

Newsletter

Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens

2015 No 4

We are approaching the Botanic Gardens birthday (May 24th) and we will be 12 years young. The Garden Friends have been organising a surprise! Wonder what they are up to? Enjoy the latest from 'The Botanic Gardens'...

Have you seen what flowering at the Botanic Gardens?



Looking up into the trees you would think it is filled with fairy lights. The trees are the Whitsunday Lepiderma, *Lepiderma* sp. (Impulse Creek).

This undescribed species has been found only in rainforest near Impulse and Brandy Creeks in the Conway State Forest in the Whitsunday area. Advanced plants of this small tree were donated to the MRBG for the Whitsunday Garden in 2002. They are now 5-6m high and flowered for the first time in 2009.

The tiny creamy white flowers occur in clusters along the branches, and are followed by showy orange-red, 3-seeded capsules. Old capsules cling for a long time. Beautiful flushes of pink new growth make this a very attractive garden plant.

If you are visiting the Botanic Gardens, you can find these trees in the Whitsunday Gardens section (No 29 on the Gardens Guide map).

Plants have been provided to the Australian National Botanic Gardens and SGAP Mackay Branch is promoting this plant by growing plants for sale to the community. Check out SGAP's Native Plant sale at the Farleigh Palm Fair at the Farleigh School on May 17th. There are limited numbers of this plant available.

Special Flowers in September:

"Orchids in Paradise" is a combined 20th Australian Orchid Council and 50th Tropical Queensland Orchid Council Conference and Show. It will provide an opportunity for orchid and plants lovers from all parts of Australia to meet and enjoy spectacular orchid and foliage displays and learn from world-leaders in orchid breeding and culture.



The AOC Conference and Show is a triennial event, held in a different state of Australia every three years. It will be the first time that the AOC Conference and Show has been held in Mackay and only the second time that a conference has been held in tropical Queensland. The 2015 event will also be the first time that the AOC conference has been combined with a major regional Orchid Conference. Additionally, foliage and allied plants will be included in the show schedule for the first time.

The Orchid Conference will be held at the Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre (MECC) on Friday the 18th September to Tuesday 22nd September 2015. The AOC Orchid Show is open to the public from Saturday 19th September to Tuesday 22nd September.

More details on the website. <http://orchidsinparadise.com.au/index.html> Please Like our Facebook page for updates and more information <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Orchids-in-Paradise-20th-AOC-Conference-and-Show-Mackay-2015/682457278534230>

Farewell to Theo Pace – a valued Garden Friend

Sadly Theo passed away recently after a battle with cancer. He was an active and passionate Garden Friend since 2009. His “dedication to weeding” won him the “Shiny Shovel Award” for 2010.



His small stature was the only thing small about him! He came from a very large family, his life was full of huge ups and downs and his contribution to the many activities he was involved in was immensely appreciated by all who knew and met him. Theo was the epitome of the saying “Live simply, Love deeply, Laugh often”.

Six staff members and Garden Friends attended his funeral last week. Veronique wrote a Tribute to Theo which you can read at your leisure in a separate document to the newsletter.

The tribute contains some of what Theo’s brother, Reno said in his eulogy as well as the message Dale sent from Brisbane.

We are all left poorer from losing Theo and will miss his humour and friendship, but the many trees he helped plant in the Gardens will always remind us of him and his dedication to the Gardens.



What’s on now ... in the Lagoons Gallery?

50 Shades of Green... An exhibition by Maya Harrison

Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens Lagoons Gallery;
Wednesday 5th May – Sunday 7th June 2015



The colour green to me represents nature, growth and the plant world. Plants are not all the same green colour, nor are the small green creatures that inhabit them. Shades of Green can be found throughout the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens, in my backyard and in our bush property and this is where the inspiration for this exhibition began.

The colour green may differ in hue, saturation or intensity or brightness. Variations in green hues are also called tints and shades, a tint being a green or other hue mixed with white, a shade being mixed with black.

A large selection of greens in various shades, appear in this exhibition, through artworks and photography, but also in everyday items, pictures or quirky objects in the showcases. Love green and celebrate Nature.

