



James Cook Museum building

Credit: James Cook Museum



Original anchor from HM Bark Endeavour

Credit: James Cook Museum



Sisters of Mercy altar

Credit: James Cook Museum

JAMES COOK MUSEUM
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Hours: Open daily
10.00am to 3.00pm
(1 Oct - 31 May)
9.30am to 4.00pm
(1 June - 30 Sept)
Closed public holidays

Contact: Serge Petelin

Presented by Museum & Gallery Services Queensland in partnership with the James Cook Museum.

'Did You Know' – intriguing facts about the Museum

- The crew of Endeavour spent seven weeks at Endeavour harbor. This, coupled with the specimens and discoveries made here by Captain James Cook and crew, arguably make the area the most significant place in Australia's European history. The Museum holds an anchor and cannon from Cook's *HM Bark Endeavour* and journal entries made by him and his crew.
- The building itself has a rich history, which makes it as significant as the displays it holds. There are a considerable number of objects relating to its origin as a convent and school run by the Sisters of Mercy.
- Queen Elizabeth II made a special diversion from her travel itinerary in April 1970 to stop at Cooktown in order to open the James Cook Museum after its renovation.
- The word Kangaroo is derived from the local Aboriginal dialect (gangurru – from the Guugu Yimithirr language).

Our Profile

The James Cook Museum is located within the restored St Mary's Convent Cooktown, a Sisters of Mercy School & Boarding School from 1889- 1942. It is one of six properties in North Queensland operated and maintained by the National Trust of Queensland.

The new Joseph Banks Garden located in the grounds in front of the museum have been planted with specimens based on those which Joseph Banks collected from the region to take back to England.

Exhibits within this magnificent building provide an insight to the region's fascinating history from the time James Cook and the crew of the stricken ship *Endeavour* spent in the safety of Cooktown harbor in 1770 through the heady Palmer River Gold rush days over 100 years later, on to World War 2 and more recent times.

The museum is filled with objects and stories of the experiences of European and Chinese arrivals and local Indigenous people. Come and explore those everyday items used by early settlers and mariners and marvel at the creativity of the Aboriginal people in the crafting of their tools with techniques handed down through countless generations.

The Endeavour Gallery within the museum portrays some of the encounters and Indigenous stories of the arrival of James Cook and his crew onto their lands. A feature exhibit is the anchor and a cannon jettisoned from the *Endeavour* that were salvaged some 200 years after Captain Cook departed from the shores of what is now known as Cooktown.

What the Standards Program has meant for our museum

There has been an appreciable impact on staff's recognition and appreciation on matters relating to conservation and significance assessment. This is resulting in improved management of the museum's artifacts.

The establishment of new contacts and strengthening of existing ones is particularly important to the museum due to its remote location.