

# The Cultural Heart of Queensland

March 2011

*Culture is as much a vital component of the Queensland experience as are the beaches, rainforests and reefs for which the State is famous. This culture is drawn from the indigenous and western elements of the society and are illustrated and shared with visitors in many ways.*

## Art

- The **Galley of Modern Art (GoMA)** in Brisbane, which opened in December 2006, complements the Queensland Art Gallery building. Since opening, the Gallery's collection, exhibitions, audiences and programs have grown in size, complexity and diversity. The GoMa has held a number of exclusive international blockbuster exhibitions such as 'Picasso and his collection' and 'American Impressionism and Realism: A Landmark Exhibition from the Met' the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. From 11 June to 02 October 2011, GoMA will be the exclusive Australian venue for 'Surrealism: The Poetry of Dreams', a landmark exhibition of surrealist works direct from the Musée national d'art moderne, Centre Pompidou, Paris. [www.qag.qld.gov.au](http://www.qag.qld.gov.au)
- The Cairns Regional Council is promoting its local artistic community through its weekend **Fauxboh** artist market. The concept is based on the successful overseas art market model and is aimed at providing a direct link between artists and the community. The market is held every Sunday from Noon to 6pm on the tree-lined pathway by the Cairns Lagoon. Artists taking part in the markets will also take the opportunity to continue with works in progress or sketch the passers-by. [www.cairns.qld.gov.au](http://www.cairns.qld.gov.au)
- The small north Queensland town of Home Hill is home to the **Zaro Cultural Gallery**, a small privately owned gallery offering an extensive collection of Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal art. Local artist Aicey Zaro and his wife Bernice opened the gallery in 2004. Aicey was born in nearby Ayr. His mother is an Aboriginal descendant of the Birrigubba Clan of the Traditional people of the Burdekin area in north Queensland while his father is from Murray Island (Mer) in the Torres Straits. The gallery also sells silk paintings, hand painted ceramics, hand carvings and other arts and crafts. [www.zaroculturalgallery.com.au](http://www.zaroculturalgallery.com.au)
- **Gab Titui Cultural Centre** on Thursday Island in the Torres Straits above northern Queensland takes visitors on a journey through time. Travel from the past to the present and into the future of the fascinating culture through artefacts, artwork, song, dance and stories. This is a place where elders reminisce and share their knowledge, younger generations of Torres Strait Islanders are inspired and tourists enjoy a warm welcome. The modern building is adorned with three feature sails and bears a resemblance to the old pearl luggers of the 1960s, an era of modern Torres Strait history that transformed and shaped today's society. [www.tsra.gov.au/cultural-centre.aspx](http://www.tsra.gov.au/cultural-centre.aspx)

## Music

- The **Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC)** in Brisbane has recently undergone a multi-million dollar refurbishment after 23 years in the spotlight. The complex has reopened with new seating, lighting, acoustics and improved facilities for patrons with a disability. The Lyric Theatre has also got a modular stage. Whether you're looking for music, dance, drama, comedy or just somewhere to meet for a drink or a meal, your Queensland Performing Arts Centre has something for everyone. [www.qpac.com.au](http://www.qpac.com.au)
- **The Australian Festival of Chamber Music (AFCM)** is held annually in the north Queensland city of Townsville and is now the larger chamber music festival in the south hemisphere. The first festival was held in 1991 and each year it attracts around 25 leading artists from around the world along with emerging artists from throughout Australia. [www.afcm.com.au](http://www.afcm.com.au)

## Events

- Every October the sounds of the outback wildlife combine with music and vocals at the annual **Undara Opera in the Outback**. Relax under the stars at the special amphitheatre for this annual world-class event at the Undara Experience on the eastern edge of the Gulf Savannah region which is accessible by road and air from Cairns and Townsville in Tropical North Queensland. Guests can camp or stay in restored rail carriages. The Undara Experience provides access to the Undara Lava Tubes, part of the longest lava flow from a single volcanic crater on Earth. [www.undara.com.au](http://www.undara.com.au)
- **The Woodford Folk Festival** is a world-class six night events held each year on the Sunshine Coast hinterland over the New Year period. The tiny town of Woodford hosts the six day, six night event featuring more than 2000 performers and 400 events. Special international guests and the cream of Australian performers gather at the events which include concerts, dances, workshops, street theatre, writers' panels, a film festival, comedy sessions, a children's festival, art and craft workshops, late night cabarets and a spectacular fire event. [www.woodfordfolkfestival.com](http://www.woodfordfolkfestival.com)

## Lifestyle

- The **Tjapukai Aboriginal Cultural Park** is located on 25 acres of tribal land just north of Cairns and has been designed to provide visitors with a truly remarkable indigenous experience. From its humble beginnings as a dance theatre in the tiny township of Kuranda it has grown to become a living tribute to the Tjapukai people. The park includes a museum art space containing authentic stone age artefacts once used by Tjapukai people along with history, creation and dance theatres where film presentations and live theatre tells the stories of the Tjapukai people through film, acting and dance. Didgeridoo demonstrations, bush foods, spear and boomerang throwing and canoe rides are all part of the daytime Tjapukai experience, while Tjapukai by Night is a spectacular evening show. [www.tjapukai.com.au](http://www.tjapukai.com.au)
- Photographer Stephanie Mills was born and grew up in the tiny Outback town of Cunnamulla and in August, 2001 she opened the **Stephanie Mills Gallery** so she could share her images of the outback with the rest of the world by showcasing a permanent display of her photographs. Guests can also experience this landscape for themselves through a range of hosted Outback tours ranging from a few hours to nine days. Kayaking tours, station adventures, camel treks, sunset cruises and backpacking tours are just a few of these tours available. [www.stephaniemillsgallery.com.au](http://www.stephaniemillsgallery.com.au)
- **Dandiiri Maiwar** is the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures Centre at the Queensland Museum on Brisbane's South Bank. The centre showcases Queensland's Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders through displays of their stories, artefacts, photographs, art and music from long ago through to the present day. Dandiiri Maiwar (dun deeree may war), combines two words commonly used by local Aboriginal groups — dandiiri meaning "to meet" and maiwar the traditional word used to refer to the waterway now known as the Brisbane River — and roughly translates as "meet at the river". [www.southbank.qm.qld.gov.au/exhibitions/dandiiri/](http://www.southbank.qm.qld.gov.au/exhibitions/dandiiri/)
- The **Museum of Brisbane (MoB)** is located in the heart of Brisbane at the City Hall. This social history museum and visual arts gallery explores people, places and stories that illuminate the city's past and present and features an ever-changing program of exhibitions, installations and events through which visitors can experience the often hidden and forgotten stories of Brisbane. MoB also displays artworks from the City of Brisbane collection and holds contemporary exhibitions and installations by some of the city's leading artists. [www.museumofbrisbane.com.au](http://www.museumofbrisbane.com.au)