

# First Nations stories

CHILDREN'S  
ACTIVITY TRAIL

QUEENSLAND  
MUSEUM  
KURILPA



# Discover, learn, celebrate!

**This trail takes you on a journey to discover the incredible stories within Queensland Museum Kurilpa.**

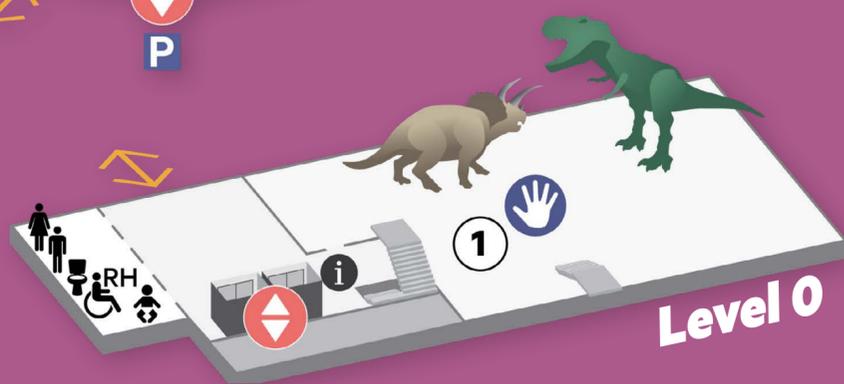
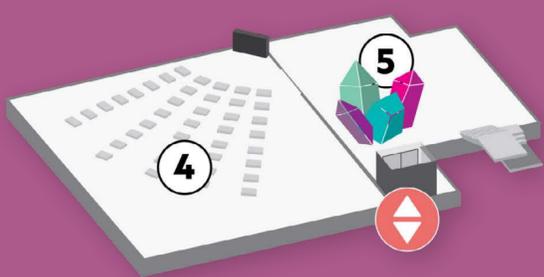
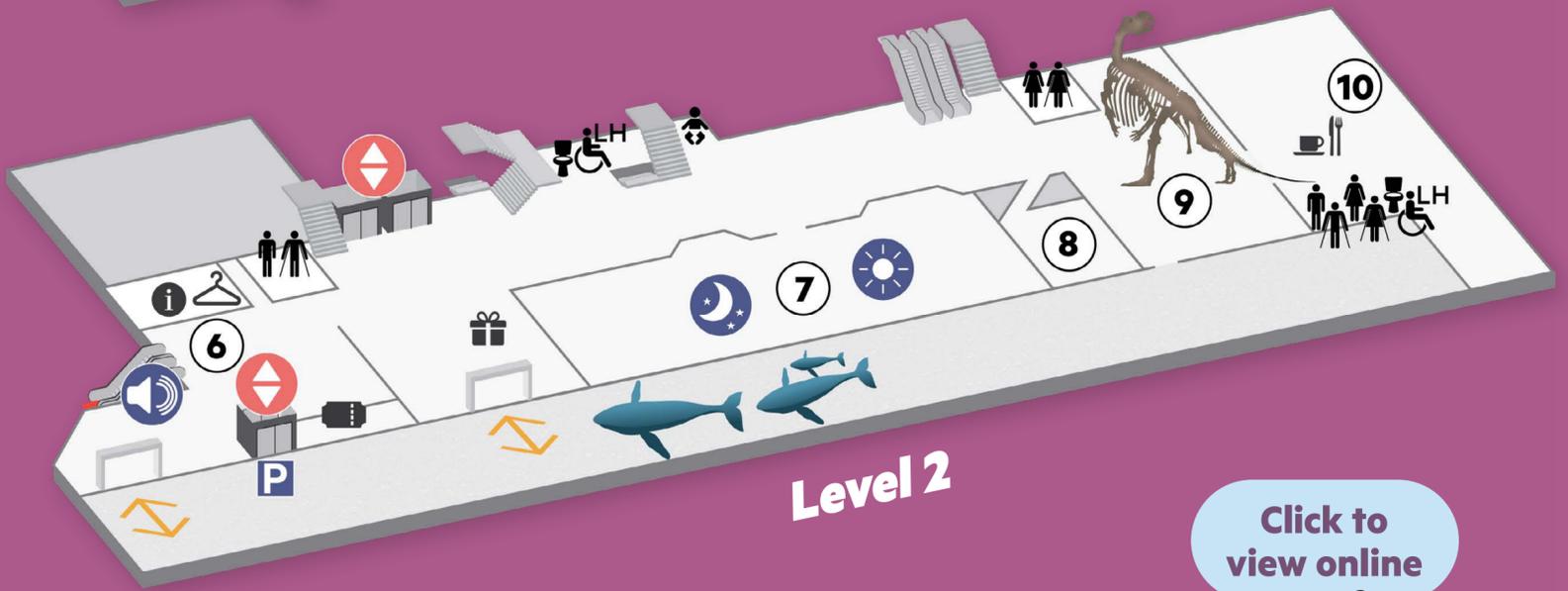
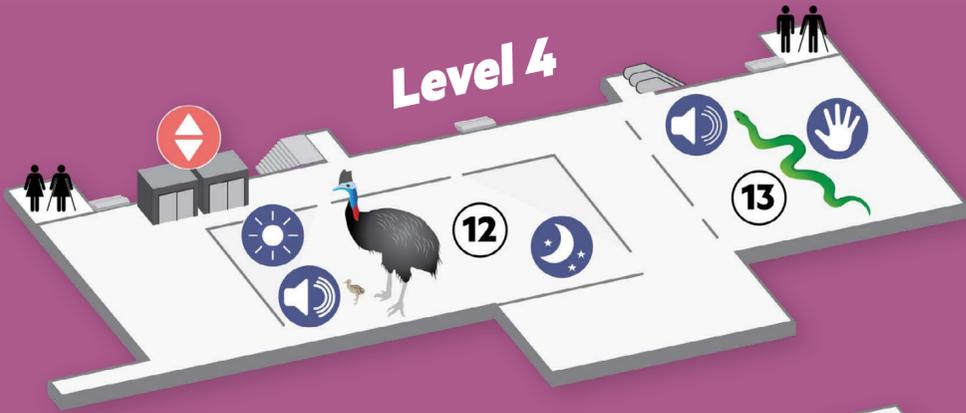
Each page will direct you to an object with an amazing story or fact from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' culture and history.

