



Dandiiri Maiwar

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures Centre
Level 4, Queensland Museum South Bank

Self-guided Trail for Families

Free entry

What to expect

The Exhibit

Dandiiri Maiwar comprises six walk-in story circles: three for Queensland's Aboriginal stories and three for Torres Strait Islander stories.

The Open Access Collection

The Open Access area displays over 1,000 Aboriginal artefacts and Torres Strait Islander artefacts.

The Resource Area/Yarning Table

The Resource Area is a public enquiry area as well as a place to sit and have a yarn.

The Themes

Dandiiri Maiwar celebrates and showcases Aboriginal cultures and Torres Strait Islander cultures from ancient times to the present day.

Magill

Watch out for Magill, a friendly Eastern Water Dragon, whose picture is found throughout the Centre. Magill identifies information especially suited to 3-8 year olds. Magill also gives instructions on how to use the interactives at each location. So wherever you see Magill - there is something special for you to learn or do!

How to use this Trail

Why not print these pages and bring them with you, to assist with your exploration of Dandiiri Maiwar?

Dandiiri Maiwar Displays

- Entrance – Welcome
- Living and Working the Land
- Torres Strait Island Resilience
- Living Under the Act
- The Multimedia Screen
- Perspectives
- 'Ailan Kastom Bilong Torres Strait'
- 'Bipo Taim'
- The Yarning Table
- Queensland's Own Wall

With the theme of cultural celebration, here are some extra ideas you and your children may like to explore. Follow the pathway instructions below and answer the questions.

What can you discover about Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Straits Islander Celebrations?

1. Welcome to Dandiiri Maiwar

Be welcomed by Uncle Bob Anderson and Aunty Jianna Richardson.

Match your handprint to the Welcome Hands Greeting Wall.

Find Magill, outside the first story circle

- *What could be making these children smile?*
- *Why do you think they have body paint on?*

2. Living & Working the Land. Enter the first story circle on your right and look around.

- *What is there to celebrate about being Aboriginal?*
- *Find the huge Bunya Nuts. What did people do with them?*

Large upright poles - between the story circles. See they have words on them?

- *Can you say these words? They are names of clan groups.*

3. Torres Strait Islander Resilience. Enter the second story circle on your right.

- *Find out what people used to do in the Torres Strait Islands.*
- *Look at the Torres Strait Islander flag. What does Magill have to say about this flag?*
- *All flags are different. People like to show off their flags on special occasions.*
- *What makes the Torres Strait Islander flag special?*
- *Find out about the model boat – how are your clothes fastened today?*

4. Living Under the Act. Next story circle on your right.

- *Can you find Magill before you enter? Look for the handmade toys.*
- *What types of toys are they?*
- *What are your favourite toys? Which toys would you like to take to a party?*

Magill (inside)

In the early days of European people settling in Australia, many Aboriginal children were taken away from their families and placed in special schools and missions with other children they didn't know. Later it was good to have a flag to show how they all belonged to the same land.

- *Find the Aboriginal Flag. Name its special colours. Where is it in the photo up above?*

5. Big Screen. Celebrations – honouring land and culture.

Using smoke is important here.

- *How can someone make fire and smoke, without matches or a lighter?*
- *Why might the sea be important to Torres Strait Islanders?*

Dancing outdoors is special.

- *Who is dancing and singing. Why?*

Tropical islands are hot places.

- *Why might Torres Strait Islanders dress in colourful clothes?*
- *What main patterns make these clothes so bright and beautiful?*

Having fun times together.

- *Can you describe some of the ways the people on the screen like to celebrate? Where are they? Who are they sharing with?*

Telling stories through song and dance.

- *What special body decorations do Islanders wear as they dance? What instruments are being played?*

6. Perspectives. In the next story circle, enter nearest the Big Screen

- *How do Aboriginal people like to share their stories?*
- *Are the stories always told in English?*
- *How do you like to share your stories? Can you speak any other language as well as English?*

7. 'Ailan Kastom Bilong Torres Strait'. Enter the middle story circle along this side of the aisle.

It's all about having a good time in here.

- *What do you like to wear when you celebrate?*
- *What sounds might these musical instruments make?*

8. 'Bipo Taim'. The last story circle on your right

Old ways of living, before TV and computers.

- *What are these wonderful masks made out of?*
- *What might you use masks for?*

9. The Yarning Table. Look at the rocks inside the table

Find out what they were used for a long time ago, in the days before cities and factories. How were they made?

- *What would your family use today, instead? How are ours made today?*

10. Queensland's Own. Contemporary Greats wall display. Tracking, left-to-right towards the Big Screen.

This wall is a celebration.

- *Why are these people being celebrated?*
- *Do you recognise any?*

Finally

Magil invites you to beat the drum or clap sticks (opposite the mural wall) or shake a rattle and play a rhythm to celebrate *your life* in your own way.

**We hope you have had fun sharing Culture with us.
Come back to Dandiiri Maiwar soon!**