



Tondoon Botanic Gardens Strategic Plan 2016-25

Gladstone Regional Council

Foreword

Tondoon Botanic Gardens is the key asset in Gladstone Regional Council's network of green spaces and provides a tranquil escape for our community from the pressures of city living and industrial development.

The main reason for its existence is the scientific role of identifying, collecting and displaying the unique plant species of the Port Curtis region. This is demonstrated through the herbarium collection, live plantings and membership of the Australian Network of Plant Conservation. Both the Queensland Herbarium and Australian National Botanic Gardens have recognised the importance of our Gardens through their retention of botanic material provided by Tondoon.

This strategic plan has been developed to guide the direction of the Gardens over the next 10 years and encourages further research and conservation, education, recreational use and development of the Gardens. In providing this direction, Council is demonstrating our commitment to maintaining and improving the Gardens to ensure they are valued and recognised throughout Australia by the community and visitors to our region.

The strategy has been informed through previous reports, the direction of botanic gardens elsewhere and consultation with stakeholders including our valued staff and volunteers. The strategy will be implemented through a business plan and will be funded by Council's budget.

Furthermore, in 2020 it will be 250 years since Captain Cook and Joseph Banks landed on the east coast of Australia. Since Cook landed at Seventeen Seventy our Gardens will have a significant role in the celebrations including growing and displaying the plants that Banks collected.



Cr Gail Sellers

Mayor

Gladstone Regional Council

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Introduction

Tondoon Botanic Gardens (the Gardens) is a vital green reserve in the industrial port city of Gladstone. The Gardens are a native botanic garden maintaining a scientific collection of regional plant species from the Port Curtis region and Far North Queensland.

This document presents the strategic direction for the future of the Gardens over the next ten years. It should be used to guide the future scientific and recreational purpose of the Gardens so that they remain relevant to the state, regional and local community for scientific and recreational purposes. The strategy has been informed through a review of previous documents, a community survey¹, submissions and discussions with management, volunteers, staff and councillors.

History

Throughout the late 1960s and early 1970s a number of community groups such as the Wildlife Preservation Society and individuals lobbied the Gladstone City Council and the Queensland State Government to have a Botanic Garden established somewhere in Gladstone.

Later in the 1970s other groups such as the Society for Growing Australian Plants, Civic Beautification Committee, Port Curtis Conservation Association and National Estate, promoted a Native Botanic Garden at the old Tondoon Dam site. What eventually tipped the scales in favour of a Botanic Garden on this site was Mrs Marion MacDonald's opportunity to personally ask the Queensland Premier, Jo Bjelke-Petersen, to have the tenure of this site changed from Water Reserve to Environmental Park which he eventually approved.

The Gardens was initially designed by landscape architectural consultants Landplan Studio in 1980 in response to a brief developed in partnership with Gladstone City Council and Calliope Shire Council². The original design concept contained four major areas comprising: botanic gardens, arboretum and buffer zone, Biondello Forest Reserve and equestrian centre.

Initial works were commenced in 1983 involving the dredging and restoration of the Tondoon Dam, and other earthworks associated with lagoons, watercourses, tracks and roads and fencing. The first major plantings were carried out in 1984 with the prime display areas being plated in 1985-86. The Gardens were officially opened on 23 October 1988.

Major additional infrastructure in the form of the cafe, information centre and administration centre were added in 1994.

In February 1997, a review was undertaken into the Gardens as a stock taking exercise and as a guide for decision making in the future directions of the Gardens³. The review found that the Gardens had achieved a high standard of implementation of the original vision and in the consistency of operational management due considerable to the dedication of staff and volunteers. The review also found:

- A need for a renewed commitment, including changes to the management structure, to ensure ongoing development so that the Gardens potential is fully realised.
- There was a potential, though not realised, opportunity for the Gardens as a tourist attraction to increase visitation to the Gardens and the Gladstone region.
- Further promotion of the Gardens scientific and educational material, as well as continued development of recreational and experiential settings to firmly position the Gardens within the National Regional Network of Botanic Gardens.

