



The oldest building in Charlotte St, built in 1876 as the Post and Telegraph office, now repaired and repainted to house the Cooktown History Centre.

Credit: David Barker



The majority of our display is contained in these purpose built cabinets.

Credit: David Barker



Our wonderful band of volunteers who do everything from pest control and gardens to reception and admin.

Credit: Cooktown Local News

COOKTOWN HISTORY CENTRE
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**Hours: Monday to Saturday
9.00am to 3.00pm**

**Contact: Bev Shay, Secretary,
Cooktown and District Historical
Society**

Presented by Museum & Gallery Services Queensland in partnership with the Cooktown History Centre.

'Did You Know' – intriguing facts about Cooktown History Centre

- The Cooktown and District Historical Society won an inaugural Gallery and Museum Achievement Award in 2004. The GAMAA was for developing and presenting a series of well-researched exhibitions dealing with local history including *Cooktown, 100 Years Ago*, and *New Guinea Gold! Cooktown's Connection*, and for their commitment to responding to requests for information about a variety of local history subjects with quality customer service equal to that of a professionally staffed museum.
- The Cooktown History Centre is in the oldest surviving building in Charlotte Street. It was built in 1876 as the first Post and Telegraph Office in Cooktown.
- Would you like to see what early Cooktown was like? Cooktown History Centre houses a diorama of Cooktown in 1874 that brings together a collection of 14 images of Cooktown's beginning, gathered from a number of Australian libraries for the very first time.

Our Profile

The Cooktown History Centre resides in the former Shire Offices in Charlotte Street. Built in 1876 as the first Post and Telegraph Office in Cooktown, it is the oldest surviving building in Charlotte Street.

The Centre is the location for a number of functions and facilities of the Cooktown and District Historical Society (CDHS):

- *Cooktown through the years*: A comprehensive display details the history of Cooktown's establishment
- Archives and research facility
- Storage for original materials
- A library of publications about Cooktown and District
- Staff office and facilities
- Local publications and souvenirs for sale

The archive and research centre is the key function of the CDHS. It stores originals and copies of images and documents pertaining to Cooktown and Palmer River history, dating from 1874. All information continues to be entered into databases for ease of searching. To date, there are about 50 tables with over 60,000 names. CDHS offers research assistance for anyone enquiring about family history and also local history.

The display is a more recent addition to the function of the CDHS. The current exhibition is a product of all of the research by the CDHS into Cooktown's events, natural disasters, people, local Indigenous history and involvement in the First and Second World Wars, using over 600 images. A diorama of Cooktown in 1874 brings together a collection of 14 images of Cooktown's beginning, gathered from a number of Australian libraries for the very first time.

A dedicated team of 14 volunteers undertakes the work of the Centre, including the management.

The Centre is a part of a combined ticket entry with 2 other Cooktown attractions – the James Cook Museum and Nature's Powerhouse.

What the Standards Program has meant for our museum

There has been reinforcement of the structure and plans of the Centre. The knowledge base of the volunteers has been enhanced so that future decisions are better informed.