

CLARENCE RIVER WAY THEMES

Continuous Culture

Spanning from the Dreamtime to today's realities of rapid social change and development, the story of the Aborigines of the Clarence tells of a proud and resilient people. Their culture and understanding of country continue unbroken, revealed through their sites, tales and art; their dedication to the values of the Valley, and to playing a unique part in its future are seen in their confidence and commitment to fresh opportunity.

Productive Landscape

All along the river, across the flood plain, around lakes and into the foothills, the Valley landscape produces crops, supports grazing, fishing, mining and logging. This story has a rich human dimension from Aboriginal land management to contemporary mechanised farming. It is a theme full of character and conflicts which extends into technology, culture, economics and cuisine and demonstrates the continuing challenge to maintain environmental balance and sustainability.

Life from the River

As the centre piece of the region's ecology the Clarence River is inextricably linked to every facet of the catchments natural environment, and beyond. The story of the varied landscapes, habitats and native animals, as well as critical relationships with introduced species and the modified environment, extends out in waves from the river to the Community and returns back. Both highly aesthetic and deeply scientific, this theme will be a major vehicle for extending appreciation of the river systems values.

Creative Community

Responding to the practical needs of early settlers to equip and entertain themselves or record their experiences, through to the artistic expression of today's diverse multicultural community, shows the people of the Clarence to be creative and constructive. Encouraging and interpreting this spirit will extend into field installations, performances, major events and interpretive programs.

History of Play

In a landscape full of physical challenge and natural opportunity for fun, there has been a strong tradition of sport and games in all the communities that have lived or worked across the catchment. Many conventional sports and events continue, now with the added significance of heritage. Other contemporary recreation additions, some expensively equipped, some relying on personal endurance, bring new appreciation of the catchment and coast's potential.

