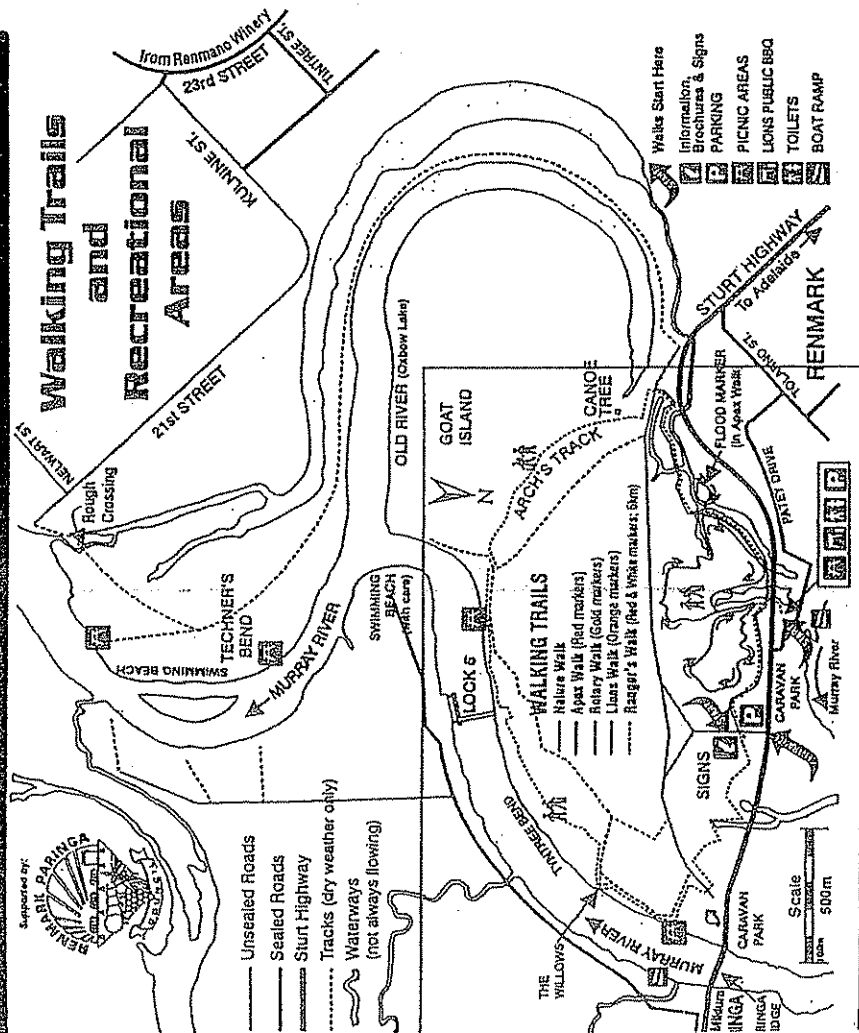


13. The Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) is prolific along the creeks and river. It can grow to a height of over two metres and has a very dense and vigorous root system that allows it to regenerate after fire or flood.
14. You should be able to find some Nardoo plants (*Marsilea drummondii*) on the ground here. They thrive after a flood and have leaves something like a four-leafed clover. The plants produce small brown seeds which were gathered and ground into flour by aboriginal women.
15. Do you know where this creek comes from and where it goes?

To return to the starting point follow the Ranger's Walk markers out to the roadway, then turn left and follow the road, keeping to the left at each road junction.

## PARINGA PADDOCK & ENVIRONS



Enlargement of this section inside

Printing of this brochure donated by Renmark Paringa Council  
 Maps & Artwork donated by VISUAL-LINK 8586 5222  
 November 2003

# PARINGA PADDOCK

## Nature Walk

and a map of other  
 Walking Trails and  
 Recreational Areas

The Paringa Paddock area has been managed and maintained by two volunteer rangers, Mr Alec Ayling and Mr John Steed, since 1983.

Their interest and activity in the area has been very successful with the removal of many tonnes of rubbish, the establishment of interesting walking trails and ongoing maintenance.

The nature walk you are about to take was developed with the assistance of Faye Brodie, a teacher at the Renmark Primary School, John Steed and Alec Ayling. It was opened in December 1991.

