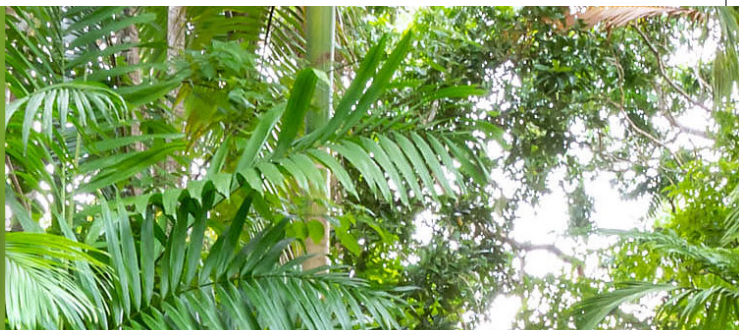


*Celebrating*  
**20**  
**YEARS**



## Then & Now - 20 Years On

From 2003 to 2023, take a short walk and discover how much Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens has grown!

*Mackay Regional Botanic  
Gardens has an  
ever-changing,  
ever-growing backdrop!*

*Wander the pathways and  
discover our photo points  
through the gardens to  
see just how much we've  
literally grown!*

*Make your own memories  
and take photos along the  
way to look back on in  
years to come.*



# Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens

Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens showcases the flora of the Central Queensland Coast Bioregion, a diverse area featuring lush tropical rainforests, wide sweeping beaches, mangrove lined waterways and open eucalypt forests.

This region incorporates Mackay and surrounding environments, west to Eungella, north to Proserpine and Airlie Beach and south to Clairview. A disjunct section of the bioregion includes a large area from Yeppoon on the coast from Rockhampton, north to Shoalwater Bay.

The facility was officially opened to the public on May 24, 2003, by The Honourable Tim Mulherin MP, Member for Mackay, and Cr Julie Boyd, Mayor. The landscape architect was Lawrence Smith AM.



Wander the pathways and discover our photo points through the gardens to see just how much we've grown! Make your own memories and take photos along the way to look back on in years to come.



## Our vision

To be recognised by the community, our visitors and the wider botanical and horticultural fraternities as a responsible repository of Australian plants, particularly those of the surrounding bioregion.

## Our mission

We are committed to manage and operate the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens to display, preserve, research and interpret the botanical and horticultural values of the regional flora in a facility that enhances public enjoyment while increasing knowledge of and cultural links to the plant kingdom.

*Celebrating*  
**20**  
**YEARS**

# Message from the curator

Lisa Kermode

This fascinating collection of photographs shows just how much the Botanic Gardens have grown and changed over the last 20 years. I would like to thank gardens designer Lawrie Smith, previous curators, former and current staff, Native Plants Queensland – Society for Growing Australian Plants, Mackay Branch (NPQ-SGAP Mackay) members, Garden Friends and volunteers for all their hard work and contribution to developing the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens over the years. Visitors to the Botanic Gardens today can enjoy the legacy of their hard work and vision.

The Botanic Gardens are not just a great place to visit, but also provide opportunities to connect plants and people and to showcase, research, conserve and interpret an interesting and important collection of plants, many of which are from our local region.

I look forward to being part of the continued development of the Botanic Gardens and to watching them continue to grow, mature, delight and inspire others into the future.



Built between 2001 and 2003, the Visitor Information Centre is the central hub when visiting the Botanic Gardens. Features of the area include Café and Gallery, Eungella Cloud Garden, Finch Hatton Waterway and our unique Lagoon Deck.

The Orientation Garden is the connection between the car park and Visitor Information Centre. It gives you a glimpse of the plant collections to be found within the Botanic Gardens.



*Photo above:  
Finch Hatton upper bridge  
looking towards café –  
2003*



*Photo left:  
Lagoon Street pathway  
intersection – June 2005*

## Orientation Garden and Visitor Information Centre



## The Lagoons Deck



Just steps from the main entry, perched over the lagoons, our iconic Lagoon Deck allows you to enjoy sweeping scenic views of the Botanic Gardens 51-hectare site.

In the distance you can also catch glimpses of Black Mountain, Mt Mandurana (The Leap) and Mt Blackwood, after which the Botanic Gardens' floral emblem, the Mt Blackwood Holly, is named.

