JULY 2020 SELF-GUIDED WALK FROM THE LOWER CAR PARK

The plants referred to in the walk can be located on the map at the end of this document

Welcome back to self-guided walks for the Mount Lofty Botanic Gardens. To help keep visitors COVID19 safe we have decided that, rather than supply a paper copy of the walk, there is a downloadable version from our website (https://www.friendsbgadelaide.com/guided-walks) or a copy that may be photographed to take with you.

What a joy it is to be able to enjoy our beautiful Mt Lofty Botanic Garden again, and to appreciate the hard work our garden staff have put in whilst the Garden has been closed to the public.

Near the path to the viewing platform ***Luculia pinceana* (A),** in the family Rubiaceae, draws us with its wonderful scent enhanced on a cold winter's day! It is doubly welcome as few plants flower at this time of year. Originating from the Himalayas and southern China, it needs a little bit of protection, so is perfect in this location. There are five species of *Luculia* varying in colour from deep pink through to pure white, more of which you will see on this walk. Taking to the road alongside the dam, as you leave the carpark the ***Berberis thunbergii* var. *atropurpurea*** or **red-leaved Japanese Barberry (B)** has leaves seemingly showing all the colours of autumn, though its natural colour is a deep burgundy.

Look down towards the dam to the red stems of the **dogwood, *Cornus alba* var. *sibirica'*,** a feature of winter. *Cornus* is a genus of 30–60 species, though we generally attribute the name to the trees bearing beautiful white or pink "flowers". The flowers, however, are small and tightly clustered but surrounded by four to six large, typically white petal-like bracts. The name "dog-tree" entered the English vocabulary before 1548, becoming "dogwood" by 1614. Once the name dogwood was affixed to this kind of tree, it soon acquired a secondary name as the "hound's tree", while the fruits came to be known as dogberries or houndberries. Another theory puts forward the view that "dogwood" was derived from the Old English 'dagwood' from the use of the slender stems of its very hard wood for making sharp objects (dags: daggers, skewers and arrows).

On the left before the turnoff to Fern Gully, you will find a bed of the golden everlasting daisy, ***Xerochrysum bracteatum* (C).** These Australian paper daisies look best in spring but may be surprisingly colourful in the colder months. They are favourites of plant breeders and nurseries, so many spectacular varieties have been produced.

Continue on the bitumen road to South American Gully then taking the steep bitumen path uphill. Immediately on the left hand side is ***Fuchsia arborescens* (D)** the tree fuchsia, a large evergreen shrub with an erect, open habit and linear, lance shaped, mid-green, veined leaves, indigenous to cool mountain cloud forests in Central America and Peru. The small rose-pink tubular flowers develop into blackish purple edible fruits. While it is good for a shady spot in the garden, it can be pruned into a bush if you prefer. The genus is named for Leonard Fuchs, a Bavarian professor of medicine from Tubingen (1501-1566).

On the opposite side the bright mauve-blue flowers of ***Tibouchina* (E),** also known as lasiandra, is a genus of about 350 species of neotropical plants in the family Melastomataceae. They can be trees, shrubs or sub-shrubs growing from half a metre to 25 metres tall, and are often known as "glory bushes", native to rainforests of Mexico, the West Indies and South America, especially Brazil. A little further uphill to the bright red flowers of red angel's trumpet, ***Brugmansia sanguinea* (F),** also called datura, in the nightshade family Solanaceae. It has been used for shamanic purposes by the South American Indians for centuries - possibly even millennia. All parts of the plant are poisonous!

Image: Helen Milne

While climbing South American Gully, you may notice a strong perfume which comes from the many ***Escallonia revoluta*** trees. Escallonia has leaf margins with broad glandular teeth that are sticky to the touch, but on close inspection they are odourless. The oils from the glands evaporate on warm days to cool the leaves, creating a smell often described as that of curry.

