



The current installation of Walls That Talk explores some of the flora endemic to the Maitland area prior to European settlement. The flora is expressed through the commission of original illustrations from three botanical artists, Renae Titchmarsh, Lauren Sahu-Khan and Tanya Hoolihan.

Each artist has brought three species to life with a short description of each below.

The different border colours represent the three different artists.



#### **CALLITRIS RHOMBOIDEA (PORT JACKSON PINE)**

Unique only to Australia, *The Port Jackson Pine (Callitris rhomboidea)* is a strong, durable timber. Its termite resisting properties has made it a popular choice for carpentry in buildings and street poles. The resin from the *Port Jackson Pine* (along with other callitris species) has been used by some Aboriginal Peoples as an adhesive glue for crafting speers, axes and other tools.

**Illustrated by Renae Titchmarsh**



#### **PLANCHONELLA AUSTRALIS (BLACK APPLE)**

The *Planchonella australis*, or *Black Apple*, is a rainforest tree known for its quality timber and edible fruit. Harvested between February and July, the *Black Apple's* fruit is often sweet, like that of a plum, and has been a popular food source for Aboriginal Peoples living along Eastern Australia.

**Illustrated by Renae Titchmarsh**



#### **HIBISCUS DIVERSIFOLIUS (SWAMP HIBISCUS)**

*Hibiscus diversifolius*, otherwise known as the '*Swamp Hibiscus*' is a widely occurring plant in tropical regions throughout the world. Like the name suggests, its leaves vary in shape from semi-circular to tri-lobed depending on their stage of growth. Its roots, flowers, and young leaves are all edible, however some reports suggest it may be hazardous to pregnant women. In a practical setting, the fibre from the stems can be used as string and in weaving of mats and other items.

**Illustrated by Renae Titchmarsh**

**Born and raised in the foothills of a bushland reserve in Newcastle, Renae has strong ties to the Hunter Valley Region. With a background in graphic design, Renae's approach to illustration is often very strong, focusing particularly on line, contrast and composition. Her work as an illustrator often engages with local, familiar subjects, talking to her sense of identity, home, and connection with the natural world.**

## BRACHYCHITON ACERIFOLIUS (ILLAWARRA FLAME TREE)



*Brachychiton acerifolius*, commonly known as the *Illawarra Flame Tree*, is a large tree of the family Malvaceae native to subtropical regions on the east coast of Australia. It is famous for the bright red bell shaped flowers that often cover the whole tree when it is leafless. Along with other members of the genus *Brachychiton*, it is commonly referred to as a *Kurrajong*.

**Illustrated by Lauren Sahu-Khan**

## CISSUS ANTARCTICA (KANGAROO VINE)



*Cissus antarctica* commonly known as *Kangaroo Vine*, is a climbing plant, one of the best known species of the genus *Cissus* in the family of Vitaceae. *Kangaroo Vine* is also a popular interior or house plant, a well adapted plant, even in subdued light.

**Illustrated by Lauren Sahu-Khan**

## AUSTROMYRTUS TENUIFOLIA (NARROW LEAF MYRTLE)



*Austromyrtus tenuifolia*, commonly known as the *Narrow Leaf Myrtle*, is a straggling shrub, growing sometimes up to three metres but more often 50-150 centimetres high. It grows mainly in moist sheltered places in woodland, commonly along creek lines.

Soft narrow dark green leaves are opposite, about four centimetres long, with recurved margins and stiff points. Branches and the undersides of leaves are silky when young.

The white flowers of *Austromyrtus tenuifolia* are on long stems clustered in the leaf axils. There are five petals and numerous stamens. The fruit is a dark purple berry.

They flower in November and December.

**Illustrated by Lauren Sahu-Khan**

**Lauren is a Natural History Illustrator and Artist based in Edgeworth. Her work primarily features botanical subjects and she favours a highly realistic and detailed style of illustration.**

**She has a degree in Natural History Illustration with Class One Honours from the University of Newcastle and is also a member of The Florilegium Society of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney.**

**Lauren currently juggles being a full time Mum with creating exhibition artwork, commissioned pieces and private art tutoring.**

## TOONA CILLIATA (RED CEDAR)



*Toona ciliata* is a forest tree in the mahogany family which grows throughout southern Asia from Afghanistan to Papua New Guinea and Australia. It is commonly known as the *red cedar*. Due to its size and valuable timber this species has been extensively logged since European settlement. The timber is used in cabinetry for its softness, texture and rich red colour, hence the common name *red cedar*.

The white or soft pink flowers are five millimetres in diameter, in a 30-40 centimetre inflorescence and bloom in late spring to summer (November to January). The fruit is a thin, dry, woody capsule, which splits into five valves. Fruit will develop from late summer (February to March). The seeds inside have a papery, wing shape appendage which is used in wind dispersal. Fruiting will commence from six to eight years of age. The leaves are 15-45 centimetres long and pinnate with six leaflet pairs. As one of Australia's native deciduous trees, the leaves will fall in autumn (late March) and grow back in spring (early September). The new leaf growth is reddish pink colour.

**Illustrated by Tanya Hoolihan**

## FICUS RUBIGINOSA (PORT JACKSON FIG)



*Ficus rubiginosa*, commonly known as the *rusty fig* or *Port Jackson fig*, is a species of flowering plant native to eastern Australia in the genus *Ficus*. Beginning as a seedling that grows on other plants (hemiepiphyte) or rocks (lithophyte), it matures into a tree 30 metres high and nearly as wide with a yellow to brown buttressed trunk. The leaves are oval and glossy green and measure up to 19.3 centimetres. The fruits are small, round and yellow, and

can ripen and turn red at any time of year, peaking in spring and summer. Like all figs, the fruit is in the form of a syconium, an inverted inflorescence with the flowers lining an internal cavity. *Ficus rubiginosa* is exclusively pollinated by the fig wasp species *Pleistodontes imperialis*, which may comprise four cryptospecies.

**Illustrated by Tanya Hoolihan**

## ACMENA SMITHII (LILLY PILLY)



*Syzygium smithii* (formerly *Acmena smithii*) is a summer flowering, winter fruiting evergreen tree, belonging to the myrtle family Myrtaceae. It shares the common name *Lilly Pilly* with several other plants. It is planted as shrubs or hedgerows, and features rough woody bark, cream and green smooth waxy leaves, flushes of pink new growth, and white to maroon edible berries. Unpruned, it will grow about three to five metres tall in the garden.

**Illustrated by Tanya Hoolihan**

**Having lived most of her life on the Central Coast of New South Wales, it is here that Tanya often finds the inspiration for her work as a Natural History illustrator.**

**Tanya has a degree in Natural History Illustration with Honours from the University of Newcastle where she graduated with both the, Facility and University Medal.**

**Tanya's illustrations have been included in several significant publications including Celebrating 200 Years of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney and Flora of Australia- A botanical art world wide exhibition. Her work is held in several private collections including the University of Newcastle and the Royal Botanical Gardens in Sydney.**