

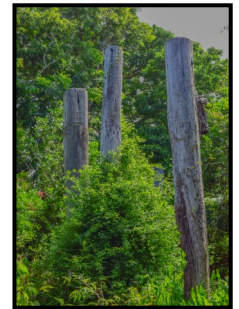
Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens Sculpture Collection



Nestled amongst garden collections, discover the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens collection of sculptures. Each piece has a story and a connection to their garden surroundings.

Wharf Logs

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 from durable species like Turpentine and Satinay, were felled in the 1930's and used as mooring piles in the Pier Wharf which were removed from Mackay Harbour. They have weathered the severe coastal elements almost without decay. Many still retain their barnacles and evidence of seawater exposure, some of the attachment holes and iron bolts are still present in the logs to this day. 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.



1 Sugar Cane Wall

Located at the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens principal entrance path to the Visitor Centre.

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



2 "Life Forms"

Located on the Sugar Cane entry wall on Lagoon Street.

Designed and constructed by renowned sculptor, Christopher Trotter, the artist has used 'found' pieces of discarded farm machinery - rather than creating the forms. The artist wanted his work to have a relationship with the community, the environment and the culture of Mackay in a way representing Eungella - through the delicate fungi found in the rainforest. Can you see the fungi and toadstools? A few tips from the artist to better appreciate the design: look at it from your height and then start bending down until you are in a sitting position and basically at the height of a child standing up. You will notice that the "picture" changes and you see many details by viewing things from a different angle.



3 Matsuura Crane Sculpture

Located in the Fernery.

Mackay's most active sister city relationship is with Matsuura 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. The Fernery 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 travel between the two countries.



4 Pacific Edge to Fossil Beds Strata Totems

Located in the Tropical Shade Garden.

These hand built slabs of stone fired raku clay totems are a geological representation of a cross section of the earth's composition. They show the geological story of deposition and transportation that occurs when sea shells are washed upon our foreshores today become buried over millions of years as the continent moves and additional alluvial strata's form in sedimentary layers.

This sculpture has been kindly donated by the artist, Rick Wood in 2007.



5 Eagle & Flagpoles

Located in the Australian South Sea Islander Precinct

When Australian South Sea Islanders first came to Queensland, they were restricted in what they could do and where they could go, but that's all changed now. The stylised version of the eagle in flight is to depict "the freedom we now enjoy". The two poles are also painted with the colours of the Solomon & Vanuatu flags.



6 Story Poles

Located in the Australian South Sea Islander Precinct

The five story poles grouped near the entrance, were painted by community members with scenes reflecting upon their past history. Artists were asked to paint their interpretations of how they saw the past and this is what they came up with. Produced during the "Tree Naming" community Arts Project, November 1997 – February 1 1998.

