



## The social value of botanic gardens—connecting

Botanic gardens are significant community facilities. They engage communities, inspiring informing and connecting people with each other and with the environment. They are much-loved places that bring communities together, create memories and link generations, and contribute to our wellbeing and health.

### Community

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.

### Health and wellbeing

Botanic gardens are friendly, safe, open spaces that are good for the soul. They offer a retreat from busy modern day life where people can enjoy fresh air and gentle exercise or quiet contemplation.

Research shows that volunteering at botanic gardens is good for health and wellbeing. Seniors who volunteered experience benefits including intellectual stimulation, social interaction and friendships, and a positive emotional state linked to the satisfaction of contributing to a good cause.

### Education

Botanic gardens are outdoor living classrooms that provide a unique learning environment for students, teachers and the wider public.

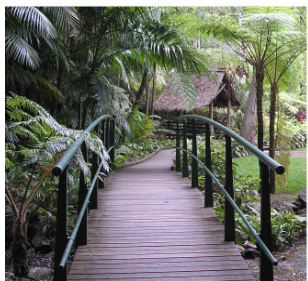
### Events

Botanic gardens provide the perfect backdrop for a wide range of social uses including art, sculpture and touring exhibitions; film, theatre and music events; community festivals; and family and social gatherings like weddings, reunions or birthday parties.

Many families and friends have powerful connections to botanic gardens that hold special memories. Parents bringing their children recall visiting the garden years ago with their own parents and grandparents. Groups meet in the same place year after year for special occasions or anniversaries. Botanic gardens have universal appeal across the generations. They are places where people of all ages and backgrounds can enjoy and appreciate the values of plants and gardens.

### Heritage

As well as celebrating the vital role of plants in our lives, many botanic gardens are also valued for their rich natural and cultural heritage including historic areas and buildings.



Photos supplied by

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