

12. Further on your left is *Eucalyptus macrocarpa*, or Mottlecah, with magnificent silver-grey sword like foliage and very large pinkish-red fluffy flowers with yellow stamens, the largest of all eucalypt flowers (photo below). This sprawling mallee is native to southwestern Western Australia.



13. Turn right along the road to see on your left *Acacia fulva*, Velvet or Soft Wattle, named for its velvety young leaves and seed pods, with rods of yellow ball flowers (photo below left). This plant is rare in nature, native from Gloucester to Mt. Yengo in Howes Valley, NSW.

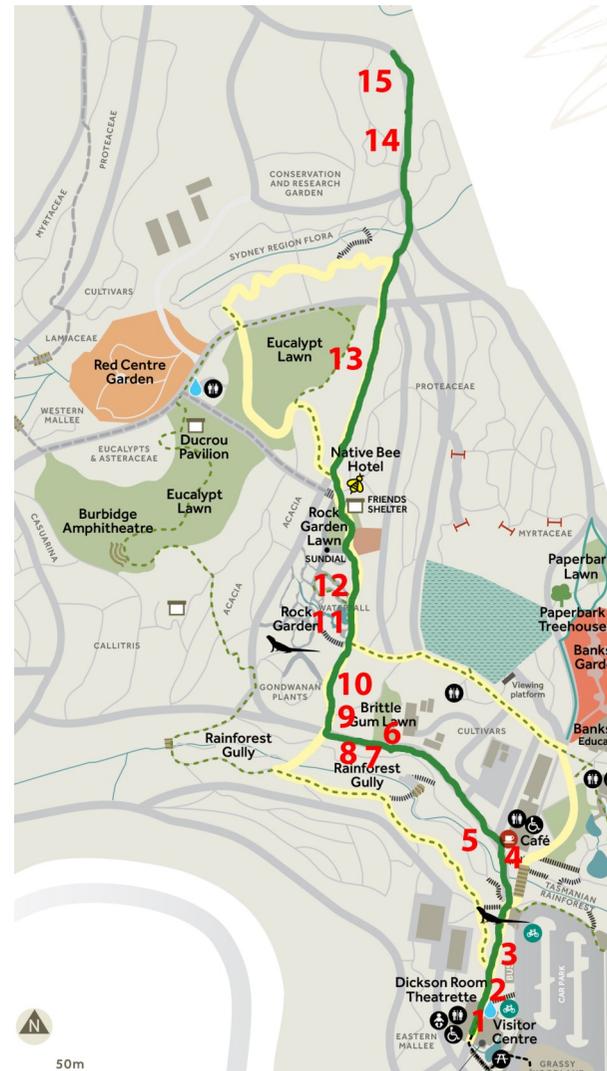


14. Continue along this road to see on your left *Baeckea diosmifolia* x *B. imbricata*, a small shrub with dark green foliage and many small white flowers (photo above right).



15. Further on your left is *Melaleuca preissiana*, a small tree with papery bark and white terminal flowers native from Eneabba to Fitzgerald River National Park, WA (photo above).

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

Today we will walk up the hill behind the café, along the Main Path, through the Sydney Gully Region towards the Black Mountain Gate



1. After you leave the Visitor Centre, on your right, in a pot, is *Prostanthera spinosa*, known as Spiny Mint-bush, a scrambling plant with long-lasting mauve flowers (photo above). This plant is listed as vulnerable in the wild and is native to five disjunct regions of southeastern mainland Australia.

2. Further on your right is *Banksia serrata*, a small tree with very large greenish brushes, ovate serrated leaves and a wrinkled trunk (photo next page top left). The trunk wrinkles more with age leading to its common name of Old Man Banksia. *Banksia serrata* is a widespread species in eastern Australia, extending from southern Queensland to Victoria's south coast, across to northern Tasmania.



3. Also on your right is *Corymbia ficifolia* 'Precious Pearl' with masses of pink buds opening to pale pink fluffy flowers mobbed by bees (photo above right). This small and compact cultivar is a grafted form of the West Australian flowering gum, *Corymbia ficifolia*.



4. Bear left up the hill behind the café to see on your right *Crinum pedunculatum* with long green strappy leaves and striking terminal clusters of white perfumed flowers (photo above). This plant is native to the tidal flats of coastal Queensland and New South Wales.



5. On your left is *Asplenium australasicum* or Birds Nest Fern with a clump of long light green leaves with a prominent midrib that can reach 3 metres in diameter (photo above). The spores on the back of the leaves are in parallel rows. This plant is native to coastal areas from central NSW to Cape York, Queensland.

6. On your right is *Syzygium paniculatum* 'Backyard Bliss', a fast growing, dense, evergreen shrub with dark green, glossy leaves with red new growth that shades to bronze (photos below). The flowers are cream and borne terminally.



7. On your left is *Hibiscus divaricatus*, a straggly bush with pure yellow flowers contrasting with maroon stamens (photos below). This hibiscus is native to Queensland, the Northern Territory, and in northern parts of Western Australia. This plant can reach the size of a small tree, up to about 5 m tall.



8. Also on your left is *Trochocarpa laurina*, known as Waddy Wood or Tree Heath, a shrub or small tree with oval, dark green, veined leaves with attractive pink new growth (photos below). This plant is native from Bermagui in southern coastal New South Wales to the Wet Tropics of Queensland.



9. Turn right along the Main Path to see on your right and left *Wollemia nobilis*, or Wollemi Pine, which is related to Kauri, Hoop, Norfolk Island and Bunya Pines (photo below left). This tree, previously thought extinct, was discovered in 1994 growing in the Wollemi National Park northwest of Sydney. This tree can grow up to 40m high and has bubbly brown bark. Each plant has both male, (brown tassels) and female, (green circular) reproductive cones. Fewer than 100 Wollemi Pines remain in the wild and every plant has the same DNA.



10. Also on your right is *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 is native to the Sydney Basin of New South Wales.

11. On your left, at the entrance to the Rock Garden, is *Corymbia ficifolia* 'Dwarf Orange', a small tree, with dark green foliage, pink buds, brilliant orange, fluffy blooms and very attractive gumnuts (photos below). This grafted gum, originally from the West Australian flowering gum, *Corymbia ficifolia*, is one of the most spectacular when in full flower