¹ AEC Group Pty Ltd (2015). Tondoon Botanic Gardens Strategic & Business Plan Community Survey. Prepared for Gladstone Regional Council, September 2015.

² Landplan Studio Pty Ltd (1980). Tondoon Botanic Gardens Gladstone. Prepared for Calliope Shire Council.

³ Alderson Jacobi (1997), Tondoon Gardens Management Strategy. Prepared for Calliope Shire Council.

- Resources and opportunities to achieve the above within Gladstone are considerable and were to be fully explored.

In 2015 a master plan was developed for demonstration gardens on the southern bank of Lake Tondoon to demonstrate suitability of different local native species for use in the Gladstone region⁴. Other significant achievements of the Gardens to the present day are contained in **Appendix A**.

Defining Characteristics of a Botanic Garden

The following is a list of criteria that may be met in part or whole by any institution that is considered to be a botanic garden⁵:

- A reasonable degree of permanence.
- An underlying scientific basis for the collections.
- Proper documentation of the collections, including wild origin.
- Monitoring of the plants in the collections.
- Adequate labelling of the plants.
- Open to the public.
- Communication of information to other gardens, institutions and the public.
- Exchange of seed or other materials with other botanic gardens, arboreta or research institutions.
- Undertaking of scientific or technical research on plants in the collections.
- Maintenance of research programs in plant taxonomy in associated herbaria.

The Gardens historically and through this Strategy meets these criteria.

National System of Regional Botanic Gardens

The Australian Government maintains a directory of botanic gardens in Australia of which there are more than 140⁶. In addition the Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand Inc. (BGANZ) is the chief body representing the interests of botanic gardens in Australia and New Zealand. BGANZ promotes the interests and activities of Australian and New Zealand botanic gardens and botanic gardens generally and enhances the state of botanic gardens for the benefit of the community. Queensland members of BGANZ cover some 25 botanic gardens including Tondoon Botanic Gardens.

Involved Stakeholders

In addition to Council and employed staff that work in the Gardens there are two volunteer groups:

- Tondoon Herbarium Volunteers.
- Tondoon Visitor Centre Volunteers.

Other stakeholders also include: scientific & research community, education providers, on premise business partners (cafe leasee), tourism operators and the wider Gladstone community, business and industry.

⁴ Struxi Design Pty Ltd (2015). Master Site Plan. Prepared for Gladstone Regional Council, June 2015.

⁵ Heywood, V.H. (ed) (1989) The Botanic Gardens Conservation Strategy, IUCN Botanic Gardens Conservation Secretariat, Kew, Richmond, UK.

⁶ <http://www.anbg.gov.au/chabg/bg-dir/index.html>

Strategy Alignment

The *Gladstone Regional Community Plan* is an alignment of all previous strategic planning exercises carried out in the region. It contains a vision for the future of the region and practical strategies and actions to achieve the vision.

The Gardens directly links with the following topics in the community plan:

- Economic Topic 1: Growth & Diversity of the Economic Base.
- Economic Topic 2: Development of Local industry & Business.
- Economic Topic 3: Attraction of Investment.
- Economic Topic 6: Labour Market, Small Business Capabilities & Workforce Skills.
- Economic Topic 7: Linking Economic Development with Community.
- Economic Topic 8: Innovation, Social Enterprise & Creative Industries.
- Society Topic 1: Social Infrastructure – Access to Facilities Services and Programs.
- Society Topic 2: Health & Wellbeing.
- Society Topic 4: Education, Employment & Training.
- Society Topic 5: Valuing History, Culture & Creativity.
- Society Topic 8: Recreation & Sport.
- Society Topic 10: Families & Children.
- Environment Topic 1: Protecting and Enhancing the Environment.
- Environment Topic 2: Environmental Education and Awareness.
- Governance Topic 3: Collaboration & Partnerships.

Vision & Mission

Vision

The vision for the Tondoon Botanical Gardens is to become...

Regional Queensland's most valued and recognised botanic gardens

To be **valued** means that all stakeholders value the existence of the Gardens from one or more strategic theme perspectives.

To be **recognised** means the reputation of the Gardens from one or more strategic theme perspectives (specifically research and conservation, recreation and culture) is known beyond the local area.

