

There are plenty of showy flowers still around at the beginning of summer, but the list below begins near the Lake with a small, unassuming cultivar grown mainly for its foliage and ends with an imposing South African silver tree upslope from the fallen SA blue gum at the bottom of the Terrace Beds.



See over page for map

*An Australian native

- *1 *Leucophyta brownii* 'Compacta'** Cushion bush Cultivar
 In the beds fronting the lake is a small cultivar, selected from a hardy shrub which grows along the coast of southern Australia from WA to northern Tasmania. Cushion bush is grown mainly for its silvery-white foliage consisting of an intricate network of slender stems and scale-like leaves covered in soft white hairs. From late spring to summer it produces tiny yellow, tubular flowers, grouped in globular heads with a creamy felted appearance. The heads appear silver when budding and grey-brown when fruiting.
- *2 *Eucalyptus caesia* 'Silver Princess'** Gungurra Cultivar
 The tall, slender *Eucalyptus caesia* in the middle of the bed opposite the viewing platform is flanked by two younger trees still with some of the large, heart-shaped juvenile leaves typical of both subspecies of *E. caesia*. Probably a selection from *E. caesia* subsp. *magna*, a drooping form of the species, the older tree has been growing here for at least three years, and already has its grey-green, lance-shaped adult leaves.
- 3 *Elegia capensis*** Horsetail restio, broom reed In or near mountain ranges of the Cape Province
Elegia capensis is a tall, dark-green, reed-like plant with large, papery sheaths along the stems, protecting whorls of young branchlets at each node, or flowerheads in the upper nodes. It survives the fires that sweep the fynbos regions by resprouting from underground rhizomes, producing flowering stems (culms) up to 3m tall. Heads of male and female flowers are on separate plants. It is grown as an ornamental, young stems with papery bracts are used in floral arrangements and feathery old stems are used as yard brooms.
- 4 *Cotyledon orbiculata*** Usually on rocky outcrops in fynbos and karoo regions, South Africa
 The thick grey leaves of this handsome succulent have a waxy bloom and often a red line along the margin. At home, flowering is mostly in winter except in the winter rainfall areas where, as in Wittunga, it often flowers in midsummer. Dusky-pink to apricot, tubular flowers hang from the top of a tall flower stalk, attracting bees and birds which feed on the nectar. The generic name is from the Greek kotyledon meaning 'cup-shaped hollow', a reference to the leaf shape of a species now placed in the genus *Umbilicus*.
- *5 A trio of eucalypts** Only one has a label With an
 On the approach to the gazebo near the billabong, on your left (a) is a coastal white mallee (***Eucalyptus diversifolia***). It has a large exposed lignotuber, and is another good illustration of the difference between juvenile and adult leaves. Compare the alternate leaves in the canopy with the regrowth from the lignotuber consisting of juvenile leaves in opposite pairs. This difference is the source of the epithet *diversifolia* in the species name. Across the path (b) is a mature individual of ***Eucalyptus caesia* subsp. *caesia*** (cf station 2). Normally in the list for its attractive pink flowers in winter/spring, but this time for its striking red-brown minniritchi bark shed in persistent longitudinal strips. A few metres closer to the gazebo (c) is a tall smooth-barked ***Eucalyptus microtheca*** (coolabah) from northern Australia (Kimberley's to Cape York). Closely-related to the coolabah of our unofficial anthem 'Waltzing Matilda' it grows along riverbanks and in the heavy soils of floodplains. The bark doesn't quite fit the description for *E. microtheca*, but these 'coolabahs' belong to a complex of species with adjoining distributions, showing intergradation in characteristics.
- *6 *Anigozanthos* spp.** Kangaroo paws South-western WA
 The tall kangaroo paws, with strappy leaves, scattered across the WA heath beds belong to *Anigozanthos*, a genus of 11 species varying in height of the flower-stalk and flower colour. The overall colour of the kangaroo paws here (mainly forms of *A. flavidus*) ranges from pale-green to various shades of red and bright golden-yellow, and is influenced by fine hairs covering the flowers and often part of the stalk. Pollination is by birds which perch on the stalks and transfer pollen when feeding on the nectar.
- 7 *Leonotis leonurus*** Lions tail, wild dagga South Africa
 Almost opposite a prominent rocket pincushion (*Leucospermum reflexum*) is a large shrub with aromatic leaves, and bright orange flowers (or later, dry seed heads) in tiered whorls around the nodes of the square stems typical of the mint family (Lamiaceae). In its native range it attracts sunbirds and butterflies, which can easily access the copious nectar at the bottom of the tubular flowers.
- 8 *Bowkeria gerrardiana* (now *B. verticillata*)** Natal shell flower South Africa
 Natal shell-flower is a large single or multi-stemmed shrub found in thick evergreen scrub along small watercourses in KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape. The glossy, white petals form an unusual pouch and have a sweet lemon scent. In its native habitat it is pollinated by a specialist bee which collects oil from glandular hairs lining the inside of the pouch to feed to its larvae.
- 9 *Leucadendron argenteum*** Silver tree South Africa
 The silvery appearance of this attractive leucadendron, most pronounced in hot dry weather, is due to reflection from thousands of soft, silky hairs which cover both leaf surfaces. They grow in dense stands on the slopes of Table Mountain above Kirstenbosch National Botanic Gardens, but unprotected areas are threatened by urban sprawl, habitat loss, seed predation, inappropriate fire regimes, weeds and the root rot fungus *Phytophthora*. It is fast-growing and relatively short-lived, rarely exceeding 20 years.