

WALK DETAILS

1.5 kilometres
approx. one hour
easy walking on firm flat ground



To get there: Travel along either Track 2 or 3 to where the tracks meet and through the gate. The Old Gluepot Homestead site is approximately 300 metres north beyond the yards along Track 3. Park outside the fence surrounding the homestead ruins.

SAFETY GUIDELINES

A few simple precautions should always be taken when walking at Gluepot.

Dehydration is always a real risk as the temperature can get extremely high (over 45° C), and humidity is normally very low.

- **Carry sufficient water**
- **Protect yourself from the sun**
- **If on a long walk take at least one piece of warm clothing**
- **Carry a compass & plan or map**
- **Carry a snake bite kit.**

Living at Old Gluepot

In 1934 the Warnes family of Woolgangi (NE of Burra) acquired the pastoral lease to the western portion of the present Gluepot Reserve. They engaged Horrie Truscott, who had been working for them at Woolgangi, as manager, and provided a two-roomed house for Horrie and Gert at Gluepot. In 1936 two additional rooms were erected.

Horrie Truscott was born in Burra in 1909. In 1932 he married Gert Beaton, who was born in Lucindale in 1915. Gert's mother had been a cook, and she herself, a housemaid, for the Warnes. They had two daughters while at Gluepot, Cynthia, born in 1933 and Meredith in 1935. Cynthia died early in the 1940s from a brain tumor, thought to have resulted from an earlier accident when she fell from a tree.

For Gert, the main difficulties in living here were lack of water, loneliness and transport. The original Gluepot dam was the only source of water. In the house they depended on rainwater and water bucketed up from the dam. Often Horrie was away all day and Gert would pack lunch for him. At mustering times and shearing (at Woolgangi) he could be away for 3 or 4 days at a time. Sometimes they would go out in a horse and cart, or maybe with others by car. They enjoyed visits from friends and relatives who drove out for weekends from Waikerie and played tennis on an improvised court with a net consisting of wire netting strung between two droppers.

The Truscotts were the only people to live here for any length of time and they left in 1940. They had to be very self-sufficient in this isolated spot. Gert made bread in the wood stove. Meat and vegetables were mainly from the station stock and their garden.

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OLD GLUEPOT HERITAGE WALK

Old Gluepot Homestead Pioneer Pastoral Industry



Threepence found near the Old Gluepot Dam.

Established with the support of the
South Australian Government
through the History Trust

GLUEPOT RESERVE
WALKING TRACK NETWORK
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17. Horse Yards

The metal rails were second hand pipes obtained from the South Australian Gas Company in 1935. The gate was made by a blacksmith (notice the rivets) and was previously used in the netting fence on the northern boundary of the Gluepot lease. There was a bough shed on the northern side of the yards. The mail driver who brought fencing wire, iron and other materials on his three-ton truck from Burra via Woolganga was a Mr A.D. Sellars.

18. Milking a cow
Gert Truscott regularly milked a cow. Where do you think she might have done this?

Walk 50 metres eastward to the:

19. Old tank with a tree growing through it
This was used as a feeding trough for the horses. It had probably been made in England and originally used as a container for goods coming to South Australia by sea.

20. Fence

This was the first fence built by the Warnes after they acquired the Gluepot lease in 1934 and extended north to join the netting fence forming the northern boundary of the lease. It consists of Black Oak posts cut from the area. Holes were hand drilled but could only be done relatively easily when the timber was green. Posts in the fence are ten yards apart and originally there were four strands of wire.

Return along the road to your car. As you go, you might like to consider:

What might have been the daily and weekly routines of the Truscotts?

How would you have coped living here as Gert and Horrie Truscott did with their two daughters?

What would you miss?

What would you enjoy?

What would concern you most?

How would you entertain yourself?



Winifred Warnes and Horrie Truscott at Gluepot about 1938 with Reg Warnes' 1934 Fiat 501

Birdlife Australia Gluepot Reserve
contact details:
gluepot@gluepot.org
www.gluepot.org
08 8892 8600



Gluepot Homestead in about 1939



The remains of the Old Gluepot Homestead - the underground room can be seen in the background.

Notes prepared by Don Gobbett who is researching the social history of Gluepot. He may be contacted through the Ranger.

Please treat the ruins and historical remnants with great care. Look with interest but leave things as you find them so that others may enjoy them.

Aboriginal sites, objects and remains are all protected under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988. You must not disturb, damage or interfere with any of these. Please report the location of significant items to the Ranger.

Go into the Homestead yard to observe:

1. House

The original two rooms, a kitchen and bedroom, were provided by Reg Warnes and built by Bob Fuss. In 1936 two additional rooms, a second bedroom and sitting room, were added. Lighting was by kerosene lamps. Notice the remains of a verandah on the southern side. The soot in one of the chimneys once caught alight. Galvanised iron was usually second hand and, together with other materials, was brought from Woolgangi, approximately 70 km north west of Gluepot.

2. Gardens

Gert Truscott established the map of Australia and cactus gardens. Why do you think she did this?