Mission

The mission of the Gardens is to maintain and present a native Australian botanic garden curating a scientific collection of regional plant species from Central Queensland (specifically Port Curtis). A significant collection of live plants from Tropical North Queensland is also on display. Specifically, the Garden aims:

1. To display and research the native plants of the Port Curtis region of Queensland.
2. To identify and label individual plant species and maintain a system of records to ensure the scientific value of the collection.
3. To preserve and maintain a representative selection of species and communities endemic to the region and site.
4. To educate people of all ages in the conservation of our region's flora.
5. To create a passive recreation area for local residents and visitors.
6. To promote the Gardens as a major tourist attraction to the region and Queenslanders.
7. To be the signature park within the network of open space in Gladstone.
8. To be part of the National System of Regional Botanic Gardens.

Strategic Themes

This strategy aims to not only build upon the existing achievements of the Gardens but to also reinforce strengths, address weaknesses, advance opportunities and mitigate risks identified through stakeholder consultations.

At the centre of the strategy there must be a stakeholder focus. This is an important motivation since all elements of the strategy must strive to satisfy stakeholder needs and expectations if the Garden's vision is to be achieved. Over time stakeholder's needs and expectations may change and the Garden's mission and strategies to deliver that mission must remain relevant.



Each strategic theme is considered in relation to:

- *Importance*: The importance of the strategic theme.
- *Achievements*: Major stakeholder achievements.
- *Challenges*: Known challenges faced by stakeholders.
- *Strategic Goals, Targets & Strategies*: The strategies stakeholder's need to pursue to achieve strategic goals including measures and targets that indicate achievement.
- *Short-term Projects*: Projects that are already underway or committed.
- *Aspirational Projects*: Projects that stakeholders would like to pursue that will help to achieve the vision.

Theme 1: Research & Conservation

Lead the identification, documentation and display of regional plant species

Importance

To achieve mission aims 1, 2 and 3 for the Garden, which embody many of the principal characteristics of a botanic garden, requires a major and recognised effort to identify, document and display local genetic forms of native plant species, vegetation communities and ecosystems of the Port Curtis region. This includes those species important to Indigenous cultural heritage.

Successes

- Norm Gibson Herbarium of approximately 3,600 pressed specimens
- Electronic records of specimens
- Retention by Queensland Herbarium of over 2,000 pressed specimens (9 previously unknown)
- Recognition by ANBG as a reliable source of verified plant material as evidenced by sourcing propagation material for 33 species including 16 listed as rare or threatened
- Library of botanical books
- Representative garden beds of groups of plants or specific ecosystems with labelled plants

Challenges

- Sufficient resources for collecting, identifying, pressing and storing wild specimens
- Capacity and protection of the herbarium collection
- Upgrading and access to herbarium electronic records
- Upkeep and extension of plant and ecosystem labelling and interpretive signage
- Documentation and location of species in garden beds
- Ongoing maintenance of Gardens' infrastructure (irrigation, paths, fencing, furniture, signage)

Strategic Goals, Targets & Strategies

Strategic Goal	Measure/Target	Strategy
1.1 Collect, identify, press and store regional plant species	Number of field trips per annum (4-6) Herbarium volunteer hours per annum Best practice protected storage	1.1.1 Develop and lead a program of annual field trips 1.1.2 Develop herbarium volunteer program 1.1.3 Improve capacity and storage standards of the herbarium collection
1.2 Propagate and grow regional plants including those under threat of extinction	Number of regional species growing in Gardens Number of threatened species growing in Gardens	1.2.1 Propagate and grow regional plants from material collected on field trips and other source 1.2.2 Ongoing research into propagation techniques

1.3 Manage the Gardens to showcase living regional plants	Visitor satisfaction (90%) Infrastructure performance meet defined standards	1.3.1 Manage Gardens in line with the Gardens' Management Plan 1.3.2 Maintain Gardens' infrastructure in line with the Gardens' Asset Management plan
1.4 Maintain best practice herbarium and live plant records	Accurate herbarium records Accurate live plant records	1.4.1 Maintain herbarium records 1.4.2 Maintain live plant records
1.5 Provide scientific research opportunities	Number of scientific studies per annum	1.5.1 Develop research prospectus 1.5.2 Promote research opportunities to national and international educational institutions

