

Townsville Heritage Centre

5 Castling St
West End, Townsville QLD
4810

Phone: 07 4771 5873
dorothy@gibwilde.com.au
www.nationaltrust.org.au/qld/
TownsvilleHeritageCentre

Hours: March-November
Wed 10am-2pm
Sat-Sun 1pm-4pm

Contact: Dorothy Gibson-Wilde, Secretary



'Currajong' historic building

Credit: Tim Nemeth



Sitting room display in 'Currajong'

Credit: Tim Nemeth



'Worker's Cottage'

Credit: Tim Nemeth

Presented by Museum and Gallery Services Queensland in partnership with Townsville Heritage Centre.

Our Profile

Visitors to Townsville Heritage Centre receive a very warm welcome from the volunteer guides. Located near Townsville's impressive Castle Hill, visitors experience the rich heritage of the city during their tour of the historic home 'Currajong' and the 'Worker's Cottage'.

'Currajong' has a fascinating history during its nearly 100-year occupancy since 1888. Built as a villa residence for landed gentry the house also served as a military hospital during World War Two, a monastery, and nunnery. The home has been beautifully restored to its 19th century décor and furnished of the era.

Adjacent to 'Currajong' is the 'Worker's Cottage', circa 1884. This quaint 1-bedroom dwelling gives visitors a great sense of the pioneering spirit of North Queensland. Your guided tour brings to life these marvellous dwellings set in carefully maintained spacious heritage-inspired gardens and expansive lawns.

View the fascinating Green collection of ceramics from the first Japanese Consulate in Australia, which was located in Townsville.

Did you know?

Electricity was not available in Townsville for domestic use until the mid-1920s. Both 'Currajong' and the 'Worker's Cottage' originally relied on kerosene or acetylene lamps or candles. In the absence of television and radio it was common for homeowners to access other forms of entertainment such as musical instruments, wind-up gramophones, cards and outdoor games.

Townsville was the first shipping port for ships sailing between Asian countries and Australia. By the late 1890s there was a significant population of Japanese workers in the pearling and sugar industries in Queensland, so the first Japanese Consulate on the east coast of Australia was established in Townsville in 1896. The Consulate operated here until 1908 at which time the Consul relocated to Sydney. It was located in 'Kardinia', a private residence located in Vitoria Street on Stanton Hill. Newspaper proprietor David Green purchased 'Kardinia' in 1911. Green travelled extensively in Asia and collected various significant artefacts including the porcelain items displayed in the bamboo China cabinet in 'Currajong'.

Rooney's Bridge passes over the Ross River at the southern approach to Townsville. The bridge is adjacent to the site of one of Rooney's sawmill and furniture factories. The furniture was renowned, and graced many homes in North Queensland. In 'Currajong' there is a cedar bookcase manufactured by Rooney's for use in the Townsville Magistrates Court and is possibly the oldest piece of furniture made in Townsville, provisionally dated at 1878. Several other items made by Rooney's are displayed in 'Currajong'.

What the Standards Review Program has meant for our museum

Collection Management: While our collection is well managed, we have revised our proposed collection storage areas and evaluated the appropriateness of these in terms of temperature and access. The Program has provided references to help us manage the collection more professionally.

Heritage Centre Management: As a first step towards recruiting more volunteers we have identified a set of work areas and are in the process of developing job descriptions for these.