

CAIRNS
MUSEUM

CAIRNS MUSEUM - EXCURSION

A Changing World

*Discover cultural, environmental, generational and technological changes over time
across far north Queensland. Y 1-5*

2024-2030

Curriculum V.9

A Changing World Excursion Program Overview

2024-2030 V.9¹

Introduction

Welcome to Cairns Museum's **A Changing World Excursion Program**. At the Cairns Museum, we love to showcase our rich and diverse history and bring to life engaging stories and events of times gone by to all ages, including all curious minds!

What we do: Your visit will commence with a tour of the Cairns Museum which will weave together narratives from Deep Time and Traditional Owner groups, to contact and settler history, the birth of a community and town, and now our present day city. Students will learn about what life was like in the past and how it has changed over time as well as their place in the world.

How we do it: Your tour at the Cairns Museum will be guided by volunteers, who are familiar with the many stories in and around our Museum. They are happy to engage and take questions along the way, and are experienced in working with students.

What you will see: It is more a case of what you won't see when your class goes on tour!

From Gimuy Wallaburra Yindinji and Yirrganydji cultural objects and stories, to colonial settlers, diverse cultural communities of the past, post war migration, changing technology, the environment, and collectors of butterflies and beetles, there are so many opportunities to learn interesting local facts which all align to your curriculum needs.

Teacher information:

Maximum 60 students broken into 3-4 groups, dependent on age.

Each tour takes 45 minutes with a further 45 minutes allowed for free time or activities.



¹ All information is based on ACARA: Australian Curriculum: V.9

A Changing World

The Cairns Museum offers thematic education-focused displays over a range of topics linked to the curriculum from Year 1 to Year 5, covering important aspects such as family and generational change, locals of importance and places with spiritual significance, cause and effect, rules and regulations as well as changing technology. The Cairns Museum is a carefully curated social history museum which includes content about local Indigenous Traditional Owner and Custodian groups, settlement formation, industry, migration, playtime and technology, local heroes, and landmarks of interest. We highlight natural resources, the environment and changing attitudes towards it, and look at the impact of early settlers upon the landscape over time and how their changes satisfied a community's everyday wants and needs.

We are focused on real history, real life stories and content which is applicable to far north Queensland students.

At the Cairns Museum, we offer an environment where enhanced learning can occur through exciting guided tours, storytelling, engaging visual content and supplementary resources. We assist you to meet your curriculum requirements for History, Geography, Questioning and Researching, Interpreting, Analysing and Evaluating, Concluding and Decision-making and Communicating, and we are the only museum in Cairns which presents the history of Cairns and region over time. We offer a unique experience to enhance your classroom methodologies and promote reflection to enrich curious minds.

Inquiry Questions

Our **A Changing World Excursion Program** supports your framework for developing students' knowledge, understanding, independent thought and skills base for each Year's level. This enables connections to be made across the sub-strands and may be used or adapted to suit local contexts.

Curriculum Links

This tour is appropriate for years Year 1-5 but can be utilised for other year levels. All of our programs align with Curriculum V.9.

[AC9HS1K01](#), [AC9HS1K02](#), [AC9HS1K03](#), [AC9HS2K01](#), [AC9HS2K02](#), [AC9HS2K03](#), [AC9HS2K04](#), [AC9HS3K01](#), [AC9HS3K06](#), [AC9HS4K01](#), [AC9HS4K04](#), [AC9HS4K05](#), [AC9HS4K09](#), [AC9HS5K02](#), [AC9HS5K04](#), [AC9HS5K08](#).



The Cairns Museum offers dynamic and curriculum focused school program experiences, to provide in-depth learning opportunities for large and small groups.

Cairns Over Time

Our tour commences on Level 2 with an exploration of our First Nations Welcome Walls.

