

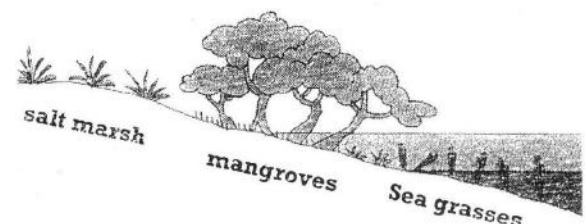
SOLITARY ISLANDS MARINE-RESERVE
A Special Place.



Coffs Harbour Creek is part of the Solitary Islands Marine Reserve. The boardwalk was Australia's first in a Marine Reserve.

The Reserve effectively protects aquatic flora and fauna by safeguarding habitats so breeding and feeding, and the day to day existence of fish and other species, can continue with a minimum of disturbance. At least 70% of the commercial fish species caught in NSW rely on estuaries at some stage of their life cycles.

Habitat zones of the estuary



Mangroves, along with sea grasses and salt marshes, play an important role in the healthy functioning of an estuary. They are a habitat for a rich and concentrated array of marine animals and birds. They act as a nursery area for juvenile fish, help stop erosion, and produce large amounts of organic matter used in the food web of the estuary.

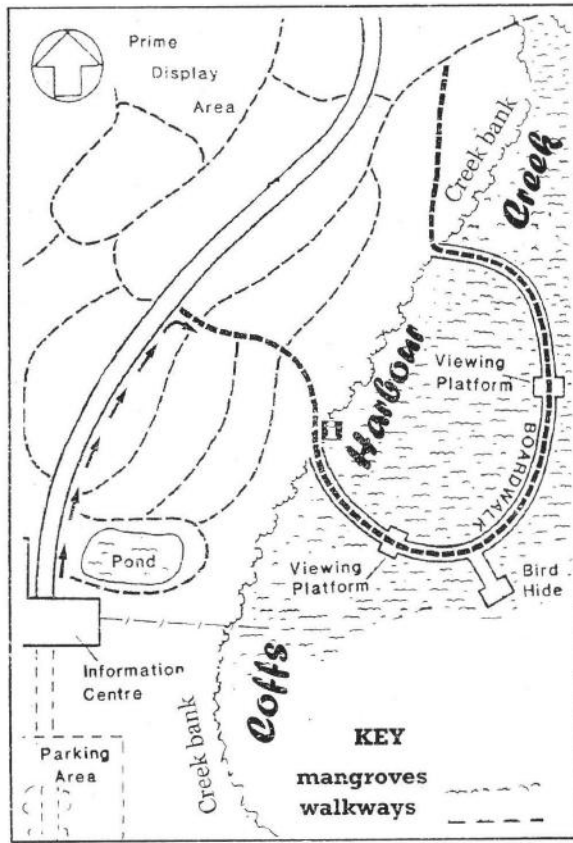
All fauna are protected, and at all times you must stay on the boardwalk. Please place litter or rubbish in the bins provided at the start of the boardwalk, or at the Information Centre.

BOARDWALK INFORMATION

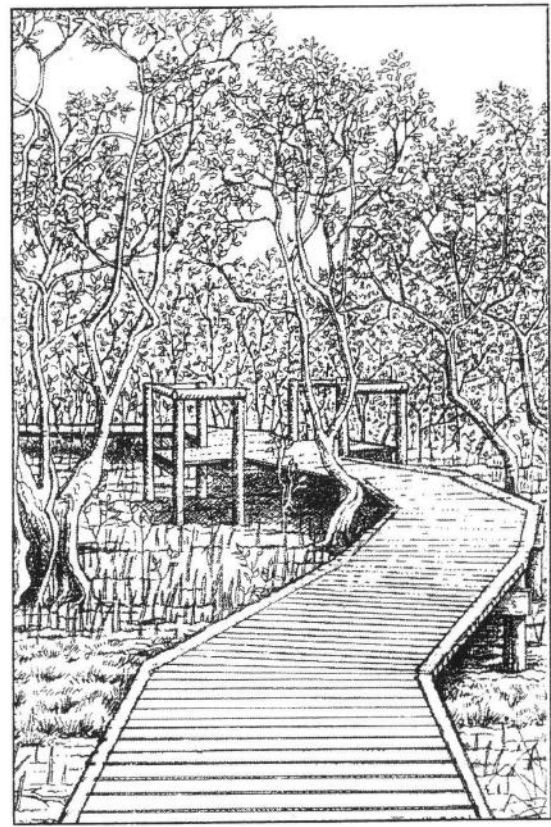
The Mangrove Boardwalk has been constructed as a learning resource, with information plaques describing the plant and animal communities, and some of their unique adaptations to the estuarine environment.

The best time for a visit is on the half out tide.

