



MEDIA RELEASE

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Cape York backs Cooktown Expo 2020

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COOKTOWN

Cape York is excited and planning for Cooktown Expo 2020 following two weeks of on ground consultation by Cook Shire Council in August.

Cooktown Expo 2020 is a three week event to be held in Cooktown from July to August, showcasing 250 years of shared history since the arrival of the first Europeans aboard James Cook's *Endeavour* in 1770. Cape York and Torres Regional Arts Officer Waratah Nicholls, Cook Shire Council Indigenous Partnerships Officer Shane Gibson and 2020 Indigenous Projects Officer Sha-Lane Gibson stopped at Coen, Portland Roads, Lockhart River, Bamaga, Seisa, Injinoo, Umagico, Weipa, Mapoon, Napranum and Aurukun, as well as the NPA Show and Red Dust Rodeo. The trio visited communities to consult, discuss and share information about Expo 2020 and the opportunity to use the event as a platform to showcase Indigenous arts, culture and business.

"Everyone is looking forward to Expo 2020 and the opportunities it will bring, and especially the chance to share the Indigenous side of our story," Mr Gibson said. "Cooktown is the site of the first recorded reconciliation between Aboriginals and Europeans, and it's also where our national emblem, the kangaroo, was described and named by Cook's crew from our Guugu Yimithirr word gangurru." Several prominent artists, including popular Torres Strait hip hop artist Mau Pau, contemporary dancers Ronnie Guivarra and Jason Jia and the New Mapoon Dance Troupe were among those planning to be part of the festival. "We spoke to businesses, councils, service agencies, artists, rangers and others and had an overwhelmingly positive response. The excitement is out there, people want to be part of the Expo and the opportunities it will bring."

For more information on Cooktown Expo 2020, visit the Expo website at www.cooktown2020.com or contact the Community, Economy and Innovation team via email at mail@cook.qld.gov.au or phone on 4069 5444.

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