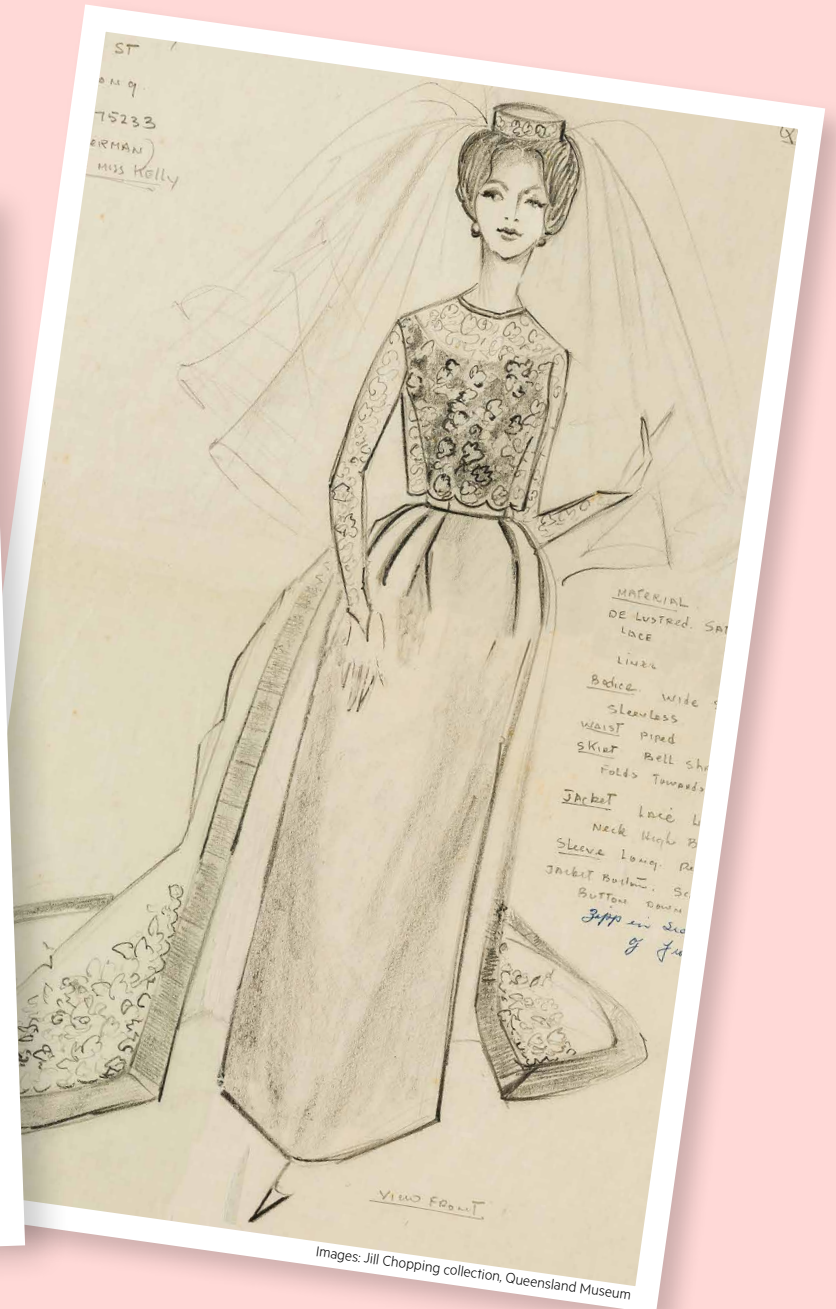


wedding stories from Queensland

18 Sept 2020 to
21 Feb 2021



Teacher Resource and Curriculum Links
History (Year 10)

TECHNOLOGY PARTNER

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Within, the Future

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Cultural Warning

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander visitors are advised that this exhibition may contain images and include accounts of people who have passed away.

We also advise that any racist and derogatory language contained in the exhibition is 'of its time' and does not reflect the contemporary views of the Queensland Museum. We have preserved this to help our audiences understand both past and ongoing experiences of Australian First Nations people and as part of our commitment to truth and reconciliation.



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These teacher notes were developed by Queensland Museum Lifelong Learning and are intended to support teachers when planning a class visit to the exhibition, *I Do! Wedding Stories from Queensland*. Learning Resources produced by Queensland Museum cannot be reproduced or used for commercial purposes in any form. Material remains the property of Queensland Museum, or other therein acknowledged sources, and normal copyright laws apply.

An Introduction to *I Do! Wedding Stories from Queensland*

Marriage has always been a hot topic. The world’s greatest writers, poets and singers have lamented, agonised over and celebrated its worth in history and the debate continues to this day. Regardless of which side you sit on, marriage is still relevant. Getting married is a significant life event and no matter how it’s celebrated, the act of a marriage ceremony to signify the union of two people is intensely personal and remains an important milestone in many couple’s lives.



