PRESS RELEASE

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SUNSHINE COAST AUSTRALIA - 9th November 2026 - for immediate release

Fairhill Adventure Gardens Named One Of The Top Ten Experiences On The Sunshine Coast: the Most Unusual Destination Where the Wild Things Welcome You



A wildlife estate, Queensland's first native botanic gardens, a family farmyard, extraordinary nursery and farm-and-garden-to-table licensed café — all in one very special place

SUNSHINE COAST, QUEENSLAND:

Fairhill Adventure Gardens Recognised As One Of The Top Ten Experiences on the Sunshine Coast, 2026 Sunshine Coast Business Awards

There are places you visit. And then there are places where you feel you have somehow been invited into another world.

Hidden in plain sight on the Sunshine Coast is one of the region's most unusual destinations: Fairhill Adventure Gardens, a 21-acre living wildlife estate where kangaroos graze, water dragons bask, turtles

and platypus swim, farm animals roam freely — while families explore Queensland's first native botanic gardens, discover wild nature trails, meet friendly farmyard animals and lose themselves among an extraordinary collection of flowering plants.

The remarkable thing is that this is not a wildlife park with bars or a theme park full of noise. It is a real country estate, open every day to the public.

At Fairhill, visitors are not simply spectators. They are welcomed as honoured guests in a living landscape.

"Fairhill is a little bit difficult to describe because there really isn't anywhere quite like it," says Angela Wright MBE, who, with her husband David and family, now own and run the estate supported by a dedicated team committed to guest delight.

"You can arrive and within minutes see and hear the wildlife. Birds are everywhere — partly due to our regenerative philosophy and our decision not to use artificial toxins. Farm animals roam freely amongst the visitors and take part in daily Ranger-led sessions.

Our kangaroos and wallabies are not caged exhibits but they live here secretly and safely, water dragons roam freely, while turtles and platypus bathe out of sight in Turtle Lake and the Maroochy river, which runs through the property.

"Children can meet baby animals, discover the gardens and play in nature, while gardeners can spend hours exploring the nursery. Then you can sit down and have an extraordinary lunch made from beautiful local ingredients.

"It feels much more like being welcomed into someone's very special country home than visiting an attraction."

A finalist list full of friends

For Fairhill, this year's finalist list reads a little like a list of friends. Finalists in the Food & Agribusiness category, Eastwell Farms, Maleny Cheese and Nutri-Tech Solutions (NTS), are stocked at Fairhill's Country Store Farm Shop and Nursery, so guests can take home some of the Sunshine Coast's best local produce and ground-breaking gardening products.

Fairhill also works closely with ECOllaboration, a finalist in the Social Impact category. The Yandina-based environmental charity helped launch the Platypus Citizen Science Program at Fairhill, whose eDNA samples confirmed platypus in the estate's waterways, and on Wednesday 25 November it hosts Frog Night at Fairhill: a talk, then a guided frog survey of the dams and creek after dark.

"Being named a 2026 Sunshine Coast Business Awards Finalist is a wonderful moment for our whole team, and for every family, gardener and local maker who is part of Fairhill's story" says Angela Wright MBE, who with her husband David and family, owns and runs the estate.

"It means even more to be named alongside businesses we stock and work with every day. Supporting local makers, growers and conservation partners is at the heart of Fairhill. When guests

choose Eastwell Farms beef or Bamboo Park pork from our farm shop, or a gardener picks up NTS, Red Soil Organics or Pachamama for their garden, they are backing local."

A year of renewal

The recognition caps a year of renewal at Fairhill. Home to Queensland's first native botanic gardens.

Established by the founding Hansa family half a century ago, the estate is now run by the Wright family, who in 2026 opened the G.O.A.T. Kids' Playbarn, home to Fairhill's famous baby mini goats, added the Little Sprouts imaginative indoor play centre, and revived the Famous Fairhill Spring Festival.

Today Fairhill brings together native botanic gardens and wild nature trails, daily Ranger-led Farmyard Adventures, a specialist natives-first nursery, the farm-and-garden-to-table Gardens Café, and the Country Store with its Farm Shop and Local Makers' Marketplace.

