratives. It provides an engaging look into Cairns' rich heritage as it explores the transformation from First Nations homelands, to burgeoning colonial settlement through to today's thriving tropical hub.

This publication is part of the Society's C150 celebratory events and is proudly sponsored through the generous support of the Cairns Regional Council, Ports North and local Member for Leichhardt MP Matt Smith.

Written, edited, designed, printed and produced locally in Cairns, it is a great keepsake of the Sesquicentennial year and makes an excellent present for visitors and family alike. It is on sale at the Cairns Museum, Corner of Lake and Shields Street, Cairns.

The publication has been financially supported by the Cairns Regional Council, Ports North and Local MP Matt Smith and written by well-known north



Queensland author Michael Brumby (CHS volunteer) produced by the Cairns Historical Society especially for C150. It will retail at \$39.95

Rotary Beach Vibe

**Sunday 11th
October
Vasey Esplanade,
Trinity Beach
1pm to 6pm**

BEACHGOERS, Rotary Beach Vibe is back!

Head to Trinity Beach for a free family-friendly community afternoon presented by the Rotary Cairns Northern Beaches Club.

From 1pm to 6pm, enjoy kids' activities, browse local market stalls and grab something tasty

from the food truck vendors. There'll also be live music at The Beach House, making it easy to settle in and enjoy the relaxed beachside atmosphere.

Entry is free, with an optional gold coin donation. You can also take a chance in the major raffle, with some great prizes up for grabs. Proceeds from the day will support local youth initiatives across the Northern Beaches.

Bring the family, support local businesses and enjoy an afternoon of music, food and fun by the beach.



Est 1955

**Proudly part of the
Cairns community for
over 70 years**

FOOTY IN PARADISE

CELEBRATING OVER

110 YEARS

OF RACING IN CAIRNS



For over 110 years, Cannon Park - gifted by the Cannon family - has been home to the Cairns Jockey Club and its commitment to local racing, cementing itself as an iconic Cairns experience.

www.cairnsjockeyclub.com.au

Southside Watering Holes



Hambleton Hotel Edmonton, 1947

EDMONTON began as Hambledon, which was originally Swallow's sugar plantation. In the 1890s, big sugar plantations were being replaced by small cane farms which supplied the central mills. Hambledon, owned by CSR Co. 1897, became one of these mills. The increased population needed stores and hotels and a small town grew up on the junction of the mill tramway and the Mulgrave Tramway from Cairns to Gordonvale. The town was renamed Edmonton in 1911.

One of those stores was bought by Scottish teamster John MacLeod and his wife Sarah in 1909. In 1911 they built the Grafton Hotel next door to their store. They named it for the parish of

Grafton. Their five teenage daughters certainly enlivened the social life of the tiny town! John died in 1920 and Sarah continued to run the pub until 1923. Others became licencees of the hotel but the MacLeod family continued to own it, with only youngest daughter Flora taking up the licence for a couple of brief periods. It was finally sold in 1968. The hotel lost its roof in the 1927 cyclone, but escaped damage when a runaway rake of fully laden cane trucks came careering down the line towards it - luckily, it derailed into a ditch before it reached the pub.

The other Edmonton pub, the Hambledon, had its beginnings with James and Norah Maroney in 1909.



MacLeod's Grafton Hotel shortly after opening, 1909.

They also built a hall near the hotel, and it housed a variety of events, from meetings and dances to Catholic services. They sold up in 1910 and opened a hotel in Babinda, and the Hambledon went to Jack Lamont who proudly boasted that the hotel and hall were lighted with acetylene gas. Sadly, both hotel and hall burned down in January 1930 from a fire that started in the billiard room. As the Edmonton picture theatre was housed in the hall, the town lost its movie theatre as well. The hotel was rebuilt using the dismantled Queen's Hotel from Cooktown, shipped to Cairns in April. The hotel was bought and restored by Lou Piccone in 1994.

