

honeyeaters and insects. The semi-parasitic Native Cherry *Exocarpus cupressiformis* with its pine-like foliage is conspicuous in the shade of the forest.

5. The fire trail continues to a fence where an old tree that has suffered limb loss provides suitable roosting sites for bats and other animals.

The trail follows the fence-line north-west, past an understorey of Australian Bluebells *Whalenbergia stricta* and Kangaroo Grass *Themeda triandra*.

6. A massive Red Box *Eucalyptus polyanthemos* marks where the trail joins Dungowan St.

From here the trail turns back to the east and follows part of the Bicentennial National Trail, established during the bicentennial celebrations in 1988. It climbs a ridge flanked by rocky outcrops with Red Stringybark forest on one side.

Red box leaves Photo: M Maconachie



7. The Bicentennial National Trail heads into forest and around a knoll overgrown with Flax Lilies *Dianella tasmanica* and heath *Epacris sp* which provides a mass of colour in spring. A little further on, a track on the right leads off through a pedestrian gate. You can either take this trail through



Flax Lily

the reserve or continue to follow the equestrian trail behind the houses back to the cavaletti on Springvale Drive. The track through the reserve winds through forest before turning sharply to the east (left) and passing among scattered Yellow Box and Red Box. Parasitic mistletoes hang from the branches in thick, pendulous clumps.

8. An easy stroll along an avenue of Black Wattles *Acacia melanoxylon* leads to where views of Mt Rogers and Spring Range to the north can be seen. The trail then passes the base of the Pinnacle and continues back to the start.



Yellow Box flowers Photo: J Baker

Further Information

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PCL Vision Statement: *Integrated land management conserves biodiversity and supports an enjoyable, healthy and sustainable lifestyle.*

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Canberra Nature Park

The Pinnacle Nature Reserve



The Pinnacle Nature Trail Self-Guided Walk

Healthy Parks
Healthy People



The Pinnacle Nature Trail

Enjoy magnificent views, wildflowers in spring and investigate a number of habitats including a Red Stringybark forest on the Pinnacle Nature Trail.

The easy loop trail is 2.6 km and takes around 1 hour. Some rocky sections are encountered. Numbers on the brochure refer to localities on the walk.

The nature trail begins at the cavaletti on Springvale Drive. Other access points include Dungowan Street, Marrakai Street and Woolner Circuit. Follow the marker posts.

The Pinnacle Nature Reserve is one of the bush hills and ridges around Canberra that are part of

Canberra Nature Park. It lies to the south of the Belconnen suburbs of Hawker and Weetangera. The Pinnacle refers to the highest point (709 m) of the park.

1. Expansive views of Mt Tennent, Mt Arawang and the Brindabellas can be seen at the start. The trail follows a vehicle track upwards and around the side of the Pinnacle. On the way it passes plantings of eucalypts and acacias which give way to patches of acacia and the occasional mature Yellow Box *Eucalyptus melliodora*.
2. As the trail crests the ridge, a side track leads to the Pinnacle summit—a rocky knoll with a superb view. A few big old Red Stringybarks *Eucalyptus macrorhyncha* hug the top.



Australian Bluebells Photo: E Beaton

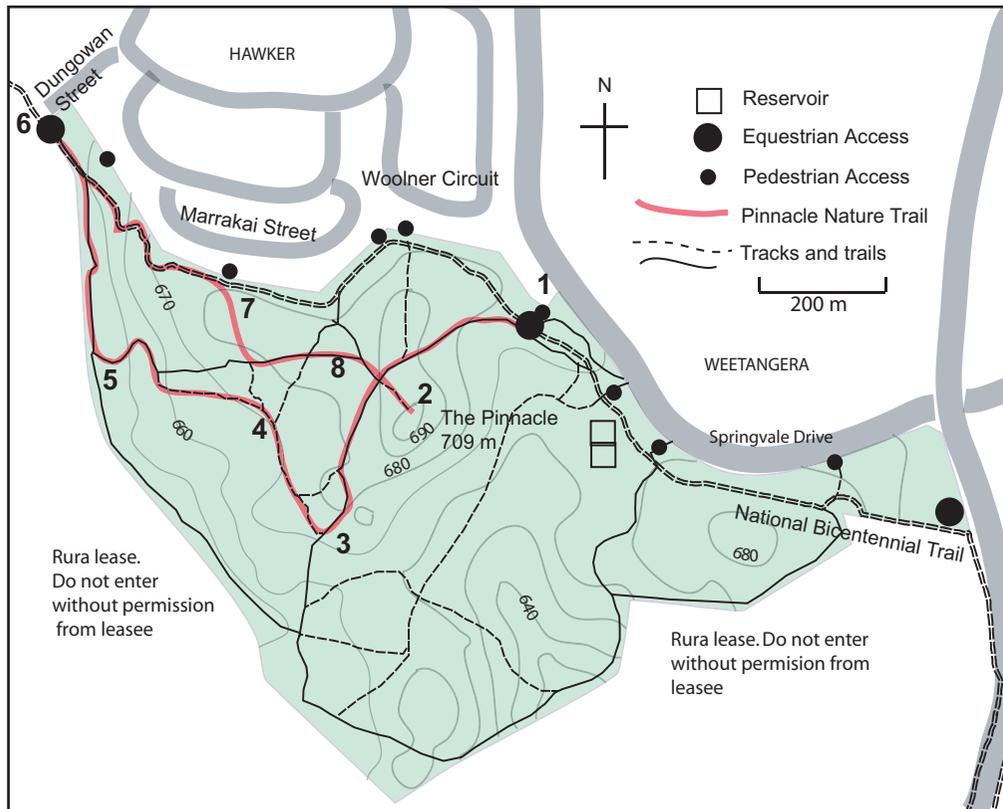
3. The trail continues across a shallow saddle, past woodland and open grassland, to a smaller knoll with boulders. Dacite, a finely-grained volcanic rock with small crystals, is the most common rock type here. These rocks provide shelter for many native animals including skinks.

4. The trail then winds through grassland, stands of planted trees and over a footbridge. The ground cover here is mostly the introduced grass *Phalaris tuberosa*, a remnant of the improved pasture that was encouraged in the times when the Pinnacle was leased to private graziers. A lone, old Yellow Box on the edge of the forest provides shelter and nesting hollows for a variety of animals including parrots and possums.

In the Red Stringybark forest the air is often alive with the sounds of Crimson Rosellas, Yellow-rumped Thornbills, White-throated Treecreepers and Grey Fantails.

The understorey of Cassinia, Blackthorn, and daisies provide nectar and pollen for numerous birds including

Crimson Rosella Photo: E Beaton



Native Cherry (above)
Photo: L Padgham
Yellow Box (below)
Photo: E Beaton

