

Matsuura Sister City & the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens

A gift of peace and longevity



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 Association, 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 represented in two gardens at the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens.

The Japan Garden displays a living representation of the 'logo' of Matsuura and displays these colours with a *Acalypha* 'Firesprite' for the sun,

Pogonatherum paniceum 'Monica' - Baby Panda Grass for the green swirl and *Evolvulus glomeratus* 'Blue Eyes' for the blue swirl.

In the adjacent World Cycad Garden - *Cycas revoluta* - Japanese Sago Palm are featured and can often be seen in many gardens in Japan.

The Fernery is located next to the Gardens Shop and Administration building and is home to a beautiful sculpture gift designed and crafted in Matsuura. The sculpture consists of four life-size black and white 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 ply 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 may be viewed with reverence - with many of the Garden's trees taking hundreds of years to mature. The lantern is traditionally designed for 'snow viewing' - a weather phenomenon rarely occurring in Mackay!

This area within the Fernery represents a themed tropical 'Asian style' courtyard that displays how plants native to Asia and Australia can be used together - also representing our links with our sister city.

Ophiopogon japonicus - Mondo Grass, originates from Japan yet the distinctive bamboo *Neololeba atra* - Iron Range Bamboo, is actually a native of Northern Australia.

Some plants featured in the Fernery courtyard are:

Australian Native plants:

Orthosiphon aristatus
Cats Whiskers - North Queensland

Oplismenus sp.
A Rainforest Grass - Mackay

Neololeba atra
Iron Range Bamboo - North Queensland

Pandorea jasminoides
Bower of Beauty - Mackay

Medinilla balls-headleyii
North Queensland

Pleomele angustifolia
Native Dracena - North Queensland

Leptasis banksii
Mackay

Plants from Asia:

Farfugium japonicum
Leopard Plant - Japan, China, Korea

Rhapis excelsa
Lady Palm - South East Asia

Ophiopogon japonica
Mondo Grass - Japan

Ophiopogon japonica
'Nana' - Dwarf Mondo Grass - Japan

Liriope muscari
'Evergreen Giant' - Japan, China, Korea



Neololeba atra
Iron Range Bamboo



Pleomele angustifolia
Native Dracena



Ophiopogon japonica
'Nana'
Dwarf Mondo Grass



For more information contact the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens:

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