Allow up to an hour to observe the sensitive aquatic plants, fish, mollusks, crabs and birds. Talk quietly and you may be rewarded with sightings of shy animals and birds.

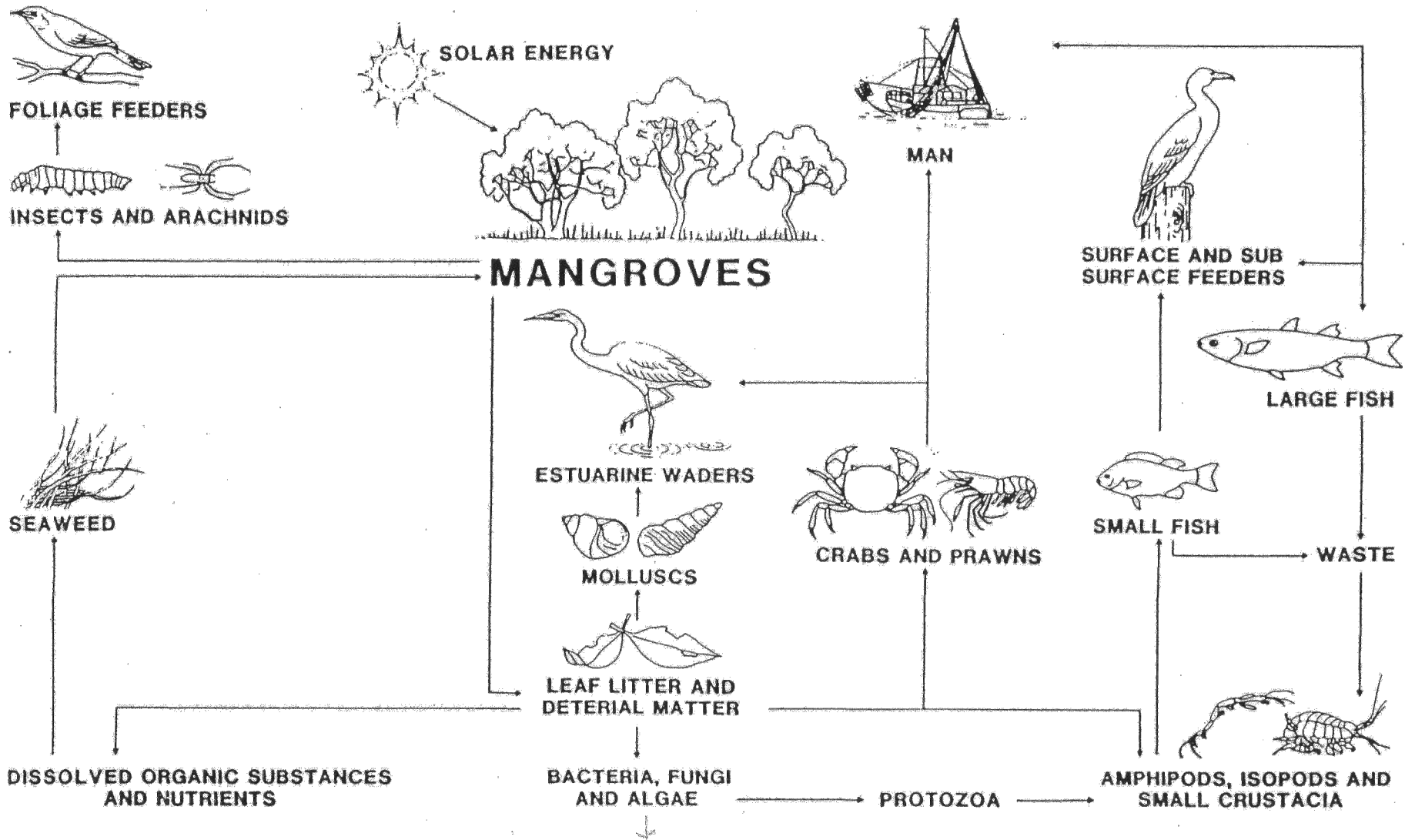


NORTH COAST REGIONAL Botanic Garden
COFFS HARBOUR
MANGROVE BOARDWALK



The FRIENDS OF THE NORTH COAST REGIONAL BOTANIC GARDEN Inc is an active community group who would very much appreciate your donation, which will be used to further develop the attractions and amenities in the Garden.

DIAGRAM TO ILLUSTRATE THE IMPORTANCE OF MANGROVES IN ESTUARINE FOOD CHAINS



Mangrove estuaries are amongst the worlds most productive ecosystems. Solar energy captured by the mangroves enters the estuary as leaves, twigs, and fruits from the trees. It may take a year for the energy, and nutrients contained in the leaf to be released by the decomposer organisms - bacteria, algae, and fungi - and used by the animal life of the estuary.