

Welcome to the Tree Trail at Centennial Parklands

Celebrate the remarkable world of trees through this trail. Trees not only provide: oxygen, food, medicine, shade, timber and critical habitat, they ensure life on Earth. They are also some of the oldest living things and are a fun to climb and admire.

Use this map and follow the trail to discover the wonderful world of trees at Centennial Parklands. There are 12 trees to locate. You will find old trees, ancient dinosaur species, food trees, habitat trees, historical trees, as well as native, exotic and invasive species.

Each tree is identified by a coloured ribbon around its trunk. There is a task for you to do at each tree.

Allow approximately 1 hour - 1.5 hrs. (depending on your speed)

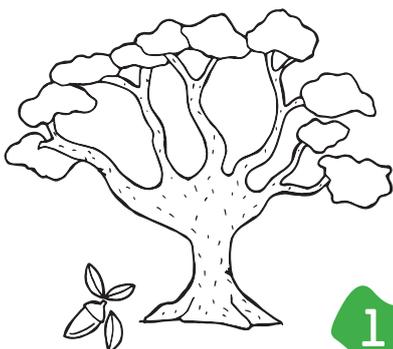
Watch for cars and cyclist when crossing Dickens Drive. The trail will take you around Lachlan Swamp in the inner circle of Centennial Parklands.

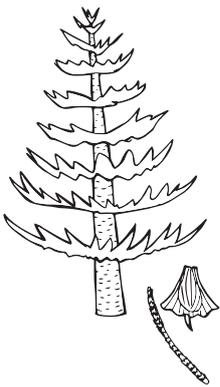
What you will need:

- Hat
- Paper (for bark rubbings)
- Water
- Sense of adventure
- Pencil or crayon

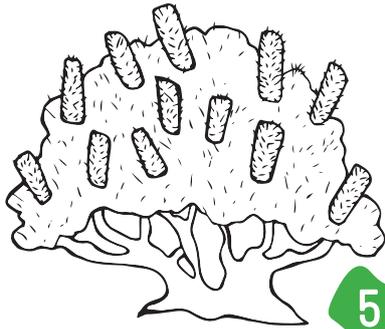
Acknowledgment of Country

We at Centennial Parklands would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians the of this land as the Gadigal and the Bidjigal people and we pay our respects to their elders past, present and future.





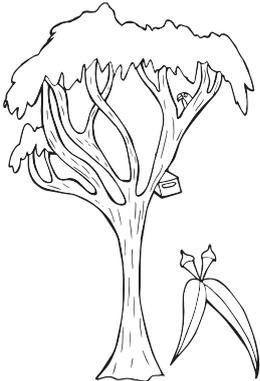
4



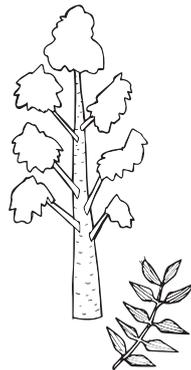
5



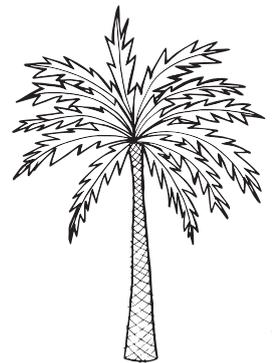
6



7



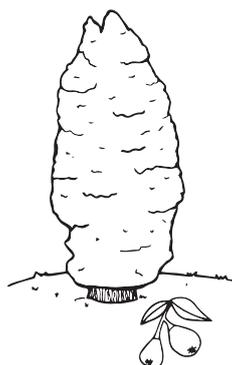
8



9



10

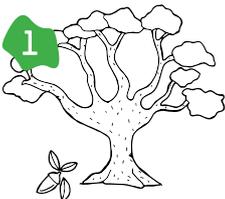


11



12

TREE TRAIL QUEST CLUES



Holm Oak Tree | *Quercus ilex*

Quest: Have you heard the story of Chicken Little who sat under a tree like this and got hit on the head by an acorn and thought the sky was falling? Find that type of tree. Find a tree with its own seeds that wears a little hat. Do you know what this seed is called?

Task: How many acorns can you find on the ground? Taking a sample, how many acorns have their caps still on and how many acorns are separated from their caps? Can you work out this percentage by making piles on the ground?

Trees that produce acorns are all oak trees, the acorn caps are fun to pull off the seed. These trees are native to the Mediterranean but were planted in the Parklands for their beauty and their tolerance for sandy soils. Although this tree is exotic in Australia, it has not become invasive (like the Canary Palm). The leaf shape is variable. How many different shaped leaves can you find?



