

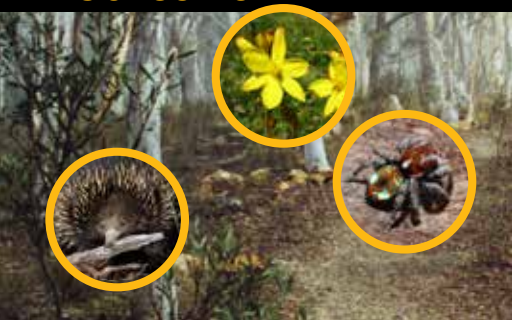


Friends of Black Mountain

# Woodland Walk



## Conserve



## Promote



## Biodiversity



[friendsofblackmountain.org.au](http://friendsofblackmountain.org.au)

Black Mountain Nature Reserve is now one of the key conservation sites in Canberra Nature Park. The Woodland Walk, on the south western slopes of the mountain, passes through three vegetation types: dry sclerophyll forest, grassy woodland and grassland. The latter two communities cover less than 5% of the reserve.

The Woodland Walk is about 2 km long, and takes at least one hour to cover. The lower section goes through remnant grassland and grassy woodland that are uncommon vegetation types on Black Mountain and across south-eastern Australia. On Black Mountain these areas were cleared during Canberra's early settlement, and used for stock grazing until the 1960s. The upper section of the walk traverses dry sclerophyll forest and has panoramic views as well as some moderately steep sections and rocks. Sturdy footwear is recommended.

## Acknowledgements

Thank you to volunteer authors and photographers, Linda Beveridge, Con Boekel, Murray Fagg, Jean Geue, and Rosemary Purdie.



### Indigenous art work

Wally Bell provided art work for the track markers.

***Ngunnawal Plant Use*** describes the traditional use of plants that have played a significant role in the lives and history of the Aboriginal custodians of the ACT, the Ngunnawal people.

It is important to be aware that some plants are dangerous to consume and may have a harmful effect if not identified or prepared correctly. Information about the Ngunnawal use of plants growing on Black Mountain has been sourced from *Ngunnawal Plant Use* (2014). *Ngunnawal Plant Use* was developed by Ngunnawal Traditional Custodians in partnership with Greening Australia and the ACT Government.



<http://www.environment.act.gov.au/cpr/ngunnawal-plant-use-book>



**ACT**  
Government

This project was supported with funding made available by the ACT Government under the ACT Heritage Grants Program.

## Why is Black Mountain special?

Black Mountain Nature Reserve is one of the largest and most prominent reserves in Canberra Nature Park. It is significant because of its geology and plant diversity. It is also a key element of the landscape and in the design for the national capital by Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahony Griffin.

Its Early Silurian rocks (Black Mountain Sandstone), formed from sediments deposited 435 to 430 million years ago, are among the oldest in the ACT. The sandstone-derived soils are very rare in the Territory. The soils along with the complex habitat support hundreds of species of plants and animals; somewhat different from other Canberra hills. There are more than 650 species of plants, including more than 60 orchids.

There are eight eucalypt species native to Black Mountain. The steep slopes of the mountain are covered in low open forest, dominated by Red Stringybark, Scribbly Gum, and Brittle Gum.

Eucalypts, wattles, native shrubs, grasses, herbs and wildflowers thrive in the soils that are enriched by nutrients from invertebrates and fungi in the leaf litter on the forest floor. Half of the orchid species found in the ACT occur on Black Mountain, as well as some rare plants. Birds, small and large mammals and reptiles feed and breed on Black Mountain, many relying particularly on the eucalyptus trees for nest hollows and shelter.

In gullies and on damp, south facing slopes, the variety of mosses, ferns, lichens and damp-loving plants redefine the word 'green'. The bark of the different tree species, with their textures, patterns and hues, delights artists and shows others that trunks are never paint-box brown. Up close, the beautiful colours of the wildflowers can be appreciated by walkers.

Black Mountain may be the best known mountain in Australia because of research and studies done by CSIRO and others.



Dry sclerophyll forest on the slopes of Black Mountain. Photo JG

## What is Black Mountain Nature Reserve?

Black Mountain Nature Reserve is part of Canberra Nature Park. It epitomises the image of Canberra as the 'Bush Capital'. Its rich diversity is a delight for local residents and visitors.

The intriguing forested slopes offer walks in the bush and panoramic views of Canberra and surrounding mountains. And it's all within three kilometres of the city centre.

