



Xerochrysum bracteatum – Golden Everlasting Daisies (23)

Continue along the Lagoons pathway to the Gymnosperm Deck (15)

The deck is a great opportunity to try your hand at some bird spotting on the lagoons with some assistance from the bird identification sign. How many can you find from the sign?



Bowenia spectabilis - Cycad (15)

At the end of the timber deck keep walking until you reach a zigzag pathway which leads you up through a range of cycad species. On your left is *Bowenia spectabilis*, a pretty rainforest cycad species which grows close to streams and on sheltered slopes. Note the imprints of many cycad fronds in the pathway beneath the majestic *Araucaria cunninghamii* – Hoop Pines.



Macrozamia miquelii female cone

Various cycads and native macrozamia grow in between. The fenced area on your right protects *Macrozamia miquelii* which is endemic to Australia.



Commersonia bartramia – Brown Kurrajongs in flower

The large trees above are *Commersonia bartramia* – Brown Kurrajongs. They are a fast-growing tree and their branches are layered with white flowers in December. Turn left at the intersection onto...

Palm Walk (16)

Here you will find a variety of native and exotic palms. This garden has a number of plant species which are members of the ginger family and relatives such as *Heliconia* and *Costus* species. Can you spot any interesting flowers?

Turn left towards the...



Zingiber spectabile – Palm Walk (16)



Cordyline manners-suttoniae - Giant Palm Lily

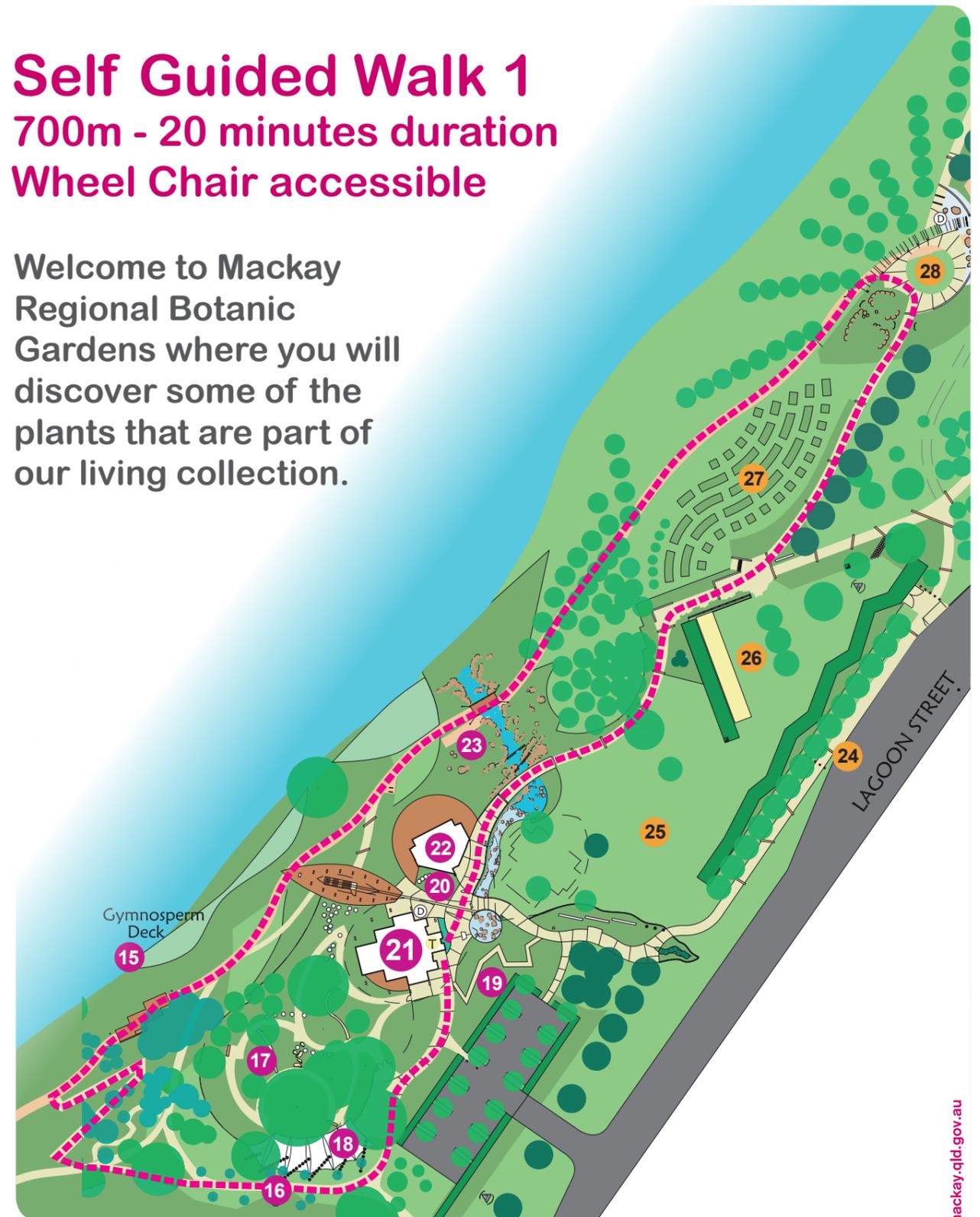
Gardens Administration (21)

On your right are the giant *Cordyline manners-suttoniae* (Giant Palm Lily) which are found only in Queensland and have attractive white flowers and bright red fruits. The hedges along here are popular with many butterfly species, including the Ulysses and Green Triangle. Can you spot any butterflies along here?