Look for the LOOK, SPEAK, DO icons to guide you through the museum's activities.

*Artwork by Dylan Sarra*

# Floorplan

-  Information
-  Toilets
-  Ticketing
-  Ambulant toilets
-  Cloakroom  
Subject to availability
-  Accessible toilets
-  Shop
-  Parents room
-  Café Muse



Click to view online



-  Lift
-  Entry/Exit
-  Ticketed experience
-  Usually noisy
-  Usually quiet
-  Very low light
-  Interactive and touch objects
-  Light projections

# Level 2

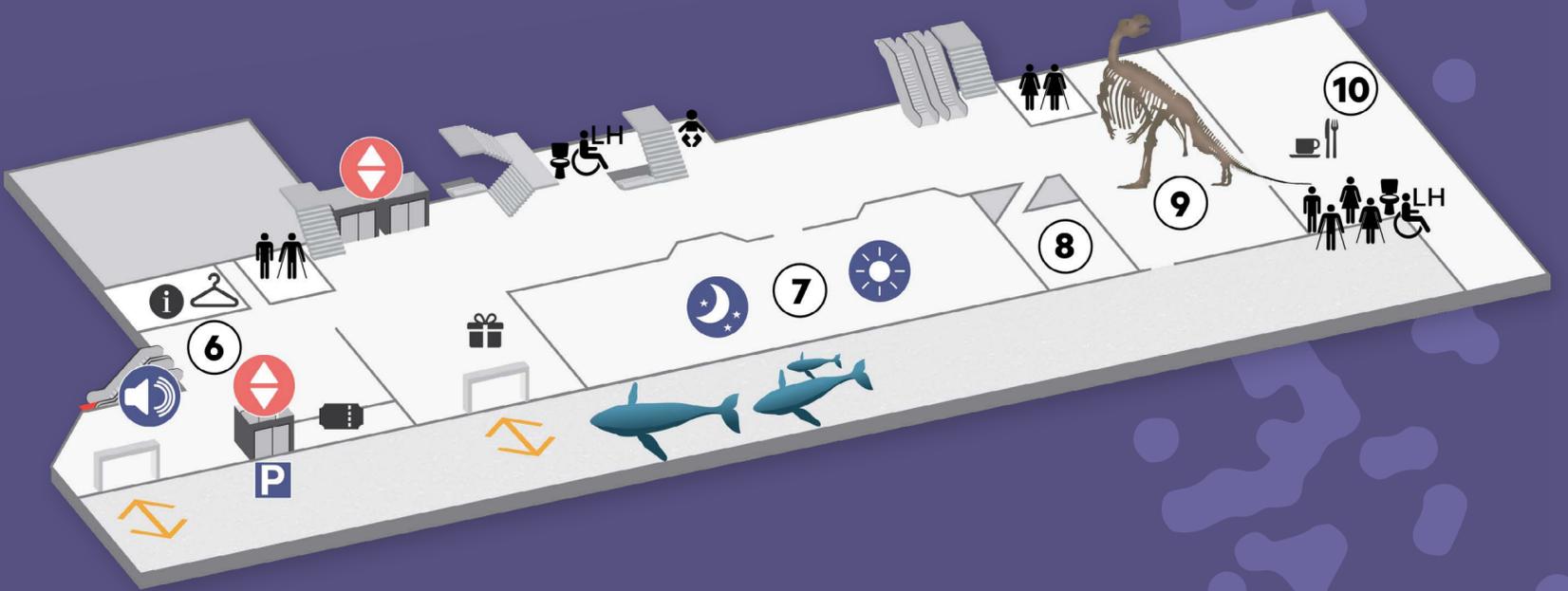
6. Main foyer

7. Featured exhibition