The ‘50 Shades of Green’ exhibition includes one installation that is really 50 small artworks combined and yes, there are 50 shades of green within it. The installation includes acrylics, papermaking, photography, collage, weaving and textiles and found objects from nature.

Image: Katydid Nymph... Transparent Green. The image is part of a trio of images titled “On the Edge”.

What have the Friends of the Gardens been up to?



Composting workshop.

Over 15 friends congregated at the Community Gardens to listen to Luke Matthews talk about improving the soil for our plants through composting and worm farming.

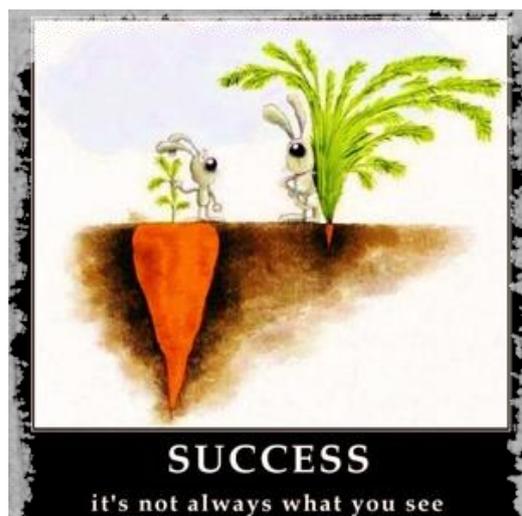
We all found his presentation interesting, informative and with lots of practical examples. Demonstrations about how the composting set up (including the worm farming in an old bathtub) is done at the Community Gardens gave us useful tips on creating a similar composting work space in our own backyards. I know that Kevin and Maya rearranged their compost setup at home that very afternoon.



Katrina finished the workshop and presented a handful of worm to establish a worm farm of our own for the Botanic Gardens Education sessions.



A store bought worm farm (much smaller and easier to handle than a bathtub!) was presented to us the Garden Friends from Fiona Patterson and part of the Waste Management programs in Council. Thanks go to Fiona for organising Luke and the venue and to the Composting Workshop hosts for the lovely herbal tea, coffee and Clare for the very yummy cake shared by all.



Following is some composting information that Maya has used with school children. It should prove to be helpful for those that did not attend the session and a reminder for those that did.

**Did you know...
2015 is the Year of Soils**



© The Tenacious Gardener

Composting ... Nature's own recycling system.

Composting breaks plant matter down into its original nutrient form and then returns that valuable nourishment to the soil. By composting we give back some of the nutrients we have taken from our soil.

A beginner's recipe for compost...just like the layers of lasagna

Ingredients... **Greens...**

- **Garden wastes** — Grass cuttings, non-woody garden prunings, leaves, flowers and vegetable remains.
- **Seaweed**
- **Kitchen wastes** — Vegetable peelings, leaves and stalks, fruit peelings and cores, cooked table scraps, tea leaves, coffee grounds, egg shells and stale bread.
- **Animal manure** — Horse, chicken or cow manure (but avoid other animal droppings)



Browns...

- **Paper and cardboard** — Include small amounts of shredded newspaper and paper tissues.
- **Wood fire ash**
- **Sawdust and wood shavings**
- **Vacuum dust and hair**

Method...

Remember ADAM! Who is ADAM?

Step 1: Choose a well-drained, sunny position. Luke suggested on pavers...makes shoveling easier when turning compost.

Step 2: Place a layer of coarse material such as broken-up sticks, twigs, prunings, dry leaves and torn newspaper on the bottom of the heap. This is important if you compost in a large free standing compost heap with walls. This layer should be about the thickness of the **width of one of your hands** (8-12 cm). This step is important because it allows air to flow through the heap.

Step 3: Then add a thin layer (1-2 cm) of rich soil or finished compost from a previous heap.

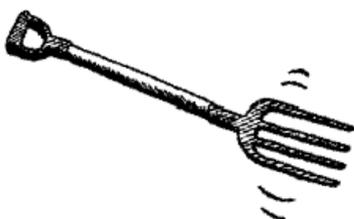
Step 4: Add enough water to make everything moist.

