

## Enhancements to the Botanic Gardens funded by the Friends

Since the establishment of the Friends of the Botanic Gardens in 1989, several hundred thousand dollars has been raised to enhance the Cairns Botanic Gardens through projects, purchases and donations, including:

- Regular purchases of orchids to ensure the Conservatory display is always at its best
- Plant identification software and materials
- Interpretive brochures for distribution to visitors
- A continuous reel video for the Friends' shop and info centre highlighting Gardens attractions
- Fogging machines to create atmosphere and help the plants in the gully and the Conservatory
- \$45,000 towards construction of an arbour covered by a jade vine to replace a much-loved jade vine which covered a toilet which was demolished
- Erecting a native bee hive and interpretive signage on the Friends House wall where native bees have nested for around 30 years; purchasing 2 native bee hives with signage
- Obtaining a successful grant from the Gaming Benefit Fund to establish a tropical herb and spice garden in the Centenary Lakes area with a sensory walk
- \$113,000 towards the construction of the Conservatory which opened in 2015, including the interpretive signage and a circular viewing seat
- Several attractive seats made of timber and wrought iron which are situated throughout the gardens and in the Conservatory
- Stonework pillars and the main entrance gate in Collins Avenue
- Equipment including a microscope, cameras, computers, computer software, video player, laminator, CD player, proscope, printers, portable public address system, insect diorama
- Purchases of wide variety of horticulture and botanic books for the library
- Construction of a vertical garden outside Friends' House
- Construction of a possum overpass in Collins Avenue
- Tens of thousands of dollars to purchase rare plants, palms, bromeliads, orchids, tassel ferns etc • Purchases of plants from overseas
- Plants for the George Watkins Orchid House, the predecessor of the Conservatory
- Registrations and travel grants for Friends and Council staff to attend various workshops and seminars and to undertake tour guide training
- Production of garden and interpretive signage, including for the Conservatory
- Purchase of 3 chainsaws to assist in aftermath of Cyclone Larry
- Award of a horticulture bursary
- Bore pump works, switchboard
- A fence in the Gondwanan area of the gardens
- Production of a video
- Provision of the teak lawn stairs, a pond liner, a bridge and boardwalk, a drinking fountain, shade sail and marquee
- Installation of a kitchen sink and storage cupboard
- Spot light, plastic chairs for functions and events, a folding wheelchair
- Installation of paving
- Kitchen equipment: glassware, crockery and cutlery

- Funding for establishment and upgrading of websites
- A water feature
- Cane toad clearing
- Clearing of Salvinia in Freshwater Lake