8. Featured exhibition

9. Dinosaurs Unearthed

10. Café Muse



# COME ON AN ADVENTURE

through Queensland Museum Kurilpa to find amazing exhibits, objects and animals, and discover the rich stories of Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

You are currently at a cultural site called **Kurilpa**. The name Kurilpa comes from the word kuril, the Yuggera name for 'water rat'.

Water rat (*Hydromys chrysogaster*) © Leo/Flickr



## ACTIVITY

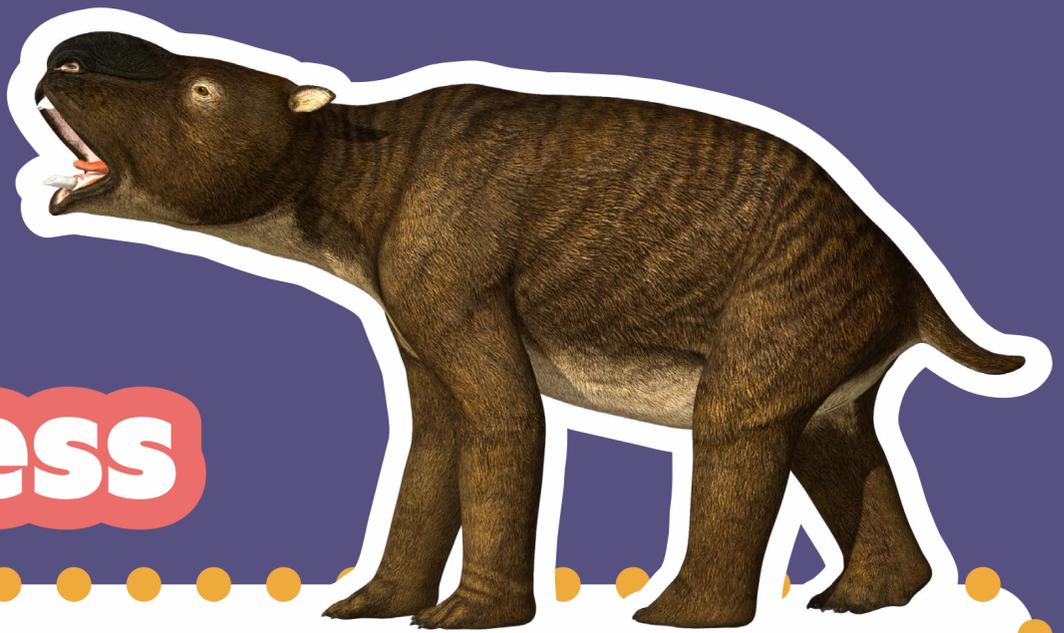
How do you acknowledge First Nations people where you live?