On the right, ***Nothofagus betuloides*, Magellan's beech, southern beech or guindo (G)**, is a tree native to southern Patagonia, (southern parts of Chile and Argentina). In 1769 Sir Joseph Banks collected a specimen of the tree in Tierra del Fuego during Captain Cook's first voyage to Australia. An evergreen tree, it can grow up to 25 metres with a columnar appearance. Its natural environment has cold winters and cool summers and it can resist temperatures down to -20ºC. The wood, which is used in furniture and construction, has beautiful marks and is pinkish, hard and semi-heavy.

Nothofagus, commonly known as southern or false beech, is a genus of 43 species native to the Southern Hemisphere in southern South America (Chile, Argentina), southeastern Australia, New Zealand, New Guinea and New Caledonia, all believed to have been part of the ancient Gondwana land mass. It shares some characteristics with *Fagus*, beech, a genus of the Northern Hemisphere.

Image: Helen Milne

On the left, ***Salvia corrugata* (H)** is a perennial shrub native to Colombia, Peru and Ecuador, growing at about 2500 m elevation. It was brought into horticulture about 2000 as a result of a collecting trip to South America in 1988. All the plants in cultivation today are from six seeds that germinated from that trip. *Salvia corrugata* reaches 3 metres in its native habitat, but less in cultivation. It has egg-shaped deeply corrugated evergreen leaves, dark green on the top surface, and light veining with pale tan-coloured fine hairs underneath. The brilliant purple-blue flowers have a small dark purple and green calyx. The flowers grow in congested whorls, with 6-12 flowers on each inflorescence.

At the very top of this path is a sheer rock face and, should it have been raining, you

may be lucky to see one of the hidden secrets of the garden, the waterfall.

Return to the bridge, cross the stream then turn right and up the steep steps where you will have good views across the Gully to the Main Lake. Follow the path through the bushland, where some of the native Adelaide Hills plants along the track between South American Gully and Rhododendron Gully begin flowering in winter.

Image: Bill Dowling

Look for the **large-leaved bush-pea, *Pultenaea daphnoides* (I)**, a tall shrub with yellow flowers crowded together. This plant can be positively identified by its distinctive leaf tip – there is a tiny spike (called a mucro) at the end of each leaf. Down at ground level, see if you can find the well-hidden red flower cluster of the pink ground-berry, ***Acrotriche fasciculiflora***, a low shrub with spiky leaves. Its berries are a favourite food of the Southern Brown Bandicoot.

Looking across the gully American **sweet gum, *Liquidambar styraciflua***, is still holding its autumn colour, the leaves not dropping until the new leaves erupt. The name derives from 'liquid amber' referring to the resin

which exudes from the tree, and 'styraciflua' meaning flowing with gum. Continue straight on and as the path veers left look across to the three tall conifers; ***Sequoiadendron giganteum* (J)** is one of the mighty redwoods. This is the fastest growing conifer on earth, and the largest by volume leading to one of its common names, 'the big tree'. Growing up to 85 metres tall, it is native to the Sierra Nevada mountains of California and can live for over 3000 years.

Now turn down the steps on the right, past these magnificent conifers, then take the next set of steps on the left. Another magnificent Luculia can be found on the right of the path and, when a little further down, turn and look back at how big this shrub has grown. After crossing the next small bridge, on the left is a grove of Stewartia trees, ***Stewartia monadelpha*** and ***Stewartia sinensis* (K).** This is a genus of up to 20 species in the family Theaceae, and thus related to camellia. Most of the species are native to eastern Asia in China, Japan, Korea, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam, with just two native to southeast north America. Most are deciduous, with very distinctive, smooth orange to yellow-brown bark, peeling in fine flakes. The conspicuous large, white camellia-like flowers appear in late-spring.

