

PLACES TO BE...

Maroochy Bushland Botanic Gardens

Everyone needs a sanctuary from the stress and distraction of daily life, a place to reclaim calmness and serenity where the spirit has peace and tranquillity in which to grow.

Maroochy Bushland Botanic Garden's magnificent 112 hectare site provides that calmness and serenity with its lagoon, rocky gullies and palm filled creek. The Gardens have been nestled into these areas in a way that enhances their natural beauty and fulfils the needs of visitors.

There are places for quiet solitude or lively family gatherings. Your visit could begin with the stroll across the lagoon path with a view over the palm gully or the reflections in the lagoon. If your interest is mainly plants you would cross the lawn to the coastal community planting which features the plants of south east Queensland coastal areas. This includes the melaleuca collection, banksias, ferns and melastomas. The small rock pool is a great habitat for frogs, lizards and native fish.

The Fern Glade is in a naturally shady and protected area and features many of the ferns of South East Queensland including *Cyathea cooperii* and *Angiopteris* which were planted from tubes and are now two metres tall. In the Ephemeral Wetland you will find a collection of *Phaius* orchids that flower magnificently in September. Wander through the Friendship Colonnade that is planted with *Tecomanthe hillii* and dedicated to all those who have played a part in the establishment of the Gardens.

Not to be missed is the new Bushland Sculpture Garden which has been designed to display 15 magnificent pieces of sculpture that were made during the Sculpture Symposium held in 2005. A gentle stroll takes you through a wooded walk to open lawns with a view to the reflection pool which mirrors a large white marble sculpture.

For the more energetic there is the one kilometre natural terrain bush walk around the lagoon. Children are intrigued by the discoveries in the Whip Bird Walk with its giant spiders and butterfly.

The two large shelters are ideal for large gatherings and there are plenty of individual picnic tables and seats throughout the Gardens. Whatever your interests you will find it easy to fill a few very pleasant hours in the Maroochy Bushland Botanic Garden.

Address for the Gardens - Palm Creek Road Tanawha, Sunshine Coast. Take the Tanawha/Forest Glen Tourist Drive (25) and follow the signs.

