

On the cover



The Mowanjium festival delighted the audience
Picture: Gareth McKnight

Published by the Broome Advertiser

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Approximately 8750 copies weekly to residents and tourist outlets in Broome and Derby. Booking and copy deadline 10am Wednesday (week prior to publication)

Responsibility for editorial comment in this issue is taken by Laura Morris, 50 Hasler Road, Osborne Park, 6017. Printed by Colorpress Pty Ltd, ABN 17 009 172 276, West Australian Newspapers, Hardsman Print Centre, 54 Hasler Road, Osborne Park 6107. Phone 9361 5401.

This publication is published by



A division of West Australian Newspapers Holdings Ltd

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Pearling insights uncovered

■ **Tom Hulse**

Visitors to the Western Australian Maritime Museum in Fremantle between now and October 25 can discover the intriguing stories behind northern Australia's unique pearling tradition.

The Lustre: Pearling & Australia exhibition delves into the gritty human story of pearling, revealing insights into one of Australia's oldest industries.

It is no surprise that the people and businesses of Broome were instrumental in pulling the exhibition together. Broome is the "mother of pearl"; our town was built on the back of the pearling industry boom.

While the industry may have suffered and contracted in recent times, pearling is ingrained in our town's DNA.

The showcase in Perth explores "the intersecting strands of

Aboriginal, Asian and European histories" that were pulled together by the pearling industry and this is the very essence of Broome's unique culture.

The exhibition is a wonderful achievement and offers a great insight into pearling, but if you won't be visiting Fremantle anytime soon you can still discover the fascinating history of pearling. Broome is a living exhibition of the pearling industry. Its museums and town tours give a great insight into the past while a trip to a pearl farm will reveal the secrets of modern day pearl cultivation.

Broome's history was shaped by pearling and while tourism and other industries may have replaced it to a large part, Broome is still the home of the Australian South Sea Pearl — the world's most prized pearl in the world.

Visitors take home a beautiful gem and a little bit of Broome, its history and its culture.

What's on

Saturday, July 25

■ Environs Kimberley Art Auction will be held at the Broome Convention Centre. Doors open at 3pm for a preview of artworks. Food and entertainment will be available from 5pm. The auction starts at 7pm. Entry is \$10.

Sunday, July 26

■ Miss Cable Beach heat 4 will

be held at Divers Beach Bar from 8pm. Entry is free.

■ The Crazy Crab Races/members' night will be held at the Divers Beach Bar from 4.30pm. Entry is free.

Monday, July 27

■ Trivia night at Captain Murphy's from 7pm. Entry is \$2 a person.



Broome and the Kimberley play a prominent part in the Western Australian Maritime Museum's Lustre: Pearling and Australia exhibition.
Picture: Dan Wood