



## Topic 1: INTRODUCTION

### INTRODUCTION TO THE WALKS AND TALKS PROGRAM AT KU-RING-GAI WILDFLOWER GARDEN

#### Did you know that,

- Entry to Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden is free.
- While Australian native plants are generally unique in regard to their species - and sometimes their genus - members of the plant family to which they belong are found worldwide.
- The Australian landscape is dominated by members of just a few plant families - amongst them *Myrtaceae* (which includes the eucalypts) and *Mimosaceae* (wattles).

#### Some Significant Dates and Facts:

##### Concerning Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden -

Pre-European Settlement - Undoubtedly an aboriginal track existed along the present line of Mona Vale Road.

1805 - The botanist and explorer, George Cayley, passed through the area and noted its great beauty.

1934 - The site of KWG is set aside as a Reserve for Public Recreation

1961 - Some Ku-ring-gai aldermen and members of the Society For Growing Australian Plants (now called the Australian Plants Society) form a group to plan a "native garden" on the KWG site.

Tracks through the site are established.



old  
35mm  
transparencies



1968 - The Garden is opened by Sir Roden Cutler.

##### Concerning the North Shore Branch of the Australian Plants Society (APS) -

Members meet monthly (8pm on second Fridays) in the Willow Park Community Centre, Edgeworth David Avenue, Hornsby.

As well as being involved in the initial establishment of KWG members of APS have, over the years, had a close association with Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden - creating a fernhouse, organizing an annual wildflower festival, forming a bushcare group to help maintain the native plants in the garden, propagating native plants for sale and regeneration, maintaining a stand that displays native plants currently flowering ..... and organizing and running the Walks and Talks programme.

## Concerning the Walks and Talks Programme –

The programme is a series of weekly meetings during school term times from 10am to 12 noon. Each week there is a talk on one of the native plant families (or on some related background topic) followed by a stroll through the garden to illustrate the subject matter of the talk. As far as possible the sessions are “hands on” – participants examine actual samples of plants being discussed.



Volunteers from the programme maintain the stand that displays native plants currently in flower.



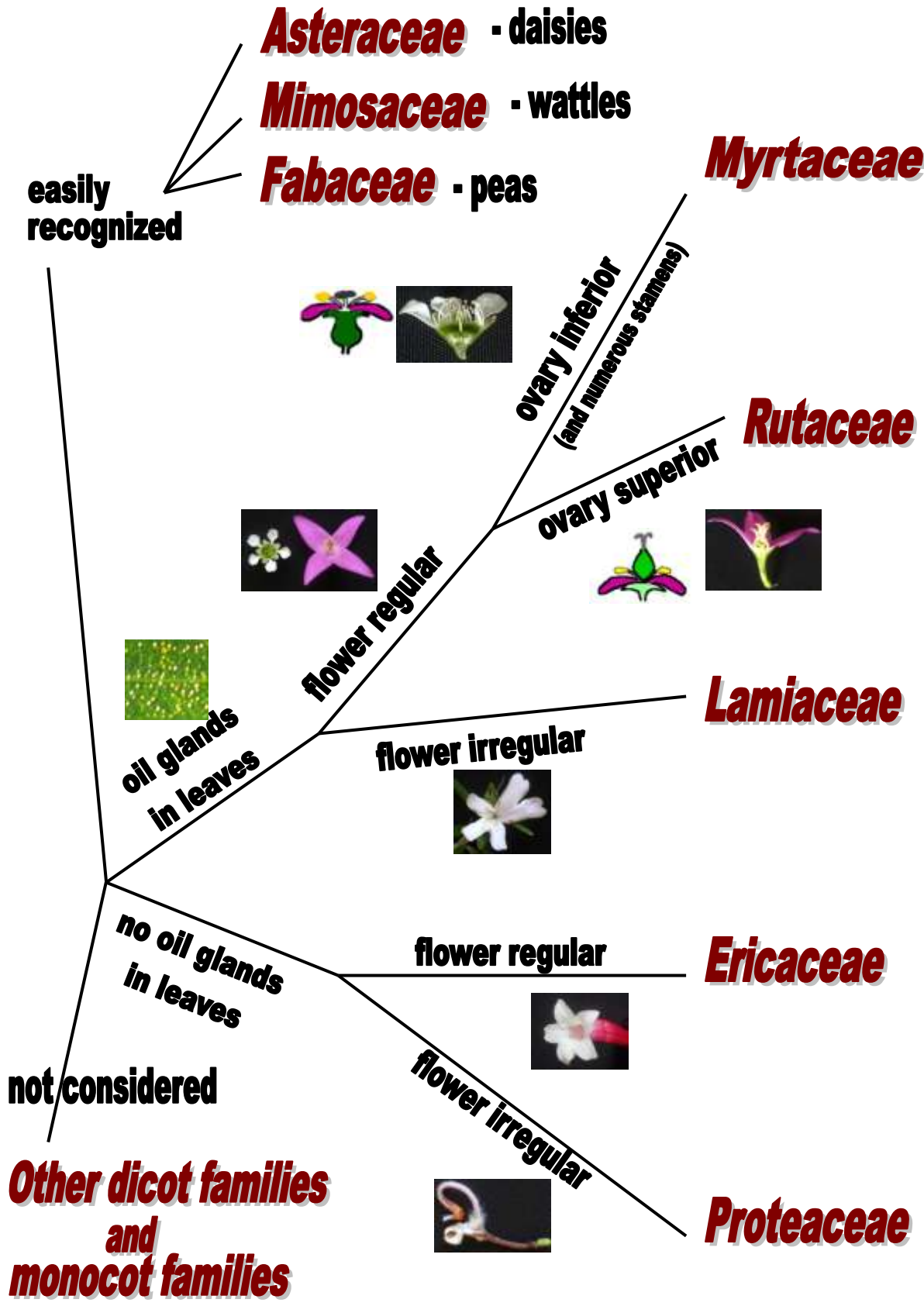
Presently, steps are being taken to make the programme available to a wider audience. Grants of \$15000 have been sought and obtained to provide:

