



Thursday, 15 March 2018



## Greetings from the Gardens,

A new year and a new look to our newsletter! We've changed things ever so slightly to make it a little more reader friendly, a little less corporate. We hope you like the new look and layout.

2018 is shaping up nicely so far, it promises to be another exciting and busy year with enough going on to keep everyone interested, active and learning. A packed schedule of guided walks, working bees, school holiday activities, art exhibitions, fun runs, charity days and community events promises to bring people to the gardens from far and wide. With so much coming up keep an eye on our website, facebook page and notice boards!

## What's been Fruiting and Flowering in the Gardens?



This season saw so many flowers and fruits we are spoilt for choice in what to share!

(Left) *Phaleria octandra* - Dwarf Phaleria  
The pretty white perfumed flowers and ripe red fruits can be seen in the Tropical Shade Garden.



(Right) Look at *Neolitsia brassii* flowering now in Sarina Proserpine Lowlands garden of the Botanic Gardens.



(Left) *Tabernaemontana orientalis* - Eastern Gondala Bush has pretty white pin-wheeled fragrant flowers which you can see and smell growing at the front of Gardens Administration.



(Right) *Morinda citrifolia* - Cheese Fruit is in flower. You can see this fruiting in Regional Forests and the Tropical Shade Garden.





If your garden is anything like ours at the moment I'm sure you'll probably be tired of mowing the grass! Choppy, our dedicated mowing operator, has had his work cut out for him recently trying keeping on top of our lawns, but as always he does a fantastic job keeping the site looking presentable.

### **Volunteers are back**

The first working bee of the year with Native Plants Queensland took place on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March down in the Regional Forest with plenty of hand weeding taking place. A much needed assistance in this space

Members of the Friends have already started up their Wednesday group

Our regular gardening and office volunteers are back on the ground and providing a much needed helping hand



### **Labels, labels and more labels.**

The latest batch of 151 plant labels are going to be installed throughout the gardens over the coming weeks! These focus on the labels required along our major pathways but we won't be stopping there and there are still plenty more to come!

A big thank you to all those volunteers who make our label roll out possible.

### **Refurbishments and upgrades**



The next couple of months will bring an amazing new look to the front of the administration building. Local company Bold completed the redesign of the foyer area with the aim to create a more welcoming interpretive space to the front of the building.

The majority of our pathway upgrades are complete for the time being. Mostly recently upgraded, the snake pathway that winds its way through the Kaliguli sector has been re-levelled and cleaned up, now it really showcases the artwork in the pathway.

Other projects recently completed include pathway upgrades in front of the playground and refurbishment of the timber batterns around the Administration building.





## Land Art – “The Beacon”

A watershed land art project was planted out in February at the top of the Amphitheatre which promises to provoke some interesting and passionate discussions surrounding the use of multiple species planting in the sugar cane industry in an attempt to highlight some of innovative and positive developments in the farming industry. For more information or for ways to get involved take a look at <http://www.watershedmackay.land>



## Visitor Services update:

Where has the start of the year gone? With cooler weather on its way, it means that it is a much more pleasant time to out and about in the Gardens.

## Guided Walks in the Gardens

This year, our guided walks program commences on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> April, with weekly Friday guided walks until Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October. Meet at the Gardens Administration Building. Bookings are recommended. Keep updated on upcoming themed guided walks through E-News and our website ([www.mackayregionalbotanicgardens.com.au](http://www.mackayregionalbotanicgardens.com.au)).



Pioneer Catchment Landcare (PCL) has joined partnership with the Botanic Gardens to deliver two special guided walks this year:

- Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April, 10am start - Attracting Wildlife to your Gardens
- Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May, 10am start – Plants of the Central Queensland Coast Bioregion.

Please RSVP to PCL on [kade.slater@pioneercatchment.org.au](mailto:kade.slater@pioneercatchment.org.au) or phone 0477 656 751.





## Art Exhibitions in the Lagoons Gallery

'Moments in Time' by Creative Shots Photo Club  
Creative Shots Photo Club are offering the viewer a look at "Moments in Time" captured by our members. We're transporting you to the same moment in time as the photographer with the use of camera skills and amazing printing of images on quality photographic papers to bring each image to life.



### Upcoming Art Exhibition:

'*Winter Green*' by In Sun Park

The title '*Winter Green*' is an oxymoron of the artist's seasonal expectations between Australia and Korea. '*Winter Green*' Art Exhibition is on display from Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> April to Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> May.

### School Holiday Activities

Easter is just around the corner and so are the school holidays. Program activities include self guided walks and autumn art and craft activities. Keep up to date with all upcoming events and activities by visiting our Facebook page or Botanic Gardens website ([www.mackayregionalbotanicgardens.com.au](http://www.mackayregionalbotanicgardens.com.au)).

