

200 TREASURES OF THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

WESTPAC LONG GALLERY



EVENT CALENDAR LISTING

200 TREASURES OF THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

-- Uncover hidden stories in the newly-restored Westpac Long Gallery --

New permanent exhibition opens October 14, 2017

Australian Museum, 1 William Street, Sydney

Free after general admission. Adults \$15, kids go free. Opening hours 9.30am - 5pm daily

The Australian Museum (AM) has unveiled one of the greatest collection of treasures in the country's history, revealing the objects and people who have shaped the nation.

The landmark exhibition *200 Treasures of the Australian Museum* also celebrates the reopening of the neo-classical Long Gallery, the nation's oldest gallery, built between 1846 and 1855, after a two-year restoration.

The \$9 million restoration and permanent exhibition were funded in equal partnership between Westpac, the NSW Government and the Australian Museum Foundation.

The AM marks its 190-year history by showcasing some of the most important and intriguing items in its collection of more than 18 million objects, including Captain Cook's feathered cape and a 120-million-year-old Australian pliosaur nicknamed "Eric".

The 100 treasures of history, science and culture also include:

- The body of a preserved Thylacine pup, dating back to 1886;
- The Sydney funnel-web spider responsible for the only recorded human death by this species;
- A bird-shaped stone pestle made in Papua New Guinea between 3000 and 8000 years ago;
- A 2800-year-old Egyptian mummy in a wooden coffin painted with mythological scenes;
- A sledge and ice pick from Sir Douglas Mawson's expedition to Antarctica, 1911-1914;
- A prehistoric Irish Elk skeleton with enormous antlers, discovered in peat bog deposits;
- Australia's first bank note, issued on April 8, 1817; and
- A 10-kilogram gold nugget discovered in 1887, the only remaining example of its kind from the early gold-rush years in NSW.

The 100 treasured objects are matched by 100 people who have helped shape the nation through contributions to history, science, nature, sport or culture, such as Cathy Freeman, Sir Donald Bradman, Professor Fred Hollows, Eddie Mabo, Ned Kelly and Kylie Minogue.