# Time to acknowledge Country!



Can you find the  
Acknowledgment of Country  
near the main entry on Level 2?



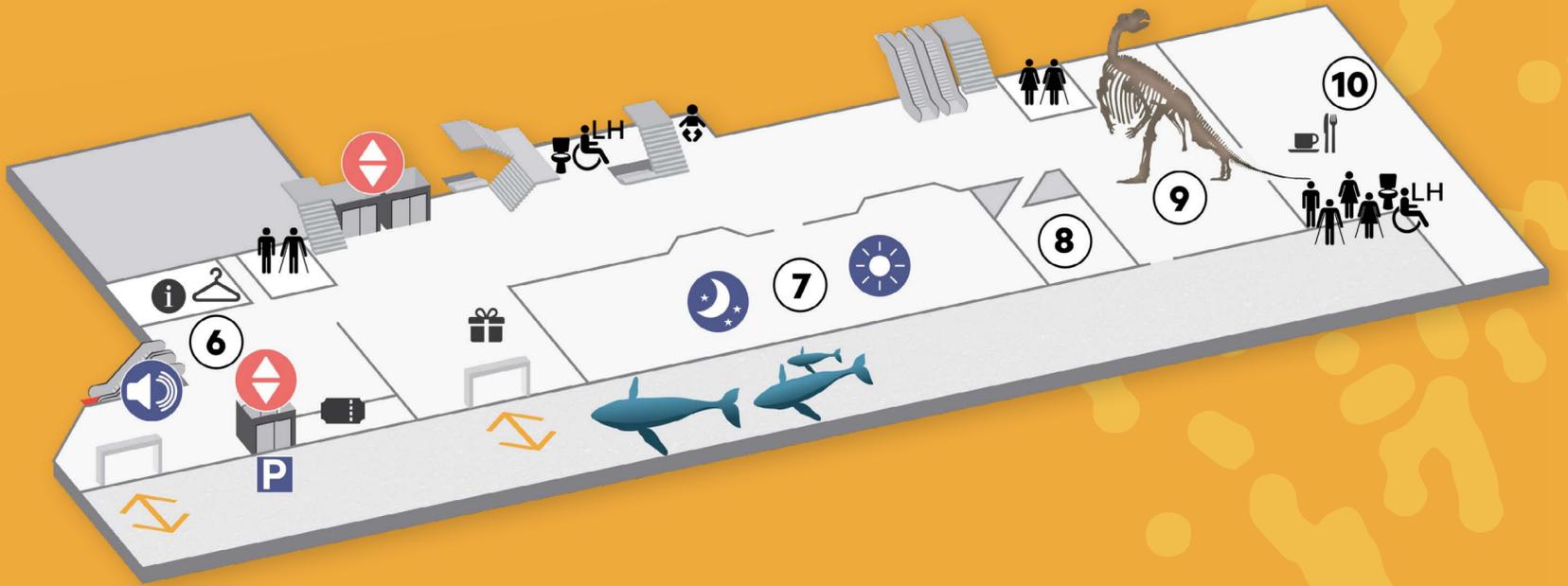
# Timeless Land



**Watch the video *Timeless Land*  
in *Dinosaurs Unearthed*.**

The Barada Barna community  
worked very closely with  
Queensland Museum to unearth  
and preserve megafauna fossils.  
They also found fossils of delicate  
leaves, seeds and insects.

