

# **Port Macquarie Museum**

## **First Peoples Action Plan 2024 – 2027**

### **1 Introduction and Context**

1.1 The Port Macquarie Museum is an independent community museum on the Mid North Coast of New South Wales. The Museum collects, preserves and shares local cultural collections and their stories about Port Macquarie’s identity with the local community and tourism visitors from across Australia and around the world.

1.2 The Museum is custodian of a nationally significant collection of objects, archives and photographs and is responsible for their care and conservation for posterity.

1.3 The Port Macquarie Museum site comprises the State significant historic Store building, c1836 and several building additions constructed from 1960 onwards.

1.4 Since its inception, the Port Macquarie Museum has recognised that local history pre-dates the arrival of the British but has lacked the knowledge, understanding and resources to present that history from the point of view of First People’s and their descendants, other than in a cursory manner.

1.5 The Port Macquarie Museum acknowledges the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we live and work, the Birpai People and seeks to make the Museum a more culturally inclusive place with truth-telling at the centre of our First People’s interpretation and exhibitions.

1.6 This plan sets out our pathway to advance truth telling and reconciliation.

### **2 Relationships, Respect and Reconciliation**

Principles:

- The Museum will continue to work with the Birpai Local Aboriginal Land Council members, Birpai Elders, Birpai knowledge holders and other local First Peoples to seek out, support and embrace cultural inclusion.
- The Museum will work to sector best practice guidelines and protocols in building and maintaining its relationships with First Peoples, including Create NSW Aboriginal Arts and Culture Protocols, 2021.<sup>1</sup>
- We respect First Peoples as the custodians of their culture and will listen to them.
- The Museum will communicate its commitment to reconciliation, both internally to staff and externally to audiences and the public.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nsw.gov.au/arts-and-culture/engage-nsw-arts-and-culture/resource-hub/aboriginal-arts-and-culture-protocols>, accessed on 19 March 2024

Action	Who	Time Frame
2.1 Continue to support and work with external First Peoples stakeholders on projects that advance truth telling and cultural inclusion.	Management Committee, Museum Programs S/C, Publications S/C	Ongoing
2.2 Continue to work with external First Peoples stakeholders on the development of and compliance with protocols applicable to First Peoples cultural materials held in our collection.	Management Committee, Collections S/C	Ongoing
2.3 Seek out opportunities to listen and learn from First Peoples Elders and Knowledge holders.	Management Committee	Ongoing
2.4 Continue to review and refine our Acknowledgement of Country, and make it public.	Management Committee	Ongoing
2.5 Continue to review and refine our existing First Peoples exhibitions content and stories to reflect truth telling, including feedback from First Peoples stakeholders.	Museum Programs S/C	Ongoing
2.6 Continue to include an Acknowledgment of Country at internal gatherings	Management Committee	Ongoing
2.7 Continue to include a Welcome to Country at major gatherings (subject to resources & availability)	Management Committee	Ongoing
2.8 Develop a Statement of Reflection and communicate to internal and external stakeholders.	Management Committee	By 2025
2.9 Provide access to Cultural Competency training for staff (subject to funding)	Management Committee	By 2026
2.10 Establish a First Peoples Advisory Group.	Management Committee	By 2027
2.11 Commence work on a Reconciliation Action Plan.	Management Committee	By 2027