



THE KOI POOL
TO THE TERRACE

TREE FERNS TO
THE CUPOLA

THE STREAM
TO THE ARCH

SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE
TO SUCCULENTS

Lamorran House Gardens

A GUIDED WALK AROUND THE GARDEN

INTRODUCTION

Growth in the garden is virtually twelve months a year and advantage has been taken of the benign climate to plant a very diverse range of plants from all over the world with considerable emphasis on Southern Hemisphere plants and sub-tropical vegetation.

KOI POND TO WALLED GARDEN

On entering the garden via the driveway, the Koi pool can be seen over the waterfall. The pool is surrounded by various Chusan palms, *TRACHYCARPUS FORTUNEI* and *CHAMAEROPS HUMILIS*. In the rock face itself, at one end of the pool, *ABELIA FLORIBUNDA* shows off its long narrow cerise bells in due season and *ERIGERON MUCRONATUS* flowers throughout the year. A specimen of *PICEA ORIENTALIS* A UREA set in the lawn produces new growth of a bright yellow, which contrasts with the dark green of the adult foliage. A fine specimen of *CHAMAECYPARIS NOOTKATENSIS PENDULA* stands out from a carpet of evergreen azaleas.

From the lawn a path flanked by a bank of rhododendrons on both sides leads to the terrace passing *RH. COUNTESS OF HADDINGTON* which never fails to flower each year covering itself with white-flushed pink scented trumpets. A dozen *CITRUS* trees in vases give a clue to the warmth of the terrace where also to be found are *CALLISTENNON*

VIMINALIS, CITRUS in several other forms - SESBANIA PUNICEA on the house wall flowering in August through to November with pea shaped flowers of a soft vermillion - WISTERIA SINENSIS and several interesting palm trees including a large specimen of BUTIA CAPITATA a fern leafed palm from South Brazil and Uruguay and the silver leafed form of chamaerops, CHAMAEROPS cerifera. From the left hand corner of the terrace there is a fine view of the lighthouse seen through the garden and framed by two trees of ACACIA DEALBATA and EMBOTHRIMUM NORQUINCO VALLEY.

In 2004 the walled garden between the House and the Lodge was built, laid out in formal fashion. On one side wooden pillars supplement the walls as hosts for the many and various climbing plants. A considerable variety of jasmines, of which without doubt JASMINE POLYANTHUM is the most floriferous, have their home here, together with examples of MANDEVILLA, PHYROSTEGIA, PODRANEA, LONICERA, TECOMARIA, CLYSOSTOMA AND BOUGANVILLEA. Flowering for over four months. CLIANTHUS PUNICEUS dominates the early part of the year with its red crab claw flowers. Varieties of ACACIA and CEANOTHUS complement each other with their yellow and blue flowers. Later CALLISTEMMON VIMINALIS with its red hanging bottle-brush flowers with KUNZEA BAXTERI and examples of FUCHSIA BOLIVIANA AND FUCHSIA VENUSTA dominate. The main planting in the central beds are of varieties of CISTUS edged with the orange-flowering variety of GAZANIA.

Immediately under the terrace are extensive plantings of evergreen azaleas chosen for their various flowering seasons flowering in the kurume varieties from February, through to the varieties of indicum in late June. The first of the many PHOENIX CANARIENSIS and further examples of BUTIA species planted amid the azaleas and on the lawn, give a sub-tropical feel to this area adjacent to the house. One example of BUTIA YATAY given as a present to mark the birth of Ottavia one of the Dudley-Cooke's daughters, and brought from Italy has after 23 years now considerably outgrown her and came through the cold winter of 1987

unscathed despite scorching to some of the leaves of *TRACHYCARPUS FORTUNEI* generally considered a much hardier palm.

MYRTUS LUMA (now named *LUMA APICULATA*) flowers throughout the garden covering each tree or bush with a myriad of white flowers in July through to November contrasting with the small dark green leaves and the wonderful cinnamon coloured bark on the mature trees. It seeds so easily that it has become a weed in the garden. *AMOMYRTUS LUMA* produces its similar but slightly creamier flowers in spring but is not so prolific in producing its offspring.

