



Teacher resource

# *mapiya lumi* | around here

TMAG's gallery for children 0-7 years

Dunn Place, Hobart  
[www.tmag.tas.gov.au](http://www.tmag.tas.gov.au)



TASMANIAN	
MUSEUM	&
ART	GALLERY

## ***mapiya lumi* | around here is TMAG's, specially developed exhibition experience for children aged 0–7 years and their teachers/carers.**

*mapiya lumi* is *palawa kani* for 'around here' and reflects the exhibition's focus on a sense of home and place that is unique to the islands that make up *lutruwita*/Tasmania.

This resource is designed for teachers and childcare leaders to gain a deeper understanding of the gallery themes to enable a more focused learning experience if required. The gallery is designed to enable learning through discovery, play and interaction.

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## **Gallery overview**

Designed with the child's perspective in mind, the exhibition is a journey through *lutruwita*/Tasmania as our 'little big home'; a place of deep oceans, soaring rock columns and tumbling waterfalls, but also a place for tiny nests, comfy kitchens and fire-pit stories.

This unique gallery represents aspects of Tasmanian history, culture, flora and fauna, and demonstrates through displays that all things have a place or home on the planet and that earth itself is part of a universe.

The wall and ceiling mural takes the visitor visually (in a clockwise fashion) from the ocean at the entrance, to the coast, to farmlands and towns (Argyle Street wall), up to dolerite mountains and onto waterfalls, wetlands and rivers which lead back to the coast. A yarning circle in the centre of the gallery depicts an image of a ceremonial fireplace where stories can be passed on, and a First Peoples of Tasmania's Creation Story can be viewed on the sky screen.

## Visiting the gallery



### The Dome

A wooden dome frame, representing the dome huts of the First People of *lutruwita*, is a dedicated space for ages 0–3. The dome is created on a coastal Living Site, where some animals have also made their home. Interactive panels feature tracks and furs belonging to native animals. A small, baby-size nest provides a relaxing space to gaze at the she oak-inspired mobile above and listen to a lullaby sung in *palawa kani*. A simple ‘abacus’ invites toddlers and younger children to explore some of the key coastal shapes of shells, seeds etc.

Also found in this area is a list of seven *palawa kani* words to discover around the gallery – the only text you’ll see in the exhibition.



### Homes have Histories

Exploring different European-influenced buildings and houses across Tasmania, the ‘Homes have Histories’ section features 3D house structures along the Argyle Street wall. Some relate to the street views through the bay windows. Hidden within the windows of these structures are a variety of artworks and peep holes depicting domestic scenes from homes in the 20th Century. A window alcove provides a space to listen to children’s thoughts on cities of the past and future – which all remind us that the gallery itself has its own history.



### Mountain Climb

A climb up through the dolerite columns with peep holes reveals some of the animals that have homes in these places. The top of the climb – the mountain platform – provides a great view of the gallery and the opportunity to slide down a digital waterfall slide (at some speed) before arriving in the wetlands area below. An interactive rainbow chandelier refers to the interaction between light and water and the beautiful rainbows that Tasmania is renowned for.



### Who is home in the dark?

This quiet area beneath the mountain platform has a secluded reading nook lit by glow worms, glowing minerals and crystals found deep in the earth, a magnificent 3D Tasmaniosaurus (the only one of its kind) and a display of Tasmanian devils lit by the full moon.

## Visiting the gallery



### The Tree

The tree climb has many more peep holes to discover, and represents the great Tasmanian forests and the life within and around them. Visitors can explore the tree as they climb up to the top of the mountain or as they descend from the mountain platform.



### Wonder Windows

These displays and corresponding magnified scenes below represent the bush/mountains and the ocean/coast. There are many objects and specimens from the TMAG Collection to discover here.



### Hanging displays

Don't forget to look up! There are many wonderful objects and specimens high up describing an ocean narrative and displaying some of Tasmania's extraordinary birds. The felt muttonbirds were created by participants in holiday programs at TMAG.



### Creation Story

The Creation Story above the yarnning circle is scheduled to begin about 10 minutes after the start of your group's visit, and lasts for approximately five minutes. We encourage people to lie on the floor and look up to fully enjoy the experience. The Creation Story is narrated by Tasmanian Aboriginal performer and educator, Kartanya Maynard. The animations are based on drawings by Aboriginal identifying students at East Derwent Primary and St Aloysius Primary.

## Ideas for your visit

- Find the seven seagulls around the gallery.
- Find the seven *palawa kani* words.
- How many different environments or places are there where living things belong?
- Explore the places and living things that are familiar/not familiar to you.
- Choose which environment you would like to live in?
- Find the four peep hole scenes from different eras in the 'Doll's House'. Observe and identify how things change with time.

## Useful information

- Entrance to the gallery is free, however bookings are essential – all information can be found [here](#).
- The gallery features a crawl tunnel and a slide. Please assist children to use the slide according to the slide rules in the gallery.
- To identify and know more about objects and specimens on display, you can ask the TMAG staff member in the gallery; see the Gallery guide in the story nook; or you can check out the [Exhibition content list online](#).
  - The provenance of the objects on display throughout the gallery is varied. Younger visitors are often fascinated by the 'Is it real' theme and this gallery provides a useful context to develop these conversations.
    - Some are from the TMAG state collection – however, these objects are limited in number for conservation reasons.
    - Some objects have been commissioned, such as the felted water rat in the wetlands display case or the moth on the wall near the tree.
    - Some specimens have been taxidermied especially for the gallery.
    - Some have been bought 'off the shelf'.
- Some of the ideas in the gallery were created by the TMAG Young People's Reference Panel
- The exhibition can be a busy and lively space. If you believe your group would benefit from a quieter 'sound down' experience, please indicate in your booking enquiry. Some sound elements can be adjusted.