You have completed your walk. We hope you have enjoyed exploring some of the plants of the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens.

Self Guided Walk 1
700m - 20 minutes duration
Wheel Chair accessible

Welcome to Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens where you will discover some of the plants that are part of our living collection.





Brachychiton compactus – Whitsunday Bottle Tree

Start at Gardens Administration (21)

You are standing in front of the *Brachychiton compactus* (Whitsunday Bottle Tree) an iconic species found in rocky rainforests in the Whitsundays. It gets its bottle-like shape as it ages between five and eight years and can grow to around 20m in height. This is certainly a feature tree for any garden.

Walk to the Botanic Gardens Cafe (22)

Look up at the roof structures on the buildings, which direct rain water into the **Leaping Jets Fountain**. It's certainly a sight to see in wet weather! The periodic jet water is pumped from the Lagoons below and flows back into them.



Leaping Jets Fountain (22)

The Eungella Cloud Garden (20)

Next to the Café displays stunning rainforest epiphytes that can be found around Eungella. Can you see *Hoya australis* – Common Waxflower, growing up the fence just as it would in the wild? It has pretty, white flowers arranged in clusters of up to 40 flowers.



Hoya australis – Common Waxflower (20)

At the Café, take a moment to orientate yourself with the Gardens' layout, stretching along both sides of Kaliguil and Eulamere Lagoons.

The map shown on the wall is divided into five sections, the five precincts on the eastern side of the Lagoons. The sixth is west - Meadowlands, across the Lagoons from here. Precinct names are those from early properties in the local area. Each precinct is coloured differently, which is reflected in its facilities to assist with orientation as you walk through the Gardens. The numbers used in this walk reflect the numbers featured on this Gardens map.

Follow the path across the bridge to the...



Archontophoenix alexandrae - Alexandra Palms (23)

Finch Hatton Waterway (23)

It is inspired by one of the headwaters of the Pioneer River. The plants in this garden are like the ones you would find in the rainforests of Finch Hatton Gorge and its waterfalls. Look up to see the *Archontophoenix alexandrae* - Alexandra Palms - and the *Cyathea cooperi* - Scaly Tree Ferns.



Cyathea cooperii - Scaly Tree Ferns (23)

The lawn to your right is the Tropical Sun Lawn (25).

There are a number of different trees planted here which are local species of the Central Queensland Coast Bioregion, such as the *Eucalyptus raveretiana* - Black Ironbox, which is listed as vulnerable. Continue on to the...



Eucalyptus raveretiana - Black Ironbox (25)



Plumbago auriculata – Plumbago (26)

Mediterranean Malta Garden (26).

The garden was created in recognition of Mackay's Maltese community. Did you know that the Mackay region has the largest Maltese population in a regional centre outside of Malta. The plants growing in front of the arches are the *Adenium obesum* - Desert Rose - from Africa and the Arabian Peninsula, and *Plumbago auriculata* – Plumbago, from South Africa. Take a closer look at the Plumbago – can you see the small Plumbago Blue butterflies fluttering around it? Continue on the left path to the...

Screens and Hedges Garden (27)

This is where we trial plants that could be used in local gardens.

Take the time to find out what species are being trialled here. Continue to walk along the path until you reach an intersection.

Sister City Garden (28)

Take the time to read the signage and turn left onto the bottom pathway with the Lagoons on your right. Immediately on your left is the **World Cycad Garden**. Cycads are fascinating ancient plants that co-existed with dinosaurs and covered large areas of the Earth's surface some 200 million years ago, before flowering plants evolved. They are gymnosperms (cone bearing plants) that grow in sand or rock.



Cycas wadei - close up (28)

Cycads are dioecious – they have separate male and female plants. The female plant produces the seeds, the male produces cones filled with pollen. Two cycads that stand out in the gardens are *Cycas wadei*, the big female cycad just before the little waterway and beyond it, several *Dioon spinulosum* - Giant Dion.

On your right, you will notice a row of *Brachychiton acerifolius* - Flame Trees - that look spectacular when they bear their red flowers.



Brachychiton acerifolius - Flame Trees (28)

Keep walking until you reach the shady, lower part of Finch Hatton Waterways (23).

On your right, just before the bridge is the iconic *Nauclea orientalis* - Leichardt Tree. From November to December it has distinctive yellow flowers that resemble spiky round baubles that soon produce an edible fruit after flowering.



Nauclea orientalis - Leichardt Tree in flower (23)

Continue alongside the Lagoons where you will walk past a beautiful display of *Xerochrysum bracteatum* – Golden Everlasting Daisies – which create a sea of gold when in flower.