Short-term Projects

- Program of annual field trips
- Herbarium volunteer program
- Survey of species in garden beds
- Integrate and upgrade the herbarium, live plant and Council Conservation Group databases
- Link garden bed survey data with live plant records
- Demonstration gardens
- Gardens' Management Plan⁷
- Gardens' Asset Management Plan⁸
- Research prospectus

Aspirational Projects

- Larger and fireproof storage for the herbarium collection
- Expanded plant identification and specimen preparation space (research & conservation) in either existing administration building or new facility

⁷ The Gardens' Management Plan is the annual operational program of works required to maintain the Gardens to an agreed standard.

⁸ The Gardens' Asset Management Plan is a multi-year plan for managing the Gardens infrastructure to deliver an agreed level of service.

Theme 2: Education

Inspire plant, habitat, ecosystem and conservation learning

Importance

Achieving the vision of the Gardens requires developing community awareness and knowledge of local native plant species, Indigenous names and use, and ecosystems through an educational process. The educational process needs multiple pathways depending on age and interest level and should be supported by information and interpretation resources.

Achievements

- Information centre and volunteers
- Interpretive signage
- Annual Ecofest event
- Demonstration gardens master plan

Challenges

- Accurate information provision
- Maintenance/provision of plant signage
- Provision of more information on garden beds
- Extending/promoting advice provision
- Maintaining schools interest and visitation
- Adequate number and availability of visitor centre volunteers

Strategic Goals, Targets & Strategies

Strategic Goal	Measure/Target	Strategy
2.1 Provide access to Garden's herbarium and live plant records	Availability and breadth of information	2.1.1 Maintain website/app with access to herbarium and live plant records 2.1.2 Maintain electronic labelling of live plants/other items of interest
2.2 Provide learning opportunities to the community	Annual program of learning activities Number of active participants per annum Satisfaction level (90%) Visitor centre volunteer hours per annum	2.2.1 Develop an annual program of learning activities and events 2.2.2 In line with annual program change information displays in the visitor information centre 2.2.3 Promote learning activities and events to the community 2.2.4 Develop visitor centre volunteer program

2.3 Encourage school visitation	School visits per annum per school in the GRC LGA	2.3.1 Develop school educational program and resources 2.3.2 Promote educational program and resources to schools
2.4 Provide a plant identification and planting advice service	Services supplied per annum	2.4.1 Develop identification and planting advice service promotional material 2.4.2 Promote identification and planting advice service

Short-term Projects

- Develop Gardens' website linked to herbarium and live plant records
- Demonstration gardens
- Visitor centre volunteer program
- Program of learning activities and events
- School educational program and resources
- Promote lectures and workshops for the purpose of increasing knowledge of local vegetation, plant identification (including native and weed identification), weed control, propagation, growing and landscape use of regional plants
- Identify and invite eminent persons to visit and give lectures on topics such as organic horticulture & permaculture, urban agriculture and sustainable living

Aspirational Projects

- Develop Gardens app linked to herbarium and live plant records and other relevant ecosystem and cultural information
- Install "electronic triggers" or location based broadcasting technology in the Gardens linked to the Gardens app and use of augmented reality to convey locational and contextual information (potential replacement for traditional signage)
- Improve internet access in the Gardens through better mobile coverage and/or free wifi
- Expanded visitor/interpretive space (potentially combined with new plant identification and specimen preparation space – see Theme 1)

Theme 3: Recreation & Culture

Sustain a natural place for enjoyment of residents and visitors

Importance

The Gardens are a haven for community members and visitors seeking passive recreation, reflection, respite from medium/high density living and to socialise with friends and families. Many visitors are frequent visitors and the most visited places are the cafe, playground and Lake Tondoon. Many opportunities exist for further recreational and cultural activities, including Indigenous cultural heritage, but they must be balanced against the main aims of a botanic garden.

