

CAIRNS
MUSEUM

CAIRNS MUSEUM - EXCURSION

Local Heroes

From the ordinary to the extraordinary, Cairns and districts' 'local heroes' are individuals and communities who contributed to diversity and society across far north Queensland.

Y2-6; Y7-10

Curriculum V.9

Local Heroes Excursion Program Overview

2024-2030 V.9¹

Introduction

Welcome to Cairns Museums **Local Heroes 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 and growth of a community and town and our present-day city. Students will learn about what life was like for traditional First Nations communities, the arrival of Lieutenant (later Captain) Cook and the colonisation of Queensland, interesting individuals, and how life changed over time.

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: From Gimuy Wallaburra Yindinji and Yirrganydji people, cultural objects and stories, to colonial settlers, individuals in diverse cultural communities, post war heroes, advocates for the environment, and collectors of butterflies and beetles, there are so many opportunities to learn about interesting individuals and local lives which align to your curriculum needs.

Teacher information:

Max 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

Local Heroes

The Cairns Museum's **Local Heroes Excursion Program** offers thematic education-focused displays which cover a range of topics linked to the curriculum for Years 2-6 and Years 7-10. The Cairns Museum is a carefully curated social history museum which includes content about local Indigenous Traditional Owner and Custodian groups, pre colonisation European visitation, settlement formation, industry, migration, and land and seascapes of interest. We highlight differing and changing attitudes about natural resources and the environment between First Nations people and new settlers, and show how environments and resources can be cared for or exploited, by different racial groups. Our museum enables exploration of themes based on wants and needs when living in the tropics. There are many individual stories interwoven within the big theme context of our displays. These stories enable students to immerse themselves into the lives of people from pre-colonial times, learn about early colonial or mid-century entrepreneurs and settlers, and engage with individuals who played a significant role in far north Queensland history.

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 **Local Heroes 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 2-6, *as well as* Year 7- 10. All of our programs align with Curriculum V.9

[AC9HS2K01](#), [AC9HS3K01](#), [AC9HS3K06](#), [AC9HS4K01](#), [AC9HS4K04](#), [AC9HS4K09](#), [AC9HS5K03](#), [AC9HS5K07](#), [AC9HS6K02](#), [AC9HS6K03](#).

[AC9HH7K03](#), [AC9HC7K04](#), [AC9HC8K06](#), [AC9HC9K05](#), [AC9HH9K04](#), [AC9HH10K10](#), [AC94410K13](#).



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

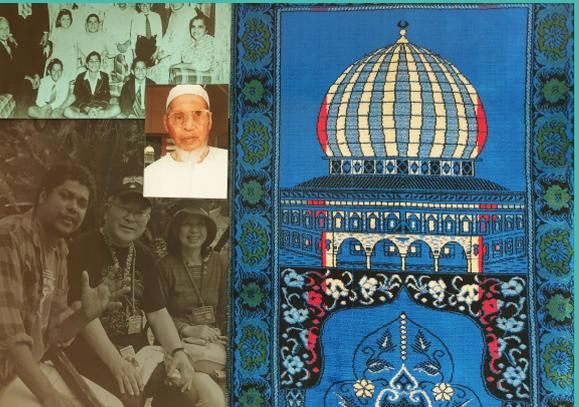
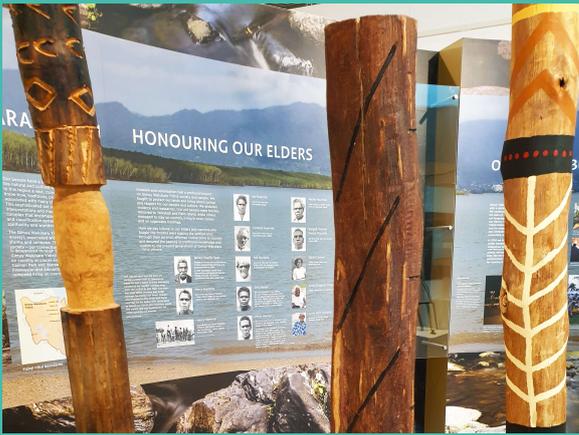
Our tour commences on Level 2 with an exploration of our First Nations Welcome Walls. First Nations stories of far north Queensland remain an important link with the past for many families across far north Queensland. Our museum offers a unique opportunity to understand this history in an informative and sensitive way.

Students will learn about the Gimuy Wallaburra Yidinji of Cairns and Yirrganydji of north Cairns. Students will learn about leaders and Elders such as Ye-i-nie, Yidinji King of Cairns, and King Billie. They will discover our Message Poles and the importance of artefacts on display such as Headdresses, Shields, and Yirrganydji painting. Through our Traditional Owner enriched display, students will find out about the deep interconnectedness between People, Country and place, and the role Elders play in maintaining connection.

Encircling the Welcome Walls, are stories of individuals and communities associated with settlement including heroes of their times. These stories highlight diversity of migration to the region, and the many individuals who have contributed to the development of Cairns including its social, political and community institutions.

Broader themes covered in this gallery include:

- Stories of men and women, of Aboriginal, Torres Strait and non-Aboriginal heritage.
- Artefacts relating to the gold rushes of far north Queensland.
- Artefacts relating to the story of early broad-print communication.
- A temple seal from the 1886 Chinese Lit Sung Goong (temple) demonstrating early multiculturalism and development of social institutions.



