



Staff at Comino's Cafe, Cairns, 1934

Photographer unknown

Courtesy, Cairns Historical Society and Research Centre

From 1906 to 1952, George Comino's cafe was the social hub of Cairns. With two floors, and restroom facilities for travellers, the shop could host two weddings receptions simultaneously. George described the business as a 'departmental Cafe' with a bakery, milk bar, confectionery counter and sandwich area. In its heyday Comino's Cafe employed 100 staff



Shops and buildings in Grigg Street, Ravenshoe, ca. 1927

Photographer unknown

Negative no. 35603

Like many others, the Popular Cafe in Ravenshoe caught fire at some time in its history and was rebuilt. The cafe still operates and retains many early cafe features



Conomos Cafe in Munro Street Babinda, ca. 1920s

Photographer unknown

John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland

Record no 593059

Taken during the 1920s, this photo depicts J. Refreshment rooms in Babinda had been flattened in a cyclone in 1918, such were the hazards posed by the elements in North Queensland towns. Such were the hazards posed by the elements in North Queensland towns



Exhibition copy

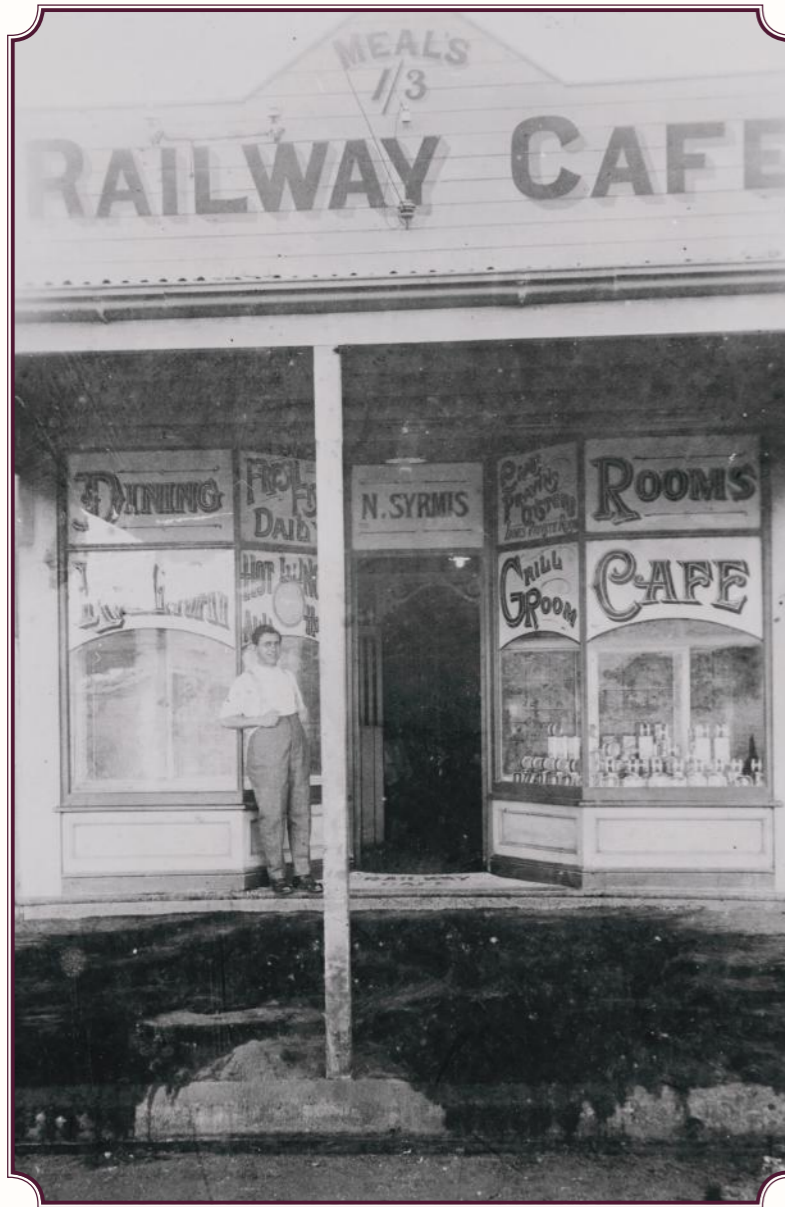
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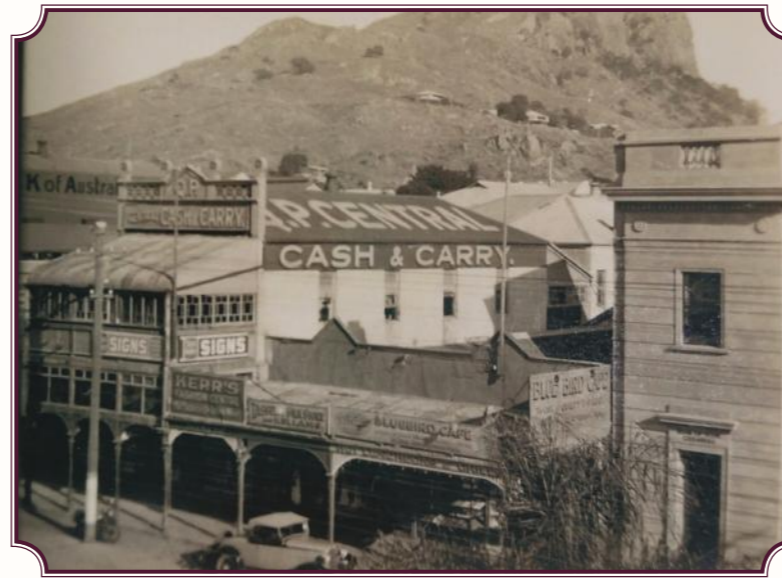


