



OCTOBER / NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2026

Specimens from the collection, MAGNT Natural Sciences
Image: MAGNT Rebecca Webb

MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY
NORTHERN TERRITORY

The Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT) is the Northern Territory's premier cultural and scientific organisation. MAGNT’s principal site, set in a scenic coastal location on Larrakia Land at Bundilla in Darwin, is home to internationally renowned artistic, cultural and scientific collections and research programs.

OCTOBER – DECEMBER | DALIRRGANG – BALNBA GULIGI

Dalirrgang (Build up time) – Balnba (rainy season)

The Larrakia People, the traditional owners of the land on which MAGNT’s principal site sits, recognise seven seasons a year in the Gulumoerrgin language. October is Dalirrgang, the hot and very humid 'build-up' season. King tides and abundant box-jelly fish are prevalent and Dawirrbra (thunder and lightning) can be heard and seen in the distance. The ground is hot, and the winds die down, leaving a density in the air until the arrival of Balnba, the season of the first rains and the germination and fruiting of many plants. Gulppula, the green tree frog, brings the rain and people say “Balnba gulugi bigarrk”(“Big rain coming”).

EXHIBITIONS AT MAGNT

2026 Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards (Telstra NATSIAA)
Closing 24 January 2027 | Gallery 1 and Gallery 4
Telstra NATSIAA is the longest running and most prestigious art award for Indigenous artists in the country. This exhibition celebrates the extraordinary voices, cultures and creative practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists from across Australia.

Colin-Jack Hinton Maritime Gallery including Melville, MAGNT’s resident Pygmy Blue Whale
Encounter 23 traditional boats and canoes from the historic vessel and ethnographic watercraft collection offering a rare vignette of how maritime technology has evolved.

OCTOBER

Children’s Field Trip | Lee Point
Join the MAGNT Education Team and Emeritus Curator of Molluscs, Dr Richard Willan, to discover more about the coastal creatures at Lee Point. You will be on the lookout for hermit crabs and different species of fish and learn how to identify and classify different types of shells.

Thursday 1 October 8am - 11am
Suitable for ages 6 - 12 | Free | Bookings essential | Accompanying adult required
Appropriate footwear for beach walking, hat, sunscreen, snacks and water bottles are essential

MAGNT After Dark | Insect Investigations
Explore the museum by torchlight with the MAGNT Education Team. View invertebrates in the *Tiny Territory* exhibition and learn how to set insects traps outside. Enjoy dinner and a nocturnal tour with other emerging entomologists, then use digital microscopes to make detailed observations and see if you can identify what you’ve found!

Friday 2 October 5pm - 9pm
Suitable for ages 10 - 15 | Free | Bookings essential | Accompanying adult required

NOVEMBER

Exhibition in Focus | Transformations – The Changing Nature of the Territory
The environment of the Northern Territory cycles through seven seasons identified by the Larrakia people. However, a part of the year is dominated by water during a ‘Wet’ season and April to November is dominated by sunny ‘Dry’ days. Join MAGNT Curator Emeritus of Molluscs, Dr Richard Willan, to explore the seasonality of the Top End.

Tuesday 3 November 11am - 12pm
Suitable for ages 16+ | Free | Limited places | Bookings recommended

Celebrate | An Afternoon of Filipino Creativity and Culture
Experience community and connection through this celebration of Filipino art and culture. Gain insight into MAGNT’s history of collecting Filipino artworks with our Curator of Southeast Asian Art and Material Culture, Emily Collins, then surround yourself with the diverse talents of Filipino creatives living on Larrakia Country. Watch live painting by artist Rhenz Flores, enjoy traditional and contemporary Filipino dance and listen to smooth beats mixed by DJ Kuya James. El Kusinero’s Chef Jan-Jan will have a market stall so come hungry and savour the flavours of Filipino-inspired food.

