**Attention editor/chief of staff**                                **01 April 2025**

## Ancient Egypt and the afterlife arrive at the Museum of Geraldton

*Ancient Egypt: Secrets of the Museum Collection* opens at the Museum of Geraldton on Friday 4 April, inviting visitors of all ages to explore the stories behind a selection of intriguing objects from the Western Australian Museum's collection.

This free exhibition offers a closer look at how Ancient Egyptian objects came into the Museum's care, and how researchers are using scientific techniques to uncover new details about their origins—including just how old some of them really are. It also explores how the afterlife shaped the way people lived, died, and honoured the dead.

Visitors can examine selected objects more closely using a digital kiosk and explore how concepts of authenticity, belief and museum practice come together to shape our understanding of the past.

The exhibition will run throughout the April school holidays, alongside a creative program of family-friendly activities. Children can build pyramids, decode hieroglyphs, design jewellery or even make their own mummified cat.

Families looking for something hands-on can also book in for the Cane Toad Mummification workshop during the April school holidays. Guided by staff, participants will follow traditional mummification steps using cane toads and take their specimen home at the end.

Those interested in learning more can hear directly from the experts through free public talks in April and May. These events explore themes from the exhibition, including burial practices, authenticity in collections, and the significance of Abydos—one of Egypt's most sacred burial sites.

Museum of Geraldton Regional Manager Leigh O'Brien said the exhibition invites visitors to think differently about the past, and how museums study it.

"Ancient Egypt continues to spark the imagination, but it's the way we study these objects today that really opens up new stories. In this exhibition, we are bringing together the fascinating intersection of history, authenticity and technology, and we are excited to share it with Geraldton audiences of all ages."

*Ancient Egypt: Secrets of the Museum Collection* is open from 4 April to 9 June 2025 and will run alongside school holiday activities exploring themes of life, death and the ancient world.

For more information, visit: **https://visit.museum.wa.gov.au/geraldton/ancient-egypt-secrets-museum-collection**

## *Public programming includes*:

### School Holiday Activities
Saturday 12 April – Sunday 27 April | 9.30am-3pm
Free, drop-in programs

- **The Pharoah Zone:** Hands-on activities, including pyramid building, mummy exploration and games inspired by the Egyptian afterlife
- **Trail: Hieroglyph Hunters:** Find and decode the hieroglyphs hiding in the Museum
- **Usekh Collar Craft:** Design your very own Egyptian inspired necklace.
- **Cat Mummy:** Create your own mummified feline friend.

### Cane toad mummification workshops
Bookings required

**Families:**
- Tuesday 15 April | 10am-1pm
- Wednesday 16 April | 10am-1pm
- Tuesday 22 April | 10am-1pm

**Adults:**
- Thursday 1 May | 5pm – 8pm
- Saturday 3 May | 1pm – 4pm

### Talks
- **Ancient Egypt Talks: Objects and the afterlife**
  Thursday 3 April | 5.30pm – 7pm
  Cost: Free, bookings required (limited tickets remaining)
- **Ancient Egypt Talks: Excavating the Tombs of the Guardians of the Pharaohs**
  Wednesday 21 May | 5.30pm – 7pm
  Cost: Free, bookings required

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**Interviews are available on request.**
- Museum of Geraldton Regional Manager, Leigh O'Brien
- WA Museum Curator of Archaeology and Anthropology, Dr Moya Smith

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**Venue:**            Museum of Geraldton
                      2 Museum Place, Batavia Coast Marina, Geraldton, WA, 6530

**Further information:**   phone 9431 8393 or visit **here.**

**Bookings:**         required for some activities via 9021 8533

Programs are subject to availability. All children 12 years and under must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

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