Step 5: You are ready to start adding your food scraps to the heap. (or **greens**)

Step 6: Each time you add kitchen scraps to the heap, also add a different thin layer (1-2 cm) of one or more of the following (**browns**): **Depending on how much kitchen scraps you have you may place them in daily and then on the weekend add the following (browns) layer...** Remember you can add other 'greens' (see list) along with kitchen scraps.

- Dried grass clippings
- soil or compost from a previous heap
- coarse material, e.g., tree prunings, sticks, twigs and leaves (chopping in to small pieces aids composting)
- shredded newspaper
- wood ash, dolomite or lime
- fresh herbs.

Step 7: When you have finished layering, cover the heap with hessian bags, underfelt or a layer of mulch or if you have a store bought compost bin, pop the lid on.



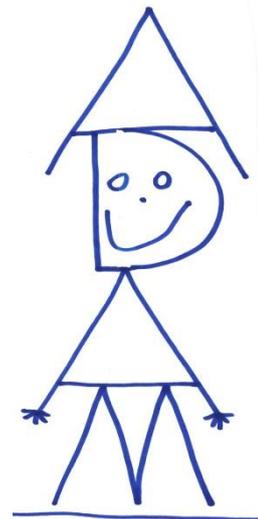
Step 8: Turn the heap often... To get good quality compost quickly, you need to turn the heap every few weeks with a fork or shovel. If your heap is wet and smelly, turning will help it dry out. If it's too dry turn it and then water it.

Remember ADAM

Good composting with ADAM

ADAM will help you remember the keys to making good compost.

- A. **Alive...** Compost is a living system.
- D. **Diversity...** Lots of **Different ingredients** are the key to good composting.
- A. **Aeration...** For fast-working, sweet-smelling compost, it is essential to get air (oxygen) into the heap.
- M. **Moisture...** For the living compost heap to work well, it needs to be a little wet.



Alive...

A compost heap needs living organisms to break down the waste and release the minerals and nutrients to make rich soil-like compost.

Each living organism in the compost has a different but important role to play in creating the right conditions for good compost.

Some of these living organisms, such as bacteria, are too small for you to see. But they are still very important.

Diversity...

A compost heap needs different ingredients, just as you need different types of food to keep you healthy. Layering different ingredients makes sure that the compost you get from your heap has all the right minerals and nutrients.

Aeration...

A compost heap needs air or it will start to smell. Remember, more air means less smell!

Turning your compost heap lets in more air. But don't turn too often as you will let too much air in the heap and it will get too cool. Compost heaps need to be hot to make the ingredients break down faster.

Remember, you also want to let some air into the top of the heap, so don't cover it with plastic sheets, use hessian.



Moisture...



All plants and animals need water and air to live and so does your compost heap.

As a guide, compost should be about as wet as a lightly wrung-out sponge. It should be moist but not dripping with water.

Happy composting and may you reap the rewards of all that hard work with wonderful soil in your garden and know that you have recycled waste to your garden's advantage.

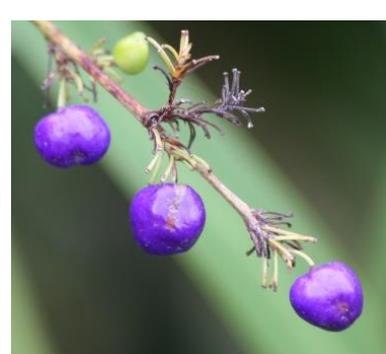
Small Explorers: April 28th Plant a seed



14 young children along with grandparents, Family Day care providers and parents ventured through the garden with Maya to find a rainbow of coloured berries... Blue Mackinlaya, Orange Annona, Red Cordyline, Purple Dianella, Yellow seeds inside hairy pods of Kurrajong, Green and some ripened Yellow Cluster figs, white seeds inside the red star shaped capsule of the Red Beech, Bandicoot berries, Creamy translucent fruit of the Cheese fruit with purple seeds inside (and a smell!), and the brown endocarp (seed capsule) of the Neisosperma in the shape of an egg.