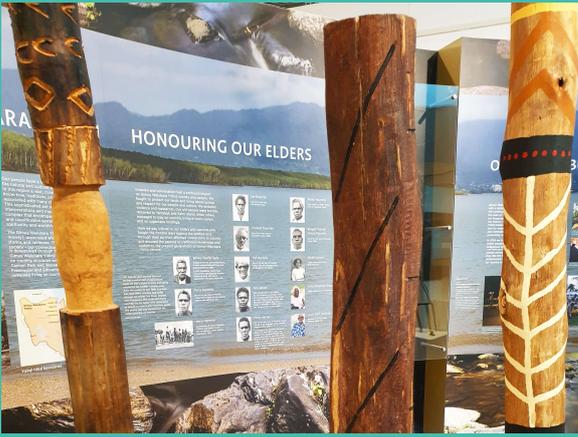
First Nations stories of far north Queensland remain an important link with the past for many families within the far north Queensland community. Our museum offers a unique opportunity to understand this history in an informative and sensitive way.

Students will learn about Traditional Owner groups Gimuy Wallaburra Yidinji of Cairns and Yirrganydji of north Cairns. Students will hear about our Message Poles and artefacts on display including Headdresses, Shields, Yirrganydji painting and the story of Ye-i-ni, Yidinji King of Cairns. Students will be able to learn about information on interconnectedness between Country and place, as well as leading elders of the community, past and present.

Encircling the First Nations diorama, along the walls in display cases, students will discover and see first-hand, stories and artefacts about people, industry and places associated with early settlement. Showcasing the diversity from the earliest time of settlement, this gallery highlights individuals and communities of importance to our multicultural past.

Themes covered in this gallery include:

- Gold scales relating to the gold rushes of far north Queensland.
- A printing press which illustrates the story of early broad-print communication.
- A temple seal from the 1886 Chinese Lit Sung Goong (temple) demonstrating early multiculturalism.
- Radios and telephones which demonstrate technological change.
- Stories of men and women and their contribution to community
- Games of times past.



Old Cairns

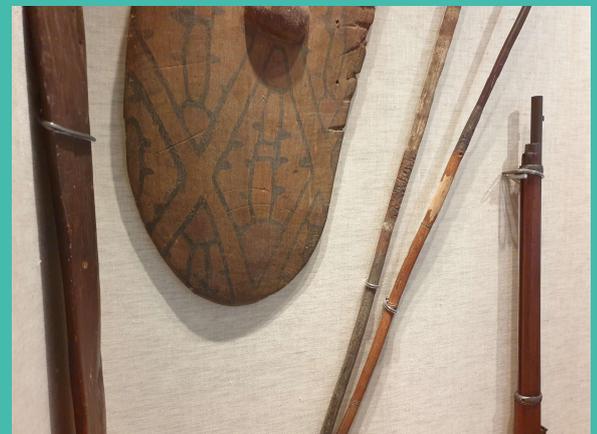
Our tour continues on Level 1 with an exploration of Old Cairns. Here students will start on a journey to learn about seasonal First Nations tracks from coast to hinterland as pathways for resources and community gatherings. Changes to pathways provide a local example of change brought by early settlers as they converted these paths into roads to tap the riches inland.

The story of **A Changing World** is captured throughout this gallery from the arrival of Lieutenant (later Captain) James Cook to changes of modes of transport. Our Museum tells the story of construction of the railway line from Cairns to Herberton; the transition from horse to motorcars, and development of shipping modes from canoe to steamship and more.

One of our highlights is a large interactive table which offers a bird's eye view of Cairns and its surrounding constructed, managed and natural landscapes. This provides an opportunity to explore and discuss how places are spatially represented with relatable local content.

This gallery introduces:

- Pathways Wall showing
 - Indigenous tracks, old maps, and development of new trails, road and routes on both land and sea.
 - How technological changes were made from bush paths to roads and rail transport routes.
- The formation of colonial settlement and how life changed for First Nations people. The development of Industry including the sugar cane farming, living on the land and farm families.
- The effect of first contact upon First Nations
- Racial diversity of the early community including introduced Japanese, South Sea Islander and Italian farm labour.



Living in the Tropics

A great way to learn about differences in family structure, continuity and intergenerational change can be found in an exploration of everyday items associated with the family home in our Living in the Tropics Gallery.

Themes of change in everyday items are explored in the kitchen and laundry around items relating to food, clothes, growing up and living within our tropical environment including battling with beasties!

