

12. Bear right to see, on your left, *Triodia scariosa*, or Porcupine Grass which is native to southern, inland, mainland Australia, forming very prickly hummocks of dark-green, grass-like foliage with attractive seed heads (photo below left).



13. On your right is *Hakea leucoptera* ssp. *leucoptera*, known as Needlewood, a tall, erect, very prickly shrub with silvery grey leaves and showy cream flowers in axillary racemes (photo above right). Fruits are mainly smooth with a sharp beak, native to Queensland, NSW, SA, Victoria and the NT.

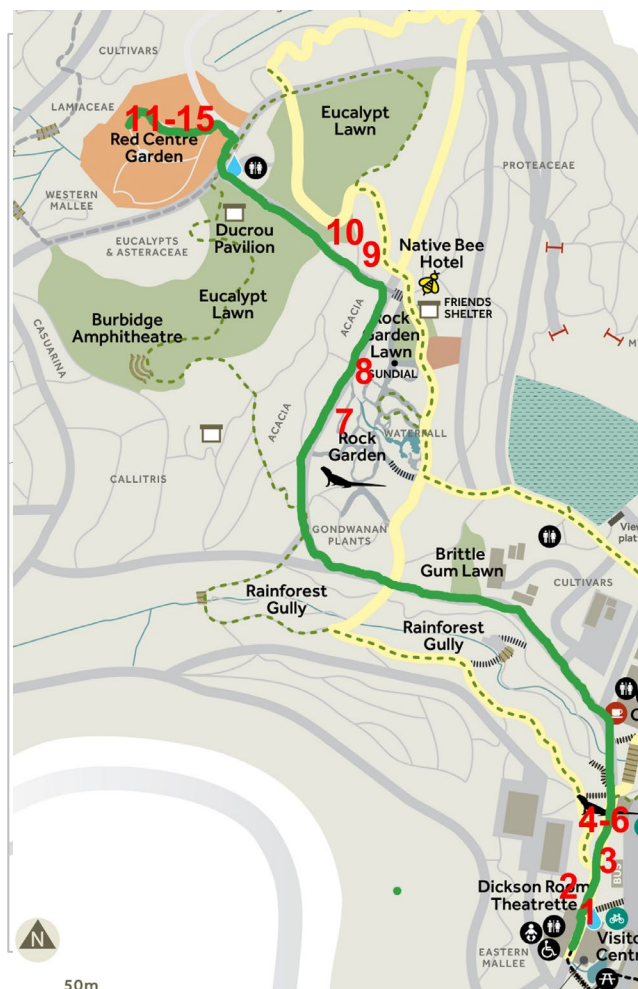
14. Also on your right, *Acacia ammobia* or Mt. Connor Wattle, a rare wattle from central Australia (photo below left). This plant has short golden flower spikes and grey-green linear foliage.



15. Back on your right are four *Livistona mariae* subsp. *rigida*, or Red Cabbage Palm, with beautiful drooping fronds (photo above right). This palm grows in central Australia, mostly in Finke Gorge National Park, and recent genetic research shows that it arrived there only 15,000 years ago.



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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 from the Visitor Centre, up hill behind the café, to the Red Centre Garden



1. On your right, in a pot, is *Chorizema cordatum* or Heart-leaved Flame Pea, a showy plant with vivid orange and pink flowers on a weeping shrub with bright green prickly foliage, native to the moist southwestern parts of WA (photo above).

2. High on your left is *Acacia boormanii*, or Snowy River Wattle, with fine, needle foliage and masses of golden ball flowers (photo next page top left). This shrub is a suckering, multi-stemmed, copse-forming plant, native to the alpine country of southeastern Australia.



3. On your right, in a pot, is ***Pimelea physodes***, or Qualup Bell, with grey-green foliage close to reddish stems with pendant green bracts enclosing the small flowers and dark-red outer bracts (photo above right). This plant is native to southwestern WA and is considered the most outstanding of the genus.

4. High on your left is ***Corymbia ficifolia*** 'Dwarf Orange', a small tree, with dark-green foliage and very attractive gumnuts (photo below left). This grafted gum, originally bred from the southern West Australian flowering gum, *Corymbia ficifolia*, is one of the most spectacular when in full flower.



5. On your right is ***Rhodanthe anthemoides***, known as Chamomile Sunray, a mound of grey-green foliage almost covered with maroon buds opening to white daisy flowers with gold centres (photo above right). This plant is widespread on the mainland but listed as rare in Tasmania.

6. On your right is ***Acacia leprosa*** 'Scarlet Blaze' with weeping green foliage and many striking, reddish, fluffy balls of flowers (photo below left). The cultivar 'Scarlet Blaze' attracts attention because of its flower colour which is unique among wattles. This cultivar arose from a single, red-flowered specimen discovered by bushwalkers in a Victorian state forest northeast of Melbourne. The original plant has since died.



7. Go up the hill behind the café and turn right along the road above the Rock Garden to see, on your right, ***Acacia pycnantha*** or Golden Wattle, the floral emblem of Australia (photo above right). This small tree has curved green phyllodes with large yellow ball flowers and is native to southeastern mainland Australia.



8. Also on your right is ***Acacia phasmoides***, or Phantom Wattle, a spreading wispy wattle, native to Dora Dora State Forest, near Holbrook, with grey-green linear foliage and bright yellow ball flowers (photo above).

9. Turn left up hill towards the Red Centre Garden to see, on your right, ***Acacia ingramii***, a small tree with fine linear foliage and masses of gold ball flowers (photo below left). This plant is native to areas near Armidale in northern NSW.



10. On your right again is ***Acacia ulicifolia***, or Prickly Moses, with many pale-yellow, ball flowers on fine, dark green, prickly foliage (photo above right). This wattle is native to the eastern part of Australia from Queensland to Tasmania.



11. Turn right, then left to enter the Red Centre Garden to see, on your right, in a pot, ***Aluta maisonneuvei* ssp. *maisonneuvei***, known as Desert Heath Myrtle, a dense, woody shrub with tiny, crowded leaves and small white or pink flowers, native to arid regions in WA, SA, and the NT (photo above).