# Level 2 – Whale Mall



# Find the Yalingbila!

## Activity

Sing like a whale and see how far your voice can travel through the Whale Mall!



## Can you hear the whales calling?

Yalingbila means 'whale' in Jandai, which is one of the languages of the Quandamooka peoples on Minjerribah (North Stradbroke Island).



## FUN FACT

Whale songs can travel for thousands of kilometres through very deep water: some whales make sounds too low for humans to hear.



## DID YOU KNOW?

There is a special celebration welcoming the annual whale migration called Yura Yalingbila (welcome the whales). The Quandamooka peoples of Minjerribah (North Stradbroke Island) and Mulgumpin (Moreton Bay Island) have been celebrating this migration for more than 20,000 years.

Want to know more?  
Queensland Museum have  
a podcast episode on our  
whale collection!

*Museum Revealed Podcast.*

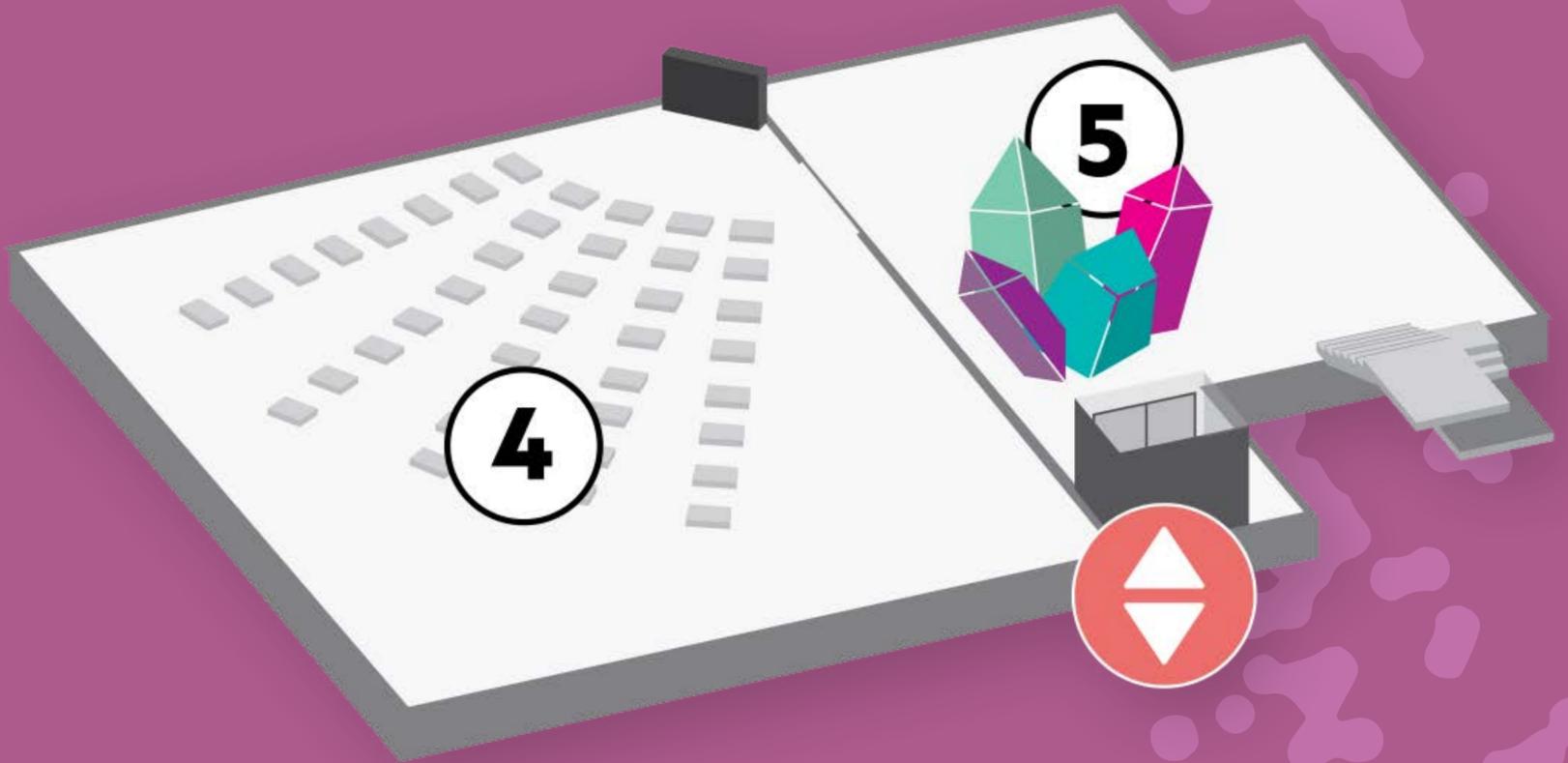


# Level 1½

MEZZANINE

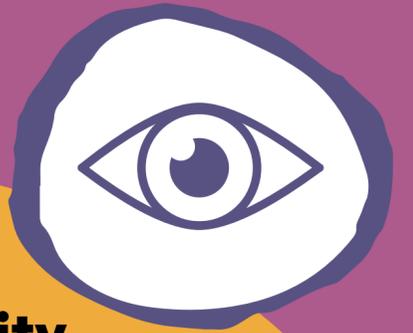
**4. Theatre**

**5. Minerals: Inspirational  
Treasures from the Earth**