3. Cellar

Between 1937 and 1939, this was constructed by Horrie Truscott and Sam James, using local *Casuarina pauper* (Black oak) timber. It was used for storage and to cure corned meat. It was a cool place in summer, where they often ate meals cooked by Gert in the hot kitchen.

She also spent hot days sitting in the cellar doing the fine embroidery for which she was well known, "for the CWA". Presumably the meat from the sheep they killed each week was kept here.

4. Telephone Post

A post stands in the north-eastern corner of the yard. Posts brought a telephone line connecting the house to Woolgangi where the Warnes family lived. Most posts with their white insulators have been pulled down, with some being used to mark the present parking area. The lessees of Canegrass station to the north privately owned the telephone line back to Burra.

Follow the blue arrows through the gateway in the north-west corner of the yard to the:

5. Long Drop Dunny

This is the site of the latrine used by the Truscotts and any visitors. Part of a galvanised wall is nearby. Imagine digging the pit! And night visits!

Go back towards the fence and then around to the:

6. Ash and rubbish heap

Ash from the Metters No. 2 wood stove in the house was deposited here. What can you learn about the lives of the inhabitants from what you see here?

A CLAY PIPE FOUND NEAR OLD GLUEPOT



Possibly bought as a souvenir by a passenger to Australia on *SS Great Britain*. How did it get to Gluepot?

A little further away was the:

7. Fowl Yard

Five remaining posts mark this yard. One has a hinge where the door hung. There is a wire hook for hanging a feed bucket. A piece of wire, used to catch chooks, hung from another post. Notice the kerosene tin nesting box.

Walk back to the car park:

8. Warne's Hut site

Just outside the fenced house area about where you parked, a hut was built by Fred M. Pearce in 1939. It cost 90 pounds 7 shillings and 6 pence and provided accommodation for the Warnes when they came from Woolgangi. Les Warnes recalls playing canasta here with his father and brother in the evenings. After the new homestead was built in 1957, the hut was moved on a specially constructed trailer to its present site where it is now used for sleeping accommodation at the Research Quarters. Moving it was no mean feat given the lack of roads.

Walk eastward along the road and on the left are:

9. Dog Kennels

One of the two small yards for housing dogs at night remains almost intact. Horrie Truscott would shoot goats for dog food.

10. Tennis Court

We know that people played tennis at Old Gluepot. Where do you think the courts might have been located?

EITHER return to your car and drive, OR continue walking 50 metres eastward along the road where on your left is a:

11. Coolamon tree

Aboriginal people used this tree for making 'carrying bowls'. Can you see three scars?

Walk or drive on to the car park near the tanks. Walk eastward down the path. On the left are the remaining posts of an:

12. Old Hut

This was one of two buildings on Gluepot in 1934 (There was also a hut near the Birdseye dam site built by an early lessee, Alfred Birdseye). This hut had been built prior to the Finch family using it in the late 1920s. Ken Finch described it as:

a galvanised iron hut with a limestone chimney. It had a resident goanna that came out occasionally into the kitchen to eat the crumbs on the floor.

Ken and his brother, Reg, stayed here while working in the area. Ken cooked on a camp oven while Reg became an excellent damper cook using coals from a fire lit in a hole in the ground. They ate a lot of tinned meat and jam with the damper.

At times the brothers rarely saw each other but knew that the other had visited the hut. Their work involved riding the unfenced boundaries of the lease checking on sheep. Notice the remnants of a Simpson No.1 wood stove and wire mattress.

Look across the open flat to the:

13. Site of the former dams

In 1934 the original dam held the only collection of water in the whole 40 square miles of the Gluepot block. It had been sunk using bullocks and a scoop. Sheep yards were then south of the dams however, on an 1895 map of the area, 'Gluepot Paddock' is marked with 'Gluepot dam' and sheep yards to the north and horse yards to the south of it.

14. Vegetable Garden

The Truscotts had a good vegetable garden which Horrie prepared by digging deep beds and filling them with sand and sheep manure.

They were mulched with leaves and litter from under the Black Oaks and Gert reported that the garden produced enormous carrots and parsnips, which had to have water poured around them before being pulled. A double action hand pump initially

brought water from the dam but later a Metters K windmill was installed. This stood about 3 metres high and had a blade diameter of 1.8m. What would you consider an appropriate location for a vegetable garden in this vicinity?

Follow the blue arrow to the:

15. Bore

This early attempt to obtain water was drilled when Walter Finch was the lessee in the 1920's. A letter requesting the government sink the bore was sent in 1927 by the lessee who was willing to pay a percentage of the cost, but no action was taken by the government at that stage. When it was eventually sunk by a Mr Hay, the water was found to be fairly brackish so a condensing plant had to treat the water before the horses could drink it. The present depth is only 3.2 metres. The steel casing has probably corroded and the bore filled with soil because even buried galvanised pipe can corrode in this region because of the salinity of the water.

Walk along the road westward, and through the gate toward the yards. Before exploring them look to your left at a:

16. Forked Post

This post and the Y-shaped hitching post on the ground behind it were part of a mechanism for butchering sheep. Can you work out how it was used?