

12. Turn right across the plank bridge to see on your right and left *Lythrum salicaria*, or Purple Loosestrife, with plumes of pink-purple flowers on light green foliage (photo below left). This plant is widely distributed throughout Europe, Asia and Africa as well as Australia.



13. High on your left is *Acacia aneura* var. *aneura* or Mulga, with fine grey-green needle foliage and short rods of yellow flowers (photo above right). Mulga, which occurs in inland Australia, is believed to live as long as 400 years.

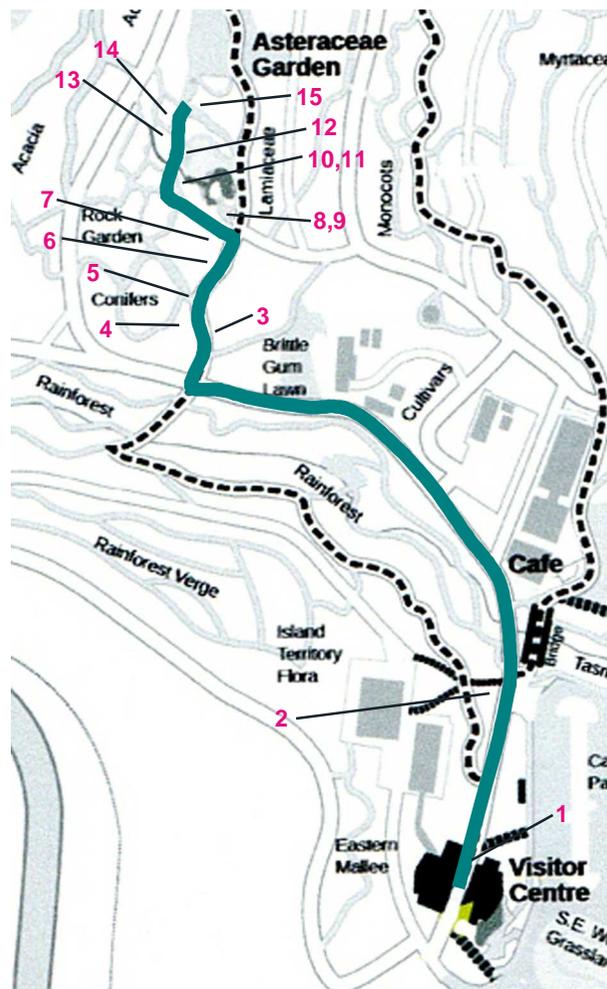
14. Covering a rock on your left is *Muehlenbeckia axillaris* forming a wiry mat of tiny rounded leaves with masses of small yellowy-green flowers with pink centres (photo below left). This plant is native to New Zealand, as well as Tasmania, New South Wales and Victoria.



15. On your right is *Beaufortia decussata*, a small shrub with red fluffy flowers with green centres and neat, close foliage (photo above right). The species name 'decussata' refers to the leaf arrangement where each pair of leaves is arranged at right angles to the previous pair on the stems. This plant grows naturally in southwestern Western Australia near Albany.



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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 Visitor Centre to the Rock Garden



1. As you leave the Visitor Centre on your right in a pot is *Banksia spinulosa* 'Birthday Candles' forming a mound of green linear foliage and developing gold cones with rusty red styles (photo above)

2. Further on your left is the water plant *Villarsia reniformis* with shiny green kidney-shaped leaves and small yellow flowers held upright above the water (photo next page top left). The genus is named for the French botanist Dominique Villars (1745–1814). This plant is found widely in eastern Australia including Tasmania



3. Bear left up the hill behind the café and turn right along the Main Path to see on your right **Persoonia pinifolia** or Pine-leaved Geebung, a large weeping shrub with needle-like foliage and racemes of yellow pointed flowers (photo above right). This plant grows naturally in the Sydney Basin of New South Wales.



4. On your left is **Athrotaxis laxifolia**, a tree which is endemic to Tasmania where it grows at 1,000–1,200 metres altitude (photo above). This evergreen coniferous tree grows to 10–20 metres tall, lives up to 1300 years and grows very slowly. The green clusters of male and female cones are found on the same tree and the main method of seed dispersal is by wind.



5. Further on your left is **Banksia aemula** or Wallum Banksia, a small gnarled tree with knobby bark and large squat green cones (photo above). This plant can be found in Queensland and New South Wales coastal heath and sandy soil areas.

6. Still on your left is **Casuarina glauca prostrate form** or Swamp Oak (photo below). This plant has hard, long, green foliage which can fall attractively to soften edges in the garden. It is a slow to moderate growing prostrate fine leaf form of the common she-oak seen growing throughout eastern Australia mainly around moist gullies, streams and waterways.



7. Turn left up the steps into the Rock Garden and notice on your left **Hibbertia serpyllifolia**, or Hairy Guinea Flower, showing very fine light green foliage with 5-petalled bright lemon flowers in profusion (photo below). This plant grows down the eastern coast of Australia,



8. On your right is **Corymbia ficifolia** 'Little Sweetie', a grafted gum with dark green leathery foliage and clusters of pink fluffy flowers (photo below).



9. On your right is **Grevillea 'Poorinda Royal Mantle'** with masses of red toothbrush flowers on a dense groundcover which is a beacon for both birds and bees (photo below).



10. Low on your right is **Brachyscome multifida** 'Roulette' which forms a close groundcover of ferny green leaves with mauve flowers with gold centres (photo below).



11. **Chrysocephalum apiculatum**, also low on your right, has bright golden-orange button flowers on grey-green foliage (photo below). This plant is found in all states and territories in Australia in a wide range of environments.