Enter the Reserve at Frith Road (near the ACTEW substation), Belconnen Way, Caswell Drive, Black Mountain Drive, or Clunies Ross Street and the Australian National Botanic Gardens during daylight hours to the Summit Walk.

## What can I do on Black Mountain?

- Walk to the top and admire the views.
- Explore other walking paths.
- See and hear the birds; go birdwatching.
- Enjoy wildflowers, especially in spring.
- Jog or cycle along the formed vehicle trails.



Plant photography. Photo JG



Walk in dappled shade. Photo JG



Brown Snake. ACT Govt



Spider in leaf litter. Photo JG



Red Neck Wallaby. Photo MM



Tiger Moth (*Armata trigonophora*). Photo LP



Ant mound. Photo LP



Fringed Lily. Photo JG





Woody Weeds go. Photo JG



Love creeper. Photo JG



Heathy Bushpea. Photo JG



On a walking path. Photo JG

Black Mountain Leopard Orchid (*Diruis nigromontana*). Photo TW

Wildflower Walk. Photo JG



Scarlet Robin. Photo CB

## How can I help protect Black Mountain?

Friends of Black Mountain is an energetic local community group consisting of volunteers who help protect biodiversity and landscape values for future generations. New members are always welcome. It is one of many ParkCare groups that work cooperatively with ACT Parks and Conservation Service. Activities include:

- Weeding parties on the first Saturday of the month.
- Participation in Vegwatch, Frogwatch, BioBlitz, and other citizen science surveys.
- Conducting guided walks, including the Spring Wildflower Ramble and Heritage Festival walks.
- Assisting with maintenance of walk paths.
- Promoting Black Mountain's biodiversity locally and further afield, through public information.

## Please remember



Dogs and other domestic pets are not allowed in Black Mountain Nature Reserve.

- Everything is protected. Removal of any native animals or plant material (living or dead), rocks or soil is prohibited by law. Penalties apply under the *Nature Conservation Act (2014)*.
- Please walk on authorised walking paths and vehicle roads.
- Bicycles are allowed only on formed vehicle roads.
- Please take your rubbish home.

## Further information

For more information about Friends of Black Mountain, what it has to offer and what you can do to help protect and restore this valuable area:

- Visit our website: [friendsofblackmountain.org.au](http://friendsofblackmountain.org.au)
- Email [friendsofblackmountain@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofblackmountain@gmail.com)
- Write to: Friends of Black Mountain  
GPO Box 1777, Canberra City ACT 2601

More information about ParkCare, Canberra Nature Park, and Black Mountain is also at: [www.act.gov.au](http://www.act.gov.au)

## Acknowledgements

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4 **Black Mountain Woodland Walk**

**The Woodland Walk** passes through three vegetation types: dry sclerophyll forest, grassy woodland and grassland. The latter two communities cover less than 5% of the Black Mountain reserve area.



- Woodland Walk (2km, 1 hour)
- Forest Loop Walk
- Link Walk
- Little Black Mountain Walk
- Summit Walk
- Walk through ANBG to Summit Walk



## Dry sclerophyll forest

Dry sclerophyll forest is widespread on Black Mountain, and on the Woodland Walk occurs on the slopes above the grassland and grassy woodland vegetation. It is dominated by Brittle Gum (*Eucalyptus mannifera*), Scribbly Gum (*E. rossii*) and Red Stringybark (*E. macrorhyncha*). Red Box (*E. polyanthemos*) is also present in some areas. Below the trees the dominant Red-anthered Wallaby Grass (*Rytidosperma pallidum*) is mixed with a range of shrubs. The more common shrubs include wattles, several pea-flowered shrubs, Daphne Heath (*Brachyloma daphnoides*), Mountain Grevillea (*Grevillea alpina*), Silver Teatree (*Leptospermum multicaule*) and Cauliflower Bush (*Cassinia longifolia*). Herbaceous plants are a relatively minor component of the community.

## Grassland and grassy woodland

The grassland and grassy woodland vegetation occurs on the lower slopes. The trees are less dense than in the dry sclerophyll forest or, in what is now open grassland, absent where they were cleared for stock grazing during Canberra's early settlement.



Nodding Chocolate Lily (*Arthropodium fimbriatum*) flowering in spring.  
Photographer: Rosemary Purdie

The dominant species are Apple Box (*Eucalyptus bridgesiana*), Yellow Box (*E. melliodora*), Broad-leaved Peppermint (*E. dives*), Blakely's Red Gum (*E. blakelyi*) and Red Box (*E. polyanthemos*). Red Stringybark also occurs along the creek lines that cross the grasslands.