There was a collection of seeds for the children to observe, sort, touch and feel...and find out what was inside. The seeds were also organised by the way they were dispersed...wind, water, animals (fruits to eat, burrs to carry and nuts/ seeds to store), gravity, fire, ballistic (exploding seeds)

The children learnt a little about recycling when they made recycled pots from newspaper and planted seeds in their pots to take home and grow.



Can you match the berries with the names?

Mackinlaya macrosiadea, Orange Annona *Fitzalania heteropetala*, *Cordyline manners-suttoniae*, *Dianella* sp., Little Kurrajong *Brachychiton bidwillii*, Cluster Figs *Ficus hispida*, Red Beech *Dillenia alata*, Bandicoot berries *Leea indica*, Cheese fruit *Morinda citrifolia*, *Neisosperma kilneri*.

Next Small Explorers Session is Tuesday 26 May "Leaf Hunts"

More children visited the Botanic Gardens too...

The Easter school holidays planned activities appealed to families who wanted an activity to do when they visited the Gardens, and also to parents and grandparents who wanted a bit of a break from children asking ...what can we do... now we are full of chocolate.

There were two activities on offer.

1. Eggs-traordinary Easter Holiday Quiz at the Botanic Gardens



**Win
a \$50 gift card
+ the eggs-citing
“Bungee Jumping Caterpillars”
book.**

“Children eggs-amined and eggs-plored places to eggs-pect eggs, while eggs-ercising and eggs-erting their body’s eggs-tremities in the eggs-terior!

Quizzes were available at the Botanic Gardens Administration or online on the Botanic Gardens website. www.mackayregionalbotanicgardens.com.au

And who won?



The Eggs-traordinary Easter Quiz winner was ...

*** 6 year old Dallas Kuhl from Hay Point.

He and his whole family made a special trip into Mackay to go to the Botanic Gardens and Artspace.

He was thrilled when congratulated by Visitors Services Officer, Maya Harrison. He picked up his prizes during a Small Explorers session on April 28th.

Visitors Services Officer, Maya Harrison was also thrilled that another child would be able to enjoy the locally created children's book 'The Bungee Jumping Caterpillars' that she co- created for the Botanic Gardens. The story introduces children to some special creatures (caterpillars of the North Queensland Day Moth, commonly known as the Zodiac Moth) and ‘threatened in the wild plants’. They (caterpillars, moths and plants) can all be found at the Botanic Gardens. Come along and find them and... Look out for more quizzes next school holidays.

Then there was the Egg cracking code to be solved before parents and children could book their places in the School Holiday activities program. **Can you crack the egg code?**

Eggs-pect an Eggs-traordinary Eggs-perience...

“Children will **eggs-amine** things that **eggs-plode**, see signs of **eggs-tinct** animals, **eggs-plore** places to **eggs-pect eggs**, while **eggs-ercising** and **eggs-erting** their body’s **eggs-tremities** in the **eggs-terior!**

Eggs-haling, but not **eggs-hausted** or **eggs-asperated**, return **eggs-hilarated** to

eggs-periment with **eggs-travagant** and **eggs-otic** materials to create **eggs-quisite** decorated **eggs.**”

Eggs-clusive to school age children and 10 children per session: **Eggs-actly** from 10am - 12noon or 2pm – 4pm: **Eggs-press** your **eggs-pectation** to join us and we **eggs-pect** payment by Wednesday 8th April 2015

2. Eggs-pect an Eggs-traordinary Eggs-perience...

Over 30 children participated in the second school holiday activity. They had the opportunity to not only do the Quiz, but also experience some fun... at some of the question points.



26. Malta Garden... What game is played on the sand court in the Malta Garden? Are the balls you play the game with, egg shaped or round?

We played Bocce or was it Bocci or Boules or just bowls? We even shared the Bocce court with other players, members of a nursing home.

Bocce / Boules sets are available at Administration if you ever want to bowl a ball too.



32. Coal Garden... Under the black sail there are some footprints in the path. Which egg laying animal made these footprints?

