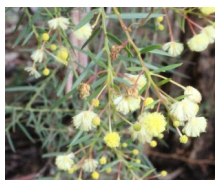


12. On your right is *Ptilotus obovata*, or Silvertails or Cotton Bush, with attractive silver foliage (photo below left). This plant is widespread over the central part of Australia.



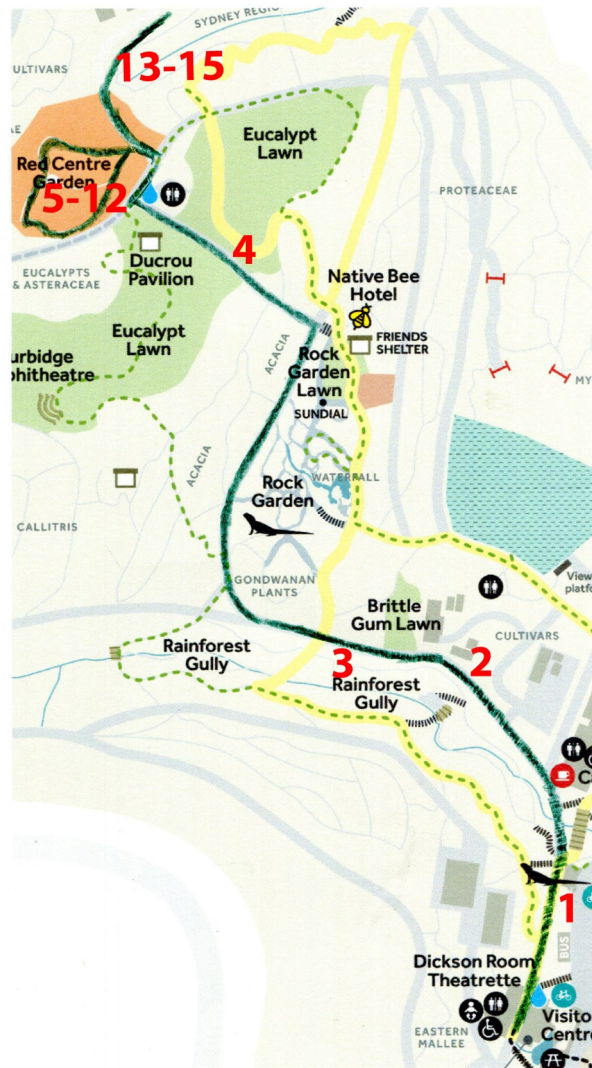
13. Continue straight ahead towards the greenhouses to see on your right *Zealandia pustulata ssp. pustulata* native to eastern Australia and New Zealand (photo above right). Commonly referred to as 'kangaroo fern' or 'kangaroo paw fern' as the shape of its mature foliage tends to resemble the shape of a kangaroo's foot.

14. Also on your right is *Acacia binervata*, a tall shrub or small tree with a spreading habit, curved elliptic leaves and globular cream or white flowers, native to coastal NSW and Queensland (photo below left). This tree prefers sun and well-drained soils and is long-lived as a shelter or windbreak.



15. Still on your right is *Wollemia nobilis*, or Wollemi Pine, which is related to Kauri, Hoop, Norfolk Island and Bunya Pines (photo above right). Previously thought extinct, this species was discovered in 1994 growing in the Wollemi National Park northwest of Sydney, and can grow up to 40m high with 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.

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12 - 25 June 2024

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 from the Visitor Centre, up the hill behind the café to the Red Centre Garden, then a little further to the greenhouse area before returning to the café



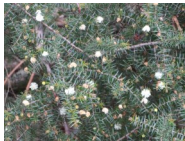
1. After you leave the Visitor Centre, on your right is *Acacia beckleri*, or Barrier Range Wattle, with hard, elliptical grey-green foliage and yellow ball flowers on stalks (photo above). This plant is native to the Barrier Range of NSW, near Cobar and Jerilderie.

2. Bear left up the hill behind the café to see on your right *Banksia ericifolia* 'Bird Song', a small banksia with fine, bright-green foliage and large orange brushes (photo next page top left).



3. On your left is *Tasmannia insipida*, or Brush Pepperbush, native to the cool wet forests of eastern Australia from the south coast of NSW to northern Queensland (photo above right). This plant was named after Abel Tasman, with *insipida* referring to the weak flavour of the seeds and leaves in comparison with other *Tasmannia* species. *Tasmannia insipida* (previously *Drimys insipida*) is a tall shrub with reddish stems and lance shaped leaves that are peppery when crushed. The small white flowers occur in umbels and separate male and female flowers are borne on the one plant, followed by oval-shaped, peppery red berries which darken to deep purple when ripe.

4. Turn right along the road above the Rock Garden, then sharp left towards the Red Centre Garden. On your right is *Acacia ulicifolia*, or Prickly Moses, with many pale yellow balls of flowers on fine, dark green, prickly foliage (photo below left). This wattle is native to the eastern part of Australia from Queensland to Tasmania.



5. Follow the road to the Red Centre Garden and take the left path, to see on your right, *Triodia scariosa*, or Porcupine Grass, which is native to southern inland mainland Australia (photo above right). This plant forms very prickly hummocks of dark-green, grass-like foliage and has attractive seed heads.

6. Also on your right is *Eremophila longifolia*, a large bush or small tree with long, narrow grey-green leaves, light green fruits and dusty pink tubular flowers (photo below). This plant is native to all the drier areas of mainland Australia.



7. On your left is *Acacia rhodophloia* or Minni Ritchi, with short gold rods of flowers and linear, upright grey-green foliage (photo below). This plant is native to central Western Australia. The common name 'minni ritchi' refers to the peeling bark which leaves the trunk of the tree looking as though it is covered in curls



8. Also on your left is *Corymbia aparrerinja*, or Ghost Gum, endemic to Central Australia (photo below). This tree has smooth bark, lance-shaped or curved adult leaves, flower buds in groups of three or seven, white flowers and cup-shaped to cylindrical fruit.



9. Look left to see a group of *Livistona mariae* subsp. *rigida*, or Red Cabbage Palm, with beautiful drooping fronds (photo below). This palm is native to central Australia, mostly in Finke Gorge National Park, and recent genetic research shows that it arrived there only 15,000 years ago.



10. Still on your left is *Xanthorrhoea quadrangulata*, or Mt. Lofty Grass Tree, with thin linear foliage and spent scapes full of seed (photo below). This plant occurs only in South Australia, along St. Vincent's Gulf to the northern Mt. Lofty Ranges.



11. Again on your left is *Acacia minyura*, or Desert Mulga, with grey-blue foliage on a small mounded bush (photo below). This plant is native to arid parts of central and western Australia.

