

**Maritime Museum of Townsville**

42-48 Palmer St  
South Townsville QLD 4810

Phone: 07 4721 5251  
tmhs@bigpond.com  
www.townsvillemaritimemuseum.org.au  
www.facebook.com/maritimemuseum.of.townsville

Hours: Daily 10am-3pm



**Freemantle Class Patrol Boat, Ex HMAS Townsville**

Credit: Royal Australian Navy



**Maritime Museum of Townsville**

Credit: Maritime Museum of Townsville



**Bay Rock Lighthouse**

Credit: Maritime Museum of Townsville

Presented by Museum and Gallery Services Queensland in partnership with Maritime Museum of Townsville.

**Our Profile**

Indulge your fascination with the sea...

Set on the banks of the picturesque Ross Creek, the Maritime Museum of Townsville holds many interesting treasures and tells the story of the maritime history of Townsville and surrounds. Friendly volunteers will greet you as you begin to explore the Museum.

Immerse yourself in the story of the SS *Yongala* and its fateful encounter with a cyclone in 1911. Tragically there were no survivors but eerily the mailbag washed ashore and after being dried, the letters were posted. You can see some of these in the display. There is also portholes, hatches, crockery and the evocative ship's bell from 'North Queensland's Titanic'.

The *Yongala* was a coastal passenger ship, which in the era before rail travel, provided a vital service to the coastal towns of Australia and her loss was widely felt. The mysterious disappearance of the *Yongala* triggered reports of a ghost ship often seen between Townsville and Bowen until the wreck was eventually discovered in 1958.

There is a fabulous model ship collection, which shows the intricacies of miniature shipbuilding. Many of these models were built using original ships' plans and are correct to the smallest detail.

You can also see the Bay Rock Lighthouse, *Beth* – an authentic harbor tender, the clinker built dinghy used in the movie *Australia* and an anchor purported to be from the *l'astrolabe*, French explorer La Perouse's ill fated ship.

Relax on the deck overlooking the sailing boats or have a picnic in the beautiful grounds where the kids can run around. You can purchase a souvenir or two and then head to the nearby Palmer St café precinct for a coffee.

**Did you know?**

The *Yongala* wreck is now the number one dive in the world.

The Maritime Museum of Townsville buildings replicate the shape of a ship with a bow and stern. The bow is a wonderful location to hold social events with its view of the harbour, sailings boats and the creek and lovely sea breezes.

The Museum is working on a very exciting project – to open the ex HMAS *Townsville* to the public. The *Townsville* featured in the TV series *Patrol Boat* and was gifted to the Museum by the Department of Defence.

The Museum is run entirely by volunteers who take care of the maintenance, cleaning, gardens, office duties, finances, reception, library, curatorial activities, collection management and sales.

**What the Standards Review Program has meant for our museum**

Participation in the Standards Review Program has increased our sense of pride for the enormous contribution made to the community over the past 28 years by those involved with preserving the maritime history of the region.

Museum representatives have thoroughly enjoyed their involvement in the Standards Review Program which has been both stimulating and challenging but what we most enjoyed is meeting the Reviewers who we found very professional, extremely helpful and very good company. They provided a wide range of information, experience and invaluable advice.