Achievements

- Cafe lease
- Children's playground
- Annual Ecofest event

Challenges

- Balancing recreation opportunities and events with the Gardens' nature based/passive recreation, research, conservation and education role
- Managing traffic and parking
- Balancing events with the Gardens' research, conservation and education role

Strategic Goals, Targets & Strategies

Strategic Goal	Measure/Target	Strategy
3.1 Use of the Gardens for recreational uses	Active recreational visitors	3.1.1 Develop a recreational use guide for the Gardens linked to its role as a botanic garden 3.1.2 Explore provision of additional recreation facilities
3.2 Use of the Gardens for art & cultural events	Arts & cultural events	3.2.1 Develop an art & cultural use guide for the Gardens linked to its role as a botanic garden
3.3 Use of the Gardens as an event venue	Other events	3.3.1 Develop an events use guide for the Gardens linked to its role as a botanic garden 3.3.2 Partner with Gladstone Entertainment and Convention Centre to market the Gardens as an outside venue

Short-term Projects

- Recreational guide (existing & potential)
- Arts & cultural guide (existing & potential)
- Events guide

Aspirational Projects

- Bird watching guide (electronic)
- Themed children's playground linked to the Gardens' role as a botanic garden

Theme 4: Promotion

Promote the Gardens to residents and visitors

Importance

To achieve the Garden's vision of value and recognition the community need to better understand the nature of the Garden's as a botanic garden as well as a community recreational asset. Promotion is best achieved through a continuous process of communication around developments and successes.

Achievements

- Membership of BGANZ & Queensland Botanic Trail brochure
- Inclusion in Top 10 things to do in Gladstone
- 94% visitor satisfaction above average¹

Challenges

- Communicating the aims of a botanic garden and how the Gardens achieves this
- Improving the knowledge and relevancy of the Gardens to different community groups

Strategic Goals, Targets & Strategies

Strategic Goal	Measures/Target	Strategy
4.1 National and international recognition as an important botanic garden	Membership of BGANZ Registration with Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, London	4.1.1 Maintain membership of relevant/beneficial botanic gardens organisations 4.1.2 Maintain strong links with ANBG
4.2 Regular promotion and communication to residents	Communications per annum (4-6)	4.2.1 Develop annual communication/marketing program to residents 4.2.2 Deliver annual communication/marketing program
4.3 Promotion of the Gardens as a major tourist attraction	Visitors as % of total visitors to Gladstone	4.3.1 Develop an annual visitor promotional program 4.3.2 Maintain appropriate directional signage 4.4.3 Participate in state/national botanical gardens promotional programs

Short-term Projects

- Register with Kew Gardens
- Resident promotional/communication plan
- Visitor promotional program (in collaboration with Gladstone Area Promotion & Development Limited)

Aspirational Projects

- Additional directional road signage within Gladstone
- Road signage on Bruce highway

Theme 5: Business Development

Realise opportunities for further development

Importance

Just as nature displays dynamic and evolving characteristics so should the development of the Gardens so that they remain relevant and interesting. Business development can take many forms including expansion and refurbishment of the Gardens and its facilities, but also not-for-profit and commercial opportunities. The later, if successful, can help improve financial sustainability and fund new projects.

Achievements

- Leasing of cafe
- Demonstration gardens master plan
- Funding of demonstration gardens elements

Challenges

- Availability of funding
- Balance between scientific and commercial activity
- Balancing commercial sponsorship with research and conservation values

Strategic Goals, Targets & Strategies

Strategic Goal	Measures/Target	Strategy
5.1 Implement Gardens' master plan	Elements of master plan implemented Master plan updated	5.1.1 Identify and implement master plan elements based on funding availability 5.1.2 Update Gardens' master plan every 5 years
5.2 Explore not-for-profit and commercial opportunities	Number of opportunities assessed Commercial sales as % of expenditure	5.2.1 Develop opportunity assessment criteria 5.2.2 Assess opportunities as they arise
5.3 Encourage community sponsorship of Garden elements	Sponsorship as % of expenditure	5.3.1 Develop Gardens sponsorship prospectus 5.3.3 Promote sponsorship opportunities
5.4 Pursue relevant external funding programs	External funds acquired	5.4.1 Regularly scan for potential funding programs 5.4.2 Compile funding program applications as necessary