Saturday 7 November 4pm - 6.30pm
Suitable for ages 12+ | Free | Bookings recommended

DECEMBER

Exhibition in Focus | Cyclone Tracy
Cyclone Tracy was one of Australia’s worst natural disasters. This exhibition showcases the resilience of Darwin and its people in the days following the destruction. Join MAGNT Assistant Curator of Territory History, Paige Taylor, for a walkthrough of the exhibition and hear some of the extraordinary stories behind the images and objects on display.

Thursday 10 December 11am - 12pm
Suitable for ages 16+ | Free | Limited places | Bookings recommended

Search | LEGO® Minifigures at MAGNT!
The LEGO® Minifigures are loose again this Wet Season so be on the lookout as you explore the galleries and peer into exhibition cases. Can you find some? Can you find them all? Challenge yourself and your friends to a LEGO® count and don't forget to capture your discoveries with photos and share your findings using the hashtag #MAGNTlegohunt. This is a free activity for families and children of all ages across the December and January school holidays.

From Saturday 12 December 10am - 4pm
Suitable for all ages | Free | Adult supervision essential

LOW SENSORY SESSIONS

On the first Friday of the month, the doors of MAGNT stay open to offer a dedicated low sensory session. Visitors can experience exhibitions at their own pace and with reduced sensory stimuli such as sound and lighting. The *Cyclone Tracy* exhibit, including the sound booth, will have all sound turned off.

Friday 2 October 4pm - 5pm
Friday 6 November 4pm - 5pm
Friday 4 December 4pm - 5pm

Cyclone Tracy
When Cyclone Tracy took an unexpected turn on Christmas Eve in 1974, it changed the course of a city. Small but deadly, Cyclone Tracy destroyed Darwin, leading to the largest evacuation and relief effort in Australian history. Home of the Cyclone Tracy story, MAGNT offers a unique opportunity to learn more about this event.

Sweetheart and Ramp Gallery
Find out about the NT’s fascinating wildlife, including MAGNT’s most popular resident, Sweetheart, the 5.1m Estuarine crocodile!

Tiny Territory
Invertebrates in the Top End are the most numerous and important ecosystem engineers, service providers and waste managers, but are rarely noticed, valued or revered. *Tiny Territory* makes large and wondrous the small, colourful and alien-like insects and spiders of the Northern Territory.

Tracy’s Echo: 50 Years of Resilience
Tracy’s Echo: 50 Years of Resilience honours the untold stories of Aboriginal survivors of Cyclone Tracy. Deeply personal works created in 2024, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the cyclone, are shared alongside a newly commissioned sound work in this important, community-led exhibition.

Transformations: The Changing Nature of the Territory
Tracing an evolutionary timeline from the beginnings of our solar system, this exhibition journeys through the periods of natural history that have shaped the unique ecology of the Northern Territory. Discover megafauna that once roamed this part of the world and the amazing, often deadly animals of the region.

Unruly Days: Territory Life 1911 – 1921
The Northern Territory has always been a land of contrast and extremes. From its monsoonal Top End to its arid interior, larger than life characters, bountiful resources and highly diverse society – life in the Territory has always been different to the norm. Unruly Days provides insights into life in the Northern Territory from 1911 - 1921.

Conservation Talk | Tropical Tips
Caring for artwork and memorabilia in the tropics can be challenging. Join the MAGNT Conservation Team and learn how to prepare for the Wet Season. Mould, humidity, pests, and other threats will be discussed, and practical tips on how you can protect precious weavings, carvings, paintings and paper will be shared.

Saturday 10 October 11am - 12pm
Suitable for ages 16+ | Free | Limited spaces | Bookings recommended

Sunday Funday | Looking at Leaves
Join us at the Maritime Undercroft and develop new skills through a series of fun activities that give children a chance to explore science, technology, engineering, art and maths. Run by MAGNT’s Education Team, this hands-on workshop is perfect for children with curious minds. In this session, participants will collect samples of leaves, observe the differences and document their finds.

