

## Australian Butterfly Sanctuary

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ABN: 63 257 712 278



- #1 Attraction in Kuranda
- Largest butterfly flight aviary & exhibit in Australia
- All-weather experience
- Home to over 2000 native Australian butterflies

# MEDIA RELEASE

THURSDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2019

## BUTTERFLY SANCTUARY OPENS NEW FOOD PLANT WALK

Australian Butterfly Sanctuary in Kuranda has just introduced a new exhibit highlighting various caterpillar food plants.

The Food Plant Walk is a 20 minute educational guided walk around the grounds of the Australian Butterfly Sanctuary displaying various host food plants.

All of the Sanctuary's food plants are grown on site on three acres of land that are under cultivation.

The plants are used to feed around 3000 caterpillars of around 20 species to produce close to 20,000 pupa each and every year.

These pupa result in the 1200 stunning tropical butterflies that customers see daily in the Australian Butterfly Sanctuary's main aviary.

The walk educates customers on an array of flutter-feeding food plants, including the Aristolochia, which is used to feed caterpillars of the iconic bright green Cairns Birdwing.

This informative guided tour also gives customers a sneak peak at the Bottom Flight House, an aviary used for disease control and egg collection.

By introducing customers to various host plants, the Butterfly Sanctuary aims to increase the healthy butterfly population in the Cairns area.

Australian Butterfly Sanctuary Manager Mel Nikolich, highlights the importance of the new attraction in increasing butterfly populations in the local area.

"Visitors will be shown what plant each species of caterpillar eats and we will encourage them to plant these crops at home or in school to attract butterflies to the local area".

The new Food Plant Walk is included with admission to the Australian Butterfly Sanctuary.

The CaPTA Group is locally owned & operated by the Woodward family of Cairns, consisting of Rainforestation Nature Park, Tropic Wings Cairns Tours & Charters, Jungle Tours & Trekking, Wildlife Habitat, Cairns ZOOM & Wildlife Dome, Australian Butterfly Sanctuary, ABC Sales & Maintenance and Careers Training Centre.

For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact Digital and Media Manager Amanda Perry on 0437 724 529 or (07) 4041 9417.