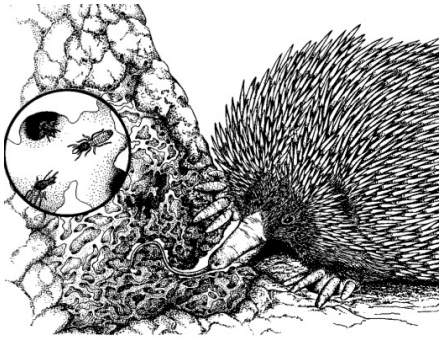
[7] HEAR THE FOREST ORCHESTRA
Take a rest on the bench seats to watch and listen to the birds. How many different sounds can you hear?

Eastern Yellow Robin



Echidna also roam the undergrowth here, often at night. They dig around with sharp claws to extract termites and ants with their very long tongues.

[8] THE SWAMP MAHOGANY – A KOALA FEED TREE
By the main path are the thick barked Swamp Mahogany trees which the koalas prefer as one of their regular feed trees. The big nose of a koala can smell the levels of natural defensive toxins in the leaves of eucalypts, which is why they prefer some trees over another. Koalas need a lot of space. Each koala requires about 5 to 15 hectares of good forest habitat to survive and they have overlapping home ranges in the botanic garden.

North Coast Regional BOTANIC GARDEN Coffs Harbour

Discover more about the botanic garden:
Website**: coffsbotanicgarden.com.au**
Phone: Information Centre (02) 6648 4188
Email: coffsbotanicgarden@gmail.com

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The Friends of the North Coast Regional Botanic Garden
With acknowledgement to the Traditional Custodians,
the Gumbaynggirr people, and their elders.

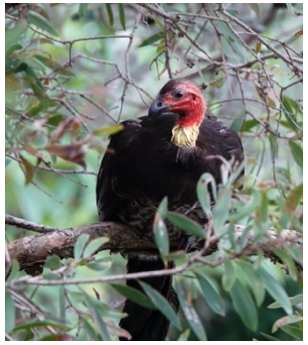
Our Habitat Our Home

BOTANIC GARDEN Coffs Harbour

- Circuit walk of 900 metres
- 8 discovery stops marked with a blue painted circle on the path with a koala symbol.

Explore the natural plant community types found along the Coffs Coast and learn about the animals living in these habitats.

A number of koalas live in the natural forest areas of the botanic garden. During the day the koalas are often curled up asleep in the fork of a tree and are hard to spot. But do keep a look out as they often climb down to move to a new tree.



When not resting up in a shady tree the Brush Turkeys can usually be seen scraping through the mulch on the garden beds in search of food.

The 'Our Habitat Our Home' circuit walk begins at the northern edge of the creek-side picnic area. It winds through the heart of the natural forests in the botanic garden to finish back on the main path. See the route map overpage.

[1] MANGROVE FORESTS – A SALINE WETLAND

Grey Mangrove trees live along the edge of Coffs Creek where tidal salt water mixes with fresh water coming downstream. At low tide a carpet of 'snorkel roots' (pneumatophores) stick up through the mud to breathe. Mangroves are home to crabs and are vital nurseries for fish. The Sacred Kingfisher and other birds hunt for crabs, fish and molluscs along the creek edge.

[2] COASTAL SANDS - DRY OPEN FOREST

The sandy soil of the creek bank is dominated by Blackbutt, Turpentine, Bloodwood and Angophora trees.

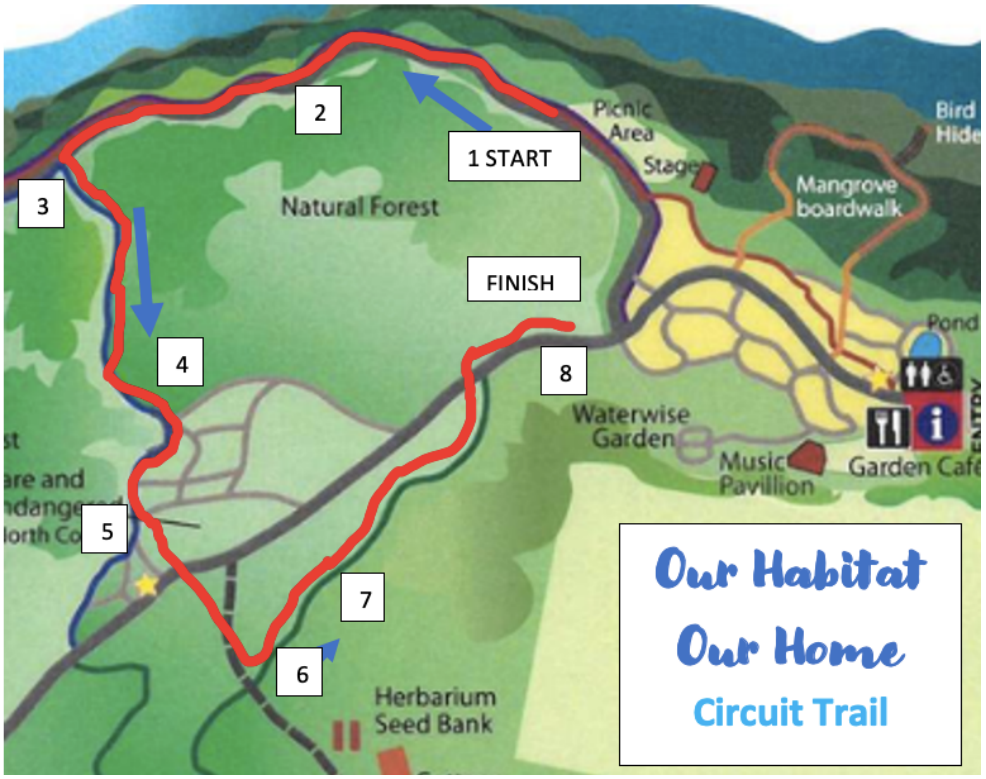
A variety of birds live here. One of the largest is the Brush Turkey. The male builds a huge incubation mound for females to lay their eggs in. When the chicks hatch and dig their way to the surface they must learn to fly quickly - up into the safety of the trees above.

[3] OLD BLOODWOOD HABITAT TREE

The grand Pink Bloodwood tree living here is estimated to be 500 years old.

It takes over 100 years for hollows to form in trees. The hollows are essential as homes for possums and other animals as well as for nesting birds.

[Turn left at the Pink Bloodwood tree to continue the circuit trail]



[4] SEDGES AND PAPERBARK FOREST

Notice the dramatic change in plants near the boardwalk where the ground is wetter? Palms, paperbark trees and sedges, such as the soft Tassel Cord Rush, thrive here. As do insects and frogs hiding in the sedges which attract reptiles such as Australia's largest skink, the Land Mullet.

[5] WET FERNY FORESTS

The tall trees with a mid-level layer of trees result in a shadier and ferny place at ground level. Often spotted in the thick foliage of the mid-level trees is the Powerful Owl resting by day. These owls hunt for bats, possums and other animals by night.

[6] SCRIBBLY GUM OPEN FOREST

The soil here is dryer and the forest changes with the smooth barked Scribbly Gums now a part of the forest mix. Discover how the scribbles are made at this stop. Take a look around for butterflies and insects which the forest birds such as the Eastern Yellow Robin love to catch and eat.