

WALK DETAILS

10.5 km circuit
3 to 4 hours
easy walking, some sand

This walk commences from the car park on track 2 about 15 km from the Visitor Centre. The car park is approximately 1.5 km west of Bluebird Dam on track 2.

The walk follows the Oil Line track west to the western boundary of Gluepot. This section includes many very old Mallee and Native Apricot trees, and a range of other plants that are rarely seen in other parts of the property. At the fence the walk heads south along the fence line until it heads east down to Kelly Dam. You can follow the fence or meander through the scrub following the posts.

Old campsites are evident by the side of the track in places. **Please look, but do not remove any items or attempt to clean up the sites.**

There are a range of vegetation associations, but Bluebush is the special for this walk.

The section from the western fence down to the old dam site (Kelly Dam) also contains a wealth of low flowering shrubs that are an attraction for a range of bird species.

From Kelly Dam the walking track follows the vehicle track (track 2) east, back to the car park.

THIS WALK IS HABITAT FOR

Chestnut Quail-thrush, Crested Bellbird,
Shy Heathwren, Splendid Fairy-wren,
A variety of Honeyeaters when shrubs are
flowering

IF YOU BECOME LOST ON THIS WALK

walk west to the western boundary fence
and follow this to relocate the walking track

BURROWING FROG

Sudell's Frog (*Neobatrachus sudelli*) spends most of its life aestivating underground. When it rains heavily to produce pools in low lying areas of the mallee, these frogs emerge to feed, reproduce and absorb water. Later they dig themselves deep into the soil to survive the hot dry conditions until the next big rain, which may be years later.

Temporary pools of water may contain large numbers of tadpoles, that need to reach the adult frog stage before the pool dries up, so that they too can "go underground".

Do you know what aestivate means?

To aestivate, is to be dormant during hot dry conditions.

SAFETY GUIDELINES

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

Dehydration is always a real risk

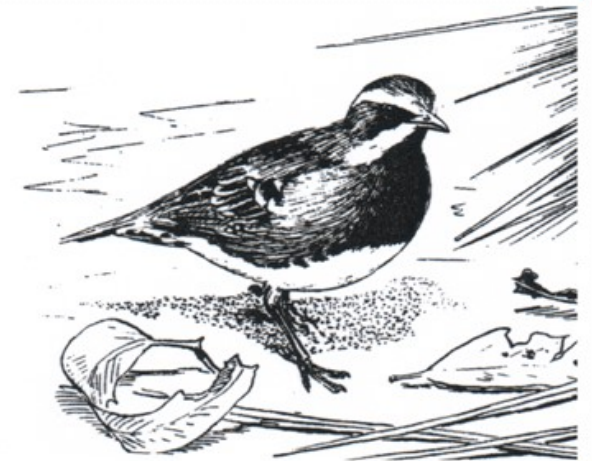
as the temperature can get extremely high (over 45°C), and humidity is normally very low.

- **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.**

W3

BLUEBUSH WALK

Long unburnt vegetation
A variety of habitats



Chestnut Quail-thrush *Cinclosoma castanotum*

GLUEPOT RESERVE
WALKING TRACK NETWORK
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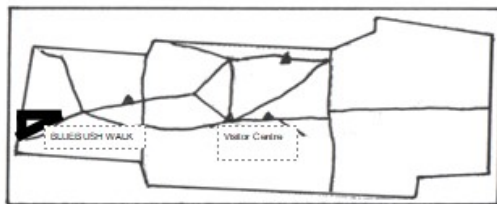
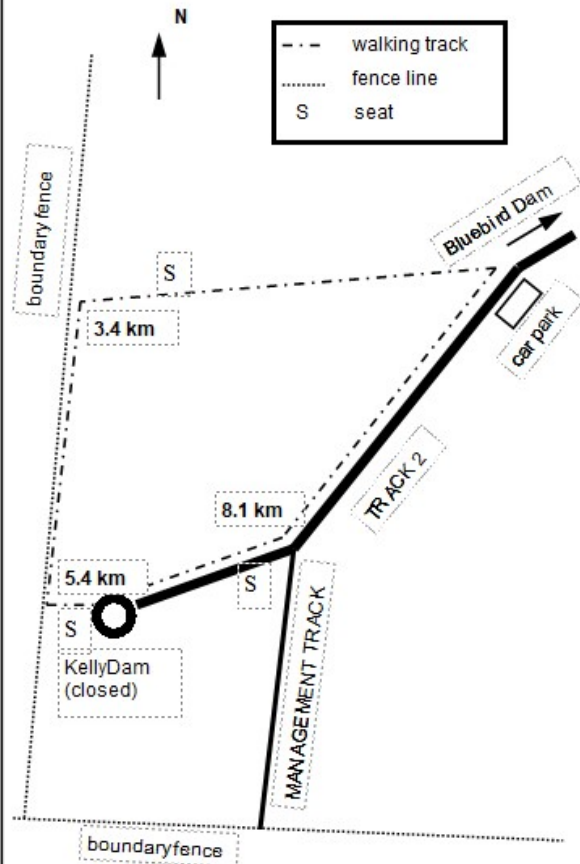
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THE BLUEBUSH WALK

Map NOT to Scale



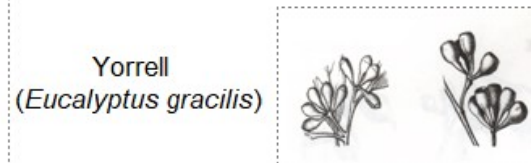
MALLEE

'Nobody knows who made the mallee, but the Devil is strongly suspected!' (*The Bulletin*, 1902). This was a widely held view based solely on economic grounds, because it provides poor pasture. It is only in recent times that the true value of mallee has been understood.

The name mallee is used for over 100 eucalypt species which have many stems coming from a swollen underground stem called a lignotuber or mallee root. There are 7 species of mallee on Gluepot. These can be identified by studying the buds and fruit. Three of the most commonly found species on Gluepot are illustrated below.



Oil Mallee
(*Eucalyptus oleosa*)



Yorrell
(*Eucalyptus gracilis*)



Red Mallee
(*Eucalyptus socialis*)

The understorey varies from *Tridodia* hummocks on the east-west sand dunes to saltbush or a range of other shrubs including *Sennas* and *Acacias*.

Mallee is an important habitat for many species of mammals, birds, reptiles and invertebrates. Some of these animals live only in mallee (eg. Mallee Ningai, Black-eared Miner and the endangered Legless Lizard). Many of the extinct and endangered mammals once frequented mallee areas, but have been displaced by feral goats, sheep and rabbits, or have been taken by foxes or feral cats.



The Mallee Ningai is similar in appearance to this common house mouse, but even smaller.

Some income can be derived from mallee areas:

- some species of mallee are harvested and distilled for eucalyptus oil
- some mallees produce export quality honey, but on an irregular basis
- big areas have been cleared for firewood
- harvesting for the production of charcoal continues today in some areas.

BUT

As a result of this clearing for agriculture etc., rainfall that was almost entirely taken up by mallee trees, now makes its way past the shallow rooted crops and into the ground water. This ground water is as salty as the sea, and as it rises to the surface, it causes dryland salinity, turning the place into a wasteland.

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