TREE FERNS TO CUPOLA

Leaving the upper garden, a small stream is glimpsed through banks of *SATSUKI AZALEAS* flowering in May and June with their bicoloured flowers, no two flowers ever seeming the same on a bush. A large specimen of *CUPRESSUS SEMPERVIRENS SWAINS GOLD*, the golden form of one of the most planted trees in the Mediterranean *CUPRESSUS STRICTA*, leads the eye to a large specimen of *PHOENIX CANARIENSIS* under planted with *CHAMAEROPS HUMILIS* has proved a very difficult plant to establish in the garden. *CORDYLINE BAUERI* again a broader leafed form, but more freely branching, is a fine architectural plant. The smaller stubbier *CORDYLINE KASPAR* in the lower garden looks similar to *DRACEANA DRACO* and could be confused for the latter.

The path to the left leads to a small woodland where the source of the stream coming from a small grotto is found. Here are banks of *CAMELLIAS*, a fine specimen of *RH. YAKUSHIMANUM* abutting a large granite stepping stone through a pond planted on its margins by *PRIMULA JAPONICA* sending up their candelabra heads on long stems in May in colours ranging from white through to magenta. The large leaves of *RH. MACABEANUM* contrast well with the delicate leaves of *ACER SENKAKI* and the dark green leaves of *RH. ARBOREUM* 'Sir Charles

Lemon' with white flowers. Once over the bridge the path leads down steps to the temple where the visitor can look out over the lower garden out to the sea. Planted close-by are three *OLEA EUROPAEA* in close proximity to a group of *YUCCA ELEPHANTIPES*, the tree-growing *YUCCA*. Here is the rich scent of *JASMIN NITIDUM* and *POLYANTHUM* and the bright yellow flowers in season of *CAESALPINIA JAPONICA*.

Crossing the wooden bridge a sub-tropical grouping of the Canary Island date palm *PHOENIX CANARIENSIS*, *YUCCA ALOIFOLIA* and *CHAMAEROPS HUMILIS* testify to the warmth in this part of the garden before the visitor enters the woodland walk dominated by a large group of tree ferns *CYATHEAS DEALBATA*, *AUSTRALIS SMITHII*, the black stemmed *MEDULARIS*, *DICKSONIA ANTARCTICA* and *DICKSONIA SQUARROSA* and *FIBROSA*. The close planting of the many tree ferns mimic their natural growing conditions in the native New Zealand. Here too amid rhododendrons and azaleas, *Embothrium* flourishes and as yet immature plantings of the palms *ARECASTRUM ROMANZOFFIANUM*, *SABAL BERMUDANA* and *WASHINGTONIA FILIFERA*.

Two famous Cornish rhododendron hybrids flower here too, *RH. CORNISH CROSS* and *RH. PENJERRICK*. At the bottom of the woodland a small pool plays host to further planting of *CYATHEAS* particularly *MEDULARIS* which dominates the formal waterfall and banks of blue hydrangeas in season and more groupings of palms. Past a small grotto the garden is laid out in Japanese style, underplanted with many rare varieties of evergreen azaleas and protected at one end by a large grouping of palms. The acers too show off their delicacy of leaf and shape, the varieties of *ACER PALMATUM DISSECTUM*, 'VIRIDIS' and *ATROPURPUREUM* to the fore. Close by the scented evergreen *AZALEA MUCRONATUM* 'B ULSTRODE' white with a speckled maroon centre delights both in flower and perfume in due season.

A gazebo allows the visitor some rest whilst taking in the sea views and this will lead to a small bridge crossing over a pathway heavily planted with Palms and evergreen azaleas.

THE STREAM TO THE ARCH

Proceeding down the garden through the steps over ~ stand sentry two large neo- classical urns, we come to Flavia's pond overhung by a large ACACIA DEALBATA and a grouping of TRACHYCARPUS FORTUNEI and CLIANTHUS PUNICEUS supported by a retaining stone wall, nearly always opening its flowers for the 1st January and flowering until April. To the right of the steps, MAGNOLIA GRANDIFLORA occasionally obliges with a flower or two underplanted by ABUTILION PICTUM whose red flowers throughout the year delight. Taking the path to the upper succulent bank we pass over the stream feeding Flavia's pond and pass under the upper temple. The stream here is overhung by PODOCARPUS SALIGNUS resembling a weeping willow more than a conifer and EUCALYPTUS NICHOLII a dainty leafed eucalyptus with white flowers. CRASSULA with its yellow flowers is supported in flower colour by the beautiful clear yellow flower of HIBBERTIA SCANDENS. On the bank GREVILLEA 'CANBERRA GEM' happily companions CALLISTEMMON 'PERTH PINK' one of many callistemmons in the garden, the largest plantings being of CALLISTEMMON CITRINUS SPLENDENS with its vivid red bottlebrush flowers. Many varieties of AEONIUM are to be found along with ECHEVERIAS and MESEMBRYANTHEMUMS of which LAMPRANTHUS AUREUS is a favourite, AGAVES and ALOES in variety also thrive here with the silver leafed form of CHAMAEROPS HUMILIS 'CERIFERA'.