Old Cairns

The tour of **Local Heroes** continues on Level 1 with an exploration of Old Cairns. This gallery provides an integrated and culturally diverse experience mixing thematic stories of settlement and community construction, from 1876 to the mid- 20th century.

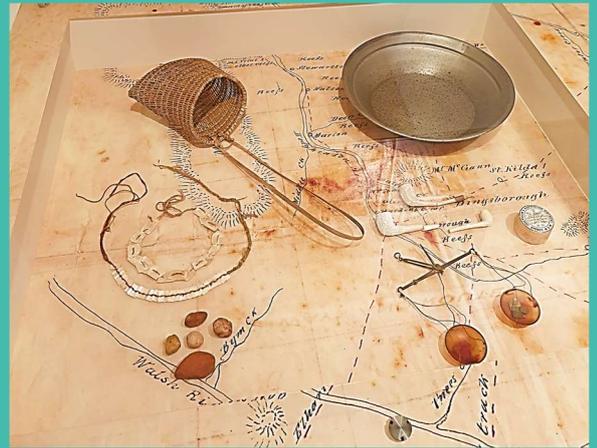
Intermixed in our displays are examples of skilled based traditional knowledge which were shared by local First Nations heroes from one generation to the next. These artefacts “speak” to the viewer about the importance of passing on skills for survival and the tools needed to survive in a tropical environment.

Our volunteers will introduce students to the arrival of Lieutenant (later Captain) Cook and enable students to familiarise themselves with key colonial local heroes including men and women, early settler families, civic councillors, naturalists, entrepreneurs, and horticulturalists - all while placing them in the context of Queen and Country.

One of our highlights is a large interactive table which offers a bird’s eye view of Cairns and surrounding natural land and seascape. Students are able to visually explore and discuss broader contextual topics such as the impact of colonial settlement on First Nations peoples’ Country, how towns and infrastructure are laid out and developed as settlements, expansion of community over time, and areas of agri-industry.

This gallery introduces:

- Development/ utilisation of trails, road and routes on both land and sea.
- Oral traditions: passing of knowledge i.e: handmade fishtraps, baskets, egg holders and grinding stone.
- Development of laws and civic institutions and impact on First Nations people.
- Old institutions: Queen and Country; collections and curios
- Stories about individuals, families and community.



Living in the Tropics

Living in the Tropics gallery provides a fun-to-learn experience of generational changes to everyday technology which can be found in the family home. From fridges to washing machines, kettles to cooking, voices from the family kitchen of yesteryear abound.

Split into two areas with a theatrette in between, our verandah gallery Living in the Tropics allows students to relate to the artefacts on display, which are similar to today's but also different. This area promotes discussion about food production, gender roles in the family home, and growing up and living in our tropical environment, then and now, as well as some of the hazards it presents.

Objects which depict features familiar to the domestic sphere but are 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 a world of growing up in the tropics. A short film in our theatrette highlights some of the changes in our community in the late 20th Century to now.

This is an area where reflection, interpretation and analysis can be applied through classroom discussion. Students will learn about

- Rocking horse.
- Scooter and Bike (how are they different today?)
- Scientific experiments and the malaria program
- The introduction of Cane Toads
- The natural environment and its creatures



Changing Cairns

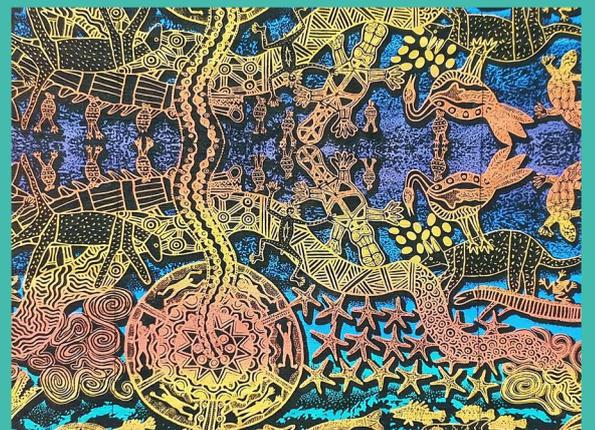
Changing Cairns gallery enables students to explore a more contemporary history of local heroes in Cairns in the late 20th century. Built on diversity, migrant stories and experiences based on global influences, this gallery brings students stories of individuals who were influential in making change to attitudes, the environment and community.

The right to maintain connection to Country is highlighted by an exploration of resilience by First Nations peoples with stories of community advocates such as local heroes Gladys O'Shane and Joe McGuinness. By challenging national rules and regulations but at a local level, their actions provide an excellent starting point for classroom reflection and analysis.

Find out about the key individuals who brought tourism to Cairns and its transition from a sleepy community in the 1950s to a vital city participating in a global environment today. Students will learn about changing attitudes to the environment, protection of the reef and rainforest, and rise of cultural tourism. Each story highlights a community key individual who contributed to the change.

Stories and artefacts on display in this gallery include:

- First Nations and the fight for civil rights and for connection to Country. The Cairns Advancement League.
- Big Game fishing and Green Island observatory
- Migration to a new land post WWII and civic changes they brought with them.
- Key individuals for the protection of environment and local environmental movement
- Home grown cultural tourism and artisan tourism through the story of Tjapukai and Yarrabah Pottery.





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 resource for questioning, reflection, and analysis of what it means to have an ever changing world.

Exhibitions the Cairns Museum have shown include:

- An exhibition of fashion created by 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 from collections
- 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.