Short-term Projects

- Demonstration gardens
- Opportunity assessment criteria
- Assess Creative Recycling Centre proposal
- Gardens sponsorship prospectus

Aspirational Projects

- Expanded visitor/interpretive space (potentially combined with new plant identification and specimen preparation space – see Theme 1 & 2)
- Expansion of cafe kitchen
- Regional plant species propagation and wholesaling
- Formation of TBG Trust

Strategy Implementation & Review

The implementation of the Strategy and demonstrated progress towards strategic goals is important to demonstrate collective stakeholder commitment towards achieving the Garden's vision.

The Strategy is accompanied by a rolling three year action plan developed to deliver the strategies and to inform the GRC budget process.

Implementation Stakeholders

All stakeholders directly involved in the Gardens are implementation partners. There are also those indirect stakeholders whose engagement and support are necessary to ensure strategic goals can be met. Stakeholders include, but are not limited to:



Strategy Reporting & Review

Achievements against the Strategy should be reported by GRC annually.

The Strategy should be subject to a minor review and adjustment every 2-3 years and a major review every 5 years to ensure it remains relevant to changing circumstances.

The supporting action plan will be reviewed annually.

Appendix A: Significant Achievements

Significant achievements of the Gardens include⁹:

1. Living display of local genetic forms of plant species that grow in the local region. Tondoon specialises in the rainforest vegetation of the Port Curtis District as well as the wetter forms of rainforest that occur in the wet tropics of north Queensland, highlighting the differences between the different rainforest types.
2. Garden beds representing:
 - a. Botanically significant natural areas within our region and the plants that naturally grow together in each of these areas. Over time the plantings have formed the layers (ground cover, shrub layer, canopy and emergents) present in the natural ecosystems they represent. Natural habitats have developed that attract birds and other wildlife so the value of these garden beds as snapshots of the landscapes, vegetation and ecosystems they represent continues to increase over time.
 - b. Specific vegetation communities e.g.:
 - Rainforest vegetation typical of stream banks in the area.
 - Specific types of rainforest e.g. dry rainforest, sub-tropical rainforest.
 - c. Specific taxonomic groups of plants e.g. Eucalypts, Banksias, etc.
3. An amazingly beautiful native botanic garden within a quiet, peaceful, relaxing and aesthetically pleasing natural environment has resulted from good site selection and landscape design together with the way materials have been used, plant species displayed and the natural manner in which plants have been arranged in the garden beds. The design incorporates an arboretum, prime display area, Mt Biondello natural forest reserve and system of tracks and water features.
4. Labelling showing names and taxonomic classification of plants in the live collection.
5. Interpretive signage explaining the history of Tondoon, flora and fauna present including birds, native bees and aquatic fauna.
6. Recognition as a regional botanic gardens. As a consequence of this recognition plants, cuttings and seeds have been provided to the Royal Botanic Gardens in Sydney and Australian National Botanic Gardens in Canberra.
7. The Norm Gibson herbarium which consists of a collection of approximately 3,650 identified pressed plant specimens. These specimens have been identified (or identification has been confirmed) by the Queensland Herbarium, the reference agency in Queensland for plant taxonomy. Pressed specimens in the Norm Gibson herbarium generally fall into one of the following categories:
 - a. Local native plant species collected from their natural habitat in the Port Curtis Region, often with collection of seeds or cutting material from the same plant for propagation for the live collection.
 - b. Voucher specimens collected from plants growing in the live collection for purposes of accurate identification.
 - c. Weed specimens collected for identification purposes, providing information on state wide distribution and abundance of specific weed species and to assist Council staff with weed management strategies in the local area.
8. Contributing to improved knowledge of the species and geographic distribution of the flora of Queensland by regularly providing plant specimens and information to the Queensland Herbarium and liaising with their botanists who continually review the taxonomy and geographic distribution of all species found in Queensland.

