

# Self Guided Gardens Walk

- Starting at Visitors Centre. The dominant trees in this area are **Eucalypts** – several species – planted in the 1990s by the Friends of the Koala. Koalas are regularly seen here usually high in the trees.
- The **Hoop Pine Forest** (*Araucaria cunninghamii*) planted in 1985 fills the area from the Eucalypts back to Wyrallah Road. Entrance to forest is beyond the BBQ. Labyrinth at the top! (*See separate brochure for the walk in this forest*)
- Beyond the BBQ to the north is the **Wilson Park Species Garden**, replicating trees in nearby Wilson Nature Reserve, the best example of Dry Rainforest Alliance in the Northern Rivers area. The trees are well labelled - there is a discovery trail through this area. The entrance is beyond the BBQ or at the Red Bridge.
- Across the road from the parking area on the left is the **Uncommon Plants Gardens**. The plants in this terraced garden are those no longer numerous in the wild or which are difficult to grow. These plants are well labelled. It is a fascinating area for rainforest enthusiasts.
- Follow sealed track down to Education Centre and toilets and from there into Useful Plants Gardens. **OR**
- Moving on from the BBQ area you can go along **Anniversary Path** towards the Useful Plants Garden.
- Near the entrance to this path on your left is a planting of four different species of **wild macadamias trees**
- Further along you can investigate the **Sensory Garden on your right**. This is a beautiful area with sealed paths, seating and shelter featuring local native plants which stimulate the senses

by their colour, texture, shape, smell.

Spectacular in spring and early summer. Plants in the wooden raised garden are coastal. A mosaic path winds through and Solar Clock on lower path is worth trying out on sunny day.

- At western end of Sensory Garden is the **Native Rice Garden** with three different species of native local rice-like plants.
- Go down the small flight of steps and further along the Anniversary Path into the **Useful Plants Garden** - a beautiful place to walk. Here are well formed unsealed tracks taking you through young shrubs and trees that have specific uses either for the Aboriginal people, the new settlers or the bush food industry. These plants are well signed and further information is found on large signs. Try out the talking sign - you need to wind it fast!
- From here you can – circle back to second car park through open grassy area and go along the **Rainforest Walk** - a sealed path through established rainforest. You are now moving into the four 'rooms' of Stage One of the Gardens - the oldest established section. Each room is separated from the next by **small patches of remnant Dry Rain Forest**. Signs along this path give general description and individual trees are labelled. Rm 4 – Dry Rainforest; Rm 3 – Myrtaceae; Rm 2 - Subtropical Rainforest; Rm 1 - Dry Rainforest
- A **discovery trail**, on your right in Room 3. It will take you through rainforest and back to the bitumen path at Room 1. The wreck of an old Holden car which was here long before the Gardens can be seen along this track. This path is narrow and needs care in some sections.
- The bitumen path veers left and takes you over a bridge across **Fern Gully** to a picnic

