



25 Fun things for kids to do in the Gardens

Why not become a **Gardens Explorer** and try these fun activities! Do them all these school holidays or come back to tick them all off!



You can help us to look after the plants and animals that live here too..here's how:

- While you are out exploring the gardens, please be gentle and look after yourself, the plants and any wildlife you find in the gardens.
- Please do not pick anything from the plants, walk in the garden beds or climb trees and remember to look with your eyes and not with your hands when you find wildlife.

1. Lie down underneath one of the shady trees on the Tropical Sun Lawn and imagine you are a possum on one of the branches..what would you do during the day? What types of food would you eat in the Gardens?
2. How many butterflies can you find in the Tropical Shade Garden or Regional Forests. Can you draw one? Pretend to move like one..is it as easy as it looks?
3. Keep your eyes open for a Brush Turkey..where do you think they might hide in the Gardens?
4. Play on all the equipment in the Botanic Gardens Playground. What was your favourite?
5. Find a shady place to lie down and spend 5 minutes (at least) looking in the grass...can you find any creatures moving around? What are they?
6. Walk down to the Eulamere Boardwalk..can you find any of the birds that are on the sign on the water? Listen out for their calls. Can you make the same sound as them? Which one is your favourite?
7. Find some fallen leaves and twigs on the ground and make a garden creature out of what you find. Place them in the garden bed on display.
8. Try to jump from one shadow to another...whose shadow are you jumping on? A tree or your own?
9. Take off your shoes and walk through the grass...what does it feel like? Does the grass tickle your toes?
10. Grab a leaf or a twig and try to balance it on your head. Did the wind blow it off?
11. How many different smells can you find walking through the Gardens?





12. What shapes can you find in the leaves or flowers of a plant?
13. Walk through the gardens and try to find an Orb Weaver spider and its web. What colour is its web?
14. Walk to the sister city garden. What Japanese city is Mackay's sister City?
15. Walk to Gardens Administration Building and try to find a hedge that has dark green, holly like leaves..what is its name? (hint – there is a sign next to one of the hedges just outside the building).
16. Walk to the Lagoon Deck inbetween the Café and the Administration Buildings...after reading the signs, what sorts of animals live in the lagoons?
17. Play hide and seek behind the trees on the Tropical Sun Lawn.
18. Bring a set of bocce balls or hire them from Gardens Administration and play a game of bocce.
19. Get your photo taken in front of the Botanic Gardens Logo – Mount Blackwood Holly.



20. Walk to the Torres Strait Islander Precinct and look for turtles in the pathway. How many can you find?
21. Find the water education signage display on the concrete walls of the water treatment plant. Follow Dewy the water drop and find out where your water comes from! What can you do to help Dewy save water!
22. Walk through the heritage gardens and look at some of the beautiful plants in flower. What is your favourite colour flower? Which garden is it in?
23. Walk to the South Sea Islander precinct. What are one of the plants growing near the Hut or in the carpark garden beds? Your parent/ carer might be able to help.
24. Find a shady spot on the lawn, look up into the sky and see what shapes you can make with the clouds.
25. Look for the metal frogs on the sugar cane entry wall sign near the Lagoon Street carpark. How many did you find?

At Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens, you can find over **959** different plants from all over the world, 80% of these can be found locally.

We hope you enjoyed spending some time in the Gardens. Don't forget to come back and visit again and see what's happening in the gardens!

