



The walk for these first two months of an Adelaide summer begins near a water feature much-loved by children floating leaves along the central rill of the Mediterranean Garden, takes in the sacred lotus in the Nelumbo Pond, the lily pond (*Nymphaea* spp.) at the centre of the Sunken Garden and ends near another – The Cascade by Sergio Redegalli

See over page for map

*An Australian native

- *1 SA Water Mediterranean Garden** Mediterranean basin, California, Chile, South Africa, WA
Established in 2006 during water restrictions in Adelaide, the initial focus in this central area was on plants with low water demands from areas around the world with a mediterranean climate (see above). You can still find some of the original colour-coded labels on species from those five areas, but the list has recently been expanded to include suitable plants from many other areas. Cultivars of (a) *Eucalyptus pulverulenta* from the Blue Mountains, and (b) *Poa labillardieri* a grass from SE Australia, are just two examples of the work on rejuvenation which might inspire choices for your own gardens in a changing climate.
- *2 Araucaria Avenue** Southern conifers (South America) New Caledonia, Australia, PNG
A statue of the 'Nymph and Amalthea' of Greek legend marks the start of this avenue of tall, southern hemisphere conifers. The 1868 plantings at the western end are New Caledonian and Norfolk Island pines from the family Araucariaceae. About halfway along, at the beginning of later extensions, is a single Klink's pine from PNG with unusual reddish-maroon, peeling bark. Other nearby species include bunya and hoop pines from Australia. All are species of *Araucaria*, none of them are pines (see *Pinus brutia* at station 7)
- *3 Nelumbo Pond**
The large leaves and beautiful pink flowers (or later, north-facing seed heads) of sacred lotus (*Nelumbo nucifera*) provide an impressive annual display around the cast iron 'Boy and Swan' statue (Coalbrookdale, 1904) and, this year, Dale Chihuly's polyvitro 'Blue Crystal Tower'. Sacred lotus has flowers which maintain a temperature well above ambient (suitable for its insect pollinators), as well as hydrophobic, self-cleaning leaf surfaces that shed water droplets (spectacularly), along with any dirt which might clog the pores.
- *4 Francis Lawns** A mix of exotic and native trees
South of the Nelumbo pond are the Francis Lawns named for our first director, George Francis. This park-like layout, one of the early developments in the Garden, was popular with early colonists in the 1850's and still survives. Amongst some large native species eg *Melaleuca bracteata* and *Flindersia australis* you can find the cork oak (*Quercus suber*) from the mediterranean basin. Behind the bench seat on the southern margin of the lawns is an outstanding specimen of *Toona ciliata* (red 'cedar') which was a highly-valued timber species in early colonial times in eastern Australia, but is now commercially unviable in Australia.
- *5 Acacia cyperophylla** Creepline minniritchi All mainland states
Creepline minniritchi is a large shrub or small tree with long, graceful phyllodes and rusty-red, hair-like 'minniritchi' bark, which splits both horizontally and vertically, peeling in small, tight, persistent curls. Like most Australian acacias, this one has modified leaf stalks (phyllodes) instead of leaves, and is well adapted to the conditions in arid areas of inland Australia where it often grows along seasonally dry water courses.
- 6 Pistacia atlantica** (not labelled) Atlas or wild pistachio Iranian plateau to North Africa
Two subspecies of *Pistacia atlantica* are listed in this part of the garden, a large *P. atlantica* ssp. *kurdica* overhanging the path, and the much smaller *P. atlantica* ssp. *mutica*, heavily laden with fruit, behind. For centuries an economically important tree species in Iran, it is also used as rootstocks for the commercial pistachio (*Pistacia vera*). A row of *P. vera* 'Sirora' (including 2 males) developed in 1990 for Australian conditions can be found along the south wall of the Herbarium (6a). In both species, the females produce clusters of 'egg shaped' drupes, each with an oily seed (the culinary 'nut') enclosed in a white bony shell.
- 7 Pinus brutia** Turkish pine, Calabrian pine Primarily NE mediterranean
Near the top of Araucaria Avenue is a stand of true pines, conifers with long, needle-like leaves in bundles (fascicles) of two to five arising from short shoots along the branchlets. *Pinus brutia*, the most important large forest tree in the region, has needles in bundles of 2 or, rarely, 3. It was taken to Calabria (Brutium in Roman times) where it eventually became naturalized. The landmark 'Lone Pine' on the WW1 battle ground of Gallipoli, seeds from *P. brutia* and the closely-related Aleppo pine (*P. halapensis*) were taken to Australia and widely grown as living memorials of the Gallipoli campaign of 1915.
- 8 Aeonium arboreum 'Schwarzkopf' in the Sunken Garden** Black rose Cultivar
In the beds around the lily pond is a succulent shrub from the family Crassulaceae with dense rosettes of magnificent, shiny, purple-black leaves at the ends of the branches. The stronger the sunlight, the blacker the leaves according to one source. Some hints of the colour of these leaves can be seen in elements of Dale Chihuly's Ethereal Spring Persians, so whether by accident or design the Sunken Garden was an apt choice for this installation. When in flower, terminal pyramids of golden flowers attract butterflies and bees.
- 9 The Cascade** Artist: Sergio Redegalli 1988
This striking, beautiful sculpture was installed in 1989 to complement the Bicentennial Conservatory nearby. Originally commissioned for the Brisbane World Expo in 1988, it was donated to the Gardens by Pilkington Glass (Australia) with help from the Engineering and Water Supply Department (now SA Water). It is made from 500 pieces of 6mm float glass (molten glass floated on molten tin) held together by silicone.