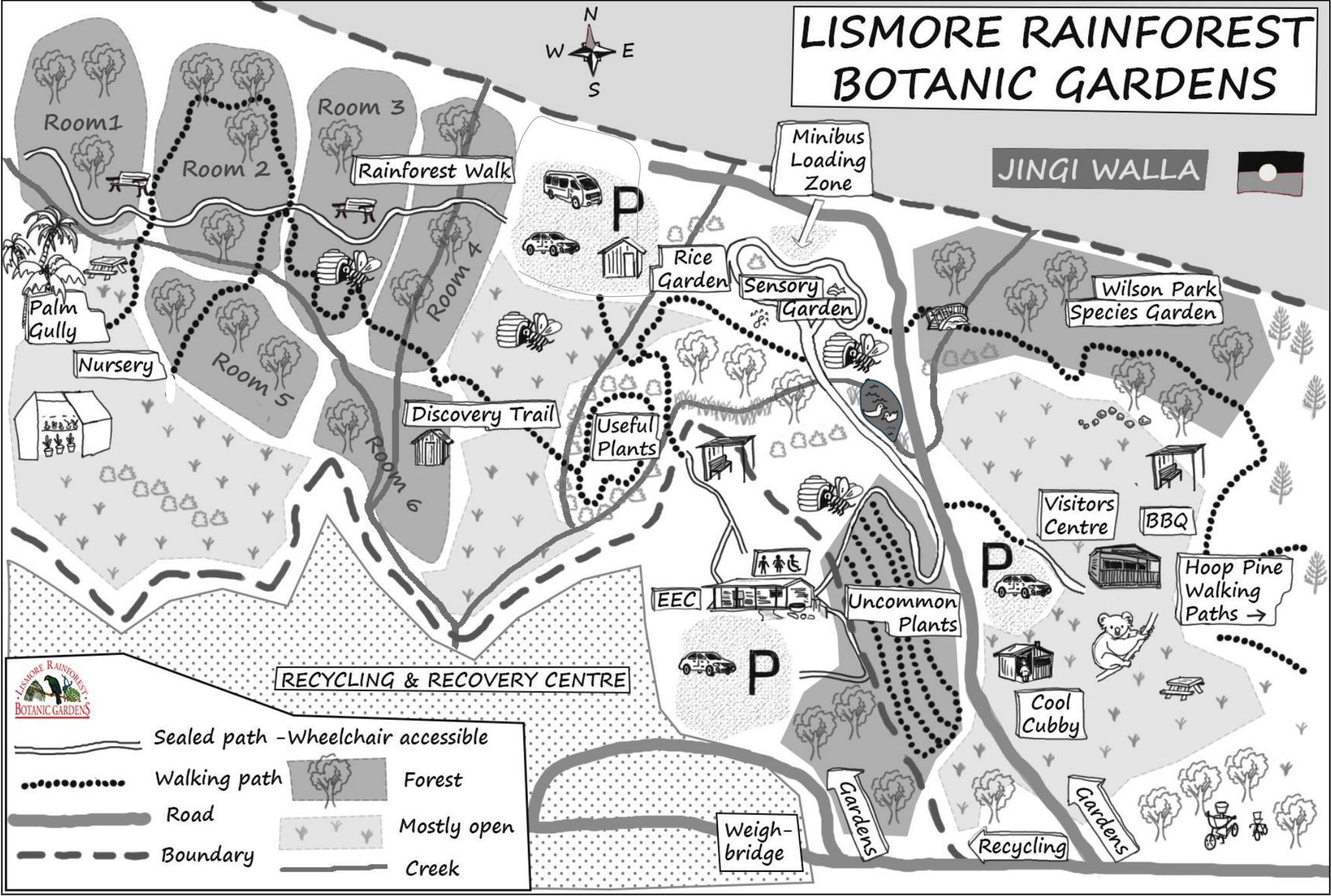
area. Note Small Bolwarra *Eupomatia bennettii* at end of picnic table... a very ancient plant.

- **Area immediately adjacent to this picnic area** is planted with trees from Proteaceae family which, when in flower, surround the area with colour and beauty.
- Up the unsealed path straight ahead is the **Nursery**; further along is **Palm Gully** planted with palms and ferns. With shaded seating and a small elevated walkway.
- Area beyond this section is out of bounds because of unfenced cliffs.
- Swing left at Nursery and go down the hill a little way and on your left you will find a **Discovery Trail** into Room 5, an area of mixed rainforest plants. The trail will take you across Fern Gully and back to the bitumen path.
- Turn right at the bitumen and back track a short distance to a second **Discovery Trail** on your right. Note the many young epiphytes and other understorey plants along this trail. One of our native bee hives is along this path. Look out for a very old gnarled *Eucalyptus grandis* on your left. A branch in this trail on your left will take you back to the bitumen path. But if you continue along the lower section you will reach the bridge over Grandis Creek. Immediately across the bridge is **Grandis Creek picnic area**. Room 6 is on your right.
- Return to Upper Path of the Useful Plants Garden. Take the path immediately after the little bridge and follow it past the southern side of the **Sensory Garden** back to the first car park. **OR** turn right through Wattle Grove on the path to the Education Centre where you will find toilets. Then up through the Uncommon Plants Garden back to Carpark 1.

# LISMORE RAINFOREST BOTANIC GARDENS



JINGI WALLA 



-  Sealed path - Wheelchair accessible
-  Walking path
-  Road
-  Boundary
-  Forest
-  Mostly open
-  Creek