

CAIRNS  
MUSEUM

## CAIRNS MUSEUM - EXCURSION

### The Environment and Us

*Past to present, attitudes towards use of local landscape and environment have changed over time. Learn about connection to Country, taming the landscape, use of natural resources, the conservation movement and rise of local environmental tourism, as you explore the Environment and Us at the Cairns Museum. Y4-5; Y7-10*

2024-2030

Curriculum V.9

# The Environment and Us Excursion Program Overview

2024-2030 V.9<sup>1</sup>

## Introduction

**Welcome** to Cairns Museum's **The Environment and Us 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, through to contact, migration, settler history, the birth and development of a community and town and now our present-day city. Students will learn about what life was like in the past and how attitudes to our natural environment have changed over time, as well as their place within it.

**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, early migration stories, diverse cultural communities of the past, post war migration, changing community attitudes, impact on the environment, and effects on First Nations people: there are so many opportunities to learn interesting local facts which all 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.



<sup>1</sup> All information is based on ACARA: Australian Curriculum: V.9

## The Environment and Us

The Cairns Museum offers thematic education-focused displays which cover a range of curriculum links from Years 4-5 and Years 7-10, covering important aspects such as migration, settlement, family formation, generational change and living in a tropical environment. Students are introduced to the story of pre-colonisation, settlement formation, industry, and community and social development through the lens of living in and changing our natural landscape. The galleries present how people have traversed through different generational attitudes from living in the environment, to exploitation, resource extraction and finally conservation of the rainforest and reef. The Cairns Museum is a carefully curated social history museum which includes content about local Indigenous Traditional Owner and Custodian groups, migration, settlement formation, entrepreneurship, and development of industry, civics and community. We highlight the racially diverse community which the city and region was built on and normalise stories of multiculturalism throughout our displays.

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, and open up new pathways for Questioning and Researching, Interpreting, Analysing and Evaluating, Communicating, Concluding and Decision-making. The Cairns Museum is 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 **The Environment and Us 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 4-5 and Years 7-10 but can be utilised for other year levels. All of our programs align with Curriculum V.9. All tours are age appropriate.

[AC9HS4K01](#), [AC9HS4K05](#), [AC9HS5K02](#), [AC9HS5K02](#),  
[AC9HH9K03](#), [AC9HH7K05](#), [AC9HH7K09](#), [AC9HG7K07](#), [AC9HG8K03](#), [AC9HH9K01](#), [AC9HH9K01](#),  
[AC9HG10K01](#), [AC9HG10K03](#), [AC9HH10K14](#), [AC9HG10K18](#), [AC9HG10K18](#).



*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.

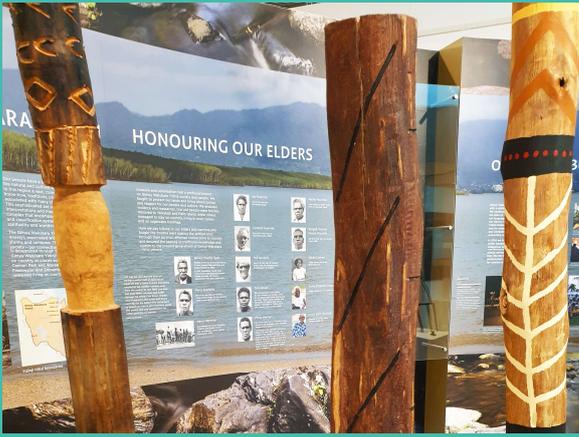
First Nations stories of far north Queensland remain an important link with the past for many families within the far north Queensland community. Our museum offers a rare opportunity to understand this history in an informative and sensitive way.

Students will learn about Traditional Owner groups Gimuy Wallaburra Yidinji of Cairns and Yirrganydji of north Cairns. Students will be introduced to First Nation culture through our artefacts on display including Headdresses, Shields, Yirrganydji painting and the story of Ye-i-nie, Yidinji King of Cairns. Students will learn about interconnectedness between Country and place, Elders of the community (past and present) and learn about impacts of the arrival of non-First Nations settlers as migrants from near and far.

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 civic development associated with early settlement. This gallery highlights individuals and communities which demonstrate our diverse migrant and multicultural past.

Themes covered in this gallery include:

- First Nations communities and impact through colonial settlement.
- Stories of migrant men and women who had an impact on Cairns such as environmentalists.
- A temple seal from the 1886 Chinese Lit Sung Goong (temple) demonstrating early diverse spiritual and community institutions.
- Gold scales relating to the gold rushes which attracted migration and change to far north Queensland.
- A printing press illustrating the importance of early broad-print communication.
- Technology used to connect community.



## 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 these pathways provide a local analogy to the broader change brought about by early migrant settlers to First Nations traditions, as they converted paths into routes for settlement.

The story of **The Environment and Us** and impact of settlement on First Nations peoples and the environment, is captured throughout this gallery taking in changes in the landscape, technology and resources from the arrival of Lieutenant (later Captain) Cook. The impact of settlement, and changing attitudes towards living in this environment, is narrated through the story of development including of transport, new routes, industry, resources and increased population.

One of our highlights in this section is our large interactive table which offers a bird's eye view of Cairns and surrounding district. This provides an opportunity for students to explore and discuss local geography, spatial representation, and colonial expansion.

This gallery introduces:

- Pathways Wall showing
  - Indigenous tracks, old maps and development of new trails, road and routes on both land and sea.
- How life changed for First Nations people with arrival of migrants and colonial settlement.
- The development of the sugar cane industry, colonial attitudes, and rules and regulations regarding migrant workers such as Chinese, Japanese, South Sea Islander and Italian farm labour.
- Industry use of the environment, both land and seascapes.



## Living in the Tropics

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

Themes of continuity, change and “making do” without gadgets and technology, are explored in the kitchen and laundry with items relating to food, clothes, growing up, and living in our tropical environment. This area opens up discussion on sustainability, and comparisons of carbon footprints over generations.

This area can also smoothly lead into a discussion of changes for women and girls in the household and how technological developments have changed the way women work.

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

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

A short film in our theatrette highlights some of the changes in our community since World War Two. From there students will discover a world of growing up in the tropics, attitudes to fauna, and environmental disasters.

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

- Introduction of the Cane Toad and pest management.
- Mosquitos and Malarial program



## Changing Cairns

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

Cairns transitions from a sleepy community of the 1950s to a vital city participating in a global world with a new outlook on the environment, new 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 and cultural environmental beliefs which influenced local community.
- The coral reef, 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 connection to country.
- Changing trends in everyday fashion, as well as personal and household equipment used.
- Development of environmental protection and increased understanding of natural, managed, and constructed local places and landscapes.



## 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 and 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 social, environmental and cultural history means to local communities.

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 tropical environment.
- Partner collections of shells, tapa cloths, shaving equipment, and steam engines.
- Local Heroes such as Percy Trezise, Les Paul and Northern Anzacs.
- Chinese history and heritage
- Treasures from our collection and other institutions.
- 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](mailto:info@cairnsmuseum.org.au) to see how you can enter your idea.