# Stones with superpowers

Indigenous peoples often made things from rocks and minerals. Gypsum was used to make pigment for paint and plaster for games and jewellery. Quartz is a strong and durable mineral, so it's good for making tools.



## Activity

Can you find the yowah nut, quartz and gypsum?

*Hint: They are some of the biggest specimens in the exhibition!*



## FUN FACT

Opals hold deep cultural and spiritual significance for many Aboriginal communities across Australia, often featuring in Dreamtime stories. One such story tells of Pallah-Pallah, a colourful butterfly trapped beneath snow on a mountain. As the snow melted, the colours from her wings flowed down to Morillah (Lightning Ridge, NSW), forming the rainbow hues now seen in the dazzling opal stones that line Coocoran Lake's ridges.



# Beyond the battlefield

## FUN FACT

David Williams played the didgeridoo at the 2017 Anzac Day service at Gallipoli. He is a proud Wakka Wakka man from south-east Queensland.



## Activity

Can you find David Williams with his didgeridoo?  
Can you find Private Frank Fisher?



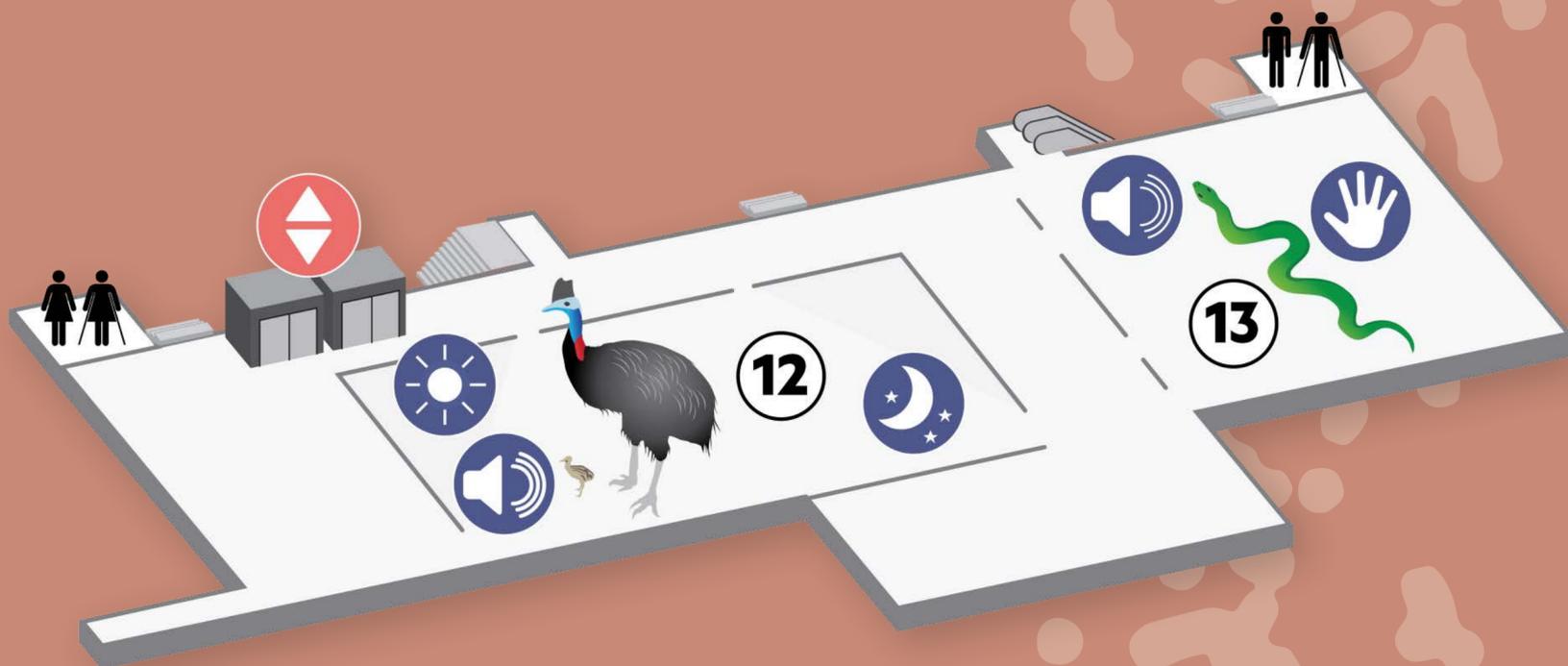
## DID YOU KNOW?

