

## Flora

The more undisturbed patches of vegetation support a host of native wildflowers, including native orchids, lilies, and paper and button daisies. The reserve is home to over 150 species of native grasses, shrubs and trees. The predominant trees include dry sclerophyll forest species such as Red Stringybark and Scribbly Gum, as well as Native Cypress and typical grassy box-gum woodland species such as Yellow Box and Blakeley's Red Gum.

## Fauna

The Pinnacle Reserve provides habitat for more than 100 species of birds – 40% of all species ever recorded in the ACT – including several designated as threatened in the ACT and NSW. The woodlands are home to Scarlet Robins, Yellow-rumped Thornbills, Superb Fairy-wrens and many other small birds. Look in the trees for a Tawny Frogmouth snoozing during the day, or in the sky for a Wedge-tailed Eagle drifting overhead, looking for prey. The reserve is a good place to spot local parrots and cockatoos, as well as less well-known birds such as the Golden Whistler.

Mobs of Eastern Grey Kangaroos inhabit the reserve, along with the occasional Red-necked Wallaby or Swamp Wallaby. If you're lucky you may see a Bearded Dragon, Brushtail Possum or Echidna, or perhaps a Long-necked Turtle near the dam. Bats are common above the woodlands in the evening. Watch out for the occasional Eastern Brown Snake, most often seen sliding off into the taller grass beside the track and definitely best left to its own business.



*Echidna*



*Hardenbergia violacea*



*Tawny Frogmouth*



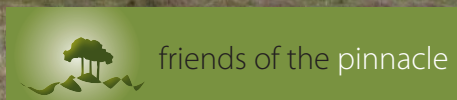
*Scarlet Robin (Photo: David Cook)*

The **Friends of the Pinnacle (fotpin)** is a local community-based group of park care volunteers who work closely with the ACT Parks and Conservation Service to conserve and restore the ecological values of the reserve. Through a program of weeding, erosion control, targeted plantings and community activities, our aim is to protect areas of high conservation value and restore native vegetation to degraded areas. The fotpins are a growing and enthusiastic group committed to preserving and enhancing this wonderful patch of bush.

For more information on the Pinnacle Nature Reserve, what it has to offer and what you can do to help protect and restore this valuable area, visit the Friends of the Pinnacle website at:

[www.fotpin.org.au](http://www.fotpin.org.au)

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# the pinnacle nature reserve

## The Pinnacle Nature Reserve

The Pinnacle Nature Reserve is part of Canberra Nature Park. It is named after the Pinnacle itself, a 708-metre peak that forms part of the Belconnen Hills, together with neighbouring Mount Painter and Black Mountain.

The reserve is situated between William Hovell Drive to the south and the suburbs of Hawker and Weetangera to the north, with entrances on Springvale Drive in Weetangera and at several points in Hawker. A beautiful patch of bush right on the edge of the suburbs, it offers panoramic views, scenic walks, abundant wildlife and beautiful woodlands. It lies amid a rolling landscape that includes remnant Red Stringybark forest and grassy box-gum woodland.

## Park care at the Pinnacle

The Pinnacle Nature Reserve was gazetted in 1993 as part of Canberra Nature Park, along with 22 other reserves. At that point, the reserve consisted almost entirely of cleared land that had been 'improved' by the addition of grass species suitable for grazing and the fertilizers to make them grow in Australia's nutrient-poor soils.

