

# Matsuura Cranes Sculpture



## Sister City ties

**Mackay's most active Sister City relationship is with Matsuura City in Kyushu, Japan. The relationship is fostered by the Mackay/Matsuura Sister City Community Committee, in Mackay, and the Matsuura International Friendship, in Matsuura.**

This relationship has encouraged many visits between the sister cities with a wealth of information and cultural awareness exchanged.

One of the many highlights of Mackay's relationship with Matsuura City is the exchange of a beautiful sculpture gift

designed and crafted in Matsuura, that appears in Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens.

The sculpture consists of four black and white Japanese cranes with red head highlights, a traditional Japanese stone lantern and a series of stones and boulders that were shipped from Japan to Mackay via the many coal ships that regularly travel their way between the two countries.

Cranes have a long history in Japanese traditions and legends and often represent peace and longevity. It is no coincidence that the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens is the home for this sister city gift - as gardens and

trees also represent these ideas - with many of the garden's trees taking hundreds of years to mature.

In the Japan Sister City garden are feature Cycads - *Cycas revoluta* and Mondo Grass - *Ophiopogon japonicus*, a feature of this sculpture garden area, both originate from Japan.

Due to its delicate form, the Matsuura Sister City sculpture appears in the Fernery of the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens on special days and can be found in the Administration office at most other times.