This exhibition explores the evolving history of ‘getting married’ in Queensland through individual stories of people who have celebrated their ‘big day’. It is through these big life-changing moments – the moment where two people are committed to one another through the union of marriage - that we are able to reflect on how we see ourselves as individuals, couples and as communities living in a particular moment in time. *I Do! Wedding Stories from Queensland* will reveal stories of love, tradition, ritual, war and home. The exhibition will also highlight people’s experiences around the recent change in legislation allowing same-sex couples the right to marry in Australia.

These ‘getting married’ stories will be told through a collection of aspiring wedding fashions that date from the 1840s through to today.

The garments are not displayed chronologically and the exhibition does not attempt to provide a comprehensive history of marriage; rather the curators have adopted a thematic approach to explore the evolving history of ‘getting married’ in a way that brings out the individual stories of people, couples and communities living in a particular moment in time.

The exhibition explores five themes:

- Love**
- Rites, Rights and Rituals**
- Heart and Home**
- Honouring Tradition**
- Circumstance**



Love

*I seem to have loved you in numberless forms, numberless times ...
In life after life, age after age, forever.*

Rabindranath Tagore, Indian poet and writer, 1861–1941

Weddings are expressions of love. Deeply personal and life changing, a wedding is a moment of joy, romance and excitement, celebrating the shared love of two people, often with family and close friends. Even after a couple have wed, each anniversary sees love evolve and grow as experiences shape their journey through married life together.

Rites, Rights and Rituals

There are a thousand ways to kneel and kiss the ground; there are a thousand ways to go home again.
Rumi, Persian poet and scholar, 1207–1273

For centuries, marriage has been recognised as an important rite of passage. Grounded in family and community, weddings are celebrated through a diverse range of rituals within established cultural, religious or legal frameworks. Until recently, church and state-imposed sanctions have either restricted or denied the right to marry to many Australians, most notably First Australians and same-sex couples.

Heart and Home

Where we love is home – home that our feet may leave, but not our hearts.
Oliver Wendell Holmes, American physician and poet, 1809–1894

Weddings connect us to a greater sense of family and place; they encourage us to reflect on who we are, where we come from and where we are going. They bring to the fore the sacrifices we make to create a unified life with our partner while also rousing within us anticipation and optimism about building a home.

Honouring Tradition

Marriage brings one into fatal connection with custom and tradition, and tradition and customs are, like the wind and weather, altogether incalculable.
Soren Kierkegaard, Danish philosopher, poet and social critic, 1813–1855

Wearing a special dress or suit is a time-honoured tradition of the marriage ceremony. Whether handed down, custom-made or bought for the occasion, wedding garments speak volumes about the people who chose them, those who made them, and the times in which they were worn.

Circumstance

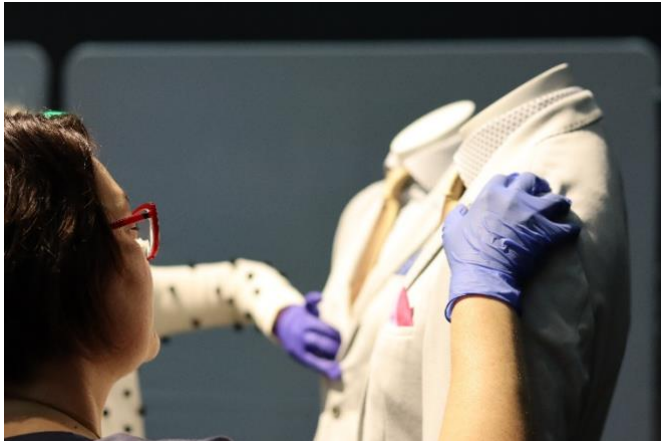


Love recognizes no barriers. It jumps hurdles, leaps fences, penetrates walls to arrive at its destination full of hope.
Maya Angelou, American poet, memoirist and civil rights activist, 1928–2014

In the shadow of war, crisis and uncertainty, love, in its countless forms, prevails. It powerfully shapes our desires, decisions and commitment to overcoming challenges. When families are separated, cities are silenced and the world feels out of control, a wedding can be a defiant celebration of life and an expression of hope for a better future.

Behind the Scenes of *I Do! Wedding Stories from Queensland*

Museum exhibitions involve extensive teamwork. In a behind-the-scenes interview, two members of the *I Do! Wedding Stories from Queensland* exhibition team share their backgrounds, professional pathways and passions, explain some of the scientific and historical skills required for museum work, and discuss how this exhibition was developed. The interview is available at [I Do! Wedding Stories from Queensland](#).



