

Sugar Cane Wall

From the Rainforest to the Sea



The Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens principal entrance path to the Visitor Centre runs through the northern part of the Orientation Garden past the Sugar Cane Wall.

The Sugar Cane Wall interprets the significance of the sugar industry to the region. The three walls simulate the even walls of sugar cane present beside most of the roads in the district at the commencement of crushing. The first wall, from Lagoon Street, has many cane sticks in bas-relief to reinforce the concept of upstanding cane. To form this effect, sugar cane was split longitudinally, sealed and fixed to the formwork prior to pouring concrete tilt-up wall panels.

The representation of the Pioneer River commences on the third wall, in the hills, and meanders through the second and first walls, ending in the cane fields on the coast. In addition to these features, an extensive sculpture, called Life Forms, has been mounted on the third wall and part of the second wall. The Life Forms include several fungi, nine frogs, birds and platypus.



The story of the sculptor, his work and how to view the sculpture are presented in the Life Forms Fact Sheet.

The sugar cane wall represents two of the Mackay region's most divergent land forms - from the lush, mountainous and richly diverse native bioelements of Eungella National Park, to the iconic, flat fields of monocultured sugarcane of the Pioneer Valley and Mackay lowlands.

For further information please contact Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens on 07 4952 7300 or botanic@mackay.qld.gov.au or log onto www.mackayregionalbotanicgardens.com.au