World Record with 100 skiers!

WHAT a day! One Hundred skiers towed behind the iconic Hayles Boat on the 18 October 1986. It was a world first and a world record in amount of skiers being towed by one boat at one time.

Locals and visitors could hardly forget

the day as throngs of onlookers turned up to watch the early morning event.

All in all, ten skiers tumbled but the rest held the line and achieved the group record for 100 skiers at one time.

Not content with that, each skier

went on again on only one ski to break the single ski record.

Cairns' record was held until 2010 only to be beaten by 114 Taswegian on both skis. However, the single ski record remains.



Big Talk One Fire

**Saturday 24th
October
Munro Martin
Parklands**

UMI Arts presents the 19th annual Big Talk One Fire Festival, celebrating First Nations cultures of Far North Queensland through art, music, dance and storytelling.

This free, family-friendly event brings together First Nations artists, performers and makers

from across the region. Enjoy dance performances, browse the art market, or take part in culture, craft and dance workshops. There are also kids' activities and local food vans throughout the day.

Big Talk One Fire is a chance to share culture, connect with community and celebrate the strength and diversity of First Nations traditions across Far North Queensland.

Everyone is welcome.



Fiji Airways Cairns 7s Rugby Tournament

**Friday 30th to
Saturday 31st October
Stan Williams Park,
Manunda**

GET ready for two action-packed days of rugby, culture and community at the Fiji Airways Cairns 7s Rugby Tournament.

As part of Cairns' 150-year celebrations, the tournament brings together men's and women's rugby sevens teams from across Far North Queensland, interstate Australia and the Pacific for fast-paced competition and plenty of atmosphere.

More than just a sporting event, the Cairns 7s brings people together through a shared love of rugby, with players, families and supporters enjoying the action and the welcoming spirit of the city.

The tournament also gives local businesses a boost, with visitors supporting accommodation, hospitality, transport and other services across the region.

Come along to Stan Williams Park, cheer on the teams and enjoy a weekend celebrating sport, culture and community.



DEEP CREEK
ESTATE
at CLIFTON

Elevate your lifestyle

Kenfrost Homes
And Residential Estates

kenfrosthomes.com.au

QBCC 1008531

CairnsKey
Real Estate

(07) 4042 6000

Brand new homes available now!

Dr Sandi Robb

Custodian of Cairns' Past Helps Guide Its 150 Year Celebration

AS Cairns marks 150 years of history, one of the city's most passionate custodians of the past is playing a leading role in shaping how that story is told.

Dr Sandi Robb, Executive Officer of the Cairns Historical Society, stands at the heart of the organisation that safeguards the region's social memory through the Cairns Museum, Research Centre, and the state's largest not for profit social history collection outside Brisbane.

With more than three decades of experience in history, heritage, and collection management, Dr Robb has dedicated her career to preserving the stories that define communities. Nationally recognised for her work on Chinese migration to North Queensland, she brings both deep scholarship and warm accessibility to her role – ensuring the region's history remains meaningful to contemporary audiences and preserved for future generations.

Dr Robb's connection to Cairns stretches back to 1986, when she first arrived from country Victoria. She quickly fell in love with the reef, the rainforest, and the creative, tropical spirit of the north. Over the years, she watched the city transform – from the once quiet stretch between the Barron River and the small Smithfield intersection to today's bustling highways, roundabouts, and growing suburbs. To the south, she recalls when Woree and White Rock marked the edge of town, long before the emergence of Forest Gardens, Mount Sheridan, and Bentley Park.

Though not born in the region, her ties run deep. Her children



Dr Sandi Robb at Cairns Museum. **Pictures: Supplied**

entered the world in Mareeba, and even after relocating to Townsville in 2005, Cairns remained the place she hoped to return to. Seventeen years later, she finally made her way back – this time to her dream role at the Cairns Historical Society and Museum.

