Take a Tropical Grove Tour

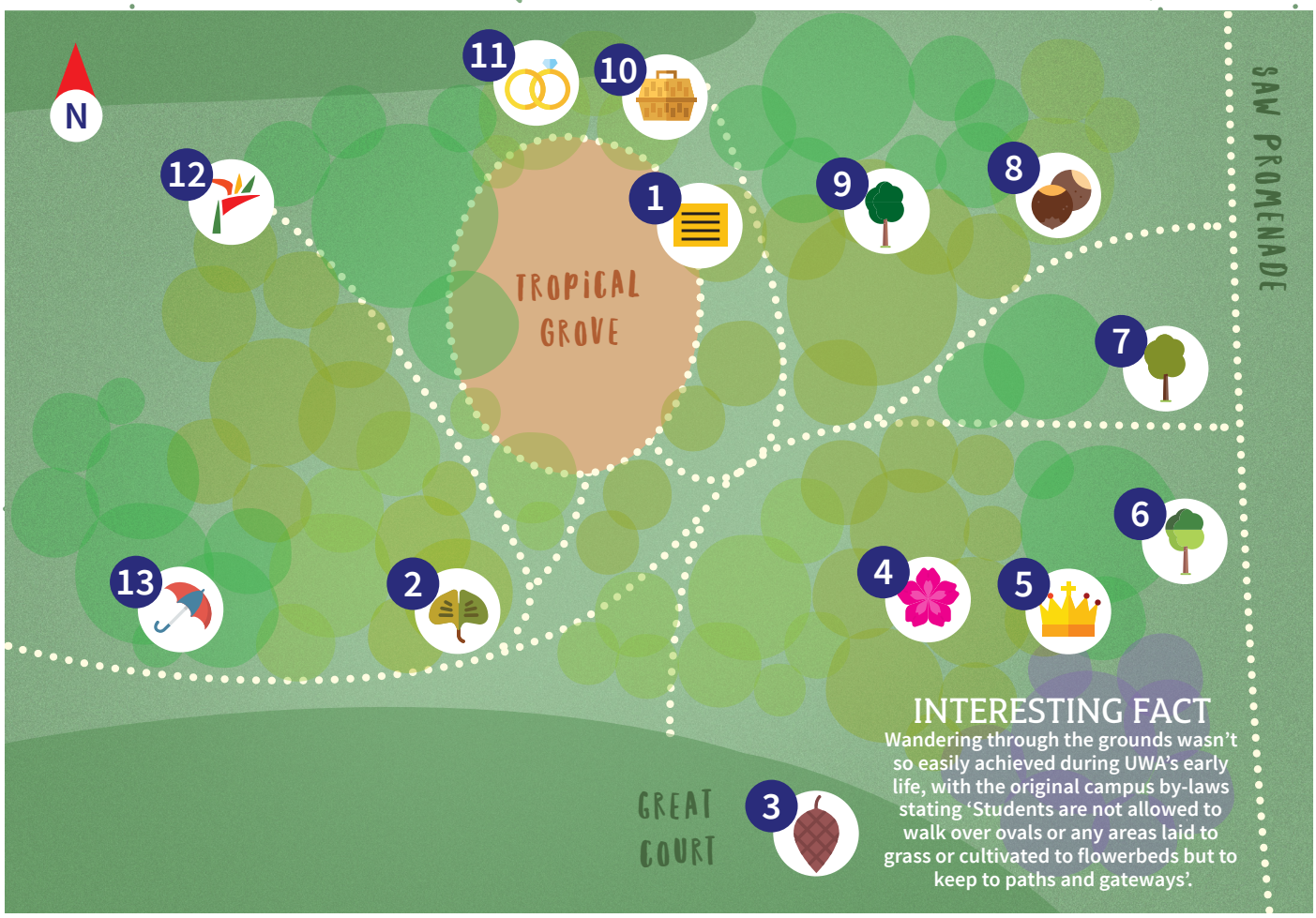

Illustration: Erin Steenson

UWA's Tropical Grove is one of the places most mentioned when people talk about what they love, miss or enjoy about the University. Here are a few facts and figures you may not have realised about this tranquil garden hideaway.

1. George Munns plaque: commemorates the grounds' first curator, whose position was created in 1955.

2. *Ginkgo biloba*: one of the oldest-known plant species, dating back 270 million years, prior to the Jurassic period.

3. Wollemi pine: one of the world's oldest and rarest plants, dating back to the time of the dinosaurs.

4. Azalea bed: originally from alongside the tennis courts at the former Currie Hall site and transplanted here in 2012.

5. Queen and Duke trees: this pair of *Ficus hillii* was planted by Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip on their visit in 1963, UWA's Jubilee year.

6. Karri tree: *Eucalyptus diversicolor* is endemic to southern WA, with mature specimens growing up to 80m tall.

7. Jarrah: this *Eucalyptus marginata* is more than 400 years old and believed to be the oldest tree on the campus site. A young jarrah has been planted on either side of this magnificent tree.

8. Macadamia: it wasn't until 1858, when the Superintendent of the Brisbane Botanic Gardens noticed a boy eating seeds without ill effect, that these trees were grown as a food crop.

9. NZ Kauri: planted in 1963 as part of the Great Court upgrade and the completion of the Reid Library.

10. Common Screwpine: used to weave baskets, while the pandan leaf is used in Asian cuisine.

11. Honeymoon Tree: the name Honeymoon Tree was given by the first gardener at UWA, Oliver Dowell, who dug up the plant on his honeymoon in southern WA and replanted it in the Great Court lawn.

12. Heliconia bed: a sub-tropical to tropical species plant, hard to cultivate in Perth due to the cold winters. UWA's display is one of the largest collections of heliconia varieties in WA.

13. Pritchardia palm: native to the Pacific Islands as far as Hawaii and nicknamed the umbrella palm because it was used to protect people and property from the rain.

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