The genus was named in 1753 by Carolus Linnaeus to honour John Stuart, 3rd Earl of Bute. Owing to a transcription error, Linnaeus was given the name as 'Stewart', and consequently spelled the name "Stewartia" (and continued to do so in all his subsequent publications). Some botanists and horticulturists, mainly in the past but still widely in the UK have interpreted Art. 60.1 of the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature to consider "Stewartia" an orthographical error to be corrected to *Stuartia*, but this spelling has not found wide acceptance outside of Europe in recent times. During the 19th century, the spelling *Stuartia* was "almost universally" used. However, the original spelling "Stewartia" has been accepted, in large part because it continued to be accepted by Linnaeus himself, by virtually all systematic botanists in recent treatments of the family and genus as well as in numerous influential horticultural publications.

As the path turns sharply right, on the left is ***Magnolia amoena* (L)** coming into very early flower**.** This magnolia is also called the Tienmu magnolia as it comes from the Tienmu Mountains in Zhejiang Province of China. It has abundant white and pink fragrant flowers, with the species name 'amoena' meaning lovely or beautiful. It is reported that the buds are collected for medicinal purposes and the tree is considered vulnerable in its native range due to habitat loss. Pollination of magnolias was generally by beetles, which is common in primitive flowers that evolved before many flying insects but now by bumble bees (in America), bees and flies.

Directly in front of you as you turn is ***Betula jacquemontii***, also known as the Himalayan white birch, with exceptionally white peeling bark which is particularly noticeable at this time of the year. Its native range is the western Himalayas (Kashmir to central Nepal). Pollination is by wind, with the long male catkins remaining through winter to open in spring. The species name honours Victor Jacquemont (1801-1832) a French naturalist who collected Indian plant and animal specimens for the Jardin des Plants.

At the next turn of the path, on the left, ***Osmanthus delavayii* (M) is** in the family Oleaceae, a fragrant shrub native to Southern China where it is an ingredient in Jasmine tea. In 1890 a missionary, Fr Delavay, took seed back to France. Only one germinated but thousands of plants were cloned from this and sent to gardens all over Europe.

Descending past the toilet block, on the right are three unusual conifers. The first two ***Pinus thunbergii* (N)** are ornamental cultivars of the **Japanese black pine**, and named for Carl Thunberg, a student of Linnaeus, who is credited as the "father of South African botany", the "pioneer of Occidental Medicine in Japan" and the "Japanese Linnaeus". Because of its resistance to pollution and salt, it is a popular horticultural tree. In Japan it is widely used as a garden tree both trained as 'Niwaki' and untrained growing as an over-storey tree. The trunks and branches are trained from a young age to be elegant and interesting to view. It is one of the classic bonsai subjects, requiring great patience over many years to train properly.