The ground layer of the grassland and grassy woodland is characterised by a wide range of herbaceous plants, with almost 140 species being recorded in this south-west area. The perennial Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda triandra*) and Redleg Grass (*Bothriochloa macra*) form a dense sward on the soil surface. Other perennial grasses include wallaby grasses (*Rytidosperma* spp), speargrasses (*Austrostipa* spp), Snowgrass (*Poa sieberiana*) and Wild Sorghum (*Sorghum leiocladum*). Grass-like plants include Wattle Matrush (*Lomandra filiformis* subsp. *coriacea*), sedges, rushes and lilies. Many of the herbaceous species are annuals, short-lived perennials or perennials with underground storage organs that only produce leaves and flowers during spring. The herbaceous species can flower prolifically during October and November, especially after prolonged wet conditions, and transform the grasslands with their brightly coloured flowers.

Shrubs and subshrubs are also present in some areas. Burgan (*Kunzea ericoides*) and Prickly Teatree (*Leptospermum continentale*) form dense groves on the western side at the start of the lower Woodland Walk. In the areas east of the dam, Burgan forms a dense band upslope of the track, and is expanding into the grassland. Other species that may be seen include Australian Blackthorn (*Bursaria spinosa* subsp. *lasiophylla*), Common Beardheath (*Leucopogon virgatus* var. *virgatus*), Daphne Heath, guineaflowers (*Hibbertia obtusifolia* and *H. riparia*), Heathy Bushpea (*Pultenaea procumbens*), Mountain Grevillea, Groundberry (*Acrotriche serrulata*) and Urn Heath (*Melichrus urceolatus*).



RP



MF

Flowers



RP

Bark



RP

Juvenile leaves



RP



RP

Bark



RP

Juvenile leaves

**Broad-leaved Peppermint (*Eucalyptus dives*)** trees have greyish, fissured bark throughout. The juvenile leaves are stalkless, broadly lance-shaped with smooth margins, and are opposite each other on the stems. The club-shaped buds are about 6 mm long and occur in clusters of 11 or more. When crushed, the juvenile and adult leaves have a strong peppermint smell.

**Red Box (*Eucalyptus polyanthemus*)** trees have strongly contorted upper branches. The bark is smooth, with greyish and white blotches, and peels off in chunky plates. Sometimes the trunk has rough bark at its base. The juvenile leaves have a long stalk and an almost circular blade, and are alternate on the stems. The globular to club-shaped buds are 6 mm long and occur in clusters of seven.





Flowers



Juvenile leaves



Bark

**Apple Box (*Eucalyptus bridgesiana*)** trees have greyish, rough bark throughout. The juvenile leaves are stalkless, heart-shaped with finely wavy margins, and are opposite to alternate on the stems. The egg-shaped buds are about 8 mm long, and occur in clusters of up to seven.



MF

**Redleg Grass (*Bothriochloa macra*)** is a tufted to spreading perennial with bright green leaves in spring, and red flowering stems to 40 cm tall. The flowers occur in narrow clusters along 3–5 small stems arising roughly from the same point on the flowering stem. Each flower has a rigid greenish or reddish bristle about 2.5 cm long. It usually flowers in summer.



RP

**Burgan (*Kunzea ericoides*)** is a shrub to 3 m tall with leaves up to 2.5 cm long and 4 mm wide. The white flowers form dense clusters at the ends of leafy branchlets. Each flower has five rounded petals and many white stamens longer than the petals. Its fruits fall off soon after maturing. Burgan flowers profusely in late spring and summer.



MF

**Kangaroo Grass (*Themeda triandra*)** is a tufted to spreading perennial with loose clusters of flowers that appear in late spring. Each flower has a rigid black bristle up to 6 cm long.

Ngunnawal people used the stems and leaves to make string for small baskets and fishing nets, and crushed seeds into flour for baking.



RP

**Prickly Teatree (*Leptospermum continentale*)** is a shrub to 2 m tall with leaves to 10 mm long and 3 mm wide. The white flowers are scattered along the stems. Each flower has five rounded petals and many white stamens shorter than the petals. The woody fruits persist on the plant for several years. It flowers in late spring.