Turning down the garden after the upper succulent bank, the pathway leads under HOHERIA SEXTYLOSA covered in a mass of star-shaped white flowers in July. Earlier in the year, normally in April, the yellow

pompom cushions of ACACIA PRAVISSIMA contrast with its angular foliage. Here are exclusive plantings of CALLISTEMMON, SOPHORA, and other Australian and New Zealand plants. From their midst under EUCALYPTUS GLOBULUS a bush of the Californian laurel FREMONTODENDRON CALIFORNICUM produces its waxy yellow flowers. On the other side of the descending path ACACIA FLORIBUNDA with its hanging yellow pinnacles and ACACIA MELANOXYLON with its paler flowers sit happily with the fine foliage of the small Chilean tree GEVUINA AVELLANA. Alongside replacing a temporary shelter hedge, a new planting includes CINNAMOMUM CAMPHORA and METROSIDEROS EXCELSA. Here too are further examples of EMBOTHRIUMS contrasted with the white flowered ABUTION VITIFOLIUM flowering also continuously throughout the year and another acacia, ACACIA RICEANA guaranteed to flower in profusion each February.

The pathways continuously divide giving a choice of routes down the garden. To the right a statue of the Rose Lady over which two musical cherubs stand sentry looks down the flight of steps to the archway opening onto the lower garden. The steps are flanked by Rhododendrons and camellias and in early spring the heady scent of SKIMMIA JAPONICA FRAGRANS fills the area. What useful evergreens the Skimmias are, even in deep shade forming a dense mass of bright evergreen leaves even forgetting the white scented flowers and later the red berries. Taking the path to the left leads past tree ferns and another good evergreen of similar habit to the Skimmias, RHAPHIOLEPIS INDICA and DELACOURII with their small pink and white flowers respectively. Fine specimens of PITTOSPORUM EUGENIOIDES untouched by anything the wind can throw stands along the path at yet another junction. A viewing circle out to sea backed by EUONYMUS JAPONICA AUREA screens off a small woodland of shelter planting principally of PINUS RADIATA and EUCALYPTUS on the inside of which two examples of the tender pine PINUS CANARIENSIS nestle happily.

Under the large PINUS NIGRA a 'marquis' bed has been planted on the dry soil beneath with PIS TACIA LENTISCUS, MYRTUS COMMUNIS, PHILLYREA ANGUSTIFOLIA ROSMARINIFOLIA and CISTUS ABLIDUS, CISTUS SALVIFOLIUS and MONSPELIENSIS. Continuing along the pathway we come to one of the most spectacular views in the garden, through the archway over the lower garden and sea to St. Anthony's Head. The flight of steps through the archway, the only straight line in the garden, finishes at the CYPERUS pool. Massed plantings of OSTEOSPERMUM edge the steps as elsewhere in the garden with palms standing as sentinels down the flight of steps. A massed planting of CHAMAEROPS HUMILIS under TRACHYCARPUS FORTUNEI are joined by PHOENIX and other palms.

One of the favoured plants of the garden, YUCCA ALOIFOLIA, in its variegated form originally brought back from Italy but now available commercially in the United Kingdom adds to the sub tropical effect.

On the archway itself HIBBERTIA ASPERA with its small pretty yellow rosettes flourishes with the climbing METROSIDEROS CARMINEA virtually covering the stonework. Several forms of the protea family are recent plantings most notable being the silver leafed LECADENDRON ARGENTEUM and various forms of BANKSIA and LEUCOSPERMUM. ARAUCARIA EREUSA from Norfolk Island seen very much at home here open to the elements.

SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE TO SUCCULENT

CEANOTHUS, too, are a feature of the garden, with many species and hybrids planted throughout from the tree flowering forms C. ARBOREUS TREWITHEM BLUE and the very beautiful C. CYANEUS with soft hanging pinnacles of a pure Wedgewood blue found in the bottom dell, to the ground covering prostrate forms. For sheer density of colour C. FOLIOS

US which covers itself with bright deep blue flowers in May stands out, and the hybrid *C. ITALIAN SKIES* always gives a good account of itself.

