# CASE STUDY: GORDON WHITE LIBRARY

*Using local native plants to revitalise our urban environment.*

Mackay REGIONAL COUNCIL

# Background

Gordon White Library has been a highly valued community facility for over 20 years. In 2019, council recognised that the original landscape design had come to the end of its useful life - being outdated and containing exotic vegetation that was inconsistent with council's commitment to environmental sustainability.

# About the project

In late 2019, council commenced a revitalisation project of the library gardens which included:

- Revised landscape plans

- Removal of existing vegetation

- Replanting of garden beds using local native species as a demonstration site for council's Free Native Plant Program.

# Project goals

- Reduce garden maintenance costs

- Improved aesthetics (colour, vegetation structure, external/internal views)

- Demonstrate how to use local native plants in a landscaped environment

- Provide a location for residents and developers to view mature local native specimens grown at council's Natural Environment Centre nursery

- Demonstrate council's commitment to environmental sustainability by:
  - Increasing urban habitat (birds, bees, and butterflies)
  - Reduce water use in council gardens.

# Initial outcomes

- Replanted approximately 2000 plants (50 local native species)

- Positive feedback received from library staff and residents

- Great diversity in vegetation, colours and wildlife attracted

- Reduced site maintenance and scope to replicate at other council precincts.

# Five steps to transform YOUR garden!

1. Go and have a look at our garden for inspiration

2. Explore the site and use the signage to identify trees, shrubs, groundcovers, or lawn alternatives that will suit your garden

3. Attend the next Free Native Plant Program giveaway to collect your four free plants or purchase extras

4. Time to plant

5. Enjoy the diverse colours and local wildlife attracted to your garden.

# Feature plants

Pleated Ginger - *Alpinia arctiflora*

Native Gardenia - *Atractocarpus fitzalanii*

Great Balls of Fire - *Callistemon salignus* cv.
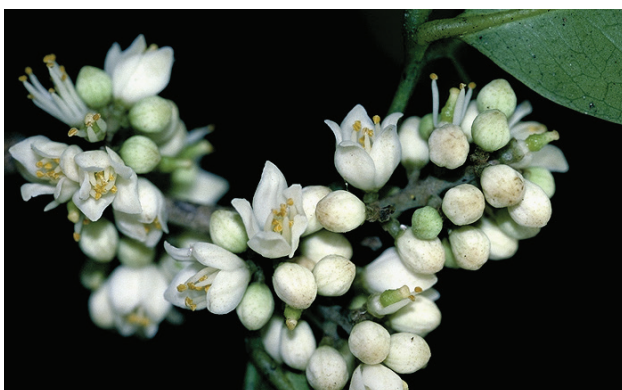
Yellow Buttons - *Chrysocephalum apiculatum*

Crinum Lily - *Crinum pedunculatum*

Smooth Flax Lily - *Dianella longifolia*

# Feature plants

Pink Lime Berry - *Glycosmis trifoliata*

Native Lobelia - *Lobelia membranacea*

Gold-dusted Bottlebrush - *Melaleuca hemisticta*

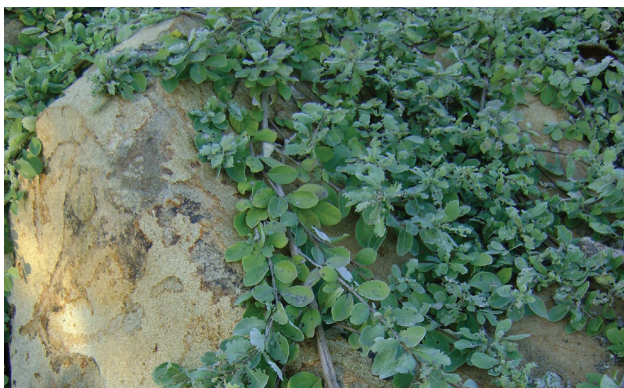Eungella Bottlebrush - *Melaleuca paludicola*

Poor-flower Tree - *Memecylon pauciflorum*

Peanut Tree - *Sterculia quadrifida*

# Feature plants



Beach Vitex - *Vitex rotundifolia*



Everlasting Paper Daisy - *Xerochrysum bracteatum*



*Our native garden around the Gordon White Library car park.*

*Cover image: Our native garden at the Gordon White Library entrance.*

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