



*Nature's Powerhouse entrance*

Credit: Beverley Grant



*Vera Scarth-Johnson Gallery*

Credit: David Barker



*Charles Tanner Gallery*

Credit: Kerry Trapnell

**NATURE'S POWERHOUSE VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE**

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Hours: Monday-Friday 9am-4pm  
Saturday-Sunday 11am-2pm

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Presented by Museum & Gallery Services Queensland in partnership with the Nature's Powerhouse Visitor Information Centre.

**'Did You Know' – intriguing facts about Nature's Powerhouse**

- Nature's Powerhouse is set in the beautiful Cooktown Botanic Gardens, which are part of the 154 acres set aside by the Queensland Government in 1878 as a Botanic Reserve. The Gardens' collections include Vera Scarth-Johnson Garden and the historic Solander Garden.
- The Solander Garden has living specimens of the 325 plants collected by Sir Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander whilst in Cooktown in 1770 whilst repairs were being made to Captain Cook's HM Bark Endeavour. Banks and his team of botanists spent their time exploring and discovering many botanical and natural history wonders and the natural history artists on board the Endeavour painted them.
- Vera Scarth-Johnson was an artist who captured local flora through her illustrations in the tradition of the natural history artists on board the Endeavour. Her work can be seen in the Vera Scarth-Johnson Gallery within Nature's Powerhouse.
- There are 46 species of snakes on Cape York Peninsula of which only 5 are dangerous. You can see some of these species in the Charles Tanner Wildlife of Cooktown Display in Nature's Powerhouse.

**Our Profile**

Nature's Powerhouse is an innovative building located in the beautiful, heritage listed Cooktown Botanic Gardens and includes the Cooktown and Cape York Peninsula Visitor Information Centre, Vera's café, a gift shop, Charles Tanner Gallery and the Vera Scarth-Johnson Gallery.

The Cooktown and Cape York Peninsula Visitor Information Centre is the most northerly accredited visitor information centre on the east coast and provides comprehensive visitor information 7 days a week.

The Vera Scarth-Johnson Gallery displays the only collection of original botanical illustrations of flora from the region. Many plants can be found in the adjoining Botanic Gardens.

The Charles Tanner Wildlife of Cooktown Display offers visitors a close look at some of Cape York Peninsula's more notorious reptiles along with specimens of birds and butterflies.

Nature's Powerhouse also hosts a wide range of community events and activities including concerts, nature presentations, educational programs and walking trails and tours in the Botanic Gardens.

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

The program has brought together all stakeholders in Nature's Powerhouse to determine the identity and form a shared vision for the future direction of the facility

A review of the use of space within the facility is planned. This will define the physical space and determine how to maximise efficiency, make the facility more sustainable and broaden the market appeal.