**Clustered Everlasting** (*Chrysocephalum semipapposum*) is a clump-forming perennial herb with numerous stems from the base and leaves to 2.5 cm long and 2 mm wide. Bright yellow daisy flower head clusters, to 3.5 cm across, form at the ends of erect stems up to 60 cm high.



**Common Everlasting** (*Chrysocephalum apiculatum*) has similar flower heads to Clustered Everlasting but they are to 1.5 cm across on stems to 20 cm high. It has woolly stems and leaves to 4 cm long and 1 cm wide.



**Lanky Buttons** (*Leptorhynchus squamatus* subsp. *squamatus*) is a perennial herb with wiry, shiny red-brown flowering stems to 30 cm high. The leaves are to 3 cm long and 4 mm wide on the lower stem and decrease in size up the stem. The daisy flower heads are bright yellow, and shaped like a cup with flowers drooping over the sides.



**Sticky Everlasting** (*Xerochrysum viscosum*) is a short-lived perennial herb with erect stems to 50 cm or more high, and leaves to 6 cm long and 5 mm wide. Each stem produces a bright yellow daisy flower head that is surrounded by stiff, papery bracts.



**Australian Bindweed** (*Convolvulus angustissimus* subsp. *angustissimus*) is a perennial herb with a woody rootstock, and trailing, slender stems. Its leaves are to 2.5 cm long and 1 cm wide, and usually have two short lobes towards the base. The pink flowers are broadly funnel-shaped and up to 2 cm in diameter.



**Native bluebells** (*Wahlenbergia* species) are slender, erect annual or short-lived perennial herbs with blue flowers made up of 5 or 6 lobes spreading from a short tube. Yellowish Bluebell (*Wahlenbergia luteola*) and Tall Bluebell (*Wahlenbergia stricta*) have larger flowers (about 2 cm in diameter) than the other species.

Ngunnawal people ate the flowers of all Bluebell species.





**Austral Sunray** (*Triptilodiscus pygmaeus*) is an annual herb less than 10 cm high, with hairy leaves to 20 mm long and 4 mm wide. Each stem ends in a globular, yellow daisy flower head 5–6 mm across.



**Australian Carrot** (*Daucus glochidiatus*) is an erect annual herb usually less than 25 cm tall. Its leaves are divided into segments each about 1–2 mm wide. The flowers and fruits occur on the ends of short stalks arising from the same point (like the rays of an umbrella), in clusters of up to six. The fruits are 3–5 mm long with a row of short bristles along each rib.



**Curved Riceflower** (*Pimelea curviflora* var. *sericea*) is a herb-like perennial with hairy stems usually less than 30 cm high. The leaves are 6–15 mm long and less than 5 mm wide, and often slightly hairy. The greenish yellow flowers occur in small heads in the axils of the leaves. Each flower is about 7 mm long, and tubular in shape with four small lobes at the tip.



**Wild Flax** (*Linum marginale*) is a slender perennial herb with erect stems to 50 cm tall, and leaves to 20 mm long and 3 mm wide. The pale blue flowers have five petals each to about 1 cm long, and form loose clusters at the ends of the stems.

Ngunnawal people used the stems to make string for fishing lines and nets, and collected and ate the seeds.



**Woodrush** (*Luzula densiflora*) is a tufted, perennial herb. Its grass-like leaves with densely hairy margins grow mostly from ground level. The flowers occur at the ends of erect stems to 30 cm tall, in small, mostly stalked clusters with one or two leaf-like bracts. Other small grass-like plants, include sedges and rushes, can be common in the grassland but are easily overlooked.



**Pale Sundew (*Drosera peltata*)** is a herb with a small underground tuber and a flat basal rosette of leaves covered in sticky hairs. The plants have 1–3 erect, sticky-leaved flowering stems to 15 cm high with several flowers at the end. Each flower has five white or pale pink petals. The glandular hairs on the plants trap small insects.



**Slender Tick Trefoil (*Desmodium varians*)** is a herb with a woody root stock, leaves with three leaflets, clusters of small pea-shaped flowers, and several trailing or climbing leafy stems. It has whitish or pink flowers and hairy fruit pods that break into segments each 3–4 mm long.



**Yellow Rush Lily (*Tricoryne elatior*)** is a lily with an underground rhizome and sprawling, much-branched wiry stems. The leaves at the base of the plant are much longer than those on the stems. The yellow flowers each have six narrow petals and six hairy stamens held above them.