Sunday 18 October 11am - 2pm
Suitable for families and children of all ages | Free entry | Drop-in Activity

Field Trip | Let’s Go Frogging!
Join MAGNT’s Natural Science Team to celebrate FrogID Week and participate in Australia’s biggest frog count! Meet at Mickett Creek and help us get the jump on other froggers across Australia by listening for, and recording, the calls of our amphibious friends in the wild. The observations and recordings you make help the science community understand how different species of frogs are responding to our ever-changing world. Everyone is welcome so why not hop along and have fun in the name of science?

Saturday 14 November 6pm - 8.30pm
Suitable for ages 6+ | Free | Bookings essential | Accompanying adult required

Sunday Funday in Palmerston | FrogID Week
Step inside the City of Palmerston Library and develop new skills through a series of fun activities exploring science, technology, engineering, art and maths. Run by MAGNT Lead STEAM Educator, Caitlin Conway, this hands-on workshop is perfect for children with curious and creative minds who want to learn how to identify local frog species by their calls and physical traits.

Sunday 15 November 1pm - 4pm
Suitable for families and children of all ages | Free entry | Drop-in Activity

Overnight Odyssey | LEGO® Creatures
Join the MAGNT Education Team for a sleepover at MAGNT. Explore the exhibitions after dark and create your own museum-inspired LEGO® creature. Search the natural science exhibits for LEGO® minifigures by torchlight and watch a movie before heading to bed in the Discovery Centre. Goodnight Sweetheart!

Overnight stay 5pm Tuesday 15 December - 9am Wednesday 16 December
Suitable for children aged 6 - 12 | Free | Bookings essential | Accompanying adult required

Exhibition in Focus for Children | 2026 Telstra NATSIAA
A special tour for little ones with MAGNT Senior Curator of Art/ NATSIAA Curator, Dr Shannon Brett, to hear about the stories behind some of the artworks in the 2026 Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards This tour will encourage children and families to think creatively and share their own stories and responses to some of the artworks featured in the exhibition.

Wednesday 16 December 4pm - 5pm
Suitable for ages 4+ | Free | Bookings recommended | Accompanying adult required

From Saturday 12 December 10am - 4pm
Suitable for all ages | Free | Adult supervision essential

MAGNT acknowledges the traditional owners of Country across the Northern Territory and beyond, and pays respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

OTHER MAGNT SITES

Fannie Bay Gaol
82 East Point Road, Fannie Bay, Darwin

Defence of Darwin Experience
5434 Alec Fong Lim Drive, East Point, Darwin

FAMILY FUN PROGRAM

Turtle and Fish Feeding
Step inside the Monsoon Garden and join our staff for their weekly feeding of turtles and fish friends. Learn about our resident pond dwellers and other freshwater inhabitants found in the Northern Territory.

Every Thursday 10.30am
Suitable for all ages | Free | Limited places | Bookings not required

What's On in the Discovery Centre*

Mini Makers at MAGNT
Every Friday 10.30am - 12.30pm
Suitable for children up to 5 years and their carers | Bookings not required

*** The Discovery Centre is closed during October and will reopen in November as an exciting new activity space.**

Drop-in Activities
During School Terms Open Saturday - Sunday 10.30am - 12.30pm
During School Holidays Open Tuesday - Thursday 10.30am - 12.30pm

Suitable for ages 3 - 12 | Limited places | Bookings not required | Days subject to availability

Sunday Fundays in Darwin and Palmerston
On the third Sunday of every month, MAGNT hosts a series of fun activities that give children and families a chance to explore science, technology, engineering, art and maths. Sunday Fundays are held at MAGNT and the City of Palmerston Library. Visit the MAGNT website to find out more!

Looking at Leaves
Sunday 18 October | 11am - 2pm | Darwin

FrogID Week
Sunday 15 November | 1pm - 4pm | Palmerston

Magpie Geese
Sunday 20 December | 11am - 2pm | Darwin
Suitable for families and children of all ages | Free entry | Bookings not required

Our School Holiday Programs and other activities for families, children and young people are highlighted below in pink. Or try out our new Children's Trail in the Maritime Gallery.