Not only did we find the dinosaur footprints but we found the raptor dinosaur too (once we finished the large jigsaw puzzle)

36. Eulamere Boardwalk / Lagoon Life... Beneath the lagoon water surface are lots of creatures which have hatched from eggs. Draw a cross through the ones that don't hatch from eggs.



We even found some of these water creatures while dipping a net in the water off the Boardwalk. Using white trays make it easier to see the small creatures. We found scrimp, fish, dragonfly and damselfly nymphs, water mites and snails.



Returning to the meeting room we made some Eggs-traordinary critters to take home. What an eggs-perience!

Plant profile:

Cheese Fruit *Morinda citrifolia*

The Cheese Fruit Tree is always found growing close to the coastline in tropical areas. It looks more like a bush than a tree with low set large broad glossy green leaves.



The flowers are small, white and sweet scented. You will often find ants and bugs on the fruit. Are they after the sweet smelling nectar?

The fruit is elongated in shape with irregular depressions on the outer surface.

It looks like a dimpled egg shape and turns from green to whitish-yellow when fully ripe.



The fruit is unmistakable, with translucent flesh, many brown/ blue/ purplish seeds. It has a powerful aroma similar to rancid cheese when very ripe.

Some say it smells like blue vein cheese. It is best eaten when two thirds ripe.

The fruit is produced throughout the year. It can be eaten raw or cooked and the young leaves are also edible.

The tree is also referred to as the Noni fruit and the Native Custard Apple and it was used as a health drink for men; a fruit with medicinal qualities.

Today, Noni fruit, leaves, flowers, stems, bark, and roots are still used to make medicine for a long list of ailments. However, the effectiveness of noni for these uses has not been proven.

Noni plants have a lot of potential in the medical world. Because of the nutrients the noni fruit possess, it's used to treat a variety of health problems

Have you heard of Noni Juice? The fruit juice is used for arthritis, diabetes, high blood pressure, muscle aches and pains, menstrual difficulties, headaches, heart disease, AIDS, cancers, gastric ulcers, sprains, depression, senility, poor digestion, atherosclerosis, circulation problems, and drug addiction.

Noni contains many substances, including potassium. Some of these substances might help repair damaged cells in the body, activate the immune system, and have other activities.





Native Ginger *Alpinia caerulea*

Native Ginger produces creamy white flowers which are followed by an abundance of beautiful blue globular fruits (capsules). In far north Queensland, these are eaten by Cassowaries.

The fleshy outer layer of the blue fruit can apparently be eaten but not the seeds. In some areas, it has been said that Aboriginal tracks could be found by following a trail of discarded seeds.

The blue capsules around the seeds crack open like an egg shell. The pulp and the seeds can be placed in the mouth and sucked. The pulp/filament has a pleasant light thirst quenching effect slightly like weak lemonade. Make sure you take the seeds out of your mouth and discard them.



We advise caution before trying this.



The roots and stems and juicy new tip shoots of this plant apparently have a ginger flavour when eaten raw and food wrapped in native ginger leaves will take on a gingery flavour during cooking.

The leaves were used to transport and cook food.



Blue seed capsules or Blue eggs?

Which would be tastier?



These two plants profiles were part of the signage for the Easter School holiday quiz. They are still there for the public to read and learn a little on their visit to the gardens.

The double eggs image was to let children and adults know the sign was part of the quiz and they were on the right track / path.

Have we led you down the Gardens' Paths recently?

Why not join us 10.00 am Fridays (April –October) at the Administration Building. The scenic Lagoons and glorious foliage make perfect backdrops during your informative stroll at the picturesque Botanic Gardens. Once a month, a Special Themed Free Friday Guided walk is also available.



Free Friday Guided Walks at the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens... **Every Friday 10.00am**

Let us know if you wish to come along to any of the walks by contacting the Botanic Gardens and booking the date with us or meet us at the Administration Building / The Garden's Shop just before 10.00am.