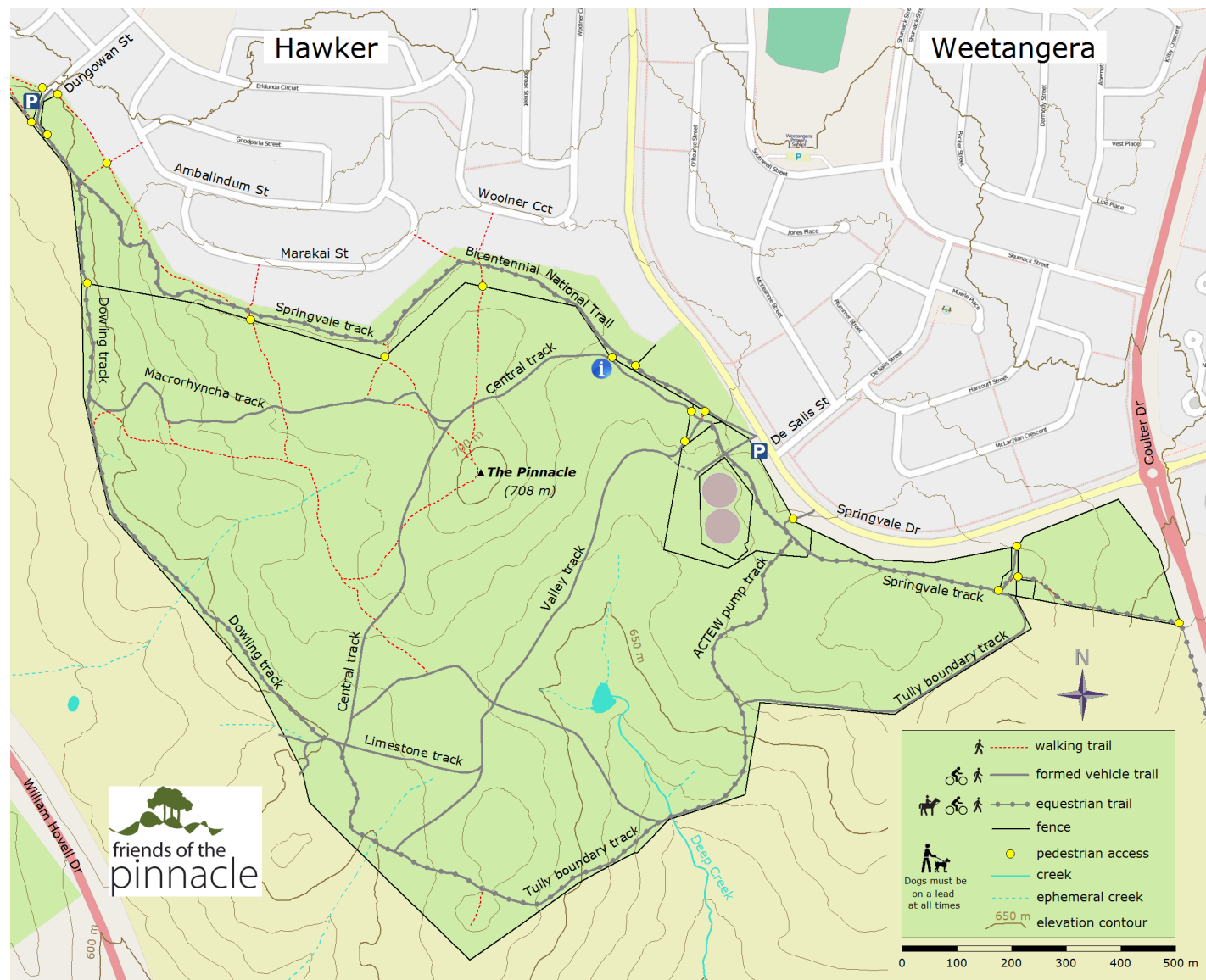
A massive planting program, initiated in 1984, introduced some 40,000 native plants through the Commonwealth Employment Program. This was followed in the late 1980s and early 1990s by additional plantings carried out by Scout groups, local schools, the general public and finally the Pinnacle Environment Group, a committed and enthusiastic volunteer group. These early plantings did much to restore the reserve from heavily cleared, overgrazed and weed-infested paddocks to a patchwork of leafy woodlands and grassy areas that provides habitat for native wildlife and an attractive environment for people.

## What can you do at the Pinnacle?

People use the reserve for a range of activities: a gentle stroll up to the top of the Pinnacle to admire the view and enjoy a picnic; birdwatching or looking at rare native plants in the remnant Red Stringybark forest; jogging or cycling along the formed vehicle trails; rogaining and orienteering; walking the dog (on a lead, of course); or exploring and having adventures with the children. Horseriding is also permitted on the Bicentennial National Trail.

## Walks

The map shows the main walking tracks in the Pinnacle Reserve. The tracks traverse a range of environments – remnant dry sclerophyll forest; open woodlands that have



grown up from the massive tree and shrub plantings in the 1980s and 1990s; creeks, swampy areas and dams; and rocky knolls clustered with native plants and ancient remnant eucalypts. The main graded trails are all named and there are signs at the key intersections.

## Views

The views from the higher points of the reserve are spectacular. To the west, you can see the Brindabella

Mountains and the Tidbinbilla Range on the far side of the Molonglo River. To the south, you can see Mount Tennent across the southern suburbs. To the east, look for the Parliament House flagpole and the chimney of the Brickworks. Whether it's to see the blue haze of summer or the storm clouds building on the mountains, the remnants of morning fog shrouding the course of the Molonglo River, or just to soak up the feeling of space so close to the bustle of the suburbs, a visit to the reserve is always uplifting.