Artist Lecture | Dr Ryan Presley: 2026 Telstra Art Award Winner
Join us as we learn about the complex and important arts practice of Marri Ngarr and 2026 Telstra Art Award winning artist, Dr Ryan Presley. As part of this lecture Ryan will share how his cultural ties to the Northern Territory and Queensland have shaped his 20-year career as a leading contemporary artist. Ryan’s artwork *Our lifestyle of tranquillity undisturbed*, 2026, will form the central focus of the lecture, with time for conversation towards the end of the session. This is not to be missed!

Saturday 24 October 2pm - 3.30pm
Suitable for ages 16+ | Free | Bookings recommended

Exhibition in Focus | 2026 Telstra NATSIAA Curatorial Insights
The 2026 Telstra National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Awards presents 64 new artworks from emerging and established Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists. Learn more about the works on display on this guided tour with MAGNT Senior Curator of Art/NATSIAA Curator, Dr Shannon Brett.

Saturday 21 November 11am - 12pm
Suitable for ages 16+ | Free | Places are limited | Bookings recommended

Exhibition in Focus | Unruly Days: Territory Life 1911-1921
Join MAGNT Curator of Territory History, Jared Archibald, for an in-depth tour of the exhibition *Unruly Days: Territory Life 1911-1921* and learn what it was like to live in the Territory in the first decade of Commonwealth rule whilst the world was in turmoil.

Thursday 26 November 11am - 12pm
Suitable for ages 16+ | Free | Limited places | Bookings recommended

Exhibition in Focus for Children | From Jaws to Claws
Transformations: The Changing Nature of the Territory in the natural science gallery, is a special exhibition in the Museum where you can discover multiple crocodiles, touch real fossils and learn about the marine stingers and mini monsters that live in the Northern Territory. Join MAGNT Curator Emeritus of Molluscs, Dr Richard Willan, for an exciting family friendly tour through this gallery.

Thursday 17 December 11am - 12pm
Suitable for ages 5 - 16 | Free | Bookings recommended | Accompanying adult required

Sunday Funday | Magpie Geese
The Northern Territory has the world’s largest population of Magpie Geese. Join us in the Discovery Centre for this hands-on workshop run by the MAGNT Education Team. In this session participants will create artworks inspired by our seasonal feathered visitors and learn more about this iconic species.

Sunday 20 December 11am - 2pm
Suitable for families and children of all ages | Free entry | Drop-in Activity

WHAT’S ON ELSEWHERE

At East Point

Defence of Darwin Experience
The Defence of Darwin Experience is a powerful, immersive, interactive experience that tells the story of an extraordinary chapter in Australian history, the bombing of Darwin by the Japanese on 19 February 1942.

Military Mascots
Military Mascots tells the stories of the unsung heroes of warfare from across the Northern Territory, from World War II to the present. Including pet animals, mythical beasts and cartoon characters, they didn’t fight but kept morale high and depression and anxiety low, symbolising the freedoms and spirit of home.

Mon - Sat: 9.30am - 4pm | Sun & Public Holidays: 10am - 3pm
5434 Alec Fong Lim Drive, East Point | Ticketed Entry

At Fannie Bay Gaol

On the Inside
On the Inside is a powerful audio tour that shares hidden stories of the Northern Territory’s longest running prison which opened in 1883 and closed in 1979. Turn your headphones on and join this 50-minute tour, narrated by Larrakia Elder, Dr Richard Fejo, who guides you through the prison’s many historic chapters in an immersive audio experience.

Audio Tour suitable for ages 12+ | Self-guided experience
Download the free app from the Apple App Store or Google Play prior to visiting.
Fannie Bay Gaol | Wed - Sun 110am - 2pm | Free Entry
Cnr East Point Road and Ross Smith Avenue, Fannie Bay



MAKE A BOOKING!
magnt.net.au/whatsondarwin