

## HISTORY OF THE GARDEN

The 20 hectare site, then known as Wilson Park was covered by various Crown Land Reserves for night soil and rubbish depots from 1907, and used for these purposes until 1964.

It was not until 1973 that the potential of the site was to gain recognition. Following a canoe trip down Coffs Creek, the Ulitarra Society, a community group dedicated to conservation ideals, came up with a Botanic Garden concept.

Council also considered representations for an industrial area, a lion park, for sporting fields and a licensed club. Council approved the Botanic Garden concept, and two years later in August 1975, Reserve 89958 for Botanic Gardens was gazetted.

In May 1979 John Wrigley (Curator, National Botanic Garden, Canberra) was commissioned to prepare a development plan, and in July 1982, Council made the decision that the official opening of the Botanic Garden would form the centerpiece of Coffs Harbour's Bicentenary celebrations.

The North Coast Regional Botanic Garden was opened by Sir Alexander Beattie on 17th September 1988.



The old tarring shed for sanitary cans

## THE PEOPLE MOVER

The people mover is operated by members of the Friends who are required to drive the vehicle under conditions specified by Coffs Harbour City Council. Capacity is limited to the driver and five passengers, and as a registered vehicle the wearing of seatbelts is compulsory.

Our people mover was an initiative of the **Coffs City Rotary Club** in recognition of difficulties experienced by older members of the community to fully enjoy the Garden. Working with the Coffs City Council the initiative has allowed the Friends to be involved in showing the Garden to those who may have difficulty walking to the far end of the Garden.

**HOW TO BOOK**—Bookings are required two days prior to the day of hire.

**Contact Jim Perrin (02) 66524440, or**

**Jan Moran (02) 6653 6817**

**HIRE CHARGES**—maximum \$15

Individuals \$5 per person

Seniors card \$3 per person.

Hire is payable to the driver before commencement of the tour.

## WEDDING BOOKING HIRE

Wedding bookings at the Northern end include a 2 hour People Mover use, for a shuttle service from the information centre and return. When not in use for the above it can be hired for wedding photography in a number of areas in the Garden: .....\$50 first hour.

Subsequent hours \$25/hour

# NORTH COAST REGIONAL Botanic Garden Coffs Harbour

## The PEOPLE MOVER



The FRIENDS OF THE NORTH COAST REGIONAL BOTANIC GARDEN Inc. is an active community group who would very much appreciate your donation, which will be used to further develop the attractions and amenities in the Garden.



FRIENDS OF THE  
BOTANIC GARDEN

## ABOUT THE GARDEN

The 20 hectare (50 acre) Garden is located on Council managed Crown lands, surrounded on three sides by Coffs Creek, and has been established through the joint efforts of the Coffs Harbour City Council and the Friends of the North Coast Regional Botanic Garden Inc

## PRIME DISPLAY AREA

Ideal for those who want to enjoy a short walk in an area of great beauty, this area is a miniature window to the Garden. A lovely water feature, pergolas, and colourful native and exotic plants makes this a delightful place for a stroll and even a picnic.

Other features off this area include the **WATERWISE GARDEN, MANGROVE BOARD-WALK, BUSH TUCKER WALK,** and a **PICNIC AREA.** Azaleas, camellias and vireyas (tropical rhododendrons) are a colourful addition.

## RAINFOREST PROTEACEAE

The family Proteaceae (pronounced proh-tee-ace-ee) is named after the Greek god "Proteus" who could transform himself into an infinite variety of shapes.

These plantings show many different shapes and colours of both leaves and flowers. Some leaves are short and needle like, others strapped, lobed or ferny, some light green beneath, others are white, felted or shimmer in silver, gold or bronze.

## THREATENED SPECIES

Currently there are over 170 Australian rare and threatened species planted.

Although plants are best conserved in their native habitat, many species at risk are cultivated in this Garden. Here they may be protected from many of the dangers which occur in the wild and are preserved for the future.

## SENSORY GARDEN

Within the surrounding hedge of Camellia japonica "Jennifer Susan", and set amongst lawns, there is a garden with hundreds of roses, a vine covered pergola, a raised herb garden and beds of other attractive plants. An analemmatic sundial is set into the lawn near the pergola.

## GLASSHOUSES

The five hexagonal modules provide different growth conditions for a range of plants from the arid land cactus and succulents, to the moist humid conditions enjoyed by ferns, bromeliads, gingers and orchids.

## HEATH—NSW AND QUEENSLAND

The heathland has been planted with many of the species typical of the North Coast. It includes native peas, banksias, tea trees, heaths, lilies and sedges.

## NON AUSTRALIAN— SOUTH AFRICA, TROPICAL AFRICA AND INDIA

About 6 ha at the northern end features a cross section of interesting plants from those regions of the world with a comparable wet sub-tropical climate to Coffs Harbour—approximately 30 degrees north or south of the equator. Many of the plants commonly planted in Coffs Harbour, have their origins in these countries.

The plantings border a large grassed area that is used for recreation, picnics and entertainment.

## FUTURE DEVELOPMENT AREAS

New areas from South east Asia, Pacific Islands, New Zealand and the Mediterranean are planned.

## JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN

Located on the eastern side of the lake, including the arched red bridge, is the Japanese Garden. Designed and built with the assistance of Sasebo, the sister city of Coffs Harbour, this area includes a tea house and Zen Garden, and will also incorporate a water pavilion, meditation centre and attendant plantings.

Several Community groups have been involved in the construction of this area: TAFE students built the Gateway, and Daybreak Rotary combined with Coffs City Rotary have undertaken this as a community project.

## NON AUSTRALIAN—CHINA AND THE AMERICAS

The plantings border the eastern side of the large grassed area.

A small waterfall separates India and Chinese areas, a popular spot for weddings, and a Chinese pagoda is a delightful feature.

To the east are plantings from North, Central and South America.

The Phaius Labyrinth is embedded in the grass to the south of the grassed area.

## RAINFOREST

Five major lowland rainforest types have been planted with about 350 local species.

**Dry rainforest, developing rainforest** beneath a mature blackbutt forest, **sub-tropical rainforest** on sunny ground, **warm temperate rainforest** where mostly shady, and **palm swamp rainforest** flourishes on lower ground.

All were planted on a grassy paddock in 1987

