



Botanic gardens—connecting, conserving, contributing

Botanic gardens are innovative and special places that blend plant conservation, education, recreation, culture and science. They are precious community assets that improve our quality of life through their unique ability to deliver social, economic and environmental benefits for communities.

Connecting—social values

Botanic gardens bring communities together. They are much-loved places that connect people with plants, create memories and link generations, and contribute to our wellbeing and health.

People and communities come together in botanic gardens for many different reasons—to relax, walk, read, play, meet friends, attend events, and learn about plants and horticulture, the environment and sustainability. These significant community facilities offer a retreat from busy modern day life, a unique outdoor learning environment for people of all ages, and a versatile venue for a wide range of social uses. Many botanic gardens are also valued for their rich natural and cultural heritage and history.

Conserving—environmental values

Botanic gardens are advocates for plants and life on earth. As leaders in plant conservation, research and education, botanic gardens are living museums that provide a safety net for plant species.

All life on earth depends on plants. Healthy ecosystems—based on plant diversity—sustain life and are essential to the wellbeing and livelihoods of all humankind. Plants are a vital source of oxygen, food, shelter, fuel, clothing and medicines. As well as beautiful and interesting places to visit, botanic gardens are often scientific storehouses of plant resources, knowledge and expertise. They are important sites of plant conservation because they maintain plants away from their natural habitat (ex situ conservation). Botanic gardens also play a significant role in educating about and adapting to climate change during this critical decade for action.

Contributing—economic values

Botanic gardens generate income for our economy. They are among our most popular cultural venues, attracting millions of locals and tourists every year. Gardens also add to the economy by providing horticultural and other services, training and employment.

In Australia, more people visit botanic gardens than art galleries, museums or libraries. More than one third of Australian adults—6.2 million people—visited botanic gardens at least once during 2009–10. In New Zealand, visiting gardens is one of the top activities for international tourists, with gardens attracting around half a million visitors a year. Many botanic gardens pay their own way, providing a good return on investment.



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Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens, Kings Park and Botanic Garden, Tamborine Mountain Botanic Gardens, Royal Tasmanian Botanic Gardens, Alice Springs Desert Park