- a large interpretive sign at the Education Centre,
- signage for representative plants along the walking tracks,
- a database of plants in the garden,
- the placing of course notes on the internet,
- production of maps showing locations of representative plants in the garden.

Locations of plants in the *Fabaceae* family (the peas) in the garden



# Identification of Native Plant Families



## Notes about the above scheme.

1. The scheme is rather simplistic. To correctly place plants into their families other characteristics often need to be considered. Although *Westringia fruticosa*, for example, does not show significant oil glands it has a flower shape (2-lipped petals) characteristic of the family *Lamiaceae* and is placed there; and although *Persoonia* species have regular – not irregular - shaped flowers they have a flower structure characteristic of the family *Proteaceae* (sepals and petals combined into a so-called 'perianth') and are placed there. There are many such anomalies.

Despite its shortcomings the scheme can provide a good first approach to plant identification.

2. Other dicot families are not considered in the scheme. Some commonly occurring plants in these families are as follows:

<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Family</b>
<i>Actinotus helianthi</i>	Flannel Flowers	<i>Apiaceae</i>
<i>Actinotus minor</i>	Lesser Flannel Flower	<i>Apiaceae</i>
<i>Platysace linearifolia</i>	Narrow-leaf Platysace	<i>Apiaceae</i>
<i>Allocasuarina</i>	She-oak	<i>Casuarinaceae</i>
<i>Bauera rubioides</i>	Dog Rose	<i>Cunoniaceae</i>
<i>Ceratopetalum gummiferum</i>	Christmas Bush	<i>Cunoniaceae</i>
<i>Hibbertia species</i>		<i>Dilleniaceae</i>
<i>Dampiera stricta</i>		<i>Goodeniaceae</i>
<i>Scaevola ramosissima</i>	Fan-flower	<i>Goodeniaceae</i>
<i>Pittosporum undulatum</i>		<i>Pittosporaceae</i>
<i>Pomaderris intermedia</i>		<i>Rhamnaceae</i>
<i>Dodonaea triquetra</i>	Hop Bush	<i>Sapindaceae</i>
<i>Stylidium graminifolium</i>	Trigger Plant	<i>Stylidiaceae</i>
<i>Pimelia linifolia</i>		<i>Thymelaeaceae</i>
<i>Tetralochea ericifolia</i>		<i>Tremandraceae</i>

3. Monocots are not considered in the scheme. Monocots as a group are distinguished by having flowers with only 3 petals (Dicots have 4 or 5 petals). Some monocots belong to clearly distinguishable families such as grasses, orchids, reeds, etc.

## References

- 'Sydney Sandstone Flora' by Tony Edmonds and Joan Webb, NSW University Press
- 'Field Guide to the Native Plants of Sydney' by Les Robinson, Kangaroo Press
- 'Native Plants of the Sydney District' by A Fairley & P Moore, Kangaroo Press

## SUMMER FLOWERING PLANTS AT KU-RING-GAI WILDFLOWER GARDEN

Arranged by family in same order as in "Field Guide to the Native Plants of Sydney" by Les Robinson

### Family: *Myrtaceae*



*Corymbia gummifera*



*Leptospermum squarrosus*



*Leptospermum petersonii*

### Family: *Mimosaceae*



*Acacia parramattensis*



*Acacia linifolia*

### Family: *Fabaceae*



*Pultenaea tuberculata*



*Glycine clandestina*

### Family: *Proteaceae*



*Banksia serrata*



*Persoonia pinifolia*



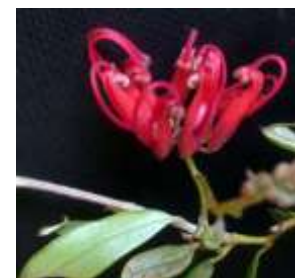
*Grevillea buxifolia*



*Lambertia formosa*



*Grevillea linearifolia*



*Grevillea speciosa*

**Family: Ericaceae**



*Woollsia pungens*



*Leucopogon juniperinus*



*Epacris longiflora*



*Epacris pulchella*

**Family: Rutaceae**



*Crowea saligna*

**OTHER FAMILIES**

**Family: Apiaceae**



*Actinotus helianthi*



*Actinotus minor*

**Family: Lamiaceae**



*Westringia fruticosa*

**Family: Sapindaceae**



*Dodonaea triquetra*

**Family: Commelinaceae**



*Commelina cyanea*



*Tradescantia albiflora* (a weed)