

History

The area bounded by Hamersley and Weld streets has been the centre of Broome's administration from the town's early days.

The Mechanics Institute Hall was built in 1904, at a cost of £1000, as a library and reading room. There was also a sporting arena that housed tennis courts and ovals.

This building later became known as the Road Board Hall and then the Shire Hall. The Hall was the focal point of the town's social life, and hosted many dances, debutante balls, wedding receptions, plays and performances. Many VIP visitors passed through the doors of this building, most notably Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh during their visit to Broome in 1963.

Time, wear and white ants made it unsafe and the Hall was demolished in 1972, when the Civic Centre was built directly behind it. Designed by architect Norman Rees to reflect the character and charm of Broome with its distinctive Asian influence, the Civic Centre opened in 1973. It was once again the venue of choice for concerts and wedding receptions. After 36 years of hosting community events in Broome the Civic Centre's doors were closed on 12 February 2009 due to concerns for public safety.

Following an \$11million refurbishment, with funding help from the WA Department of Culture and the Arts, Lotterywest and Royalties for Regions, the new Broome Civic Centre opened in October 2012 and will serve the needs of the town well into the future.

BROOME CIVIC CENTRE

Contact

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The new Broome Civic Centre provides residents and visitors to Broome a quality venue for a wide variety of cultural, group or private events with a distinctive sense of character and atmosphere.

With a combination of indoor rooms that open to the outdoors, adopting and complementing our lifestyle and history, Broome's multicultural community is the proud and defining element in the character of Broome and this much-loved centre.

Owned and operated by the Shire of Broome, a community competition was held to decide the name of this iconic venue. Overwhelmingly, the Broome community decreed the venue should retain its central civic role and **Broome Civic Centre** was chosen. However, the community also expressed a desire to honour its celebrated artists and events.

Jimmy Chi Hall

Honouring the work of the playwright and musician who wrote *Bran Nue Dae* – first a stage play that toured extensively and now a feature film – *Jimmy Chi Hall* features;

- A large polished wooden hall space suitable for weddings, functions, conferences and audiences of all kind
- Acoustic ceiling and wall treatments
- Insulation and centrally controlled air-conditioning
- Bi-fold doors and air flow louvres to enable air flow and ambience
- Lighting and AV capabilities
- Enlarged, raised wooden stage (painted black) with lighting, curtains, tabs and cyclorama
- Backstage area with loading dock and scissor lift to stage level
- Wheelchair ramp access and lift access to stage
- Holding/change areas with universal access shower and toilets
- Picture hanging track on available wall space
- Caterers kitchen

Pigram Garden Theatre

A new addition that recognises the influence of this prolific musical Broome family, the *Pigram Garden Theatre* offers;

- Covered outdoor stage with lighting and audio capabilities
- AV Room
- Terraced space for casual seating
- Veranda area for pre-function events
- Servery bar

The Sammy Room

Housing the symbol of Broome's historic Shinju Matsuri Festival – *Sammy the Dragon* – in a large display case, *The Sammy Room* offers an additional break-out space to both Jimmy Chi Hall and Pigram Garden Theatre. Alternatively, the room can be used separately as a pre-function gathering place, meeting room or workshop space.

