

Fay Smith Wetlands is located in Maryborough between Neptune and Victory streets.

It is open to visitors during daylight hours.



## Contact Us

Phone: 1300 79 49 29

Email: [enquiry@frasercoast.qld.gov.au](mailto:enquiry@frasercoast.qld.gov.au)

Website: [www.frasercoast.qld.gov.au/fay-smith-wetlands](http://www.frasercoast.qld.gov.au/fay-smith-wetlands)



Information and photos provided by Ruby Rosenfield



## Fay Smith (1930 – 1993)

Fay Smith was a passionate environmentalist and was prominent in conservation circles for more than 30 years.

She was a leading figure in tree planting, foreshore protection, environmentally conscious farming and in the fight against land degradation and pollution.

Fay and her husband Ted were also accomplished award-winning photographers.

Together they devotedly nursed and rehabilitated sick and injured birds.

Fay was known as Maryborough's bird lady and the Fay Smith Wetlands are named in her honour.

# FAY SMITH Wetlands

One of the last remaining wetlands in Maryborough

## What is a wetland?

A wetland is an area of land where water covers the soil either all year or only at certain times of the year.

They are considered the most biologically diverse of all ecosystems and serve as natural water purification systems.

Fay Smith Wetlands is part of the Great Sandy Biosphere (a status awarded by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) which gives the area world-wide recognition similar to Galapagos Islands, the Everglades and Uluru.



The Wetlands consist predominately of paperbark swamp with dry clay pan areas of swamp mahogany.

A drain built into the swamp many years ago has evolved into a creek filled with reeds, bulrushes and bottlebrushes and is teeming with wildlife.

Over 70 bird species, as well as several species of insects, reptiles and frogs have been identified at the Wetlands.

## History

The Fay Smith Wetlands is part of Butchulla country.

The traditional owners were believed to have valued the area and relied upon it as a source of fresh water.

The water levels vary depending on rainfall. During flood events, the Wetlands become all but submerged and can be inaccessible for weeks.



There are series of walking bridges and trails throughout the Wetlands, which allow visitors to enjoy the abundant bird life at their leisure.



## Flora and fauna

A wide variety of birds, plants and insects inhabit the Wetlands including the:

- Australian Admiral butterfly
- Slug Herb
- Chestnut-breasted mannikin
- Graphic flutterer



## Volunteering

Dedicated volunteers are important to maintaining the Wetlands and ensuring the continued survival of the native flora and fauna.

Committed local residents regularly carry out bush regeneration work in the Wetlands, and are joined at times by school and community groups and international volunteers.

For more information or if you would like to participate, please contact Council's **Community Environment Program Officer** on **1300 79 49 29**.