Private Fisher was one of 26 Aboriginal servicemen in the 20th reinforcements for the 11th Light Horse Regiment. Of this group, only four servicemen were not Aboriginal. This group was known as the 'Queensland Black Watch'.

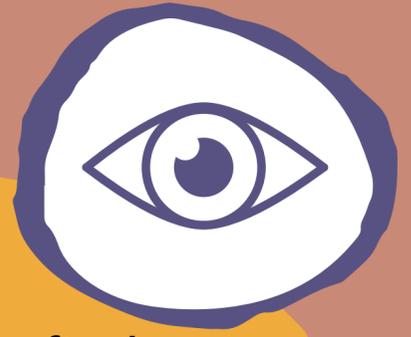
# Level 4 Discovery Centre

12. Wild State

13. Discovery Centre



# Feel the beat and rhythm



## Activity

Look closely to find the Torres Strait Islander musical instruments in the 'Dance in the Torres Strait' cabinet.

What are three instruments you can see on display? Have you heard of them before?



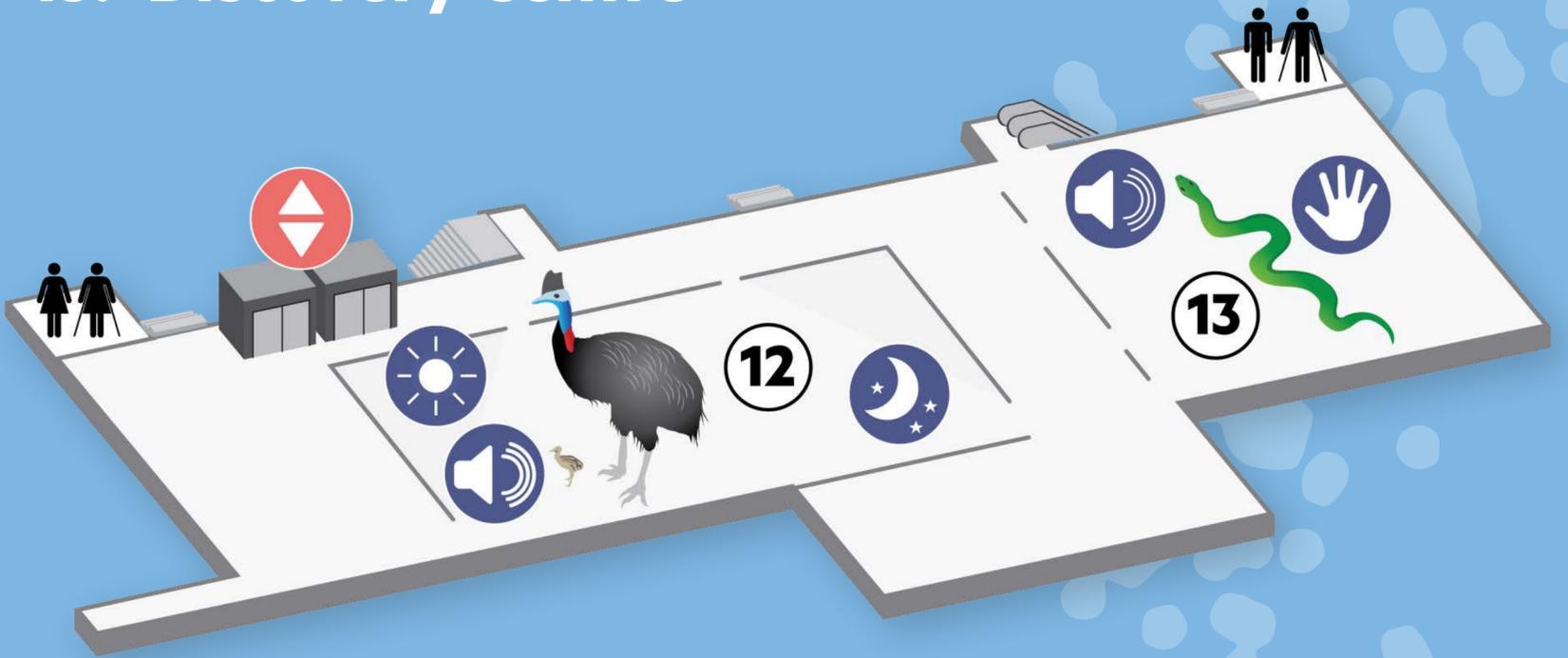
## DID YOU KNOW?

The distinctive Torres Strait drums were actually made in the Fly River area of Papua New Guinea. They made their way into the Torres Strait via the trade networks that exist between Torres Strait Islanders and their Papuan neighbours. Torres Strait Islanders exchanged pearl shells and stones for canoe hulls, which could not be sourced on the islands, as well as other highly-prized items like the drums.

# Level 4 Wild State

12. Wild State

13. Discovery Centre



# Time to be wild!



## Activity

Move like a cassowary. How does it walk with its long legs and long neck?

## Activity

Can you find the animal covered in feathers with two long legs, a blue and red neck, and a hard crown on top of its head?