Railway Cafe owner Nicholas Syrmis in front of his establishment, Flinders Street, Townsville, ca. 1923

Photographer unknown

John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland
Negative no. 102474

Nicholas Syrmis hailed from Ithaca and was in business in Brisbane from 1911. He later ran the Grand Cafe in Bowen and had the Railway Cafe in Townsville for twenty years. Nicholas's brothers and cousins had numerous enterprises throughout Queensland



Flinders Street, Townsville, 1935

Photographer unknown

John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland
Negative no. 142163

In addition to Townsville's Blue Bird Cafe in Flinders Street, Greeks operated Blue Bird Cafes in the north Queensland towns of Cairns, Gordon Vale, Yeppoon, Charters Towers, Innisfail, Bowen, Rockhampton and Mareeba



Flinders Street, Townsville, 1928

Photographer unknown

Courtesy, James Cook University Library Special Collections
North Queensland Photographic Collection
NQID.04601

George Kallinicos quit the Blue Bird Cafe in Cairns in 1925 to take over Macree's Oyster Saloon in Townsville in partnership with Charles Mareudy. Their partnership also seems to have embraced the Blue Bird Cafe next door and the Geisha Cafe



Staff of Blue Bird Cafe, Townsville. Jean Allen, left of two girls at back, ca 1942/43

Photographer unknown

Courtesy, James Cook University Library Special Collections
North Queensland Photographic Collection
NQID 04950

White jackets for men and crisp white caps and aprons for waitresses embodied the cleanliness, civility and service advertised by shops like Townsville's popular Blue Bird Cafe



The Blue Bird Cafe building still stands, Rankin Street, Innisfail, 2014

Toni Risson

Courtesy, Toni Risson

The peeling blue and white façade in Rankin Street Innisfail offers a glimpse of the social scene that once played out at the Blue Bird Cafe. Owned by a Kypriotis/Vamvakaris (Harris) partnership, the cafe stood beside the Airdome Theatre. In 1937 a dance hall licence added to its allure