Cost Free: Contact the Botanic Gardens on 49527300 or email botanic@mackay.qld.gov.au

We will be late on Friday 22nd to lead you down the Gardens' Paths ... **“Plants in Danger”**

Special Free Friday Guided Walk will be held at 11am

May 22nd is the International Day for Biological Diversity. Join Maya and be lead down the Botanic Gardens' paths to see a variety of plants which are special to our local region's biodiversity. Some of the plants highlighted in this walk only grow in our bioregion and nowhere else in Australia. Some are considered 'Threatened in the wild species' due to their small populations.



What is Biodiversity?

Biodiversity is the variety of all living things; the different plants, animals and microorganisms in existence, the genetic information they contain and the ecosystems they form. Biodiversity also encompasses diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems.

Why are we late? At 10.00am we will be having a “Happy Birthday Morning Tea” for the Botanic Gardens; 12 years old. We will be unwrapping a SURPRISE birthday present from the Friends of the Gardens. You are welcome to join us, but please RSVP so we have enough Cake! Let us know if you wish to come along to either the walk, morning tea or both by contacting the Botanic Gardens on 49527300 or email botanic@mackay.qld.gov.au Cost Free:

“Happy Birthday Botanic Gardens”



It is the Botanic Gardens' 12th Birthday on May 24th. The Friends of the Gardens have got a really, really, great 'Surprise' birthday present for the Gardens.

Want to know what it is? Can't tell you...it is a SURPRISE!

Why not come along and celebrate with us and help unwrap this present?

Join us for Morning tea and Birthday cake on May 22nd at 10.00am on the Tropical Sun Garden Lawn

Please RSVP to the Botanic Gardens by May 20th so we can organize enough cake for everyone. Contact the Botanic Gardens on 49527300 or email us on botanic@mackay.qld.gov.au . Thank you.

We will be there...!

Under 8's Week Morning in the Park. 16th May Queens Park 9.30 – 11.30am



A range of interesting creatures and the plants they need to survive on will be the focus of a Small Explorer's 'hands on activity' aimed at children Under 8 and their families at Queens Park on Saturday 16th May.

The purpose of this Under 8's event is to create awareness of the services and activities in our region that are aimed at children 8 years and under.

Small Explorers sessions are fun and educational opportunities for toddlers and kindergarten aged children 18 months to 5 years held monthly or by appointment at the

Botanic Gardens. The Under 8's theme is "Children's Voices: Look, listen, hear and respond."

****Any 'Friends of the Gardens' who would like to help out at this event with Maya, please contact her on 49527321 or 0409750453.

**Annual Farleigh Palm Fete:
Sunday 17th May. 8.00am onwards at the Farleigh Primary School...**



This year the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens Friend's display will celebrate International Biological Diversity to be held on 22nd May 2014.

We celebrate **Biological Diversity** by highlighting some of our plant collection species that only grow in our bioregion.

The Botanic Gardens Friends will have their display stall alongside the SGAP stall (Society for Growing of Australian Plants)... who will sell some of these special plants for Mackay to grow in their own backyards.

Featured image is Whitsunday Lepiderema *Lepiderema* sp. (Impulse Creek) an un-described small tree only known from a very confined rainforest area in the Whitsundays. It is a small tree with very attractive pink new growth, small cream flowers and orange-red capsules.

Second featured image is *Sterculia quadrifida*, also known as the peanut tree, or red-fruited kurrajong. There are very limited numbers of these plants available for sale. However there is a vast range of other native plants available on the stall. Come early to get the plants you want.

We require friends to assist to set up and attend at the stall, selling souvenirs and sharing information about the Botanic Gardens via the brochures and fact sheets. Everyone is welcome to join in. Two people are needed for each 1-2 hours shift.

Call Maya on 49527321 or 0409750453 or leave a message to be part of the day's roster. Thanks.



Greenmount Heritage Fair: Sunday 31st May 2015... Celebrating 100 years.



Friends of the Gardens will have a stall at Greenmount Heritage Fair this year comprising of souvenirs (sales), old fashioned games and a display of heritage style plants.

We require friends to assist at the stall, selling souvenirs and sharing information about the Botanic Gardens via the brochures and fact sheets, as well as monitoring the old fashioned games.

We would also like to know if any of the Friends have flowers of old fashioned plants in their Gardens that they may wish to pick a few blooms for our display.



