

MEDIA BACKGROUND

DID YOU KNOW...

HIDDEN TREASURES OF THE POWERHOUSE DISCOVERY CENTRE

How many objects are there at the Castle Hill site?

- There are around 50,000 objects stored in six separate stores and one smaller, purpose-built store at the Castle Hill site.

How big are the stores?

- Five of the stores are around the same size as an aircraft hanger. Another store, H store, is even bigger as each of its two floors cover around 2,500 square metres!

What is the total floor area of the stores?

- Around 13,000 square metres of storage are provided by seven stores.

What is the oldest object?

- A meteorite found in 1889 in Gilgoin near Brewarrina, New South Wales.
- A bed valance of embroidered silk and linen made in England between 1600 and 1660.

What is the biggest object?

- A full-size John Fowler & Co. steam ploughing engine built in 1889 and weighing around 22 tonnes.

What is the smallest object?

- A miniature snuff box made between 1860 and 1880 (h32mm x w19mm).

What is the most fascinating object?

- A mouse/rat trap making machine by Standfield and Co, Mascot, which produced about 96 million traps in the 1940s; and a Christmas cracker making machine from the late 1930s.

What is the most prized object?

- The first tram (steam) to operate in New South Wales in 1879, carrying visitors between Redfern and the Domain for the Sydney International Exhibition. It was only supposed to operate for the 6-month duration of the Exhibition, however it was so efficient and popular that an extension to Randwick was opened the following year.

What is the largest collection?

- The Sydney 2000 Olympic collection is the largest with 1,487 objects preserved from the Games.

How many volunteers will be working there?

- There are approximately 50 volunteers, most of whom come from the local area.

What are some of the highlights* of the Powerhouse Discovery Centre?

- The Olympic Torch carried by Cathy Freeman on 15 September to ignite the Olympic cauldron for the start of the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.
- The Kylie Showgirl costume worn by Kylie Minogue at the Closing Ceremony of the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games.

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- The high-heeled tricycle, 'Flowers', which featured in the Parade of Icons at the Closing Ceremony of the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.
- Sydney's famous Harry's Café de Wheels pie caravan used by Henry Charles Edwards (the original Harry) in 1945 - the late night eatery in Woolloomooloo which has become a Sydney icon.
- An 1890 Cobb & Co 'thoroughbrace' mail and passenger, horse-drawn coach.
- The famous Luna Park mascots - Lizzy and Larry Luna.
- Two popular modes of Sydney public transport - a 1950s Leyland double-decker bus and Sydney's first trolley bus, No. 1, brought into service in 1934.
- A 1959 Goggomobil made famous by a Yellow Pages advertising campaign.
- One of the largest collections in Australia of piano rolls and related equipment and material from the Mastertouch Piano Roll Company which operated for 86 years.
- A 1930s Bell & Howell camera used to produce special effects for *The Wizard of Oz* and brought to Australia in 1964 and used in *Footrot Flats*.
- The ultralight 'Dalgety Flyer' flown by Brian Milton in 1988 from London to Sydney in 59 days for the Bicentenary celebrations.
- Two test members used to test the load bearing capacity of the Sydney Harbour Bridge's steel structure.
- The John Slater Collection of over 800 pieces of Doulton wares - the most extensive collection of industrial and domestic wares by the world's most significant ceramics manufacturer.

*Note: Some of the above highlights are not on public show in the Display Store but can be seen on booked tours to the other stores at the Powerhouse Discovery Centre.

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