

James Cook Museum, Cooktown



On Thursday 24th April P&O's cruise ship the Sun Princess berthed off Cooktown and brought passengers to shore in enclosed tenders. The ship set out from Sydney and travelled north up the Eastern seaboard to Cooktown stopping at many ports along the way. Its next stop after Cooktown is Darwin and the cruise ends in Perth. Most of the 1900 passengers were Australian seniors. Passengers could choose to book on tours of Cooktown and its environs or wander independently for the day. The James Cook Museum received 681 visitors making for a record day. This number included other tourists not aboard the Sun Princess. Due to the large numbers involved the museum used both its entrances. At the side entrance on Furneaux St museum assistant Sue Bird, assisted by Carol

Fossett and Brolga Burkitt, welcomed all the passengers on tours. Brolga also looked after the lower floor of the museum. At the main entrance on Helen St museum assistant Gaye Armstrong received independent visitors. Carol Hunter took care of the first floor of the museum and provided staff with refreshments in what proved to be a non stop fun day.

This was the first time a cruise ship of such a large capacity has arrived in Cooktown and one passenger reported being unable to get on a tender until midday and that only 700 passengers reached shore due to a limited number of tenders being used. The sea off Cooktown has a tendency to be rough and this may also have deterred some passengers. Those who made it to Cooktown however spoke fondly of the town and the museum in particular.

The next Sun Princess cruise is due on July 8th, weather permitting, and staff will be keenly anticipating another exciting fun-filled day.

Helen Crampton, Manager



*Identify, Preserve,
Promote*

**James Cook
Museum**
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