"Our philosophy is very simple: Happiness is in our Nature," says Angela. *"We are continuing a tradition of hospitality and stewardship that has deep roots on the Sunshine Coast."*

Three generations of Sunshine Coast hospitality knowledge shape Fairhill into the unusual destination it is today: part garden, part farm, part wildlife estate, part food destination and part great Australian country welcome.

For families, it is Nature's Playground

Fairhill's Farmyard Adventures bring children wonderfully close to animals, with opportunities to meet and cuddle baby chicks, feed guinea pigs, walk with goats and even cuddle and share a massage with baby miniature goats, alongside daily Ranger-led experiences and encounters with the resident farm animals.

Beyond the Farmyard, children can explore wild discovery trails, imaginative play spaces and nature-filled adventures.

And it isn't all outdoors. Fairhill also offers extensive undercover spaces, including the newly opened Little Sprouts imaginative indoor play, the Laneway of indoor plants, the Cuddle Corner, Fairy Twilight Hollow, Guinea Pigs Village, and the new G.O.A.T. Kids' Playbarn, home to Fairhill's famous miniature Pygmy goats.

For gardeners, Fairhill is another world entirely.

This gardeners' paradise has an expansive nursery filled with beautiful flowering plants, Australian natives, unusual and rare plants, longevity plants, grafted grevilleas, dwarf flowering gums, bushtucker plants and other treasures — with plants grown for the Sunshine Coast's climate and conditions.

It is a place where a family can come for adventure and gardeners can happily disappear for half a day.

Fairhill is Queensland's first native botanic gardens, nursery and nature tourism experience — an extraordinary collection celebrating Australia's unique flora.

Today, those gardens have evolved into a wild and wonderfully immersive landscape where rainforest, native plants, wildlife, waterways, discovery trails and family adventure exist side by side.

And then there is the food

The Gardens Café is the unique farm-and-garden-to-table dining experience, surrounded by rainforest, gardens and birdsong.

Fairhill's kitchen takes a deliberately different approach to food.

There are no seed oils, no margarine and no artificial ingredients. Instead, the kitchen focuses on real, local ingredients — including produce grown on the property and pasture-raised eggs and pork from the family's associated farm — prepared with love by Fairhill's chefs, patissier and baker.

It is food made with the same philosophy as the gardens themselves: good ingredients, carefully grown, thoughtfully prepared and served with generosity.

The result is a Café experience that feels entirely at home in the landscape — from farm-fresh breakfasts and lunches to homemade cakes, Devonshire teas and remarkably good coffee, roasted in nearby Eumundi.

A place where nature is still in charge

Perhaps the most unusual thing about Fairhill is that the animals are not there as exhibits. The wildlife is part of the estate. Not on display, but as the first residents. These are not visitors to Australia. They are among its ancient inhabitants.

Long before humans arrived, Australia was home to extraordinary lineages of animals that have survived and evolved here for millions of years. Kangaroos shyly roam the gardens. Water dragons skittishly sun themselves beside the paths. Turtles and platypus secretly inhabit the waterways. Birds fill the rainforest with sound. Farm animals roam their walk-in paddocks, barns and farmyard, while the gardens themselves are alive with birds and butterflies.

Visitors enter this world as guests, with the landscape and its inhabitants treated with the respect they deserve.

"It is important to us that Fairhill never feels manufactured," says Angela.

"We don't have an artificial version of nature. We want people to experience the real thing — the beauty, the wildness, the animals, the plants, the food, the sounds and the feeling of being somewhere full of life.

"Our philosophy is very simple: Happiness is in our Nature."

A destination unlike anywhere else

For visitors looking for something beyond the stunning Sunshine Coast beaches, Fairhill offers a rare combination: a wildlife estate you can actually explore, historic native botanic gardens, a farmyard of animals, an extraordinary plant nursery, imaginative family adventures and exceptional country dining — all within one living estate.

It is wild enough to feel like an adventure, beautiful enough to feel like a garden, welcoming enough to feel like home and delicious enough to make the journey worthwhile all by itself.

Now recognised as one of the Top Ten Experiences on the Sunshine Coast, Fairhill Adventure Gardens is where nature, family, food, gardens and genuine country hospitality come together — and where every visitor is welcomed as an honoured guest.

