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New name for rebranded Cooktown Expo 2020

April 8, 2019
COOKTOWN

The Cook Shire Council-led Cooktown 2020 Festival has been rebranded as Cooktown Expo 2020, with an increased focus on building business capacity and economic development.

The Expo would not only commemorate the 250th anniversary of James Cook's visit to Cooktown and the historic first recorded act of reconciliation, but also focus on creating opportunities to share innovation, promote progress and foster cooperation, Cook Shire Mayor Peter Scott said. "The Expo still has the key theme of 'Our Shared History' but it also has a broader focus on business capacity building, economic development and sharing information, as well as showcasing our region through art, culture, business, agriculture and tourism," Cr Scott said. "We want to create a biennial event which will be a forum to showcase our progressive region and inspire, challenge and educate."

The Expo will run between June and August in 2020, with themed festivals including: 'Discovery' which will include an Indigenous showcase, art, culture, language, food, storytelling and history; 'Something's Cooking' which will include bush tucker, regional produce, cooking, health, wellbeing and nutrition; 'Reconciliation Rocks Music' which will recognise shared history through music, song and dance; and 'Endeavour' which will highlight navigation, botany, astronomy, cartography, aviation and empowering the region with business capacity building and an economic development focus.

Council's Cooktown Expo 2020 Producer Merryn Hughes said the Expo was backed by a focused consortium of stakeholders and supporters. "We will be working closely with our consortium members and supporters to develop the Expo 2020 program and activities, which will include ideas exchanges, forums, discussions, conferences and entertainment," Ms Hughes said. The key consortium members are Cook, Wujal Wujal and Hope Vale councils, Gungarde Aboriginal Corporation, James Cook University, the National Trust of Australia (Queensland) and the Torres and Cape Indigenous Councils Alliance.

Key supporters include the Australian National Maritime Museum, the National Museum of Australia, the National Library of Australia, Tourism Tropical North Queensland, the Royal



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Historical Society of Queensland, Gladstone Regional Council, the Town of Seventeen Seventy and Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council.

For more information contact Ms Hughes via email to mail@cook.qld.gov.au or phone on 4069 5444.

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