

## Art tour Cairns, Cooktown and Port Douglas - July 2021.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>Despite Covid complications<br/>Masks, sign-in and sanitising stations<br/>Into Cairns we all arrived-<br/>With relief we all sighed.</p> <p>A drive around the town,<br/>A botanic garden walk -<br/>Getting to know each other and some talk.<br/>At the Esplanade, set down.<br/>Geoff had to find lost trippers<br/>While some had beer sippers.</p> <p>We enjoyed a lovely welcome dinner and drinks-<br/>Amanda told us of failure, we should not think.</p> <p>On our second day<br/>We painted by the bay.<br/>Little did we know there'd be an interrupter<br/>In the form of a noisy helicopter!</p> <p>Don't be too fussy, Amanda said<br/>And plan it out in your head.<br/>Creativity is what it is about,<br/>And fudge it if you are in doubt.</p> <p>We all found food for our tummy<br/>And Geoff wondered if someone spat the dummy!<br/>Jan found a handbag without an owner<br/>-<br/>That could have been a real downer!</p> <p>Helen gained a novel souvenir<br/>When a bird to her hat was too near.<br/>The bird left a splat<br/>On her now artistic hat!</p> <p>Day three, we went up high<br/>On a rail in the sky.<br/>Over the tree tops we flew<br/>Enjoying a rain forest view.</p> <p>At Kuranda, we had a chance to shop,<br/>And for lunch we had a stop.<br/>It was obvious covid has had an effect<br/>Closed shops showed trade is wrecked.</p> | <p>2.<br/>Subject matter, dress sellers<br/>Set up under red umbrellas.<br/>First make your pen marks,<br/>Then add your darks,<br/>Balance your colours bright -<br/>Make sure you keep the light.</p> <p>At the Gardens, an exhibition<br/>Had provided Melody with inspiration.<br/>She produced a rainforest pen and ink<br/>And showed us to see what we think.</p> <p>Day four found us at Palm Cove<br/>On sand, under trees we did rove.<br/>With her painting, Amanda was not happy -<br/>In fact, she called it crappy.<br/>She discussed with us errors made,<br/>And hints to make it make the grade.<br/>It was encouraging to us though,<br/>As when we fail, it won't be such a blow.</p> <p>It was very windy at Trinity Bay,<br/>To paint the beach, there was NO way.<br/>We set up under cover<br/>And of a shop, we did another.<br/>The café patrons did not know<br/>They were the stars of our show.<br/>Tanya found a table to do her art -<br/>That was a move that was smart.<br/>No need to be literal, Amanda said -<br/>Paint what is in your head.</p> <p>A large group ate Balinese<br/>Our taste buds so to tease.<br/>Liz almost left her purse behind<br/>But someone found it and was kind.</p> <p>On day five, we had no bus<br/>So walked to the Esplanade with no fuss.<br/>Set up to paint the bay scene.<br/>Amanda did not like the colours seen<br/>So a challenge for us she set -<br/>Change the colours to sunset!</p> <p>Get rid of the idea of rules,<br/>Restricting yourself is for fools.<br/>Set your art problems, use your head<br/>-</p> |
|---|--|

Amanda said we'd draw in ink -  
She said it makes you think.  
No way to rub it out -  
You just have to think it out.

3.

After our lunch, later on  
We watched a waterfall  
demonstration.  
It looked to be very tricky,  
We all agreed it was risky!  
We were told if you don't have a go  
You'll never ever know.  
Let the water run down the page -  
If it goes wrong, no need to rage.

Rayma is a swimmer keen,  
To the pools she has been.  
In spare minutes, Evelyn would  
sketch,  
Her book will be a souvenir home to  
fetch.

On the morning of day six,  
Janet was in quite a fix -  
Slammed shut went her door -  
Bare footed she went to the ground  
floor.

To Cooktown we all went on a massive  
bus,  
Three or four seats for all of us.  
At Mareeba Heritage Centre we  
stopped,  
Off the bus we all hopped.  
A marvellous historical display  
Of life of a long bygone day.  
Stops at Palmer River and a lookout -  
We were amazed with Black Mountain,  
no doubt.  
And who would have thought  
So many bananas grew on Cape York.

While travelling along  
On a bus trip so long  
Some viewed the landscape,  
Some to a snooze did escape.  
But one among us was excited -  
With her news she was delighted!  
Good luck to Rose,  
Now she knows  
Her house dream will come true -  
She will be moving somewhere new.

Do what works, Amanda said.

4.

At Cooktown on the seventh day,  
Amanda showed us the way  
To depict a variety of boats  
And make them seem to float.

Then we painted Captain Cook -  
A lot of effort THAT took!

Some badly felt the heat  
Painting became quite a feat.  
The humidity was high-  
Some felt they would fry!

Again, walking to the RSL  
Alex paused something Amanda to tell  
-

Didn't put on his brake lights -  
Joy ran into him in the night!

Our Cooktown motel, the Seaview,  
Our heavy luggage we did rue.  
Up the hill we had to haul -  
Coming down, careful not to fall!  
Help from the men, we did appreciate  
-

Thanks fellas, that was great!

