

QUEENSLAND DRAGON: CHINESE IN THE NORTH

A Travelling Exhibition from Museum Queensland

21 May
to
4 July 2010

Almost one hundred historical photographs and documents testify to the importance of the Chinese community in the early stages of the development of Far North Queensland.

Towards the end of late nineteenth and early twentieth century, migrants from the rural areas of Guangdong Province of south China constituted twenty to thirty percent of the population of the emerging towns of the region. Every major town - Cairns, Port Douglas, Innisfail, Cooktown, Atherton, Croydon, Georgetown – featured busy Chinese quarters centred around a temple furnished with a wealth of religious objects imported from the home area.

In Cairns, Grafton Street was the hub of the local Chinese community. At the beginning of the twentieth century it featured numerous Chinese shops and businesses, two temples, a school, hospital, club and gambling establishments.

The hard work and diligence of Chinese settlers were vital for the economical development and well-being of the North Queensland communities. Yet in the ensuing years, especially following the introduction of the White Australia Policy, their contribution has been frequently forgotten. This exhibition brings back the memories of the Chinese pioneers of North Queensland as well as the history of some of their descendants, who continue to live in North Queensland.

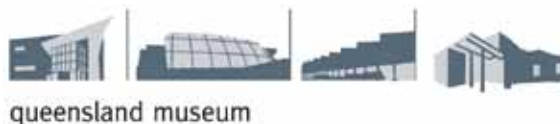
EXHIBITION LAUNCH Friday May 28 - 6.30pm



Chinese boats at Cairns, Trinity Inlet, around 1907.
Collection of State Library of Queensland



Chinese and Japanese residents of Cairns march in peace parade which marked the end of the First World War, 1918.
Collection of Cairns Historical Society



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