**Small St John's Wort (*Hypericum gramineum*)** is a herb with an underground rhizome, and several erect leafy stems to 20 cm tall with leaves in opposite pairs along them. The stems bear one to several shortly stalked, pale orange-yellow flowers each with five rounded petals and numerous stamens held above them.



**Bulbine Lily (*Bulbine bulbosa*)** is a tufted lily with an underground bulb and erect fleshy leaves growing from ground level. The yellow flowers have six petals and grow along stems up to 30 cm long. The flowering stems usually have many buds in the upper part, open flowers below them, and young fruit in the lowest part.



**Yam Daisy (*Microseris walteri*)** is a herb with large underground tubers and elongate leaves growing from ground level. Each plant has several unbranched flowering stems to 30 cm long with a single yellow daisy flower head about 2 cm in diameter at the end. The stems droop while in bud.

The Ngunnawal people ate the roasted bulbs.

The Ngunnawal people ate the tubers raw or roasted.



Photographers: **JG** = Jean Geue; **MF** = Murray Fagg; **RP** = Rosemary Purdie



**Nodding Chocolate Lily** (*Arthropodium fimbriatum*) is a tufted lily with large underground tubers and grass-like leaves. The flowering stems are to 70 cm tall, and have many widely-spaced clusters of purple flowers. The three outer petals on each flower are narrower than the inner three.



**Fringed Lily** (*Thysanotus tuberosus*) is a tufted lily with large underground tubers and grass-like leaves. The flowering stems are to 40 cm tall, with up to 8 stalked flowers at the end. Each flower is purple and has three prominently fringed petals alternating with three unfringed ones.



**Early Nancy** (*Wurmbea dioica*) is a lily with an underground corm and three grass-like leaves with stem-clasping bases. The flowering stems are to 15 cm high. Each flower has six white petals with a purplish band towards the base. Male and female flowers occur on separate plants.

The Ngunnawal people ate the roasted bulbs.

The Ngunnawal people ate the tubers raw or roasted.

The Ngunnawal people ate the starch-rich inner core of the corms.



**Purple Beard Orchid** (*Calochilus platycheilus*), **Common Onion Orchid** (*Microtis unifolia*) and **Dusky Fingers** (*Caladenia fuscata*) each have an underground tuber, a single erect leaf and an erect flowering stem. Purple Beard Orchid flowering stems are to 45 cm high with up to nine flowers at the end. Each flower is about 3 cm long, greenish with reddish or purple stripes, and has an elongate petal-like structure covered in dense purple hairs. Common Onion Orchid flowering stems are to 50 cm high with numerous tiny green flowers along them. Dusky Fingers flowering stems are up to 12 cm high. Each stem has a single pink flower with one upright and four spreading petals.



12    Where do the trees grow?



RP



RP



RP

Bark



MF

Flowers and buds

**Yellow Box (*Eucalyptus melliodora*)** trees have rough, flaky bark (often in a wavy pattern) on the lower trunk, and smooth bark on the upper trunk and branches. Its club- or egg-shaped buds are about 8 mm long and occur in clusters of 7.



RP



MF

**Brittle Gum (*Eucalyptus mannifera*)** and **Scribbly Gum (*Eucalyptus rossii*)** trees have smooth whitish or pale greyish bark throughout. Brittle Gum bark is powdery and comes off when rubbed. Scribbly Gum bark is not powdery, and has either dark coloured scribble marks (caused by insects) and/or distinctive wrinkles on the undersides of its branches. The buds and fruits of Brittle Gum are in clusters of 7, while those of Scribbly Gum are in clusters of 9–15.



RP



RP



RP



RP

**Blakely's Red Gum (*Eucalyptus blakelyi*)** trees have smooth, whitish, greyish or yellowish patterned bark on the trunk and branches. The trunk sometimes has rough bark at its base. The juvenile leaves, found on young saplings, are shortly stalked, and alternate along the stems. The spindle-shaped buds are to 14 mm long, and held in clusters of 7–11. The fruit have protruding valves. Blakely's Red Gum trees often show a form of dieback in summer, with most of the leaves becoming very unhealthy.

Nggunawal people used large strips of bark to make canoes, while coolamons and shields were made from smaller pieces. The wood can also be made into shields as well as clap sticks.



RP

### Red Stringybark (*Eucalyptus macrorhyncha*)

trees have fibrous, fissured bark throughout. The bark is grey on the surface and reddish brown in the fissures. The juvenile leaves, found on young saplings, have short stalks, are usually alternate, and are covered in rough bristles. The diamond-shaped buds are about 9 mm long and occur in clusters of 7–11.