During Your Visit: *Threads* Exhibition

Adjacent to *I Do! Wedding Stories from Queensland* is *Threads*, a free exhibition. A visit to this exhibition may complement the themes studied by your students in *I Do! Wedding Stories from Queensland*.

Threads showcases a stunning collection of fashion and art from Aboriginal Quandamooka artist, Elisa Jane Carmichael. It features six hand woven, sculptural dresses and artwork, *Weaving: past, present, future*. This collection highlights Elisa Jane's connection to country and personal journey to insert Aboriginal narratives into Australia's fashion history.

In this exhibition, Elisa demonstrates how her arts practice creates threads that gives us a pathway to creating awareness about the depth of First Nation's Peoples textile making in Australia and symbolic of interwoven, intergenerational knowledge.



Threads is not only an imagining of what First Nations weaving would be like without interruption, but an opportunity to learn from previous generations and passing on knowledge to a new generation. The exhibition will focus on Aboriginal Peoples and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' living cultures and how people continue to adapt traditional techniques and material, re-interpret forms and maintain the process of passing on traditional knowledge and cultural practices.

Year 10 History – Stimulus Questions

These stimulus questions provide a starting point for curriculum-relevant conversations with your students:

1. Which stories and objects in this exhibition support the idea that Australia is a multi-faith and multicultural society? Which cultures and faiths are represented? Do you feel that the exhibition represents the breadth of cultural identities in Queensland?
2. Which laws in Australia needed to be amended to allow same-sex marriage to be officially recognised? How did the citizens of Australia participate in this decision?
3. With regards to the Air BnB campaign for marriage equality, consider:
 - a. How did Air BnB use its influence to promote the legalisation of same-sex marriage?
 - b. Do you think this was a successful campaign? Why?
 - c. What other human rights campaigns have been promoted using the internet and social media recently?
 - d. What are the strengths and weaknesses of social media when used in these contexts?
4. How do the values and beliefs the Quaker religion support the legal recognition of same-sex couples? What role did the Quakers play in advocating for same-sex marriage in Australia?
5. What was the Queensland Public Service Marriage Bar, and what was its significance? Why do you think the Marriage Bar was first introduced, and what significance did the lifting of this ban in 1969 have on women and men? Which stories in this exhibition explore this?
6. In what ways can weddings reflect significant changes in society or trends/traditions in a certain period of time?
7. What do you think the introduction of civil celebrants in the 1970s reflected about the changing role of religion in Australia?
8. How did shifts in attitudes and popular culture influence the decisions Jill Chopping and Janet Hogan made about their respective wedding dresses? Do you think fashion or societal change comes first, or do they occur hand-in-hand?
9. What was revolutionary about Marie Gehde's choice of wedding attire? How do you think it reflected her personality and, in general, the changing roles and perceptions of women in the 1970s?
10. How does something as "simple" as fabric choice reflect the state of society and the economy at a particular point in time? Find examples in the exhibition that support your answer.

Year 10 History: The Modern World & Australia – Australian Curriculum Links

HISTORICAL KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING
Depth Study: The globalising world: Popular culture (1945 – present)
The nature of popular culture in Australia at the end of World War II, including music, film and sport (ACDSEH027)
Developments in popular culture in post-war Australia and their impact on society, including the introduction of television and rock 'n' roll (ACDSEH121)
Changing nature of the music, film and television industry in Australia during the post-war period, including the influence of overseas developments (such as Hollywood, Bollywood and the animation film industry in China and Japan) (ACDSEH122)
Continuity and change in beliefs and values that have influenced the Australian way of life (ACDSEH149)
HISTORICAL SKILLS
Chronology, terms and concepts
Use chronological sequencing to demonstrate the relationship between events and developments in different periods and places (ACHHS182)
Use historical terms and concepts (ACHHS183)
Historical questions and research
Identify and select different kinds of questions about the past to inform historical inquiry (ACHHS184)
Evaluate and enhance these questions (ACHHS185)
Identify and locate relevant sources, using ICT and other methods (ACHHS186)
Analysis and use of sources
Identify the origin, purpose and context of primary and secondary sources (ACHHS187)
Process and synthesise information from a range of sources for use as evidence in an historical argument (ACHHS188)
Evaluate the reliability and usefulness of primary and secondary sources (ACHHS189)
Perspectives and interpretations
Identify and analyse the perspectives of people from the past (ACHHS190)
Identify and analyse different historical interpretations (including their own) (ACHHS191)
Explanation and communication
Develop texts, particularly descriptions and discussions that use evidence from a range of sources that are referenced (ACHHS192)
Select and use a range of communication forms (oral, graphic, written) and digital technologies (ACHHS193)