To the right of the archway *CASURINA EXQUISETIFOLIA* has now established itself. *Cistus*, in great variety, are to be found in various parts of the garden. *CISTUS SALVIFOLIUS* makes a splendid free flowing low mound. Slightly larger is *CISTUS OBTUSIFOLIA* and larger still *CISTUS MONSPELENSIS* make dense ground colour. Particular favourites of the garden are *CISTUS ALBIDUS* and *CISTUS TIUS* with their pale lilac colouring.

A bed of large evergreens, including *LITHOCARPUS EDULIS* is presided over by *PINUS PINEA* the umbrella pine of the Mediterranean. Further down the hillside is to be found *MICHELIA DOLTSOPA* a beautiful evergreen tree with cupped shaped white flowers in Spring resembling a magnolia underplanted with its relative, the diminutive *MICHELIA FIGO*, with small flowers of creamy maroon.

In late summer *EUCRYPHIA MOOREI* with small pinnate leaves and with flowers contrasts with *CASSIA CORYMBOSA* the deep canary yellow coloured cassia. *ACACIA EXETER HYBRID* and *ULCIFOLIA* and *ACACIA VERTICILLATA* of similar growth and habit flowers in Spring in an area where blues predominate with extensive plantings of *CEANO THUS* supported in flower colour by *OLEARIA STELLULATA*. A curving pathway, under a rustic arch, flanked by tall growing bamboos of the *PHYLLOSTACHYS* species leads to the bottom Jell. *DICKSONIA ANTARICA* dominate this area with its dry steam bed where slowly plantings of agapanthus are taking hold.

Retracing our steps, and taking the central pathway from the Cyperus Pond, we pass the succulent bank through which runs a small stream over large cobbled stones. Its source a small stone grotto over which a statue stands sentinel. Here are large agaves and aloes principally *AGAVE AMERICANA* and *CELSII*.

ALOE STRICTA flowers in early summer with its yellow red hot poker type flower preceded by ALOE ARBORESCENS with orange flowers. PUYA CHILENSIS and PUYA ALPESTRIS colonise the left bank of the stream. If ever there were impossible plants to get near, these must be in the front rank. YUCCA too in variety add to the exotic feel particularly YUCCA WHIPPLEI a small leaved viciously armed plant. Plantings particularly of the orange flowered LAMPFRANTHUS AUREUS contrast vividly with the mauve and purple forms, and with OSTEOSPERMUM of the same hue. Pride of place however must go to the silver palm BRAHMER ARMATA which has happily established itself next to the grotto.

The stream is crossed by a small Venetian styled bridge from which the visitor has an uninterrupted view out to sea leaning over the balustrade. A succession of small ponds traverse the rock garden below. A temple to the left of the bridge, flanked by the warm yellow ochre wall painted in trompe l'oeil style through which two gateways lead, gives a courtyard feeling to this part of the garden, and warns the visitor that the lowest part of the garden has been reached.

Standing in this area it is difficult to believe you are on the British mainland. Massed plantings of orange gazanias, particularly GAZANIA RIGENS swarm over the rock face together with ARCTOTIS 'APRICOT' a most unusual coloured flower. Palms and Agaves abound, cohabiting well with NOLINA RECURVATA, DASILYRON, and OPUNTIA growing happily in full exposure. A pillared walkway leads to the bottom exit to the garden with access to the beach below, but the visitor will probably retrace his steps and again crossing the bridge head for 'Wagners Ring'. A tree-lined path leads gently upward. FUCHSIA SPLENDENS here enjoys its shady setting with its long pinnacles of Chinese red. In July and August the evergreen HOHERIA POPULNEA covers itself with white flowers. The shrubby ECHIUM FASTUOSUM and WEBBII never fail to flower and ECHIUM PININANA seeds itself everywhere in the garden, and where allowed, sends up its tall flowering spike of blue. A more

refined plant, *ECHIUM WILDPRETII*, has much thinner silver leaves and flowers in shades of deep pink if the winter damp allows.

BANKSII MARGINATA is the easiest banksia to flower here although many, as yet young plants, of banksia are to be found in the garden. *PROTEAS*, of which *PROTEA CYNAROIDES* has flowered in the garden, have their home on a dry gravelly bank with other Australian and South African plants. Below the childrens' garden, a hot sunny bank plays host to a variety of *CISTUS*, *TEUCRIUM*, *HALIUM*, *JUSTICIA* and other grey leafed plants, their foliage giving off a wonderfully aromatic smell on hot sunny days. Wagner's Ring derives its name from a circle of palms of the small leafed tighter growing *TRACHYCARPUS WAGNERIANU* which are slowly forming themselves into pillars. From the circle, the visitor is invited to sit down and look across the bay before continuing the upward climb back through the garden.