

# Wharf Logs

**Wharf logs return to the forest**



**An unusual and unique feature of the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens are the many old logs that rise from garden beds, paths and lawns. These impressive logs were mooring piles in the Pier Wharf which was removed at the Mackay Harbour.**

Lawrie Smith AM, the landscape architect of the Botanic Gardens, spotted them on a visit to the Port Authority and arranged for their inclusion in the Botanic Gardens design. These logs were planted 1800mm in the upwards. Some of the attachment holes and iron bolts are still present in the logs.

Other heavy beam timbers

are also available and will be incorporated in structures for the Botanic Gardens in future stages.

The logs, from durable species like Turpentine and Satinay, were felled in the 1930's for inclusion in the wharf - probably from Fraser Island and other logging activities. They have weathered the severe coastal elements almost without decay. Many still retain their barnacles and evidence of seawater exposure - others feature markings from marine worms and marine borers.

The most distinctive logs have taken on a 'personality' of their own - like "Ned Kelly" named for a massive square iron strut still

attached, resembling the helmet of the infamous bushranger and "#41 Lagoon Street" from the large numerals blazed on the trunk.

From a child's eye - these logs are as real live trees - it is only when your eye travels up that you see there are no living branches or leaves atop. But, like living trees, the wharf logs have become home to epiphytic Elkhorn Ferns - *Platynerium bifurcatum*, Staghorn ferns - *Platynerium superbum* and the common Tassel Fern - *Huperzia* sp. - particularly in the Eungella Cloud Garden, where they truly resemble the trunks of an ancient rainforest.

