



# CAIRNS MUSEUM - EXCURSION

## Then and Now

*Explore the Cairns Museum and discover and reflect on the past and how it is different or similar to the present. F-3*

2024-2030

Curriculum V.9

# Then and Now Excursion Program Overview

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

## Introduction

**Welcome** to Cairns Museum's **Then and Now 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 and settler history, the birth and growth 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 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

## Then and Now

In an environment which highlights a “Then and Now” approach to social and environmental history, the Cairns Museum offers thematic education-focused displays which cover a range of curriculum links from Foundation to Year 3 covering important aspects such as family, people, places, cause and effect, and 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 also highlight natural resources, the environment and changing attitudes towards them. 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 vibrant experience to enhance your classroom methodologies and promote reflection to enrich curious minds.

## Inquiry Questions

Our **Then and Now 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

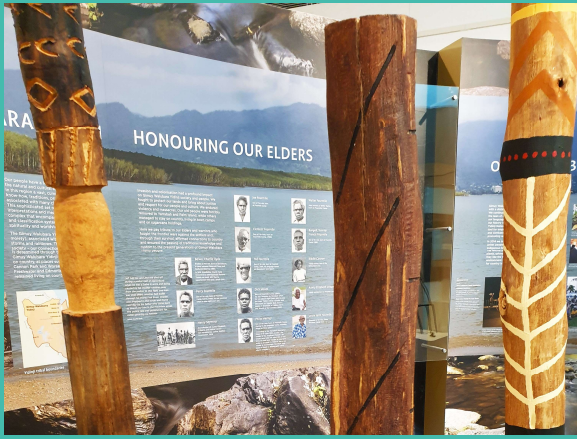
This tour is appropriate for years F-3 but can be utilised for other year levels. All of our programs align with Curriculum V.9

AC9HSFK01, AC9HSFK03, AC9HSFK04, AC9HS1K01, AC9HS1K02, AC9HS1K03, AC9HS1K04,  
AC9HS2K01, AC9HS2K02, AC9HS2K04, AC9HS3K01, AC9HS3K04.



*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.

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-nie, Yidinji King of Cairns.

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 be able to see and hear about information on interconnectedness between Country and place, and learn about the 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. 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 who had an impact on Cairns history.
- Games of times past.



## Old Cairns

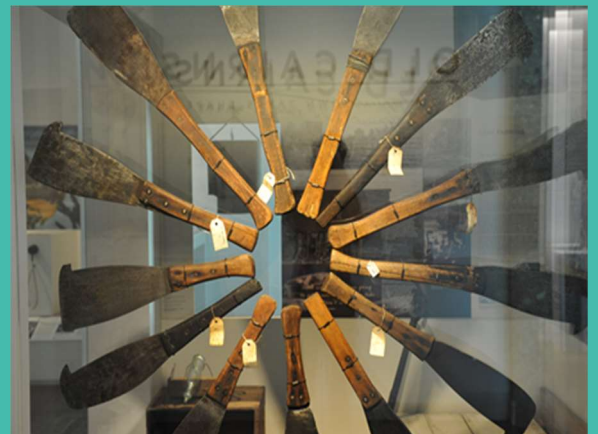
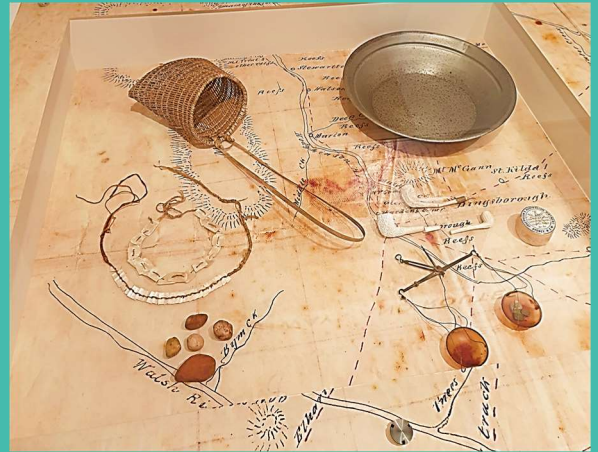
Our tour continues on Level 1 with an exploration of Old Cairns. Here students will start on a journey to learn about seasonal First Nations tracks from coast to hinterland as pathways for resources and community gatherings. These pathways enabled first settlers to connect new settlements and create stable routes inland.

The story of **Then and Now** is captured in the theme of transport by land and sea in this gallery. Our tour highlights stories about arrival by sea and development of the port; construction of railway lines; and transition from horses and drays to motorcars.

There are many things to learn, discover and draw conclusions about within these galleries. One of our highlights is a very large interactive table which offers a bird's eye view of Cairns and surrounding natural landscape including features such as the rivers and coastline which dominate our tropical environment.

This gallery introduces:

- Pathways Wall showing
  - Indigenous tracks, old maps and the development of new trails, roads 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 sugar cane farming, living on the land, and farm families.
- Changes over time for children and families.
- Racial diversity of early community including Japanese, Chinese, South Sea Islander and Italian farm labour.





## Living in the Tropics

A great way to learn about continuity and intergenerational change between great grandparents, grandparents, parents and children, 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 in the kitchen and laundry are explored through items relating to food, clothes, growing up and living within our tropical environment.



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 familiar to kitchens and laundries but yet so totally different to today include:

- Washboard, tubs and washing dollys
- 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 where children of the past used imagination to create resourceful play and see some familiar beasts which still inhabit our backyards.



This is an area which promotes reflection, interpretation and analysis.

- Children's Toys such as Rocking horse, dolls
- Children's Scooters and bikes, then and now
- Tropical fauna, pests and science experiments



Living in the Tropics gallery also reminds students that some beasts remain the same!



## Changing Cairns

Cairns is built on diversity, migrant stories and experiences based on global influences and changing attitudes towards the environment.

Changing Cairns sets out a gallery which enables students to explore a more contemporary history of the late 20th century and explores a number of shifts in attitude where Cairns transitions from a sleepy community to a vital city participating in a global environment.

Explore the role of Cairns in the Second World War and the embrace of post war migration to the region, through personal stories.

Discover the shift in attitude from the land and sea environment viewed as a commodity resource, to a call for our rainforest and reef places to be protected and the rise of environmental and cultural tourism.

The right to maintain connection to Country is highlighted by an exploration of resilience by First Nations peoples, and community advocates.

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 they used.
- Learn about environmental protection and explore 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 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 “then and now”.

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](mailto:info@cairnsmuseum.org.au) to see how you can enter your idea.