Fairhill Adventure Gardens
Sunshine Coast, Queensland

Fairhill Gardens is located at 114 Fairhill Road, Ninderry, open daily 8am to 4pm. For further information visit www.fairhill.com.au.

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1,481 words.

Images can be sent on request

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Notes to the editor:

About Fairhill

Step into a world where nature, animals, gardens, farm-to-table and garden-to-plate goodness come together.

Welcome to Fairhill Adventure Gardens — home to Queensland's original native botanic gardens and nursery, Fairhill Farmyard Adventures, and unforgettable nature experiences. Nestled on the slopes of beautiful Mount Ninderry, Fairhill is a world apart — a place to play, discover, learn and reconnect.

Meet friendly farm animals, cuddle baby chicks, collect eggs, explore rainforest trails and discover nature play spaces designed to inspire curiosity and adventure. Discover one of Australia's most significant collections of native and subtropical plants on this beautiful wildlife estate, and browse the specialist natives-first nursery, renowned for unique, climate-suited and long-lived plants.

Relax over breakfast, brunch, Devonshire Tea or lunch at The Gardens Café, where seasonal local produce, Bamboo Park farm ingredients and garden-grown flavours are transformed into delicious meals by the professional chefs and pastry team. No seed oils, no margarine — just pure ingredients crafted with care, skill and passion.

Explore the Country Store, Farm Shop and Local Makers Marketplace, uncover unique gifts and local treasures, or simply soak up the beauty of birdsong, gardens and wildlife.

Whether you're visiting for a family adventure, a garden inspiration day, a celebration, a coffee with friends or a leisurely exploration, Fairhill captures the beauty, flavour and spirit of the Sunshine Coast.

With a commitment to supporting local suppliers and horticulturists, the new owners have blended heritage with innovation, offering a magical space for gardeners, food lovers, and families alike.

Fairhill prioritises healthy soil, plants, food, guests and staff, refusing to use glyphosate (“Roundup”) or other artificial herbicide and pesticide toxins used in other nurseries.

Corporates, school and youth groups can schedule one-off or ongoing visits.

In addition to being child-friendly, Fairhill is pet friendly too with well-mannered dogs welcome.

Whether you're visiting for a family adventure, a garden inspiration day, a celebration, a coffee with friends or a leisurely exploration, Fairhill captures the beauty, flavour and spirit of the Sunshine Coast.

Open daily, 8am–4pm.

Accessible facilities: Accessible pathways, parking and amenities available.

Rates:

• Entry to The Gardens Café, Country Store and Nursery: Free.
• Day Tickets and Memberships: From just $5.

Visit the website to book tickets, memberships and special experiences: www.fairhill.com.au

About Native Gardening

Native gardening in Australia celebrates the beauty and resilience of plants naturally adapted to the country’s diverse climate and ecosystems. With over 24,000 species of native flora, gardeners can choose from a wide variety of plants that thrive with minimal intervention, requiring less water, fertilizer, and maintenance. These plants not only withstand the unique challenges of Australia’s environment, such as droughts and poor soil conditions, but also contribute to a sustainable and eco-friendly garden by reducing the need for chemical inputs.

Incorporating native plants into gardens also promotes biodiversity by providing vital food and shelter for native birds, insects, and pollinators. Grevilleas, bottlebrushes, and kangaroo paws attract bees, butterflies, and nectar-feeding birds, fostering a healthy ecosystem. Bush tucker plants like lemon myrtle and finger lime are gaining popularity in home gardens, offering edible, sustainable options with cultural significance rooted in Indigenous traditions.

Native gardening enhances environmental health and connects Australians with their natural heritage. As climate change continues to challenge traditional gardening practices, native plants offer a practical solution for resilient landscapes. Whether used in urban courtyards or sprawling rural gardens, native gardening fosters a deeper appreciation for the land while reducing environmental impact, ensuring a harmonious relationship between people and the environment.

Fairhill Adventure Gardens, 114 Fairhill Road, Ninderry 4561

Connect at www.fairhill.com.au,

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Images can be sent on request.