

Black Mountain

LINK WALK



Dillwynia phylloides

On the left, at the start of this path is a patch of *Dianella revoluta* between a *Eucalyptus rossii* and a *Eucalyptus macrorhyncha* tree. Also we may see *Goodenia hederacea* (Ivy Goodenia) with yellow flowers in spring and summer, and *Microseris lanceolata* (Yam Daisy), a yellow flowering herb seen in spring with elongate leaves growing from ground level. The Yam Daisy was used by Indigenous Australians as food, its starchy underground tubers being popular when roasted. One can also see patches of small grass-like *Lomandra filiformis* (Wattle Matrush) several meters from the path.

As we walk along the path we see more *Daviesia mimosoides*, *Exocarpos cupressiformis*, and butterflies on sunny days in summer. Follow the

As we walk along the road keep an eye out for two types of termite mounds, which represent two of the termite species on the Black Mountain. Low domes are the homes of *Nasutitermes exitiosus*, one of the snouted termites. A more pointed mound, up to about 2 metres high, belong to the *Coptotermes lacteus* (Milk Termites) that build a network of galleries through the nearby soil, enabling the workers to forage in the surrounding area without emerging on the surface of the ground. It also assists with aerating the soil and water going into the soil. The structure of the mounds is well insulated and provides living and storage space. Most termites live on grass, bark and leaves. They reduce the amount of leaf mulch, and their role in assisting fire control seems to be considerable.

is another termite mound. At this place, there is often a cluster of yellow daisies. We can see the single yellow balls of *Craspedia variabilis* (Billy Buttons) and yellow flowers of *Chrysocephalum semipapposum* (Clustered Everlasting) in spring. Further along the road on the left are more clusters of *Dianella revoluta*.

Just before the next junction we can see *Grevillea alpina* with red, yellow-tipped flowers in spring. At the junction, turn left onto Link road. Keep an eye out for tree hollows in the old trees. These hollows are used as nests by birds, including Crimson Rosellas and Sulphur Crested Cockatoos, and homes for possums. Then on the left we see a regrowth forest of young eucalypts, too. Pass the culvert and turn right onto the walking track.



Dianella revoluta *Microseris lanceolata* *Lomandra filiformis* *Kunzea ericifolia* *Pterostylis nutans* *Eucalyptus melliodora* Termite mound: *Coptotermes lacteus*

path over two bridges. At the first bridge is a cluster of *Kunzea ericifolia* (Burgan) and after the second bridge, more *Exocarpos cupressiformis* and, looking further up the hill, *Callitris endlicheri*. Between the second bridge and the road ahead, there are *Lomandra longifolia* on the left slope, and it may be possible to see *Pterostylis nutans* (Greenhood orchid) in spring, which also like the damp yet well-drained conditions of the slope. The *Pterostylis* orchids can be hard to spot given the green colour of the hooded shape of the fused upper petals.

After the second wooden bridge, turn left onto a dirt road, Finnerans Road. On the right, and again after about 150 steps, we can see the tall very old eucalypts with rough bark, and the ones with twisted bark patterns may be *Eucalyptus melliodora* (Yellow Box).

After about another 50 steps, on the left is a number of *Eucalyptus bridgesiana* (Apple Box) with some *Eucalyptus macrorhyncha*. In autumn, there are purple daisies, *Brachyscome rigidula* (Leaf Daisy, Cut-leaf Daisy) flowering.

As we walk along, look at the bank on the right for displays of mosses, lichens and liverworts, which are more visible after rain, with their different shades of green and grey. Also look into the bush for clusters of *Rytidosperma pallidum*. In spring tall stems grow from the tussock of slender leaves; these stems have the flowers with red anthers clearly visible.

We come to a large fallen tree on the left almost parallel with the road, which has a fork of two large branches, and on the other side of the road

In spring we will see orchids. In the intermittent creek bed, we can see a range of water-loving plants and grasses including *Carex appressa* (Tall Sedge), and *Lepidosperma laterale* (Variable Sword-Sedge).

As we cross the Powerline road and continue along the walking track we can see *Kunzea parvifolia* (Violet Kunzea), with purple flowers in spring, on our way back to the carpark.

Acknowledgements

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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 participation in:

- work parties,
- citizen science surveys of flora and fauna, guided walks,
- walk path maintenance,
- spreading the word about the rich nature in Black Mountain Reserve.

Visit our website:

www.molonglo.org.au/friends-of-black-mountain

Email:

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:

<https://www.environment.act.gov.au/parks-conservation/parks-and-reserves/get-involved/the-ParkCare-initiative>

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References:

Our patch: Field Guide to the Flora of the Australian Capital Region as photographed in the Aranda Bushland. Produced by the Friends of Aranda Bushland, 2nd ed (2007).



