



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TOMB OF THE PHARAOHS EXHIBITION WELCOMES ARRIVAL OF 450 DISPLAY ITEMS FROM EGYPT

CAIRNS, AUSTRALIA — 6th June 2025 – The curators of Australia’s newest ancient Egyptian exhibition, the Tomb of the Pharaohs, wait patiently outside their inner city building in anticipation for a convoy of heavy transport vehicles to arrive.

After two years in the planning, over 450 museum items have made the long voyage from Cairo to Cairns, nestled within six, forty-foot long, sea freight containers.

Inside and carefully protected with form fitting foam inner packaging and sturdy timber outer crates are hundreds of illustrative examples of some of the most incredible ancient Egyptian artefacts ever to have been found.

In a multi-million boost for the local arts and tourism industry, the massive project involved hundreds of Cairo based specialist artisans, working under the supervision of Egypt’s Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MOTA) who, over the period of ten and half months, produced the collection of unique hand-made items using age old methodologies by carving stone, gilding surfaces with gold and silver, cutting and polishing gem stones, goldsmithing, hand engraving and painting hieroglyphic inscriptions onto wood or stone surfaces and inlaying gemstones and semi-precious stones into gold and silver hand-beaten jewellery.

The project is the largest of its kind ever undertaken and involved over two years of planning, research, documentation, specification and curation to achieve the end results.

The collection is a world first representation of some of the finest pharaonic daily use items and burial treasures from the Valley of the Kings, Valley of the Queens, the Saqqara necropolis and the temple burial grounds at Tanis.

CEO & Founder, Daniel Leipnik said that today was a major milestone for the project.

“After visiting Egypt earlier this year, conducting final inspections and then seeing these items packaged and loaded into containers, it’s such an amazing feeling to now see them arriving into Cairns.”

“We are ecstatic to showcase this extraordinary collection throughout the Tomb of the Pharaohs experience.”

However, unlike museums that display objects behind protective glass cases, the Tomb of the Pharaohs reveals an interactive and immersive journey of discovery where visitors can roam through recreated ancient passageways with display items all around them, just like an Indiana Jones or The Mummy, Hollywood movie set.

“If you visit Egypt, you can go on a tour of the tombs and you’ll see the wonderful hieroglyphic inscription covered walls and ceilings but the tombs themselves are empty. You then have to go to the museums to see the artefacts. What we’ve done is recreate the tombs in scale and form and put back the burial items back in, the way they were left there, thousands of years ago, when the Priests lowered the Pharaohs into coffins and Sarcophagi and sealed up the burial chambers for an eternity. People will now get to see how these ancient Egyptian tombs once looked, brimming with treasures, ready for the afterlife.”

“Fortunately, many of the renowned archaeologists such as Howard Carter, Giovanni Battista Belzoni and James E Quibell either hand sketched or photographed the tombs as they discovered them in the 19th or 20th centuries, so we have surviving reference images to allow us to recreate each tomb before the burial treasures were removed.”

As the first of several trucks begin arriving to the exhibitions' receiving area, a twenty-person strong curatorial team stand poised to receive the first lot of display items, unload each container, unwrap the packaging and move the precious pieces into their final position in the recreated tombs of King Tutankhamun, Ramses I, Ramses III, Ramses IV, Seti I, Psusennes I, Shoshenq II, Yuya and Thuya, Wahtye, Ramses V & VI, and Nefertari.

The Tomb of the Pharaohs attraction opens to the public on June 28th 2025

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MEDIA PHOTOGRAPHIC OPPORTUNITY

WHAT:	ARRIVAL OF 450 ANCIENT EGYPTIAN DISPLAY ITEMS
WHERE:	122B Lake Street, Cairns (Tomb of the Pharaohs Ticketing area)
WHEN	9:00 am Friday 6th June 2025
WHO	Tomb of the Pharaohs CEO & Founder, Daniel Leipnik

ABOUT THE TOMB OF THE PHARAOHS EXPERIENCE

The "Tomb of the Pharaohs" is a 3D, immersive and interactive experience of ancient Egypt. It is the brain child of Cairns Aquarium's owners and operators Daniel Leipnik & Andrew Preston. The new attraction has been designed to enable visitors to explore the recreated tombs of ancient Egypt's most famous Pharaohs such as King Tutankhamun, Ramses I, Ramses III, Ramses IV, Ramses V & VI, Seti I, Psusennes I, Shoshenq II and Queen Nefertari. Each of eleven tomb rooms are filled with museum grade display items that provide illustrative examples of some of the most incredible burial treasures to have ever been found.

Tomb of the Pharaohs will provide visitors to Tropical North Queensland with an additional indoors experience right in the heart of Cairns and something completely different to enjoy.

Tomb of the Pharaohs will be showcasing world first display collections such as the Tanis treasures and the never-before-seen riches of Queen Nefertari, the illustrious wife of Ramses II. Visitors will also be able to explore the three key chambers within the King Tut tomb; the burial chamber, the antechamber, and treasury, just as British Archaeologist Howard Carter found them in 1922. Non-royal tombs of the Nobles: Yuya and Thuya and High Priest Wahtye's Tomb of Saqqara are also being brought to life. In total, over 450 stunning display items will be showcased throughout eleven galleries full of pharaonic treasures. A retail store with private label Egyptian made souvenir items will also be available to Tomb of the Pharaoh visitors. The new attraction is part of the Company's vision to provide visitors to Cairns with new, exciting and world class experiences.

The "Tomb of the Pharaohs" experience opens in Cairns on June 28th 2025. More information can be found on the Company's website: www.tombofthepharaohs.com.au

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Images, Cairo based artisans using ancient sculpting practices to create museum grade examples of ancient Egypt's finest Pharaonic burial treasures.



Image 1. Ancient Egyptian artisan Ali Amin sculpting a life size wall relief figure of a priest from Wahtye's Tomb.



Image 2. Ancient Egyptian painters, Marwa Hatem (Left) and Faraq Mourice (right) painting coloured inscriptions of the goddess Isis on Saqqara wood coffins.



Image 3. Ancient Egyptian precious metal artisan Ayman Mahmoud hand etching side plates of the gold crown of Queen Nefertari.



Image 4. Ancient Egyptian artisan Youssef Gad painting azure faience inserts within gold leaf sections of King Tutankhamun's Outer shrine.



Image 5. Ancient Egyptian artisan applying gold leaf to the twin lioness headed funerary bed found in the antechamber of King Tutankhamun's tomb.



Image 6. Ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics artisan hand carving inscriptions for the stone sarcophagus lid of Ramses IV



Image 7. Ancient Egyptian artisan Essam Gamal applying gold leaf hieroglyphic inscriptions to the hawk-headed cartonnage inner coffin of Shoshenq II



Image 8. Ancient Egyptian metal artisan hand edging inscriptions in the gold body sheath of Psusennes I