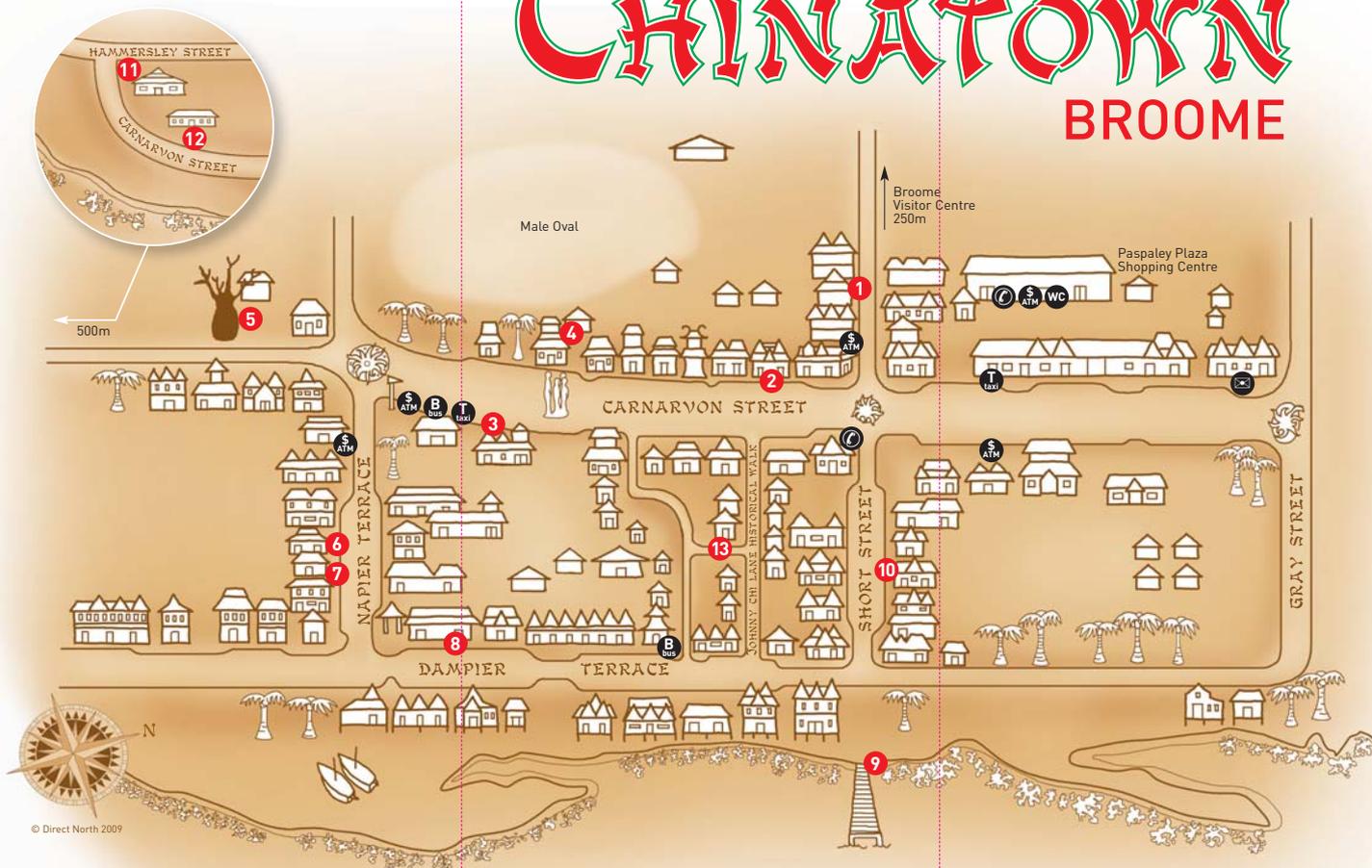


# CHINATOWN BROOME



## HERITAGE TRAIL

**B**roome was gazetted in 1883 and named after the then state Governor, Sir Frederick Napier Broome.

At this time it was little more than a shanty town of sand hill camps and a jumble of shacks housing businesses that serviced the pearl luggers.

Pearling masters and their crews came from all over the world in search of the "Golden Lip" Pinctada Maxima, the largest of Australia's mother-of-pearl shell.

Initially it was the shell that was in great demand, attracting up to £400 a ton in 1880's. The mother of pearl shell was used to make buttons, cutlery, hair combs, jewellery items as well as objects of art and inlay for furniture.

The truth be known the pearling industry around Broome began long before then. Local Bardi people along the Dampier Peninsular were the first to harvest pearl shell. Mathew Flinders diaries tell us of links between Australia and Indonesia (Dutch East Indies then) dating back 500 years of established trading of pearl shell, turtle and trepang. They were also known to wear the pearl shell and trade with other indigenous peoples from the surrounding regions.

Broomes' first town lots were sold in 1886 and from 1890's permanent structures sprung up to meet demand for pearl shell. Town planning was not what it is now, described in 1902 as an inexplicable jumble; Chinatowns' narrow crooked lanes were lined with ramshackle corrugated iron buildings with bars in place of windows and they seemed to spring up at each land owners' whim.

By 1910 nearly 400 Luggers and 3500 people were diving for shell in waters around Broome, the biggest pearling industry in the world, Broome population grew to 5000.

A hand drawn map of Broome from the 1920's shows Broome had already shaped its street layout with Billiard Halls, Brothels and Bars plentiful and scattered amongst food and supply stores that serviced locals and the pearling fleets.

