Illawarra Grevillea Park – Self Guided Walk

Follow the Letters and Arrows

A As you stand in the front entrance area you will be greeted by a wall of colourful tropical Grevilleas from the bank opposite the entrance. To the left are the silvery foliage and lilac flowers of Eremophila nivea.

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 and look out for the purple and pink flowers of Melaleuca suberosa and Melaleuca nematophylla.

D Turn left and follow the brick path past Banksia integrifolia, the Christmas tree-like Daintree Pine (Gymnostoma australianum) and Grevillea glauca (Bushman's Clothes Peg).

E Admire the majestic Bunya Pine, Araucaria bidwillii, a very 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 (Chrysosephalum 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. Turn left and walk up the hill and check out our almost finished new picnic area planted 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 the bright yellow ball flowers of Acacia ruppi, pink Croweas and mint bushes (Prosterantha) The path continues up the hill where you will come to a large Eucalypt (Eucalyptus pilularis) covered by Native Wisteria. (Callerya megasperma) (Display garden 4 and 3)

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 Continue along this path past a beautiful prostrate form of Banksia serrata, and a spectacular group of Sydney Rock Orchids (Dendrobium speciosum) You will notice a strong honey scent coming from them.

K Keep following this path and as it rejoins the main roadway there is a Giant Spear lily, Doryanthes palmerii as well as local species the Gymea Lily, Doryanthes excelsa.

L Turn right and continue down the hill passing rock orchids on your right and a newly planted bed of various Grevilleas, Scaevolas and Banksias on the left and then a more established area featuring various Tropical Grevilleas and species Grevilleas (Display garden 5)

M 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.

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

O Continue down the path around the dam and look out for the Pink Paper Daisies. (Display garden 7) Turn left into the rainforest area where there are several tracks to explore if you wish.

P 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, Spirt of Anzac, G. rudis, G. sericea and G. wilsonii and the colourful pink and orange pea flowers of Chorizema cordatum.

Q 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.

R 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.

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