

Illawarra Grevillea Park – Self Guided Walk

Follow the Letters and Arrows

A The winter months are Wattle time, with a few Banksias still flowering and many Grevilleas starting flower as well. There are also a lot of birds visiting us at the moment such as Eastern Spinebills, New Holland Honeyeaters, Silvereyes, Little and Red Wattlebirds, Golden Whistlers and of course Kookaburras and Magpies. As you stand in the front entrance area you will be greeted by a wall of colourful tropical Grevilleas on the bank opposite the entrance. To the left are the silvery foliage of *Eremophila nivea* and a prostrate form of *Acacia baileyana* cascading over a rock feature.

B Turn left and walk up the roadway, Display garden 1 (to your left) contains Grevilleas such as *G. johnsonii*, *G. endlicheriana* and *G. heliosperma*. Yellow everlasting daisies have self-seeded through this bed as well.

C Keep going straight ahead to the Second Pathway to the left, turn into that path and look out for the standard form *Banksia integrifolia*

D Follow the brick path looking out for the Christmas tree-like Daintree Pine (*Gymnostoma australianum*) and the white flowers of *Grevillea glauca* (Bushman's Clothes Peg).

E Admire the majestic Bunya Pine, *Araucaria bidwillii*, an ancient species with very prickly leaves which bears seed cones up to 10kgs in weight in summer.

F Continue along the path back to the main roadway and turn right. Follow the road and to your left you will pass under eucalypts such as *Angophora costata* (Sydney Red Gum, with an orange trunk) and *Eucalyptus paniculata*. (black trunk) This bed also features NSW Christmas Bush, *Grevillea nudiflora* and *G. ilicifolia*, well as *Eremophilas* and banksias. Splashes of yellow are provided by Yellow Buttons (*Chrysocephalum apicatum*) in both green and silver leaved forms. (Display garden 2)

G Follow the road around to the left and spot Cootamundra Wattle (*Acacia baileyana*) and Cousin It (*Casuarina glauca*) growing over rocks, as well as two QLD Bottle trees. Another *Acacia* here is *A. holosericea* with large silver leaves which has already flowered this year. Turn left and walk up the hill and check out our new picnic area lined with standards utilising Grevilleas and *Eremophilas* (Display garden 2)

H Keep following the main road and take the next pathway off to the left. Look out for *Acacia ruppi*, *Correa 'Fat Fred'* as well as pink *Croweas*. The path continues up the hill past the beautifully scented *Acacia fimbriata* and you will come to a large *Eucalypt* (*Eucalyptus pilularis*) covered by Native *Wisteria*. (*Callerya megasperma*) (Display garden 4 and 3)

I Just a few metres to your right is a small native bee hotel. This area also features a lot of new plantings. (Display garden 3)

J Turn to your left, follow the path to the roadway and turn right walking up the hill. Keep following the road around to your left and enter the seated area. This is a more formal style of garden with seating, paving and a low Native *Rosemary* hedge framing the paving. A wide variety of grevilleas such as *G. subtiliflora*, *amplexans* and *Midas Touch* planted here offer a contrast of leaf and flower shapes and colours.

K Leaving this area turn left to view our most recently planted bed featuring tropical grevilleas as well as eremophilas, acacias and Hibiscuses. The fencing is to try and keep rabbits out of the garden beds, once plants are better established, we hope to put a path through here to give visitors a better look at the plants in this garden. Turn around and head through the blue archway highlighted by two *Xanthorrhoea glauca* (Grasstrees) and follow the path past banksias such as *B. preamorsa* (bright yellow) and *B. plagiocarpa* (cream flowers) in the upper bed which are still attracting the Eastern Spinebills.

L Follow the path through this massed planting of Banksia Bush Candles and towards the bottom corner you will see two lovely Grevilleas, *G. intricata* (look for the red stems) and *G. leuoclada*, both highly scented. Another plant to look for here is *Lambertia Formosa* with its red and yellow flowers.

M Walk down the hill looking for several Banksias to the right and a newly planted bed of various Grevilleas, Scaevolae and Banksias on the left and then a more established area featuring various Tropical Grevilleas and species Grevilleas (Display garden 5)

N Turn left at the junction near the picnic tables and head straight across to the right-hand path (of two paths) between the two variegated leaved Qld brush boxes, here are Birds Nest ferns, Cordylines and an enormous Elkhorn fern donated to the park last year.

O Further along the path past another Qld Bottle tree, these beds feature northern Australian species such as *Grevillea wickhamii* subsp. *aprica* and *aurea*. (Display garden 6)

P Continue down the path around the dam this area features mainly WA species Grevilleas (Display garden 7) Turn left into the rainforest area where there are several tracks to explore if you wish.

Q Entering the rainforest area, turn right twice and walk up the stairs past Red Cedars, ferns and native ginger and this will bring you out onto the lawn in front of the chapel. The toilets are a short walk to your left or look around the historic chapel and its gardens featuring Grevilleas such as Tirari Blaze, Spirit of Anzac, *G. rudis*, *G. sericea* and *G. wilsonii* and the colourful pink and orange pea flowers of *Chorizema cordatum* just starting to flower.

R Heading back to the main roadway turn right, walk down the hill and follow the road past a display of large flowered tropical hybrids including Bulli Beauty, Moonlight, Honey Gem, Miami Pink, Bush Lemons and Stylish along the left-hand side. (Display garden 9) On the right-hand side look out for *G. Elegance*, various Banksias, *G. dielsiana* and a standard form of *Grevillea Amber Blaze*.

S You will then come to the Flinders Baudin Memorial Garden, a series of pipes repurposed as pots and featuring *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* 'Blue Veil', *Acacia baileyana* prostrate, *Goodenia ovata* and other small natives. Take the chance to sit down if you wish. A recent addition here has been the construction of a framework to support the Eucalypt, after the Japanese technique of 'yukitsuri', forming a green curtain of leaves to walk through.

T Finally head back down the hill to the plant sales area and take a walk along the garden edge to spot Grevilleas Kimberley Gold, Wubin Wand and Claire Dee, tiny Native Violets, *Scaevola aemula* and *Hakea bucculenta* planted around this area. (Display 9)