United for Nature



Black Mountain

LINK WALK

The Black Mountain Link Walk is an easy stroll starting from the Belconnen Way carpark, on the left, prior to the Caswell Drive turn off. The Link Walk is approximately a two-hour loop which begins along a dirt road then wends its way under the dry sclerophyll canopy of eucalypts. The walk has some semi-steep sections with steps and rocks. Sturdy footwear is recommended. Park in the designated car park just off Belconnen Way, then walk through the pedestrian gate entry to the road we intend to follow.

Dillwynia phyllicoides (Small-leaved Parrotpea) and *Pultenaea procumbens* (Heathy Bushpea). These peas are both small shrubs with colourful orange-red pea flowers.

As we walk on away from the crest along the road, on the right we see the cleared corridor for powerlines where we can see the tall shrub *Daviesia mimosoides* (Bitter Pea) with its wattle-like leaves and clusters of tiny bright yellow and brown sweet-pea-shaped flowers along its stems in spring. On the left we can see *Eucalyptus mannifera* (Brittle Gum) and *Eucalyptus macrorhyncha* (Red Stringybark) and traces of Scribbly Gum Moth scribbles on a bare patch of the trunk timber of *Eucalyptus rossii* (Scribbly Gum).

Eucalyptus rossii with traces of Scribbly Gum Moth scribbles



Exocarpos cupressiformis *Acacia buxifolia* *Daviesia mimosoides*

Leucopogon microphyllus *Eucalyptus macrorhyncha* *Eucalyptus rossii* *Callitris endlicheri*

Just inside the gate is an orientation sign with *Cassinia quinquefaria* (Sifton Bush) nearby. On the left and right we can see, *Exocarpos cupressiformis* (Native Cherry, Cherry Ballart) which is a tree with a cypress-like habit and bears red stems for fruit during summer. Keep an eye and ear out for birds including Thornbills, Crimson Rosellas, and White-throated Tree Creepers.

Walk towards the crest of the road and at the crest, on the left, we can see *Acacia buxifolia* (Box-leaved Wattle) flowering in spring, and *Acacia genistifolia* (Early Wattle) with sharp needle-like leaves and cream flowers in late winter and spring. Also present on the crest we can see *Grevillea alpina* (Mountain Grevillea) with greyish foliage and red, yellow-tipped flowers in late spring and summer and two spring flowering peas,

At the junction with the Link road, on the left we can see the information pavilion; one could have a look at the Pavilion information and then turn back to resume the walk along the Orchid road. Alongside the road, we can see *Rytidosperma pallidum* (Red-anthered Wallaby Grass), a tall tufted grass with tall spikes of small flowers displaying the characteristic red anthers in Spring/Summer and *Lomandra longifolia* (Long-leaved Matrush, Spiny-headed Matrush) with toothy leaf tip. On the left we see *Dianella revoluta* (Spreading Flax Lily) with blue flowers in Spring followed by blue berries.

Continue uphill along the Orchid road, and on the left and right we see more *Daviesia mimosoides*. At the next crest, on the left, on the edge of the road and a little off the road, we will see some *Leucopogon microphyllus* (Hairy Bearded Heath),

a small leaved white flowering shrub mainly flowering from June to January. Take a close look at the flowers to see the hairy petals and slightly furry leaves.

