

12. On your right is *Allocasuarina decaisneana* or Desert Oak, an iconic tree of central Australia (photo below left). The young trees are often called 'feather-dusters' because of their shape.



13. On your left (on a ridge) is *Grevillea juncifolia*, a large shrub with narrow grey bootlace leaves and long racemes of gold flowers (photo above right). This grevillea grows in dry inland Australia.



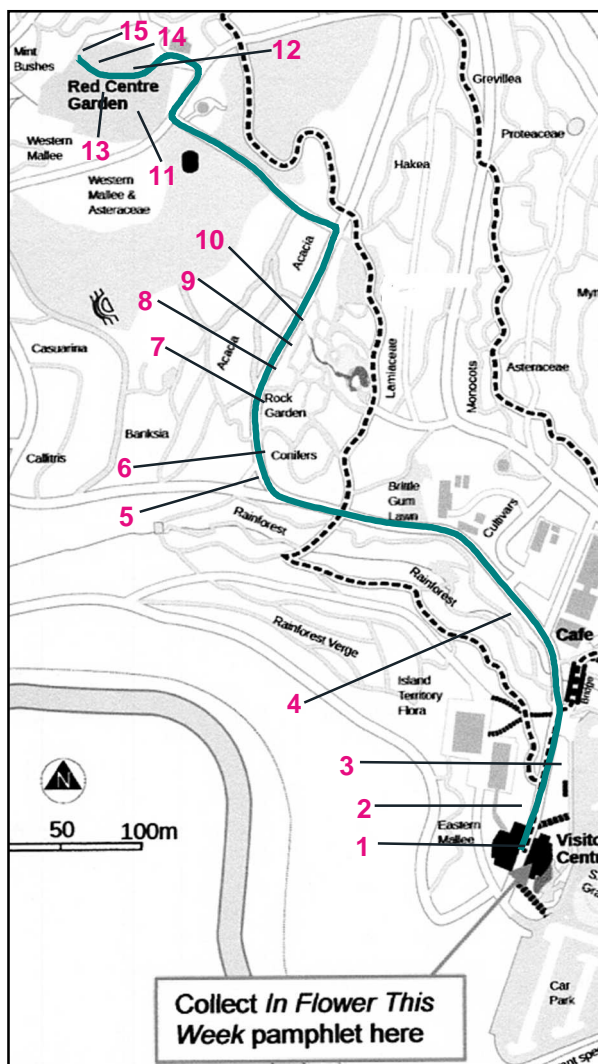
14. On your right is *Acacia minyura* or Desert Mulga from central Australia with grey-blue foliage and short yellow rods of flowers on a small mounded bush (photo above). This plant occurs naturally in arid parts of central and western Australia.



15. On your left is *Gossypium sturtianum*, or Sturt's Desert Rose, the floral emblem of the Northern Territory (photo above). It is a woody shrub with grey green water-shedding leaves and mauve 'hibiscus' flowers with maroon centres.



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Featuring the plants of the Australian National Botanic Gardens, Canberra, ACT written and illustrated by Friends Rosalind and Benjamin Walcott



Today we will walk from the Visitors Information Centre (VIC) to the Red Centre Garden.

1. On your left as you leave the VIC in a pot is *Rhododendron viriosum* with magnificent coral bells on shiny dark green leaves (photo above). This is one of the few representatives of this genus in Australia and is found in the high mountains of tropical northern Queensland.

2. High on your left is *Corymbia ficifolia* 'Dwarf Orange', a small tree with attractive buds, brilliant orange fluffy blooms and dark green foliage (photo next page top left). This grafted gum, originally from Western Australia, is one of the most spectacular when in full flower.

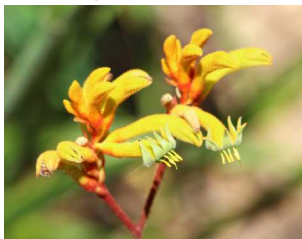


3. On your right is **Melaleuca nesophila**, an upright rangy shrub with green leaves along the stems and purplish-pink flowers fading to white, giving it a two-tone appearance (photo above right). Known as the Showy Honey-Myrtle, this plant is native to the southwest coast of Western Australia.

4. Bear left up the hill behind the café to see on your left **Asplenium australasicum**, or Birds Nest Fern, with a clump of long, light green leaves that can reach 3 metres in diameter (photo below). The leaves have a prominent midrib and the spores on the back of the leaves are in parallel rows. It is found along the coast from central New South Wales to Cape York, Queensland.



5. At the top of the hill as you bear right you will see on your left a clump of **Anigozanthos 'Bush Noon'** with tall stems of yellow and orange flowers (photo below). This hybrid is a cross between *A. pulcherrimus* x *A. flavidus*.



6. On your right is **Sannantha pluriflora** (**Babingtonia pluriflora**) or Tall Baeckea, a tall shrub or small tree with dark green foliage and bright white flowers with green centres (photo below). It is found in the wild along the coasts of New South Wales and Victoria.



7. As you pass the entrance to the Rock Garden on your right is a clump of **Anigozanthos flavidus** in a rusty orange shade (photo below). All kangaroo paws are native to Western Australia, and only occur in the wild in this state. The flowers are bird pollinated.



8. Further on your right is **Acacia cognata** or Bower Wattle, a fast growing small tree native to southeastern Australia (photo below). This attractive wattle has pendulous branches and bright green, drooping linear foliage.



9. Again on your right is **Calostemma purpureum**, or Garland Lily, with clusters of pink bells on thin stems (photo below). It is a well-known plant of the Riverina district, and is found in western New South Wales, north-western Victoria and South Australia.



10. Still on your right is **Calothamnus tuberosus**, a stiff upright bush with spiky grey-green linear foliage and many bright red fringed flowers (photo below). It is endemic to southwestern Western Australia.



11. Now turn up to your left towards the Red Centre Garden. As you enter the garden bear right to see on the left large circles of **Triodia scariosa**, also called Spinifex or Porcupine Grass, which is found across southern inland mainland Australia (photo below). It forms very prickly hummocks of dark green foliage and has attractive tan seed heads.