*Photo above:  
Lagoon Deck under construction – 2002*

*Photo lower left:  
Finch Hatton lower bridge – 2003*



*Celebrating*  
**20**  
**YEARS**

## The Lagoons

The lagoon south of the causeway is known as Kaliguil and the northern lagoon is called Eulamere. This lagoon system is an anabranch of the Pioneer River.

*Celebrating*  
**20**  
**YEARS**

*Photo right:  
Lagoons Deck looking  
north – 2004*

*Photo below:  
Lagoons Deck looking  
south – 2004*





# Tropical Shade Garden and Fernery



*Inside Tropical Shade Garden, looking to Visitor Information Centre – 2003*

A specialised garden for native, local native and exotic species that require shade and shelter. A major component of this collection is the recycled wharf logs from Mackay Harbour providing support to a variety of vines orchids, ferns and air plants. Under our shade sails is The Fernery, home to tropical foliage plants and ferns from tropical and subtropical areas around the world.



*Fernery entry gate – 2005*



*Tropical Shade Garden entry gate – 2004*

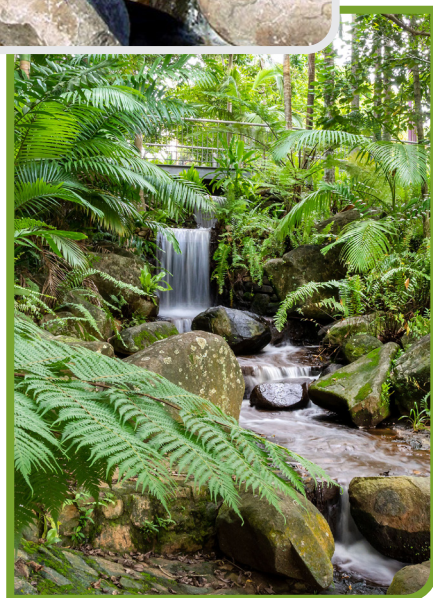
# Finch Hatton Waterway

An integral and innovative component of the Visitor Information Centre. Not only does it represent an important natural area of the Mackay region, the design of the waterway creates a dramatic feature collecting rainwater from the roofs, splashing into a leaping jets fountain, then flowing along the rocky waterway around the edge of the building before cascading over the edge to create our Finch Hatton Gorge waterfall. Lagoon water is recycled to add to the water movement when there is no rain, but is principally for aeration.



2003

2023



*Celebrating*  
**20**  
**YEARS**



## The Heritage Gardens

The Heritage Gardens pays homage to the original homestead gardens of Mackay, which have long disappeared under the pressure of progress and development.

A garden full of flowering exotics, native plants and key original garden features like brick pathways, slatted timber fernery walls and vine arbours.



*Photo above:  
Heritage Garden entry  
path – 2003*



*Photo left:  
Heritage Garden entry  
path – 2022*

## Kaliguil Shelter

Located within the Bioregion Communities collections, the gardens surrounding the shelter represent species from the coastal rivers and waterways of the Jolimont Creek subregion.

*Kaliguil - Aboriginal word meaning 'fresh water lagoon'*



*Photo top right:  
Entry path to Reliance Creek  
collection, looking to the  
Kaliguil Shelter – 2002*

*Photo bottom right:  
Kaliguil Shelter – 2023*



## Sarina Proserpine Garden



*Sarina Proserpine Garden lower path,  
looking up to Nebo Road – 2002*

This collection represents the most botanically significant species of the Sarina Proserpine region with separate gardens to highlight species from the 'Lowlands' and 'Hills'.



## The Eulamere Boardwalk



Zig zagging across the Lagoons, Eulamere Boardwalk provides a range of interactions with varying depth water and associated aquatic vegetation. It is also a great spot for watching the water birds with signage available inside Eulamere Shelter to help with bird identification.

*Photo above:  
Regional Flora Terraces lower path,  
looking to Eulamere Shelter and  
Boardwalk – 2003*

*Photo lower left:  
Eulamere Boardwalk entry – 2002*



*Celebrating*  
**20**  
**YEARS**



# Then and now...

Visit [mackayregionalbotanicgardens.com.au](http://mackayregionalbotanicgardens.com.au)  
to see even more photos from the past until now.



Malta Gardens – 2006