This area can smoothly lead into a discussion of changes to women's and girls' roles over generations, and how technological developments have changed lives in the way women work. Students get to discover all manner of kitchen and household gadgets popular in the past and are able to reflect on how different they are to appliances today.

Objects which depict features once familiar to kitchens and laundries but so totally different to today include:

- Washboard, tubs and washing dollies.
- Solid timber Kitchen dresser meshed to keep flies out
- Interesting cooking equipment.
- Ice chests, stoves and cookers

As students move from one area to the other they will discover the former world of growing up in the tropics - without air conditioning.

This is an area where reflection, interpretation and analysis can be applied through classroom discussion

- Children's toys of yesteryear
- Scooter & Bikes of the past
- Introduced Pests, Mossies, and Malaria



Changing Cairns

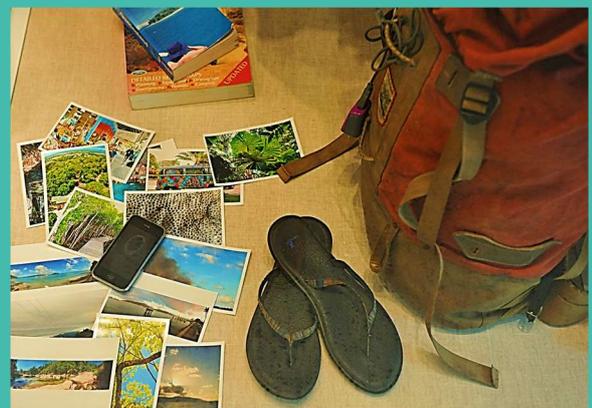
Changing Cairns gallery enables students to explore a more contemporary history of Cairns, in the late 20th century. Built on diversity, migrant stories and broader experiences based on global influences and changing attitudes towards civics, the environment and its resources, can all be explored through the lens of the Second World War; post war migration; transport innovations and community.

Cairns transitions from a sleepy community of the 1950s to a vital city participating in a global environment with a new outlook on the environment, calls for protection of the reef, and the rise of cultural tourism.

The right to maintain connection to country is highlighted by an exploration of resilience by First Nations peoples and community advocates, and their challenge to rules and regulations. This enables reflection on the impact of colonisation upon local First Nations people and provides a starting point for conversation back in the classroom.

Stories and artefacts on display in this gallery include:

- Migration to a new land.
- The coral reefs and a shift from exploitation to protection of the Great Barrier Reef.
- Changing attitudes and technology through the construction of the Green Island Underwater Observatory, with viewing scope and ephemera.
- First Nations and the fight for civil rights and for connection to country.
- Changing trends in everyday fashions parents and grandparents wore, as well as equipment used (e.g. cameras).
- The rise of environmental protection, and the natural, managed, and constructed local places and landscapes of Cairns.





Temporary Gallery

At the Cairns Museum, we offer a temporary exhibition space with rotating curated exhibitions which change every four months.

Our Temporary Gallery exhibitions are thought provoking, visual and creative additions to our static exhibitions and are drawn from national travelling exhibitions, local partnerships, or from our own collection resources.

These exhibitions are aligned to the Cairns Historical Society and Cairns Museum vision of diversity, representativeness and inclusivity and provide a valuable addition for questioning, reflection, and analysis of what it means to have a Changing World.

Exhibitions the Cairns Museum have shown include:

- An exhibition of fashion created from everyday rubbish picked up from the beach.
- Everyday items which we find hard to let go and throw out but no longer have a use
- Growing up in the tropics
- Partner collections of shells, tapa cloths, shaving equipment, and steam engines
- Individuals such as Percy Trezise, Les Paul and Northern Anzacs
- Chinese history and heritage
- Treasures
- First Nations country, place and people.

Atrium

At the Cairns Museum, we encourage an immersive student experience. Do not forget to look up at our current student installation in the Atrium above the stairwell. Each year the Cairns Museum partners with a local school to showcase their vision of a museum installation. Your school could be next! Make enquiry at info@cairnsmuseum.org.au to see how you can enter your idea.