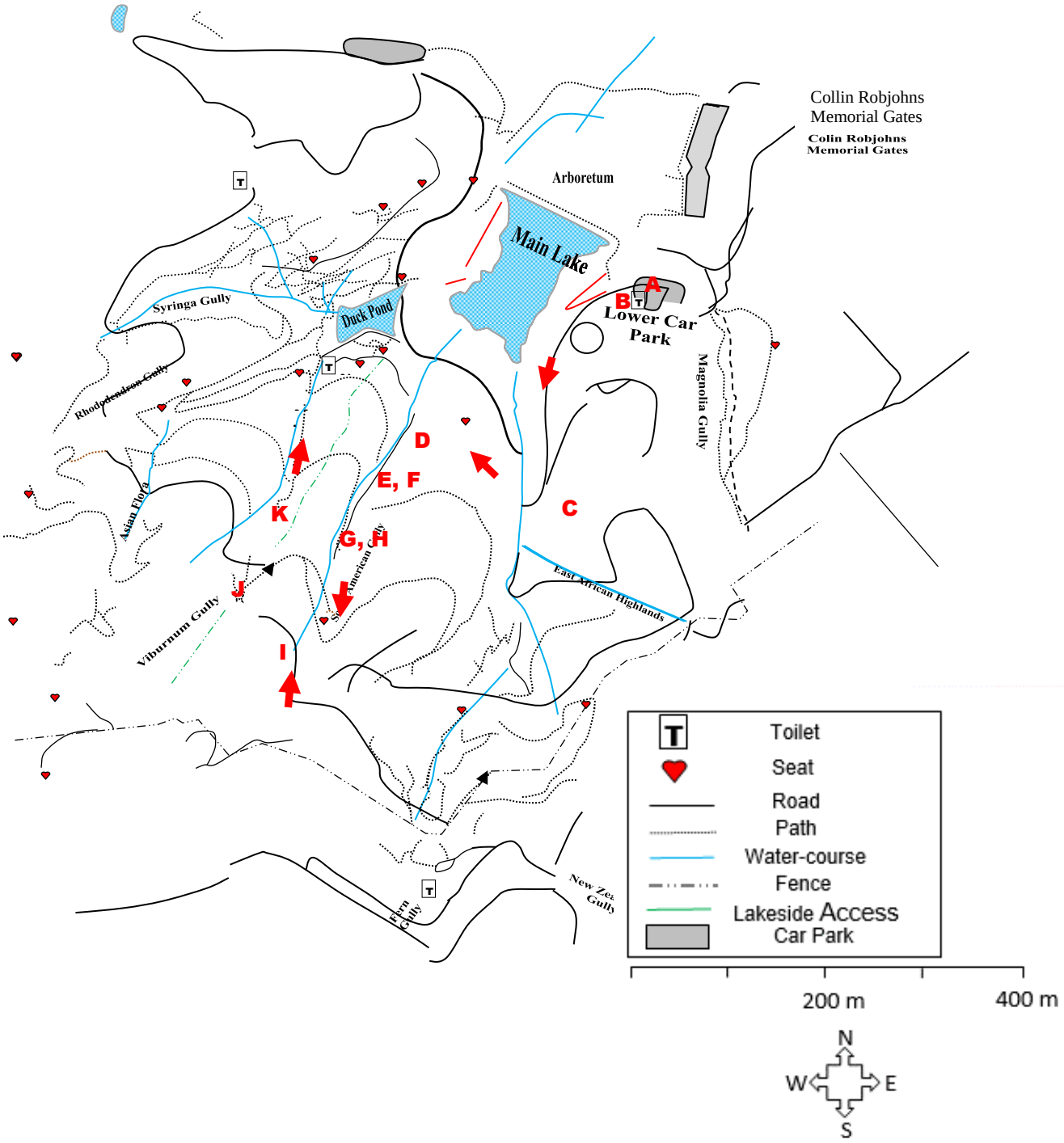
The third is ***Pinus strobus* 'Contorta'**, an American species known commonly as a white pine. It is known as the "Weymouth pine" in the United Kingdom, after Captain George Weymouth of the British Royal Navy, who brought its seeds to England from Maine in 1605. During the age of square riggers, tall white pines with high quality wood in the Thirteen Colonies were known as "mast pines". Marked by agents of the Crown with the broad arrow, these were reserved for the British Royal Navy.

Returning to the lower road your choice is either left or right to return to the Car Park.

BD, HK, RH, MD, LE, BF, GB, JH, HM 06-20

This leaflet has been prepared by the Garden Guides and funded by the Friends of the Botanic Gardens of Adelaide Inc.

For information about the Friends and/or guided walks, please telephone 8222 9367


Collin Robjohns
Memorial Gates
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Arboretum
Main Lake
Duck Pond
Syringa Gully
Rhododendron Gully
Asian Flora
Lower Car
Park
Magnolia Gully
A
B
C
D
E, F
G, H
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American Gully
Viburnum Gully
East African Highlands
Fern Gully
New Zea
Gully
Toilet
Seat
Road
Path
Water-course
Fence
Lakeside Access
Car Park
200 m
400 m
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