STATE LIBRARY QUEENSLAND

MEDIA RELEASE

23 November 2026

Big Pineapple to Golden Gumboot – Queensland's Big Things take centre stage

A free exhibition celebrating Queensland's larger-than-life roadside icons opens 11 December at State Library of Queensland.

Giant animals, supersized fruit and enormous everyday objects – including a beer bottle and garden hose – feature in *Big Things*, which explores the surprising histories and people behind Queensland's most recognisable roadside landmarks.

Through memorabilia, photographs, souvenirs, film and personal stories, *Big Things* takes visitors on the ultimate nostalgic summer road trip.

Queensland's Big Things, including the Big Cow, Shell and Strawberry, have become part of our shared history, featuring in family memories and reflecting the character and ambition of the communities behind them.

Alongside the exhibition will be film screenings, guided tours, public debates, food trucks, family activities and the ultimate *Big Things* Trivia night.

Exhibition highlights include:

- Big Pineapple's iconic Parfait sign, original plans and quirky memorabilia
- Replica head of Matilda, the 1982 Commonwealth Games winking kangaroo mascot
- Incredible story of the Pawlowski family – Queensland's original "Crocodile Hunters"
- Exclusive screening of the cult documentary *Big Dreamers*
- Letter from the US Navy that inspired Tewantin's House of Bottles and the Big Stubby
- The mysterious story of the 100-metre Sunshine Coast Sun Tower

Quotes from Minister for Education and the Arts John-Paul Langbroek:

"Queensland is home to iconic landmarks – from gigantic fruit to a massive gumboot – and this exhibition reflects the creativity, ingenuity and humour that are such a distinctive part of our road trip memories.

"The Crisafulli Government is proud to support State Library of Queensland's delivery of free arts and cultural programs and activities that enable Queenslanders and visitors to share and celebrate the places, people and stories that make our state unique.

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“By sharing uniquely Queensland experiences from all corners of the state, the *Big Things* exhibition supports our *Queensland’s Time to Shine* strategy, and its priority to boost our experience economy in the lead-up to 2032.”

Quotes from Acting State Librarian and CEO Scott Martin:

“Behind every *Big Thing* is a story of imagination, ambition and community.

“State Library has an important role in collecting, preserving and sharing these stories as part of Queensland’s documentary heritage.

"*Big Things* brings together the objects, images and personal histories that reveal how these much-loved landmarks have become part of our shared history and cultural identity.

“I encourage everyone to take a trip to *Big Things* this summer."

Big Things
11 December 2026 – 7 February 2027
Open daily 10am–5pm **|** Free entry
slq Gallery, level 2 | State Library of Queensland, Cultural Centre, South Bank
slq.qld.gov.au/discover/exhibitions/big-things | media kit

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