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most recent homeland and maintain a common language. **Mānuka**, incorporating the older word ***nuka**, is our representative of this stage.

Stage 7 - Polynesia

The everyday links with Fiji have now been cut and over the next 500 years or so -- the longest interlude for quite some time, a common language develops in the Tonga / Fiji area, and large numbers of new words, still common to most Polynesian languages, arise. The plant name symbolizing this era for our walk is **māmāngi**, from Proto Polynesian ***mamangi**.

Stage 8 - Nuclear Polynesia

Another few centuries have gone by, and the Polynesians living in and around Samoa have developed their own distinctive language separately from that which has developed in Tonga and Niue. Some are poised on the brink of another great adventure. A plant name from this era is **kauri**, from Proto Nuclear Polynesian ***kauli**.

Stage 9 - Eastern Polynesia

Another great era of long distance voyaging and discovery starts, culminating in the establishment of contact with South America and the introduction of the **hue**, the gourd *Lagenaria siceraria*, its new Eastern Polynesian name a recycling and appropriation of an older word, ***fue**. Another, equally important food plant, the kumara, was also introduced to Eastern Polynesia from South America, during this era, but possibly on a different expedition -- at any rate, the kumara seems to have been taken to Rapanui several centuries after it was first cultivated in Tahiti and the Marquesas.

Stage 10 - Central Eastern Polynesia

The distances are huge, and regular contact with the people who settled Rapanui is lost, leading to a divergence of their language from a new common language uniting, for the time, Tahiti, the Tuamotus and the Marquesas. **Tōtara** is the plant name representative of this era.

Stage 11 - Tahitic

This is in effect the last stage in the development of modern Māori within tropical Polynesia, although there will be an influence through links with the Cook Islands for a while after direct contact with Tahiti is lost. For now though, around the end of the first millennium AD, distinctive languages have developed in the Marquesas and Hawaii, and a last great push outwards from Tahiti into the fast receding unknown is about to take place. Our plant name representing this era is **tawhiwhi**, from an original ProtoTahitic word ***tafi**.

Stage 12 - Rarotonga / Aotearoa, and afterwards

After contact with Tahiti faded, some closer links seem to have been maintained for a while with Rarotonga, so there are a number of words shared exclusively by Cook Island and New Zealand Māori. A plant name from this stage of the development of both languages is **pōhutukawa**, possibly from an original word ***pōfutukava**. And as we walk back to base we can take a quick look at the modern **koromiko**, the post-modern **ōriwa** (olive) and the pre-modern **karaka** that really wasn't one!

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Te Māra Reo *The Language Garden*



Te Māra Reo is a collection of living examples of the plants which were given names brought from elsewhere in the Pacific by the first Polynesian explorers and settlers. The collection is steadily being augmented with new plantings, as time and money permit.

The garden is located on a 2 hectare block which is a private family residence. Visits are therefore by private arrangement only. The Waikato River forms the western boundary, and like all rural land, there may be hidden hazards. **Visitors are very welcome, but must accept full responsibility for their own safety as a condition of entry.**

This brochure walks you through [6,000 years of Austronesian history](#). For more information about Te Māra Reo, and the names of the plants, visit our web site:

<http://www.tumanako.org>

Time Travel

A tour of the garden, pausing twelve times so that you can see one name at each major stage in sequence of the Austronesian migration from Taiwan through the Philippines and the North-eastern coast of New Guinea, on into the Pacific and finally south to Aotearoa (and north to Hawai'i).



As a guided tour, this can take a couple of hours, but you can probably do it more quickly as a self-guided one if you are very well disciplined and don't get distracted by the other plants you'll meet along the way.

The iconic plants are located at the points marked on the areal photograph opposite, and each is marked by a bamboo cylinder with information about its name. (The photograph is a few years old – the pine trees along the road boundary are no longer there, and most of the trees are much larger – but the pathways are still the same). Start at the polygonal garden near the main gate, and go on from there.

Stage 1 - Proto-Austronesian

Leaving Taiwan, at least 5,000 years ago. (There is only one plant name inherited from this stage, which came into Proto-Polynesian as *fara; originally probably denoting pandanus species, its modern cognates in Māori are plants with sheaving leaves, like **harakeke**, **whara**, and **wharawhara**.)

Stage 2 - Malayo Polynesian

You are in Greater Wallacea - island Southeast Asia east of the extended "Wallace Line" (if you're lost now, don't worry - there is a map on the web!), with an amazing array of plants and animals. Our representative for this phase is the **tī**, a word covering species of *Cordyline* in general (as it seems to have throughout its history), and in this part of the garden manifested as the **tī kōuka**, *Cordyline australis*.

Stage 3 - Oceanic

You have now definitely left Wallacea and entered the Australia / New Guinea region, but there are already a lot of people here, so you have sailed further and settled, for a while,

somewhere in or near the Bismarck Archipelago. The plant name representing this stage is **kahikaatoa**, *Leptospermum scoparium* (a.k.a. *mānuka*) which incorporates the Proto Oceanic word ***kapika**, inherited by Proto Polynesian as ***kafika** and Māori as **kahika**.

Stage 4 - Eastern Oceanic

This period marks the arrival of the Austronesians at the end of the known world. Up till that time, the islands of the Central and South Pacific to the west of what are now known as the Solomon Islands had never been visited by human beings. The plant name from this era is **miro** (Proto-Polynesian ***milo**), designating a species of *Thespesia* in most Oceanic languages, but in Māori (and Rapanui) applied to other, equally graceful and useful trees.

Stage 5 - Proto Central Pacific

We are now in real Star-Trek territory, getting further into the unknown and beginning to lose contact with the old world that had been home for millennia just a few centuries previously. For those who would become Polynesians, this sojourn in the vicinity of Fiji was relatively brief, but long enough for some new names to develop, of which **poroporo** (Proto Polynesian ***polo**) represents this stage on our current journey.

Stage 6 - East Fiji / Western Polynesia

Some of the Austronesians who settled near or in Fiji have now moved on to further new worlds in Tonga and Samoa, but for a while remain in contact with people in their

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