Today, Dr. Robb is a familiar and welcoming presence, engaging daily with researchers, families, school groups, and visitors drawn to the museum's growing collection of stories. Her leadership ensures that as Cairns celebrates its 150-year milestone, its past is honoured with care, depth, and enthusiasm.



Sandi and Lesley.



Dr Sandi Robb and Dr Clive Skarott.



The School of Arts building houses the Cairns Museum.

Thai Cultural Loy Krathong Festival

**Saturday 21st
November
Western Lawn,
Cairns Esplanade
4pm to 9:30pm**

CELEBRATE the sights, sounds and flavours of Thailand at the 8th Cairns Thai Cultural Loy Krathong Festival.

Held as part of Cairns' 150th anniversary celebrations, the festival brings the community together for an evening of Thai culture, food, music and friendship. Everyone is welcome to experience the traditions and hospitality of Thailand in the heart of Cairns.

A highlight is the Loy Krathong ceremony, a beautiful Thai tradition centred on floating decorated krathongs, symbolising letting go of the past, giving thanks and looking ahead with hope.

Enjoy Thai cultural performances, traditional costumes, market stalls and plenty of delicious Thai food, along with family-friendly activities for younger visitors.

Come along, soak up the atmosphere and celebrate the diversity that makes Cairns such a vibrant community.



Christmas Plant Sale

**Sunday 6th December
Saltwater depot nursery
(opposite Little St off Greenslopes St)
From 8am**

ADD a little tropical greenery to your home or garden at the Friends of the Botanic Gardens Christmas Plant Sale.

With a huge range of plants available from just \$8, it's a great chance to find something special for your garden or a gift for the plant lover in your life.

Browse trees and shrubs, aroids, understorey plants, Nepenthes, Medinillas and anthuriums, plus plenty of creepers and climbers. Look out for the spectacular Jade Vine and Aristolochia acuminata, also known as the Cairns Birdwing Butterfly Vine.

There'll also be hanging baskets, Hoyas, heliconias and gingers, available as potted plants and rhizomes.

With plenty to choose from, come early for the best selection and discover something new for your garden.

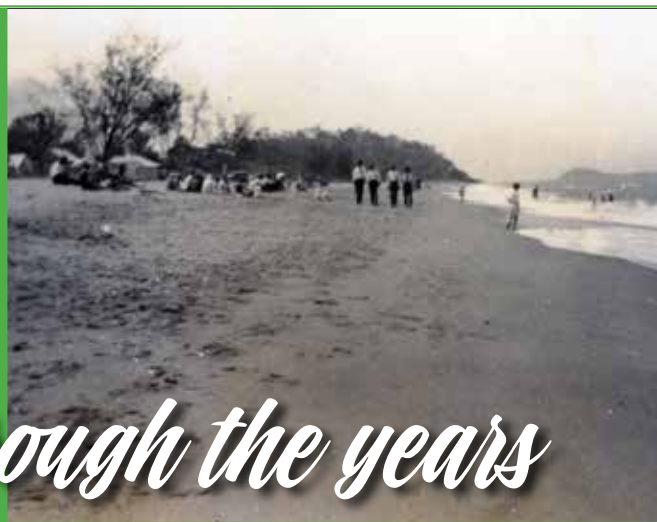


THE REEF HOTEL CASINO



**CELEBRATING 30 YEARS
2026
A PEARLER OF A YEAR!**

HEAD TO REEFCASINO.COM.AU TO DISCOVER WHAT'S ON!



Palm Cove through the years



Cairns Local News

Free, every Friday



P: 07 4031 7678

W: cairnslocalnews.com.au



KENNEDYS **Betta** HOME LIVING



2026

**Proud to support and celebrate
150 years of Cairns...
and 96 years of Kennedys!**

KENNEDYS BETTA HOME LIVING CAIRNS

A: 134 McLeod Street, Cairns | P: 4037 1150 | E: kennedys@my.betta.com.au



CAIRNS 150

1876 - 2026

Scan the QR code for full program