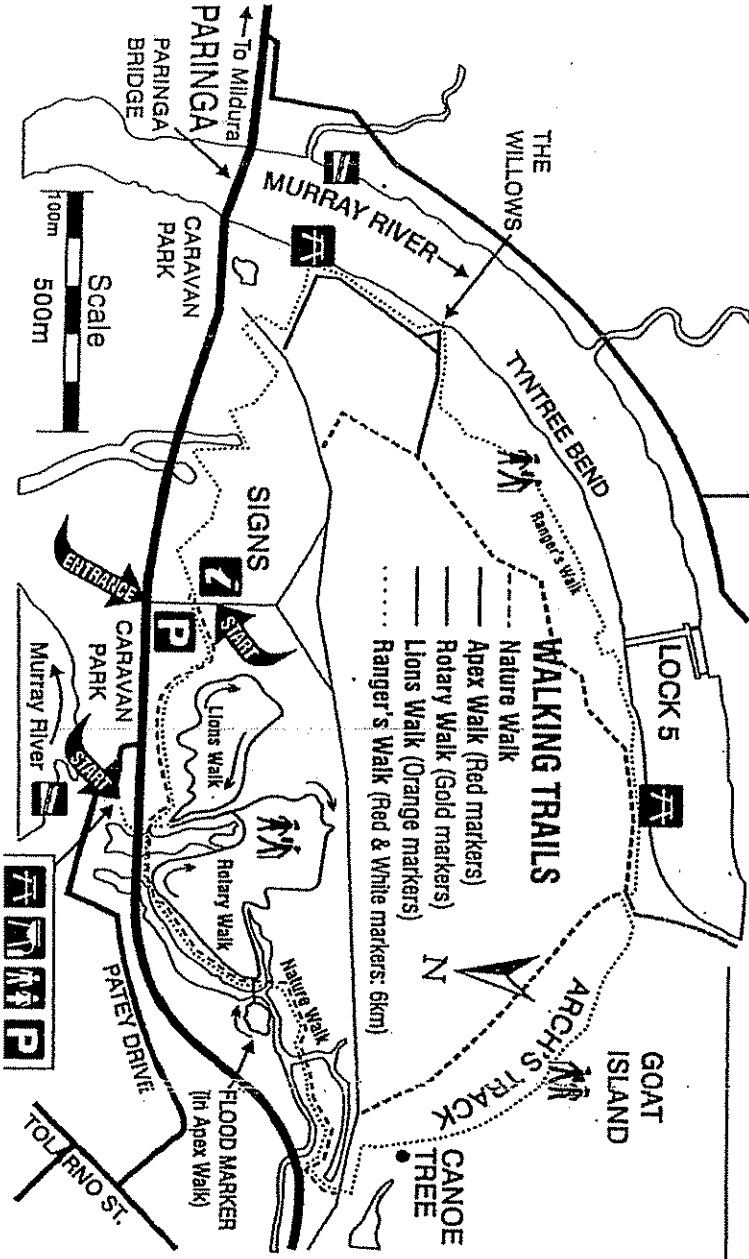
The walk is approximately one km in length and along it are 25 points of interest, each numbered with a wooden post

Listed in this brochure are items relating to these 25 points, so if you're ready, lets go!!

# Interesting facts

1. The trees with the dark trunks and gray/green leaves are Black Box (*Eucalyptus largiflorens*). They thrive in river flats and often mark the extent of flooding.
2. The tall dark trees are Dry Land Tea Trees (*Malealeuca lanceolata*). Notice how their leaves differ from those of the Black Box.
3. Several trees here have been cut down or lopped. Why do you think this occurred?
4. Turn right off the track approximately 12m to a line of young Black Box trees. Two of these trees are hosts for the pendulous yellowish plant parasite Mistletoe (*Amyema miquellii*). The Mistletoe is spread by the small red breasted Mistletoe Bird (*Dicaeum hirundinaceum*). The flowers produce seed pods which contain a sticky material which the birds rub off onto the branches of trees after feeding, thus spreading the plant. Approximately another 15m further on across the grassed depression another Box Tree is being attacked by another plant parasite known as the Strangler Vine or Devils Twine (*Cassytha melantha*).
5. Do you know that ants have a very well structured community similar to that of bees? There is an ant colony approximately 25m south of here.
6. The low pale green plant is Samphire (*Halosarcia pergranulata*). It grows in salty soils.
7. River Saltbush (*Atriplex thagalloides*) also thrives in saline soils. Notice how the saline soil has a very poor structure and a tendency to cake on the surface.
8. The creeping ground plant with the soft round leaf is Pigface (*Disphyma clavellatum*). It is a very hardy species that can live in dry, arid situations.

9. What sort of life do you think exists in the waters of this creek? Can you see any birds in the water or in the trees along the creek?
10. The short, dark green plants with the strong narrow leaves are Sedges (*Cyperus gymnocaulos*). They were often used by aboriginals to weave baskets and nets.
11. Lignum (*Melaleuca forficata*) which has a straggly almost tendrill like growth, thrives in flood plains and when well grown forms as a dense barrier.
12. There are two indications of vandalism in this area. The young Black Box that has been cut off with an axe and the remains of yabby shells. Please do your part to protect the wonderful natural area that you are enjoying today.
13. Here we have another plant parasite, *Exocarpos strictus*, which is related to the Quandong. Note that it is a root parasite, unlike the Strangler Vine and Mistletoe which become established in the tops of host trees. *Exocarpos* spreads by suckering.
14. Nitre Goosefoot (*Chenopodium nitratifolium*) with the pale grey leaves is prevalent in Paringa Paddock. It is a very prickly bush, but a good haven for small birds like wrens.
15. Wild Liquorice (*Glycyrrhiza acanthoracpa*) has a dark green leaf and reddish brown flowers.
16. Bokhara Cover (*Melilotus alba*) is an introduced plant that originally came from Eurasia.
17. The ground cover with the small green leaves is Lippia or Condamine Clover (*Phyla nodiflora*). It provides small white daisy like flowers which are attractive to bees in the late spring and summer. It is drought tolerant and very hardy.
18. The trees with the long drooping grey/green leaves are River Coobas (*Acacia stenophylla*). You may be able to see the long strands of seed pods that the tree produces. The seeds are quite large and easy to collect.
19. Here we have a wonderful stand of tall River Red Gums (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*). Notice how they like to grow along the edge or very close to the creek, whereas Black Box are able to exist further away from the water.
20. Can you see the remains of a dwelling through the trees? Who might have lived here?
21. Check the surface of this creek for Red Duckweed (*Azolla filiculoides*). This fern grows on and often covers the surface of open ponds or gently flowing streams. Its tiny green to red fronds float on the surface while the thin white roots dangle below.
22. Cumbungi or Bullrush (*Typha orientalis*) grows in the water of shallow creeks and produces a large, smooth brown seed head. Aboriginals used the leaves for weaving baskets. Do you know the story of Moses in the bullrushes?



## LEGEND

- Unsealed Roads
- Sealed Roads
- Sturt Highway
- Vehicle Tracks (dry weather only)
- ~ Waterways (not always flowing)
- Start
- Information, Brochures & Signs
- P Parking
- Picnic Areas
- Lions Public BBQ
- Toilets
- Boat Ramp