Morton Bay Fig | *Ficus macrophylla*

Quest: Find a tree with long buttress roots on the ground. Does the shape of this tree remind you of something, perhaps an animal? If you were to give this tree a name, what would you call it?

Task: The botanical name 'macrophylla' is ancient Greek for large leaf. The leaf appearance is what botanists call 'discolourous'. To discover what this means, inspect a leaf; what colour is the upper and lower side? There is also an important difference in the texture of both sides, why do you think it is different, why the different colours and textures?

This tree a strangler fig: the seedling germinates in the canopy of a host tree, and when its roots reach the ground, it strangles the host tree, which dies. The large buttress roots, make amazing shapes and are very shallowly rooted in the ground. They help support the tree. Buttress roots are typical in nutrient poor rainforest soils. Morton Bay Figs were planted in the Parklands and although native to Australia, would not have been found here naturally.



Faraway Tree / Port Jackson Fig *Ficus rubiginosa* / *Damun* in Darug language

Quest: Find a dark green leaved canopy created by a large fig tree. Enter through the foliage.

Task: Be very quiet in the 'Faraway Tree'. Why is a box up in the tree? Who do you see living here?

The box in the tree is a nesting box for a brushtail possum. These animals normally live in tree hollows. The Port Jackson fig also has buttressed roots that enable it to grow naturally in rock crevices and cliff faces. The little fig wasp is the only pollinator of fig trees and it can only reproduce in the fruits of the fig. So, both fig tree and the fig wasp need each other to survive. The fig fruits are eaten by birds and bats. This tree would have been planted around the early 1900's, so it's around 120 years old. Can you imagine this huge tree as a little bonsai plant? They also make good bonsai's.

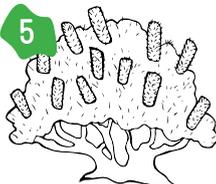


Norfolk Island Pine | *Araucaria heterophylla*

Quest: Find a tree that would make a giant Christmas tree.

Task: Can you find the tree's actual leaves? Their leaves are like dragon scales and are small in young trees and larger old trees.

This is a tree remnant of the time of the dinosaurs and is native to Norfolk Island. When Captain Cook landed on Norfolk Island in 1774, he noted the presence of its large pine forests. The nut-like seeds are edible. Young Norfolk Pines are used as pot plant Christmas trees and are grown around the world today. You can see them all along our most iconic Sydney beaches like Manly and Bondi.

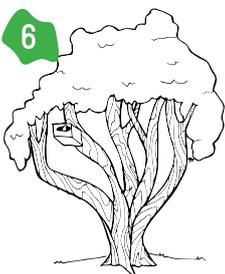


Hairpin Banksia | *Banksia spinulosa*

Quest: This small tree has a unique flower, when young it can make a sweet drink from its nectar and when old it could be used as a hairbrush.

Task: Describe the shape of the Banksia leaves? Are they odd/ even, smooth or spikey, fat or thin? Why do you think they are shaped like this? To keep predators away / to conserve water, to capture the most sunlight.

Did you know that Eastern Sydney before white settlement was covered in Banksia Scrub? This vegetation community relies on wind swept sand dunes that covered most of this area before mass settlement. Sadly, now there are only a few remnants left and it is considered an Endangered Ecological Community. Banksia's provide honey-like nectar important for insects, birds and marsupials and made a sweet drink for Aboriginal people.



Broad-leaved Paperbark | *Melaleuca quinquenervia*

Quest: Find a tree with soft papery bark that houses a nesting box for a Wood Duck.

Task: Feel the bark of this tree. Describe how it feels Find a leaf on the ground; which way does it fold in half symmetrically? Crush the leaf and smell it, what does it remind you of?

These paperbark trees grow in swamps, like Centennial Parklands. The flowers here provide nectar for our flying fox colony. Aboriginal people made a tea from the young leaves to help colds and headaches. The soft bark would be used to provide a soft liner for coolamons (carrying dish), cladding for shelters and wrapping foods for baking. These trees were planted by the horticulture team under the direction of the Royal Botanical Gardens in the early 1900's, as the Director considered them very beautiful.

TREE TRAIL QUEST CLUES



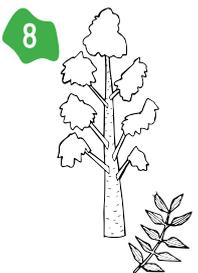
Swamp Mahogany | *Eucalyptus robusta*

Quest: Find a gum tree that has a nesting box for Eastern Rosellas to make their home in.