Broome has changed significantly in the past 90 years however fortunately many original buildings remain and are protected by the 2001 Register of Heritage Places - Chinatown Conservation Area. Some have been relocated however remain in their original state.

We invite you to wander the streets of Chinatown as we guide you around the Heritage listed buildings and discover the mysteries of another time. Please enjoy Broomes' original settlement, business and shopping precinct.

### 1 HANOE'S COTTAGE, SHORT STREET (SHORT ST GALLERY)

Built in 1890's its original use is unknown. Its distinctive design consists of a central room surrounded by shuttered verandas and a unique wind scoop that draws cooler air from outside and set up on masonry stumps to avoid tidal flooding. It draws its name from its owners who purchased it in 1940 remained its resident/s for over 40 years.

### 2 SUN PICTURE GARDENS, CARNARVON STREET

Built in 1916, a single-storey three sided timber framed structure clad with corrugated iron with a high twin-peaked roof, a rare example of a purpose built picture garden. It is one of the oldest operating picture gardens in Australia. You are free to wander through the grounds and view the memorabilia on display.

### 3 L.L.TACK'S, CARNARVON STREET (BROOME ECO ADVENTURES)

Built in 1890's, one of Chinatown's original buildings, this is a typical example of Broome architecture. Built with practicality in mind the shop owner would reside behind or above. Lattice encloses the upstairs balcony providing privacy whilst still allowing air to circulate.

### 4 TANG WEI'S, CARNARVON STREET (ECO BEACH WILDERNESS RETREAT)

Thought to be built in 1905-10, the rear extensions were added in the early 1920's and were used by the Chinese pearling crews as a boarding house prior to WW2. Tang Wei's soup kitchen was a popular haunt when it operated around his pearling commitments and after his retirement.

### 5 OLD LOCKUP & H.THOMAS BOAB TREE, CARNARVON STREET (OLD BROOME LOCKUP GALLERY)

This single storey concrete and iron cell block once adjoined Broomes' Police Station, Courthouse & Inspectors' residence. Built in 1894 it remained in use until the 1950's. The Boab tree was planted in 1897 by Sgt Herbert Thomas to commemorate the birth of his son. Sgt Thomas rose to the rank of Inspector but tragically died in the 1920 riot.

### 6 NAPIER COTTAGES, NAPIER TERRACE (SOM THAI KITCHEN)

Built in the very early 1900's, a single-storey front section and two story rear section is timber framed structure and corrugated iron. Initially a Japanese boarding house it has had many tenants over time but remained a Restaurant for over 20 years and remains virtually unchanged.

### 7 NAPIER COTTAGES, NAPIER TERRACE (KIMBERLEY BOOKSHOP)

Built in the very early 1900's, a single-storey timber framed structure clad with corrugated iron. The relocation of the entrance to the side occurred in the 1980's however it remains a classic example of Broomestyle architecture.

### 8 ROEBUCK BAY HOTEL, DAMPIER TERRACE

Fire destroyed the original hotel built by EW Streeter in 1890. In 1904 it was rebuilt and although undergoing many changes since the original facade consisting of its wide veranda and corrugated iron roof remains to this day. If these timber boards could talk then many a colourful tale they would tell.

### 9 STREETERS JETTY, DAMPIER TERRACE

The original rough bush timber jetty was built in the 1880's and extended all the way to Dampier Creek. It has been repaired & replaced several times. The narrow jetty carves through the mangroves and allowed luggers to offload Pearl Shell and load supplies. Trolley rails once aided the movement of shell from the luggers to the pearl sheds. It was still used commercially as late as 1991. At low tide it appears to lead to nowhere yet on a 9 metre tide it is submerged below the waters surface.

### 10 STREETER & MALE, SHORT STREET

The stone office building was built in the 1880's and has always stood in contrast to the corrugated structures that surrounded it. EW Streeter, a London jeweller and his son George established Streeter & Co to service the Pearling industry that had moved north from Cossack. Arthur & Archie Male was employed in the 1890's and by the end of the decade Arthur was appointed General Manager. The Streeters sold to the Males in 1911 and the business was renamed Streeter & Male and continues to trade to this day.

### 11 UNION BANK CHAMBERS, CNR CARNARVON & HAMERSLEY STREETS (MATSO'S BREWERY)

Originally built in 1910 on Frederick Street (opposite the Police Station) is housed the Union Bank and remained as banking chambers until 1942. Relocated to Corner Robinson & Weld Streets in late 1940's it became known as Streeter & Male No. 2 store. Sometime in the 1970's Philip Matsumoto opened a general store suitably called "Matso's Store". Relocated to its current address in the 1980's you can view the original sign that hangs over the inside bar.

### 12 CAPTAIN GREGORY'S HOUSE, CNR CARNARVON & HAMERSLEY STREETS (MONSOON GALLERY)

Originally built around 1915 it is a fine example of Broomestyle architecture. The central block of rooms open onto the wide veranda which is enclosed and surrounds the house. It is constructed of jarrah with pressed metal ceilings and corrugated iron clad and roof. Captain Gregory established a fleet of pearling luggers and in the 1920's gained a licence to cultivate pearls. This did not please his industry peers who considered it threatened the mother of pearl trade and his licence was revoked. Captain Gregory died in 1942 and was not witness to the now billion dollar industry which he pioneered.

### 7 JOHNNY CHI LANE

All along its length are buildings that tell the tales of years gone by.