To catch the bus, Carol had to run,  
Being left behind would not be fun.  
Hope the markets she enjoyed  
Her spirits then would be buoyed.  
And on the bus she played solitaire -  
That she was noticed, she was not  
aware!

A number of people lost their hats -  
They really didn't like that!

Evelyn did her best  
To help those who found walking a  
test.  
She went and got take-away  
So in their rooms they could stay.

Palmer River scones recommended by  
Nick,  
Geoff shouted one for all -  
They arrived and were gigantic!  
Thanks Geoff from us all.

Denise lost her glasses-  
Somewhat of a disaster!

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>To the RSL for tea<br/> It was as crowded as could be.<br/> Through a slight misunderstanding,<br/> Marcia, a citizen upstanding<br/> Almost got away<br/> Without having to pay!</p>  | <p>But it was her lucky day,<br/> Tanya found them along the way.</p>  |
| <p style="text-align: center;">5.</p> <p>Along a very windy road we drove<br/> To Mosman Gorge, a lovely grove.<br/> We walked through rainforest to a stream-<br/> Saw tumbling water clear and clean.</p> <p>Into Port Douglas to stay at the Oaks.<br/> Some problems for some of our folks.<br/> In her fridge, wet towels, Denise found.<br/> Carol in cigar smoke was drowned.<br/> No luggage storage, so TV remote –<br/> Many other small things the resort did not promote.<br/> Amanda and Alex were upset with their room-<br/> Two very small beds! Requested a change soon.<br/> But there were lovely water-lilies all around,<br/> And quite a bit of bird sound.<br/> A redeeming feature was the meals –<br/> We agreed the chef was the real deal!</p> <p>Visited the markets at the “Port”<br/> As Nick refers to this resort.<br/> Caught up in huge crowds<br/> Taking in the sights and sounds.</p> <p>A complicated scene Amanda picked –<br/> Buildings, tents and crowds had us tricked.<br/> Then we had to leave in a hurry-<br/> An upcoming wedding had us in a flurry!</p> <p>Next day –<br/> We painted at the sugar wharf-<br/> Made the old shed quite dwarf!<br/> An oil painter set up near-by.<br/> Passers-by stopped to view and admire.</p> <p>Alex, a character made –</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">6.</p> <p>Evelyn sat on the sand<br/> Her dress developed a wet band.<br/> Much teasing she did get –<br/> Looked like she had wet!</p> <p>Went on the river Daintree,<br/> Lots of forest we did see.<br/> Of crocs, birds and snakes<br/> Pictures we could take.</p> <p>Amanda put us to the test-<br/> Told us to do our best-<br/> What we learned we had to show,<br/> And put into action what we know!</p> <p>A great trip it has been<br/> Covering many a different scene.<br/> Some people have a new appreciation<br/> Of the distances in our nation!</p> <p>All the interstaters<br/> Have followed covid data<br/> Regarding permits to get them home<br/> After their artistic roam.</p> <p>Thanks to our bus driver, Nick,<br/> With a helping hand, he was quick.<br/> He stowed the luggage away<br/> On the bus each day.</p> <p>Geoff and Jan are always there<br/> To let us know when and where.<br/> When <u>we</u> have to move away<br/> They watch our things when <u>they</u> stay.</p> <p>Alex is helper to Amanda,<br/> He calms her with patient candour.<br/> He helps her get set up<br/> And guides her on when to let up.</p> <p>To Amanda go congratulations –<br/> She helped us with our trials and tribulations.<br/> When things went well, she shared in our</p> |

The Cooktown fly, his pictures raid!  
Amanda is his tutor  
To make his pictures cuter.  
He adds his little fly –  
His series then are all tied!

Down on the beach  
Another painting to teach –  
Umbrellas, flags and mist  
And people are on the list.  
Little dots to represent –  
Amazing they look like what is meant!

7.

Farewell and adieu  
Best wishes of all of you.

So there is a short postscript  
Of events that were end tripped.  
Rayma's key left her pocket –  
Perhaps she needs to lock it!  
To the Office, new key, problem  
solved,  
Her quandary was resolved!

As usual Evelyn, a place to sketch she  
found-  
Sat by the pool, not on the ground-  
On the scene in front, focussed her  
eyes  
So the wet seat she did not realize.  
Unfortunately that means  
A very wet seat of her jeans!

One of our travelling crew  
Felt for home she was not due.  
Liz decided to stay on –  
She did not want her holiday gone.  
The rest of us were concerned  
That she might get burned-  
That covid might see her trapped,  
That her holiday might not go as  
mapped.  
So Liz, we wish you well  
And hope a good story you'll have to  
tell.

You may all have to add another  
chapter  
Of how getting home you adapted.  
Home going experiences for all-  
A verse about that is your call!

elation,  
Begged us not to submit to give up  
temptation!

Congrats to all the art trippers,  
The time we had was really ripper.  
It sure was lots of fun,  
And lots of art was done.