Task: Place paper onto the bark and take a bark rubbing. Describe how the bark feels? Find a leaf on the ground. Examine it. Have any little creatures, such as insects made their homes on this leaf or taken a bite? Now crush it and smell it.

Eucalyptus trees are part of the Myrtaceae family, which includes: Paperbarks, lilly pilly and tea-trees. Myrtaceae is a latin word for "many stamens" which describes the fuzzy flowers. These trees grow in swampy areas. Many animals use these tall canopy trees as habitat. Marsupials and birds need tree hollows to make their homes. However, trees need to be very old to develop hollows. In the meantime, the Parklands put up nesting boxes to help animals such as the crimson rosella, wood duck and bushtail possum.

If you see a tree hollow in your school or home, or elsewhere, we need your help in registering it at 'Hollows as Homes'. www.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/hollows-as-homes/hollows-as-homes



Kauri Pine | *Agathis robusta*

Quest: Find a tree whose ancestors were around in the Jurassic era when dinosaurs roamed the Earth.

Task: Place paper onto the bark and take a bark rubbing. Find a leaf on the ground and examine it. What is different to the leaves you have seen today?

Look up. Can you see the tough, leathery dark green leaves of the Kauri Pine? They are conifers, which is an ancient type of tree that have cones and not flowers. Conifers evolved before flowers did. These types of trees were around in the days of the dinosaurs and once covered the giant land mass known as Gondwana. These trees are native to eastern Queensland and were planted 17 years ago to replace the Canary Island Palms that became invasive.



Canary Palm | *Phoenix canariensis*

Quest: Are you tired of winter? Find a tree that reminds you of a tropical paradise?

Task: Look up and down on the ground. Can you see the fruit that this tree provides? It is a date tree. What animals would like to eat this fruit?

These trees are native to the Canary Islands, off the coast of Spain and Africa. They have been planted as ornamental landscaping trees. Unfortunately, this species has become invasive. This means that they spread and grow everywhere and take over our native plant habitat. Bats like to eat their fruit and baby Canary Palms are popping up all over Lachlan Swamp and elsewhere in the Parklands. Can you find any? There is a small one growing near the jetty on Duck Pond.

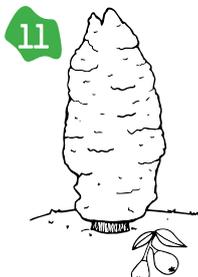


Broad-leaved Paperbark | *Melaleuca quinquenervia*

Quest: Look up and find a paperbark tree that is home to grey headed flying-foxes on the edge of Lachlan Wetland.

Task: Can you identify what the bats on this tree are doing? Are they: 1) Sleeping quietly; 2) scratching; 3) fanning themselves; 4) squabbling with other bats over territory; 5) sounding an alarm call; 6) flying away because they have been disturbed; or 7) doing something else?

High up in the branches of this paperbark tree grey-headed flying foxes roost here in the day. They are nocturnal and fly out on dusk to find food. They eat fruit, pollen and nectar. They are very important in the environment as they pollinate many trees, making new trees grow. Bats are mammals, just like you, but they are the only mammal that can fly. These bats a threatened species, they and their habitat trees need extra looking after. Can you see any other little creatures that live in this tree? Do you notice the little insect holes in the bark or spider webs?



Lilly Pilly | *Syzygium francisii*

Quest: Find a lonesome tree that looks a bit unusual here in the parklands, but would feel at home in the rainforest.

Task: Lilly Pilly is fun to say, do you know what language it is?

Lilly Pilly's are a native rainforest tree with fleshy pink coloured fruits, when in season. The fruits are edible bush tucker and you can make jam from the berries. The fruit is also food for birds, bats and possums. At certain times of the year the leaves can range from pink to a dark green. Lilly Pilly is in the same plant family to Eucalyptus (called Myrtaceae), and their flowers look very similar to a gum tree. Lilly Pilly's were taken back to England by Sir Joseph Banks in 1790 and planted in Kew Gardens.



Swamp Casuarina | *Casuarina glauca*

Gadigal name – Guman

Quest: Listen quietly; find a tree you can hear when the wind blows through its needles.

Task: Find some needles on the ground. Pull the segments of the needle apart. Can you see the tiny leaves around each segment you have pulled apart? The leaves are just tiny scales.

A native tree to the area, it is not a pine tree but it looks similar to one. These trees don't like other types of plants (or species) growing underneath them. They emit a chemical in their leaves that stop other plants growing in soil under their needles (this is called allelopathy). Black Cockatoos love to eat the seeds of the casuarina. Sometimes these trees are called she-oaks as they have different sexes, male and female, which sex has the seed, which one has the pollen?