⁹ Tondoon Herbarium Volunteer Group (2015). Submission to the 2015 Ten Year Strategic Plan and Three Year Business Plan for Tondoon Botanic Gardens. Unpublished.

This in turn benefits the region through availability of information for environmental assessment of new developments and maintenance projects and more informed strategies for weed control in the local area.

- a. Of the approximately 3,600 pressed plant specimens, collected from local areas and sent to the Queensland Herbarium by Tondoon, over 2,000 have been kept by the Queensland Herbarium in their pressed collection and associated HERBRECS database of specimen information.
 - b. Tondoon staff and volunteer collectors have discovered 9 (possibly 11) new previously unknown plant species and have discovered many significant new locations and extended the known geographic range of plant species (including those under threat of extinction).
9. Databases developed and maintained by retired professional volunteers containing information on:
- a. Specimens in the Norm Gibson Herbarium, together with their correct identification, description of the plant from which they were collected and information on the location, landscape and vegetation community from which they were collected.
 - b. Plant lists for specific sites and areas within the region for use by herbarium volunteers and gardens staff.
 - c. Nursery records.
 - d. Planting records including source of the original plant, date planted, surveyed spatial location of planting location in the garden beds and label information.
 - e. Plant lists for specific sites for use by the Council Conservation Group.

These databases assist in the management of the gardens by providing accurate and current information in relation to proposed and existing plantings and are a reference source for the Council Conservation Group in relation to species identification and the production of accurate plant lists. Plant names frequently change as species are reclassified and the Queensland Herbarium regularly provide the latest taxonomy files which are incorporated into our databases thus ensuring our data is up to date.

10. Library of botanical and other books on natural history, ecology and natural resources.
11. Plant identification facilities and equipment.
12. Pool of people (staff, volunteers and networks) with botanical knowledge and knowledge of local plant species (natives and weeds) and plant communities of the local area who can:
 - a. Assist with native plant and weed identification.
 - b. Provide information on plant species and their significance.
 - c. Make recommendations for landscaping designs.
 - d. Make recommendations for appropriate plant species to plant for specific purposes in the local area (including development plans, Council clearing applications, revegetation projects, street trees, parkland and open space plantings, commercial premises, home gardens and properties), resulting in more successful and aesthetically pleasing outcomes and resulting from inappropriate species selection.
 - e. Provide information on how to propagate and grow local native plant species.
13. Venue for the annual Ecofest which celebrates world environment day each year and incorporates environmental displays and activities by government agencies, industries, conservation groups, commercial businesses, local groups, speakers and entertainment. In the vicinity of 10,000 people attend this event every year.
14. Demand for Tondoon as a venue for weddings and other functions and events.
15. Successful projects such as the Owl Journey Book which utilised funding from local industry to work with local school students to produce and publish an illustrated children's book and a display of artistic panels while providing a journey through Tondoon offering in-depth information about the flora and fauna and developing a variety of teaching techniques.



Brisbane	Level 5, 131 Leichhardt Street Spring Hill QLD 4000	PO Box 942 Spring Hill QLD 4004	T +61 7 3831 0577
Darwin	Level 1, Paspalis Centrepont Building 48-50 Smith Street Mall Darwin NT 0800	PO Box 942 Spring Hill QLD 4004	T +61 8 8943 0600
Melbourne	Level 13, 200 Queen Street Melbourne VIC 3000	PO Box 942 Spring Hill QLD 4004	T +61 3 8648 6586
Perth	Level 2, 580 Hay Street Perth WA 6000 Australia	PO Box 942 Spring Hill QLD 4004	T +61 8 6555 4940
Sydney	Level 3, 507 Kent Street Sydney NSW 2000	PO Box 942 Spring Hill QLD 4004	T +61 2 9283 8400
Townsville	233 Flinders Street East Townsville QLD 4810	PO Box 5804 Townsville QLD 4810	T +61 7 4771 5550
Bangkok	Level 11 Glas Haus Building 1 Soi Sukhumvit 25, Sukhumvit Road Wattana, Bangkok 10110 Thailand		T +66 2 402 8400
Shanghai	46F Hongkong New World Tower, 300 Huahai Road Central 200021 China		T +8621 6135 2310