Everyone is welcome to join in. Two people are needed for each 1-2 hours shift.

Call Maya on 49527321 or 0409750453 or leave a message to be part of the day's roster.

Have you been inducted???

Induction session May 20th 10am – 11.30am



Volunteers working in Council facilities are required to do Workplace Health and Safety Inductions, so they know how to carry out duties and activities to keep themselves and others safe. Inductions as face to face sessions have been arranged for Wednesday May 20th from 10.00am to 11.30am in the Botanic Gardens Meeting Room.

If you would like to join the Friends, and attend one of these sessions, please RSVP to Maya Harrison by phone 49527321 or email at botanic@mackay.qld.gov.au as soon as possible.

Looking for Friends with special talents...

Friends who can work independently and have an urge to help.

The Botanic Gardens has a bit of a wish list... of things they would love to have happen at the Gardens.

1. Someone with computer skills able to do data entry. Good at spelling would be a benefit, particularly understanding Latin (though don't be put off if you can't)
2. Customer service on the front desk. (During the week)
3. Weeder/ Planter (must know a weed from a special plant)...plus small planting bees.
4. Another computer orientated position... Plant research (on the Friend's computer) using the internet to assist with telling a story or two about the plants. This will assist in developing signage and interpretation of plants in the Botanic Gardens and also create resources for Education sessions.

Need more information about anything in this newsletter...

Contact the Botanic Gardens on 49527300 or email botanic@mackay.qld.gov.au

Many hands rescue senior citizens of the plant world!

Queensland Cycads, *Cycas media* subsp. *media* are often termed ancient plants – food of the dinosaurs. They grow to varying heights dependent on their age. One such cycad at the Botanic Gardens is between 700 and 1,000 years old, stands around five metres tall and was rescued from a land clearing site around 10 years ago.



Botanic Gardens ground crew Kellie Woodford, Jeremy Youse, Maria Thompson, Kerri Lennox and Rhondda Laverack standing with cycads with leaves removed, ready to be potted in a special mix to help their establishment.

The opportunity to expand the Botanic Garden's collection of cycads was offered by Ergon recently. They were expanding an area to add new infrastructure on a private property covered in virgin scrub littered with ancient cycads. Ergon didn't want to see these ancient plants lost forever but to collect such plants requires a Protected Plant Harvest Licence and certain criteria have to be met. Yes, the Botanic Gardens had such a permit, but alas due to recent changes in legislation, it was no longer valid. A new licence application normally takes 40 days and it was less than 20 days till the earth moving gear was moving in to clear the area.

What ensued was a wonderful collaboration between many different council departments, the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (DEHP), the private landowner, Ergon and others. Emails flew back and forth between Ergon, the DEHP, Aurecon and various departments within council. Signatures were collected from the CEO, Ergon representatives, the landowner and the Botanic Gardens. Payments and follow-ups of the licence were organised super quick between Botanic Gardens Administration, Executive secretaries and the licence application staff. The paperwork was sent off and preparation for the day began.

Well into preparation and with only a day left to go we had still not received our harvest permit. Phone calls went out to the DEHP and they responded quickly pushing our application up the line but there was no-one available with the relevant authority. Ergon responded by redesigning their approach to the job so that the earth moving equipment could start the work without the need to disturb the plants until the last minute. In the meantime we would stand by, ready to move as soon as we had that permit. Alas, just as everything seemed to be coming together, one of the main players, the Acting Curator of the Botanic Gardens suffered a nasty injury to his foot and thigh. Not prepared to have such a collection fail and see the death of more than 50 plants, in stepped the Botanic Gardens' grounds crew to the rescue.



On the last day of clearing, with very little time to go, we got our harvest permit! Half the Botanic Gardens crew rushed off in the truck for the first of the two trips it took to collect the precious cargo. When they got back everyone pitched in for the massive task of potting them all up.



SUCCESS! The Botanic Gardens now have more of these protected and special species to add to their 'living museum' collection and Botanic Gardens wish to convey a heartfelt thanks to everyone who was involved. Thank you.