

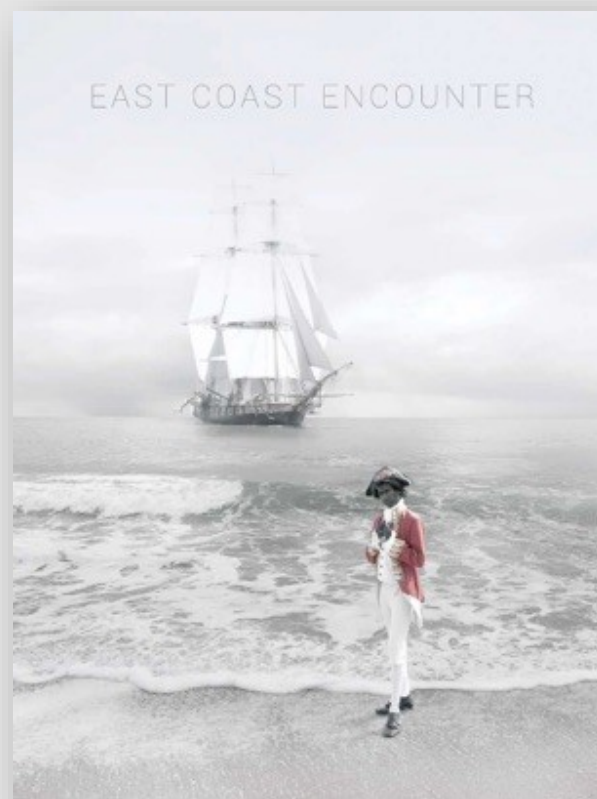
**Title:** East Coast Encounter

**Creator:** Lisa Chandler and J Waldron

**Year:** 2014-2017

East Coast Encounter, Australian National Maritime Museum, Sydney, 9 May – 24 August, 2014. Toured to 12 venues in NSW and Qld until June 2017.

Venues: ANMM; The Glasshouse, Port Macquarie; Gold Coast City Gallery; Caloundra Regional Gallery; Redland Art Gallery; Fraser Coast Cultural Centre; ArtSpace Mackay; Nature's Powerhouse, Cooktown; Pinnacles Gallery, Thuringowa; Caboolture Regional Art Gallery; University of the Sunshine Coast Gallery; Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery.



## Research Background

This research employs curatorship to re-imagine James Cook's 1770 Australian journey and its impact from Indigenous and non-Indigenous perspectives. This seminal national story has primarily been told from a Eurocentric perspective. The exhibition explores how this shared history might be re-envisioned to enable differing voices to be presented concurrently, to reflect on its impact today and to inform reconciliatory understandings.

## Research Contribution

By drawing out often unheard Indigenous viewpoints, the multi-arts exhibition facilitates increased understandings of Australian history and explores the current impact of these encounters. It contributes new knowledge through the inclusion of Indigenous oral histories, a new translation of an old Badtjala song about Cook's journey, and by highlighting the historically under-represented area of Indigenous watercraft. It innovatively employs curatorship to enable histories to be expressed via diverse voices and in multiple ways. Exhibition themes are enhanced by supporting catalogue essays by Indigenous and non-Indigenous historians and writers, and a DVD by Jeff McMullen exploring artist discussions with traditional owners and visits to key contact sites.

## Research Significance

The exhibition features work by significant artists such as Judy Watson, Michael Cook and Euan Macleod and musicians Neil Murray and Shane Howard. It attained four external grants, with two from the Australia Council, and opened at the Australian National Maritime Museum in Reconciliation Week. All works were acquired for the Museum's permanent collection. It was presented in 12 prominent venues over 3 years and its impact was recognised via a Queensland Gallery and Museum Achievement Award. The exhibition received over 81,000 visitors, substantial media coverage and was accompanied by a suite of public programs including artist panels and workshops engaging Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.