

# OAK TREE WALK

The Algerian Oak trees in the McKay Gardens provide a link between the past and the present. They were planted in 1909 and were part of the original design of the Gardens. Although the gardens have seen many changes in the 100 years these trees have existed, the trees remain as reminders of the historical significance and on-going cultural importance of the Gardens to the community.

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- 1.** The Bowling Green Lawn . **2.** Algerian Oak trees. The building behind the oaks is the Presbyterian Church manse. A bandstand originally stood here and bands played most weekends. **3.** Original cast iron gates. Chrysanthemums were once a regular feature along the length of this straight path. **4.** McKay Memorial rose gardens. Planted in the 1980s. **5.** Memorial mosaic donated by the Sunshine and District Historical Society in the 1990s. Created by local artists Libby McKinnon and Ronald Purdy. **6.** Algerian Oak tree. The remains of a blue stone path system date from the 1960s. **7.** Canary Island Palms. This species was prominent in the original design of the Gardens. A tennis court and glass houses once stood in this general area. **8.** Algerian Oak Tree. Across the Gardens from this point, you will see a young Norfolk Pine tree. Originally these trees were used to produce masts for sailing boats. The trees behind it are the Blue Spruce tree and a Spotted Gum where small native hawks sometimes nest. **9.** Magnolia tree. This tree was planted during the 1940s. **10.** The plant with the broad, banana-type leaves is a Strelitzia or giant Bird of Paradise plant. Nearby you can also see a Macadamia nut tree, from northern Australia, It is one of a number of fruit bearing trees in the Gardens. **11.** The path running along side the church has a Cedar tree and a number of old cypress trees, these trees featured prominently in the original design of the Gardens and live to a great age. **12** Algerian Oak tree. **13.** Flowering Peach tree. The garden bed is under-planted in Corsican hellebore, Salvias and old fashion red Geraniums **14.** The garden beds in this section contain Euryops, Iris, Catmint, Kniphofia and roses. This area once contained the gardener's cottage. **15.** The Bunya Pine. This tree was planted in 2009 as part of the Garden's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations by descendants of H.V. McKay.

The Bunya Pine is a large evergreen coniferous tree. A relative of the recently discovered Wollemi Pine, it has an ancient lineage. Notable for its distinctive thorny 'leaves' and interesting bark, it can grow up to 50 m and can live for more than 100 years. The Friends hope that the community is still appreciating the Gardens when this pine is 100 years old.