

Eco Conservation and Responsible Travel

Eumarella Shores is listed by the Australian Heritage Commission on the Register of National Estate in recognition of its heritage value. It is designated valued habitat by the Sunshine Coast Council.

In 2008, the property has been assessed and approved by Land for Wildlife and is currently being assessed by the State Government for approval as a Nature Refuge.

Your hosts are passionate about preserving this environmentally significant land, and through tourism hope to share with our guests, our knowledge and love for this special environment, and promote responsible travel practices.

Environmentally Beneficial Practices

Energy and water saving practices

Installation of AAA rating resource saving devices such as water saving showerheads, dual flush toilets and energy efficient light bulbs, use of recycled building materials, solar passive building design including maximising the effect of natural cooling in summer from lake breezes and retention of the dense tree canopy cover, together with the education of guests in energy saving practises, which all assist in minimising negative environmental impacts.

Minimisation of waste and recycling practices

Installation of an Envirocycle Advanced Secondary Waste Water Treatment Plant to service all existing accommodation by purifying all waste water to a standard suitable for irrigation of areas regenerated with local provenance species enhancing the existing natural vegetation creating a seamless union of natural bush and vegetation regeneration areas thus maintaining the integrity of the property.

Each cottage is provided with recycle bins to encourage minimising of waste by recycling glass, newspaper, aluminium, and plastic.

Eumarella Shores has demonstrated responsibility towards environmental sustainability by putting in place infrastructure and practises including an Environmental Management Plan designed to eliminate the production of, and export of, nutrients from the site into the lake.

Minimisation of construction impact

With conservation and sustainability in mind, the eco friendly cottages and pavilions established on the land have minimised negative environmental impacts by designing, sighting and building the accommodation and associated infrastructure without removing trees. The retention of natural vegetation and the low visual impact of improvements, particularly from lake, and the minimal site disturbance have resulted in a low impact tourism operation.

Conservation

A Code of Practise for Residents and Guests has also been implemented whereby lifestyle practises have been adopted which minimise the generation of nutrients. Any personal hygiene and cleaning products used by the retreat are natural. The retreat uses the HaRa cleaning program that uses special fibre clothes, designed by Hans Raab, which eliminate the need for any cleaning chemicals or aggressive detergents. Guests are requested to respect the

environment by using only bio-degradable washing and natural cleaning products.

The layout of Eumarella Shore's tourism area retains a series of nature corridors connecting this area to the large wallum wetland area to the rear of the property. Kangaroos and smaller fauna demonstrably use these corridors which were designed courtesy of 35 years of observation of fauna movements by the owners. Implementation of a weed and exotic species eradication program is underway. The retained tree canopy having a density of between 70 and 90 percent in most areas assists in reducing the likelihood of the spread of weeds.

The property owners adopted a policy 30 years ago of regeneration with recent vegetation surveys indicating a diverse range of species within a range of ecosystems present on the property. Native endemic species only were used in the revegetation/landscaping design. A vegetation survey conducted in 2001, a study by a team of Nature Search scientists identified 194 species representing the highest bio-diversity recorded on a single property.

Eumarella Shores is a voluntarily protected flora and fauna reserve.

Eumarella Shores has developed educational material and programs to increase understanding of the natural environment, such as :

- ✘ educational material provided in both the accommodation and at reception communicating to the guests an appreciation of the natural environment, and encouraging them to interact with their surroundings, and;
- ✘ guests are provided with the information and opportunity to observe, independently or on guided tours, the birdlife and wildlife of Lake Weyba and its surrounds, to identify local provenance plant species, and plants of significance to indigenous Australians, and;
- ✘ guests are provided with the information, encouragement and means by bike, foot or canoe to allow them to explore the pristine waters of Lake Weyba and to appreciate the natural beauty of its environs, and;
- ✘ each cottage or pavilion has a theme based on culture, conservation or the environment. For example one provides the venue to exhibit paintings by local award winning artist, Robyn Fox of the treasured Weyba Wallum, another to create awareness and alert the guests to the often seen phenomenon of the industrious cormorants herding fish along the lake shore, complete with the enterprising pelicans cruising in the background hoping to capitalise on any spoils. Yet another theme creates public awareness and appreciation of the rare and endangered Jabiru that inhabit Lake Weyba. Tribute is paid to the early participants in, and history of, the conservation movement in the Noosa area.