Bark

Nggunawal people used the bark for shelters, shields, coolamons, string, rope and as a fuel to start fires, the wood for tool handles, and young saplings to make spears.

Black Mountain Nature Reserve is a special place in Canberra's natural and cultural landscape. The underlying rocks, including Black Mountain sandstone, are among the oldest rock formations in the ACT. The soils and complex habitat support hundreds of species of plants and animals.

For thousands of years Black Mountain was an important gathering place for the local Ngunnawal people and their neighbours such as the Wiradjuri (west), Walgu (south), Yuin (east), Ngarigo (south-east), Gundungurra (north-east) and Ngambri. Today's Ngunnawal people maintain connections to country as Traditional Custodians of the region.

Nestled on the south-western lower slopes of Black Mountain, the Woodland Walk at its highest point provides a panorama that takes in some of the natural and cultural changes to the landscape.

To the west is the Aranda Bushland and the Aranda Snow Gums (*Eucalyptus pauciflora*) which is listed as a Heritage Place.

On the south-western side of the Glenloch Interchange is the National Arboretum Canberra and two older forests, one of Cork Oak and one of Himalayan Cedar. Both forests were planted in keeping with Walter Burley Griffin's plans for the capital.

Further to the south are the Molonglo River, Scrivener Dam and the western reaches of Lake Burley Griffin, Government House at Yarralumla and Weston Park.

Government House was formerly Yarralumla Station, a large pastoral property from the 1830s. It was acquired by the Commonwealth Government in 1912.

The track from the viewing point passes through dry sclerophyll forest that includes trees more than 200 years old as well as significant younger regrowth.



### **Black Mountain, c1960s**

Aerial photograph

in: A List of Vascular Plants Occurring on Black Mountain and Environs, Canberra, ACT

M Gray and H. S. McKee, Melbourne, CSIRO, 1969

This aerial photograph shows Black Mountain and surrounds after Lake Burley Griffin was filled by damming the Molonglo River in 1963, prior to the construction of the current network of roads and suburbs.

The area ringed in red clearly shows the straight fences and fewer trees in areas that were associated with farming on the lower slopes of Black Mountain. Most of the Woodland Walk is within the red ringed area.





**Edward William Searle  
1887–1955**

***Molonglo River before  
Scrivener Dam was built,  
Canberra, ca. 1949***

Courtesy of National Library of Australia, PIC P838/113a-b LOC Album 1124/1

The Molonglo River was finally dammed in 1963 to complete architect Walter Burley Griffin's plans for the lake as the centrepiece of the capital. The lake was named after him. Scrivener Dam was named in honour of the surveyor Charles Scrivener who in the early 1900s surveyed many of the sites considered for the future capital.



**Glenys Ferguson 1943–  
Looking towards Scrivener  
Dam and pine forests, also  
Government House, Yarralumla,  
seen between the trees to the  
left of the dam, Canberra,  
c1963.**

Courtesy of National Library of Australia, PIC Online access #PIC/9969/6

The National Arboretum Canberra, now in the mid-distance, was created following the 2003 bushfires which burnt the managed pine forests. The plants growing on Black Mountain have evolved different strategies to survive fire. The majority of species produce vegetative shoots after being burnt. The eucalypts resprout from their bases along their stems and branches while most other woody plants, perennial herbs and grasses develop shoots from the base of their burnt stems, buried roots or other underground organs. Others produce seedlings from seed buried in the soil or released from burnt fruit.



**Box-leaved Wattle** (*Acacia buxifolia*) is a spreading shrub to 1.5 m tall with bluish-green leaves 1–3 cm long and 2–8 mm wide, and clusters of bright yellow globular flower heads. It produces vegetative regrowth after fire, and shows fire-stimulated seed germination.



**Broad-leaved Hop Bush** (*Dodonaea viscosa subsp. spatulata*) is a straggly shrub to 2 m high. Its leaves are 2–5 cm long, 4–10 mm wide, and broadest towards the end. It has small green male and female flowers that grow on separate plants. The fruits have 3 or 4 wings each 3–10 mm wide, and turn purplish as they mature. The plants are killed by fire, and the species relies on seed germination for recovery afterwards.



