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Full Name	William Samuel Cummings
Born	Cairns 09 - 08 - 1939
Education	B Econ Q'ld 1962, with majors in Economics, Accounting, Pure Maths I/Statistics/ Stat Maths. Further Studies, ANU Canberra, Economics & Political Science.



W S (BILL) CUMMINGS

OVERVIEW:

Bill Cummings is one of Australia's most highly experienced regional business economists. He was born and educated in Cairns, and completed an Economics Degree at the University of Queensland. This was followed by eight years high level experience in economics in Canberra, initially as a research officer in the Tariff Policy section of the Department of Trade and five years as the Economic Research Officer in the Canberra Secretariat of the Australian Chamber of Commerce.

This included researching and writing on major national policy issues of concern to the business community, preparing and presenting Tariff Board cases, especially supporting the Chamber's Export Council, and generally liaising with business, government and overseas commercial representatives on national economic policy issues.

In 1968, he returned north and for the next 13 years managed development and tourism promotion organisations, initially for five years at Ingham, where he was especially concerned with agricultural development. This was followed by eight years in Cairns as Manager of the Far North Queensland Development Bureau and its sub Board for Tourism & Travel, now Tourism Tropical North Queensland. This especially involved promotion and development of domestic and international tourism, arguing the case for upgrading of Cairns airport, promoting trade with Papua New Guinea, administering the region's crown industrial estate, achieving fishing industry infrastructure upgrading, and regional development strategies in general.

In 1981, he established his own economic research business which has subsequently also filled a need in the north for professional market research services under the trading name of Compass Research.

Over the years, the firm has addressed economic development questions ranging over almost all aspects of the north's economy with a heavy emphasis on tourism, primary industries, fishing, mining, retailing, university development and transport infrastructure including Cairns airport and seaport, and road development throughout the region and across the north.

Special Contact with Asian Countries

Over the years, Bill Cummings has had extensive contacts with Asian countries in various capacities.

With Australian Chamber of Commerce Secretariat Canberra 1960s

- Secretary – Australian Chamber of Commerce Export Council
- Involved with Australian Chamber Joining/Interacting with the Confederation of Asian Chambers of Commerce
- Preparation of Chamber's "Asian Digest"
- Involved in Commercial Negotiations Between Japanese Textile Industry and Australian Textile Merchants

As Manager Far North Queensland Promotion Bureau 1970s/early 1980s

- Negotiations with Air Niugini to bring regular Japanese tour groups from western Japan via Port Moresby to Cairns and subsequent handling of groups while in Cairns
- Organised first promotional material in Japanese language and itineraries of Japanese media and travel agents
- Brought Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) study team to Cairns to report on international tourism potential
- Member of first four-member Queensland Tourism Mission to Japan visiting Tokyo, Fukuoka and Kagoshima
- Organised foundation of Australia Japan Society of North Queensland (currently Patron).

While Providing Secretariat Cairns Chamber of Commerce 1980s/1990s

- Numerous meetings with visiting business, government representatives of Asian countries including commercial attaché People Republic of China
- Coordinated with various overseas visits calling at and meetings with key staff Japan Chamber Tokyo and CEOs Philippines Chamber Manila, Chinese Chamber Singapore, International Chamber Mumbai, Indian Merchants Association Mumbai, Chennai Chamber
- Organised Civic Delegation to Beihai, Guangxi Province under sister city arrangements
- Inaugural flight JAL to Japan Delegation
- Visited and provided advice to Palau Chamber of Commerce as part of Consultant Package provided to Palau by US Government to Palau on granting independence
- Attended International Freight Conference Singapore as part of Cairns Port Authority organised group

Own Business Private Capacity 1990s to Present

- Attended Economic Development Conference, Indira Gandhi Research Institute (funded by Reserve Bank of India), Mumbai
- Visited Mumbai, Goa, Bangalore, Chennai - India
- Visited Singapore, Malaysia – Malacca, Penang
- Involved in discussions with INTI College Malaysia on their possible involvement in a proposed private International University in Cairns
- Toured Indonesia – Bali, Yogyakarta, Jakarta
- Toured Northern China – Lanzhou, Xian, Zhengzhou, Qufu, Tian, Tishan, Quindao, Beijing, Hong Kong, Macau
- Toured Japan – Tokyo, Kyoto, Nara, Kansai area
- Toured South Korea – Seoul
- Toured Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Hanoi, Hue, Saigon, Mekong Delta, Okeo, Angkor Borei, Phnom Penh, Siam Reap, Bangkok
- Toured Philippines – Manila
- Visited Guam
- Visited Dubai and Abu Dhabi