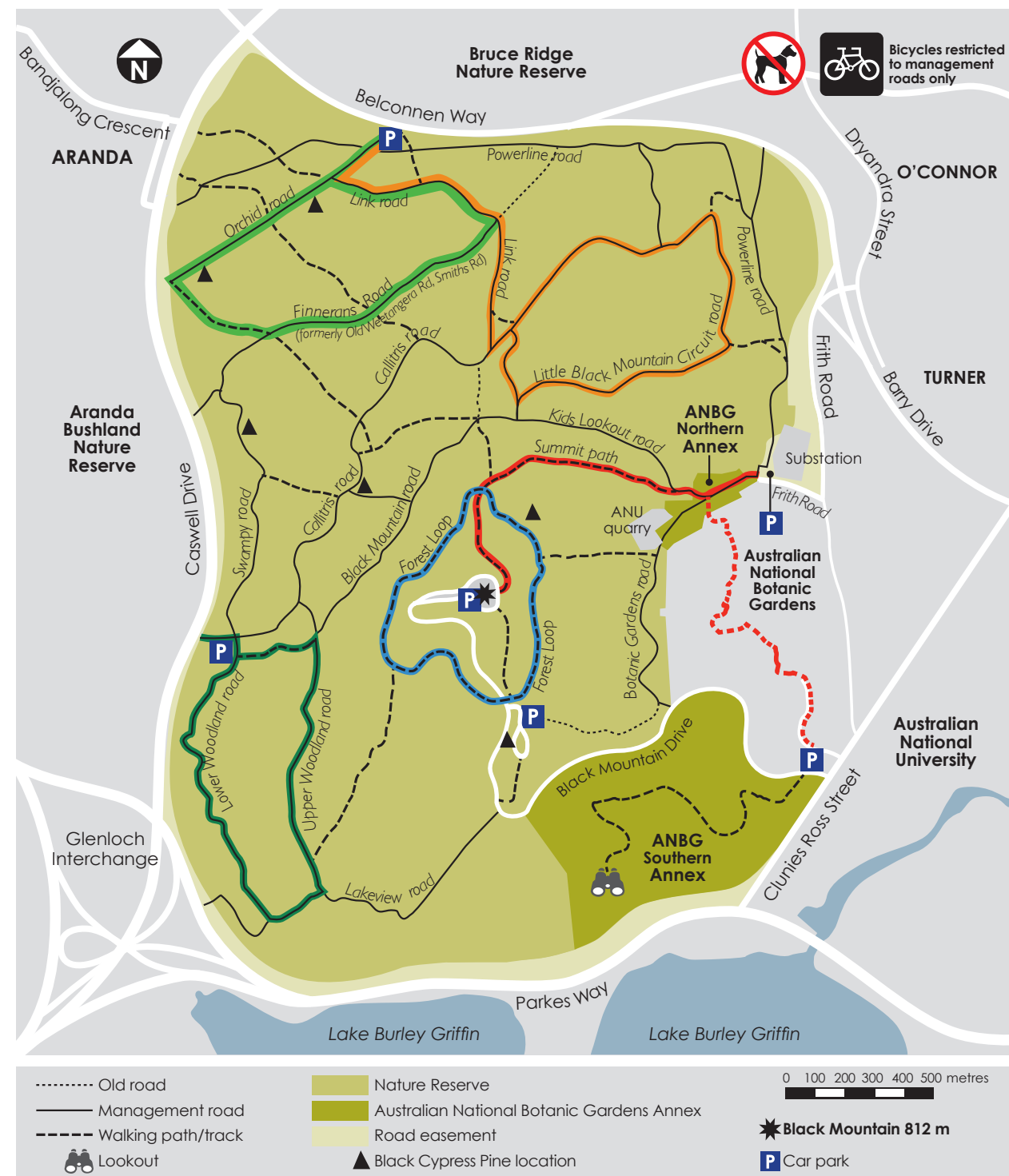
While following the road downhill, look out for small orchids on the banks of both sides of the road in spring. We can also see Eucalypts on the left including the rough-grey-stringy-barked *Eucalyptus macrorhyncha*, smooth white-barked *Eucalyptus mannifera* and *Eucalyptus rossii* with smooth white trunk, scribbles and its 'wrinkly armpits'.

To the left, as well as *Exocarpos cupressiformis*, there is a cluster of *Callitris endlicheri* (Black Cypress Pine) tall, conical shaped trees similar to traditional conifer shape. The two trees have

similarities, however, note that the bark on the *Exocarpos cupressiformis* has small tessellations, whereas the *Callitris endlicheri* has longer strands. The leaf colour of the *Exocarpos cupressiformis* has brown/yellow tones of green whereas the *Callitris endlicheri* is a deeper emerald green.

When at the bottom of the hill, at the culvert, look into the bush at the fallen trees, which provide fallen-wood habitat for birds, animals, insects and plants. Some of the trees were centuries old before dying.

Up the next hill and at the T-intersection overlooking Caswell Drive, turn left, and then again at the gate, veer left and follow the bush path to the concrete path. The concrete path is a narrow walking path. Cycling on it is not permitted.



Walks

Link Walk
(3.5km, 2 hour)

Forest Loop Walk
(2km, 1 hour round walk)

Little Black Mountain Walk
(3.5km, 2 hour)

Summit Walk
(2km, steady climb to summit, 2 hour return trip) including walk through ANBG to Summit path (1km, 0.5 hour)

ANBG section of Summit Walk
(1km, 0.5 hour)

Woodland Walk
(2km, 1 hour)

Also try the steeper Summit Walk between the Australian National Botanic Gardens and the Telstra Tower. The spring wildflowers are worth it and the views are stunning.