



Kimberley Echo

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Hotel Kununurra staff member Lisa Lagihiloa with one of the new historical displays. Picture: Rourke Walsh

Hotel displays reveal region's rich past

■ Rourke Walsh

Two iconic East Kimberley pubs will celebrate the region's unique and colourful history with new permanent displays featuring early photographs and artefacts.

Hotel Kununurra and the Kimberley Hotel in Halls Creek launched their Kimberley historical displays this month and have already reported significant interest in the exhibitions.

Kimberley Accommodation Group's Justin Wiebrecht said the displays offered patrons a unique

glimpse of the region's colourful past and preserved the rich, local history, culture and stories.

"It is the perfect place to drop in for a beer and discover the rich history behind these iconic Kimberley towns — it's like stepping back into a bygone era," he said.

"The displays really tap into the Kimberley region's legendary mining and exploration past — along with some amazing historical images of many Kimberley heritage characters, cattle, stockmen and horses — which will no doubt encourage debate and dis-

cussion with patrons, over a comforting ale."

The permanent displays at both the Hotel Kununurra and the Kimberley Hotel WA, Halls Creek feature an extensive collection of centuries-old local images.

Displayed over several walls, bars, common rooms and reception areas in both Kimberley hotels, the exhibition was curated by Flametree Creative's director Mark Venables who spent weeks in the archives of Battye Library searching the pictorial database of local historical societies.