## DID YOU KNOW?

The cassowary has lived alongside Aboriginal people in north Queensland rainforests for over 40,000 years.

Cassowaries are a source of food for the Bama people, but they also disperse seeds throughout the rainforest, which helps new trees and fruit grow.

**Activity**

Can you find the ocean's silent hunter? It has gills, sharp teeth and a fin on its back.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

The shark constellation *Baidham* is made up of the stars in the Big Dipper.

When these stars appear in the north over New Guinea, Islanders know that it's a special time for the sharks and that they should plant banana, sugarcane and sweet potato.

The phases of the moon tell the Islanders when it's the best time to fish.

The Torres Strait region is home to two traditional languages – Meriam Mir and Kala Lagaw Ya – as well as a creole language that is based on English.

The traditional languages also have dialects, which means a regional variety of the language spoken by a particular group of people. Meriam Mir has two regional dialects (Mer and Erub). Kala Lagaw Ya has four regional dialects (Kulkaigau Ya, Kalaw Kawaw Ya, Kawrareg and Mabuyag).



Here are some ways to say *shark* in Torres Strait languages:

**sak**

Torres Strait Creole / Yumplatok

**baidham**

Kala Lagaw Ya

**beizam**

Meriam Mir

**Thank you  
for visiting  
Queensland  
Museum  
Kurilpa!**



**Queensland  
Government**