**Lemon Dogwood** (*Pomaderris intermedia*) is an erect shrub to 2.5 m tall. Its leaves are 4–11 cm long, 14–40 mm wide, dark green and hairless on the upper side and whitish and hairy below. The bright yellow flowers each 5 mm long form dense clusters. The plants can produce vegetative regrowth after low intensity fires. The species is rare in the ACT.



**Cauliflower Bush** (*Cassinia longifolia*) is a rounded shrub to 2.5 m tall, often with several stems from ground level. It has aromatic leaves 4–8 cm long and 2–6 mm wide that may be sticky to touch. Its white flower heads form dense, flat-topped clusters. The plants produce vegetative regrowth after fire.

Nggunawal people burned Cauliflower Bush and used the smoke to cleanse areas or spirits during ceremonies, and also ate the seeds and leaves.



**Early Wattle** (*Acacia genitifolia*) is an erect to spreading shrub to 2 metres tall with rigid needle-tipped leaves to 3 cm long and 1–3 mm wide. One or two pale yellow globular flower heads grow in the leaf axils. The plants are killed by fire, and the species relies on fire-stimulated seed germination for recovery afterwards.



**Small-leaved Parrotpea** (*Dillwynia phyllicoides*) is an erect shrub to 1.5 m high, with a single stem at ground level. Its leaves are 3–8 mm long, less than 1 mm wide, and have a spiral twist. The orange or yellow-and-red pea-shaped flowers often form tight clusters at the ends of branchlets. The plants are killed by fire, and the species relies on fire-stimulated seed germination for recovery afterwards.



**Mountain Mirbelia** (*Mirbelia oxyllobioides*) is a rounded to erect shrub to 1.5 m tall. Its leaves are to 1 cm long, 3 mm wide and often occur in whorls of three. The pea-shaped flowers have yellow and red petals. The plants produce vegetative regrowth after fire.



**Daphne Heath** (*Brachyloma daphnoides*) is a shrub usually less than 1 m tall, with many stems from ground level. Its leaves are 4–10 mm long, 2–4 mm wide and have parallel veins. The whitish coloured flowers have a narrow tube 4–6 mm long with five lobes 1–3 mm long at the tip. The plants produce vegetative regrowth after fire.



**Mountain Grevillea** (*Grevillea alpina*) is a spreading to semi-prostrate shrub less than 1 m tall. Its leaves are slightly hairy, 1–2 cm long and 2–10 mm wide. The red flowers are hairy on the outside, and have a short curved tube with smaller rounded lobes at the end. The plants produce vegetative regrowth after fire.



**Heathy Bushpea** (*Pultenaea procumbens*) is a low spreading subshrub usually less than 30 cm high. Its leaves are 3–10 mm long, 1–4 mm wide, strongly concave, and have a stiff bristle at the tip. The pea-shaped flowers are orange and occur in dense clusters at the end of branchlets. The plants produce vegetative regrowth after fire.



Black Mountain is home to a variety of bird species. Some live in Canberra all year round and others are seasonal visitors. Look and listen as you walk, run and enjoy the slopes of Black Mountain.

You may have to look and listen a little harder to spot some of the following species marked with ●



Australian King-Parrot



Australian Raven



Australian Wood Duck



Buff-rumped Thornbill



Brown-headed Honeyeater



Brown Goshawk



Crested Pigeon



Crimson Rosella



Eastern Rosella



Eastern Spinebill



Galah



Grey Butcherbird



Grey Currawong



Grey Fantail



Pacific Black Duck



Red-browed Finch



Red Wattlebird



Pied Currawong



Speckled Warbler



Striated Pardalote



Sulphur-crested Cockatoo



Striated Thornbill



Varied Sittella



Superb Fairy-wren



Yellow-faced Honeyeater



White-winged Chough



# Black Mountain flora boring? *Never!*

Text and photos by Rosemary Purdie

Extract from Journal, Australian Native Plants Society, Canberra Region Inc — December 2015



## Further information

For more information about Friends of Black Mountain, what it has to offer and what you can do to help protect and restore this valuable area:

- **Visit our website:** [www.friendsofblackmountain.org.au](http://www.friendsofblackmountain.org.au)
- **Email** [friendsofblackmountain@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofblackmountain@gmail.com)
- **Write to:** Friends of Black Mountain, GPO Box 1777, Canberra City ACT 2601

More information about ParkCare, Canberra Nature Park, and Black Mountain is also at: [www.act.gov.au](http://www.act.gov.au)



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