



The development of the Queensland Museum's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures Centre is in full swing. The theme of the Cultures Centre is *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Experiences and Perspectives*. It will be a place where the experiences and perspectives of Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders will be facilitated, presented and heard. The exhibitions will provide a snapshot of Queensland. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities will be invited to tell their stories and views, and present their cultures and histories while working collaboratively with Queensland Museum curators, specialist researchers, and creative contributors. *Land, Language and Lore* are the three defining elements that will link the exhibition. Expected to open in late 2005, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures Centre will enhance the visitor experience with an open access collection, a resource area and a community exhibition space.

## Visiting Community

### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures Centre

As part of the research and consultation process, researchers have been employed to liaise with identified Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities throughout Queensland. To give you an idea of how we are working with these communities, the newsletter will showcase the experiences of each researcher. The first researcher to go into the field was Elverina Johnson, a Kunganji woman from Yarrabah. She gives us an overview of her work with the Yarrabah community in Far North East Queensland.

### Report from Yarrabah by Elverina Johnson



Elverina Johnson

Hi! Just wanted to mention a little bit about my field trip to Yarrabah. I had a really good time up there as I usually do. The research project for the Cultures Centre is going really well in Yarrabah.

People are very accepting and supportive in regards to the research I am doing for the Cultures Centre. They are proud to know that Yarrabah will be included in the exhibitions. I think that the Queensland Museum is doing a great job in continuing to highlight Indigenous culture. The Cultures Centre itself will be as I see it, the 'dilly basket' that carries the bush tucker for all to partake in. I'm glad to be one of the gatherers.

### The work of Phil and Rosie Connors

#### The Queensland Museum Repatriation Program

As the consultants for the Queensland Museum's Repatriation Program we have found the work rewarding from both an emotional and spiritual level. For the past two and a half years we have been working with communities who have an interest in ancestral remains and secret sacred objects that are currently held by the Queensland Museum. During the time we have been at the Museum we have assisted in the repatriation of cultural property to communities from Cape York, Cairns, Atherton Tablelands, Mackay and Normanton.

There are still ancestral remains and secret sacred objects waiting to be returned to country and we encourage interested people to contact Phillip Connors to discuss the Repatriation Program on the number in this newsletter.

Queensland Museum repatriation program is funded by the Federal Department of Communication, Information Technology and the Arts under the Return of Indigenous Cultural Property Program.

## New QMATSIICC Member

### Queensland Museum Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Consultative Committee — QMATSIICC

The Queensland Museum is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr Charlie Watson as a new member of the Queensland Museum Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Consultative Committee.

Charlie Watson is a Gangalu \ Kanalu man from the Dawson River area of Central Queensland and has lived in Brisbane for the past thirty years. He has a long history of working in Indigenous related areas such as employment, training and mediation. He is currently employed at South Bank Corporation as the coordinator of a successful training and employment program for Indigenous people. Charlie is Vice President of Brisbane Indigenous Media Association who operates Radio 4AAA and he also sits on the Business Advisory Council of South Bank TAFE. Previously he was President \ Vice President of Musgrave Park Cultural Centre for five years and was instrumental in successfully lobbying for Government funds to construct the Cultural Centre in Musgrave Park.

*"I am looking forward to working with other community representatives and Museum staff to develop the Queensland Museum's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures Centre",*  
Charlie Watson.

## New Staff

### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Area

Four new staff members have joined the team in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander area of the Cultures and Histories Program. They are:

**Jenny Pilot** – Researcher for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures Centre

**Naomi Franks** – Indigenous Trainee

**Sam Toby** – Indigenous Trainee

**Trish Johnson** – Assistant Collection Manager

## Our Indigenous Trainees

The Queensland Museum is pleased to have on board two Indigenous Trainees, Naomi Franks and Samuel Toby. The traineeship is organised in partnership with Gladstone TAFE, the New Apprenticeship Scheme and Queensland Museum.

Naomi and Sam will be working in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander area of the Cultures and Histories Program for the next year. As well as working on major tasks for the Cultures Centre, they will be completing an online Certificate 3 Course in Arts Administration through TAFE Central Queensland's Gladstone campus.

"My name is Naomi Franks. I am a Birri Gubba woman from North Queensland. I recently completed my university studies before successfully getting this deadly position at the Queensland Museum. Since starting at the Queensland Museum, I have learnt many things, including how to prepare for exhibitions and meetings. I have also enjoyed being involved in research for the new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures Centre that is due to open next year", *Naomi Franks.*

"Hello, my name is Sam Toby. I'm a Gangulu man of the Dawson River in Central Queensland. I recently moved to Brisbane from Mount Morgan where I finished High School as School Captain in 2003. About two months ago I saw the Indigenous Trainee position advertised for the Queensland Museum on a job board. I decided that it was something different, so I applied for it. I got an interview, my first one ever. I was nervous as but I got through it. A week later I got a call from the Museum saying I got the job as an Indigenous Trainee. I have been on board now for 10 weeks. As part of my work I have been accessioning Aboriginal artefacts into the database, and am really enjoying the hands on work with the exhibitions and installation of artefacts. Seeing the craftwork up close is just amazing!", *Samuel Toby.*



New Staff: Trish Johnson, Samuel Toby and Naomi Franks.

## Further Information

If you have any queries or would like further information please feel free to contact us at:

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