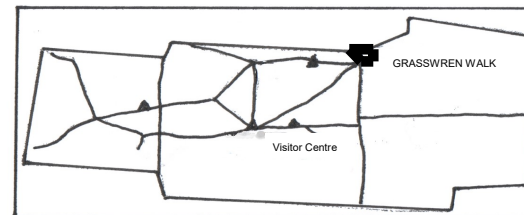
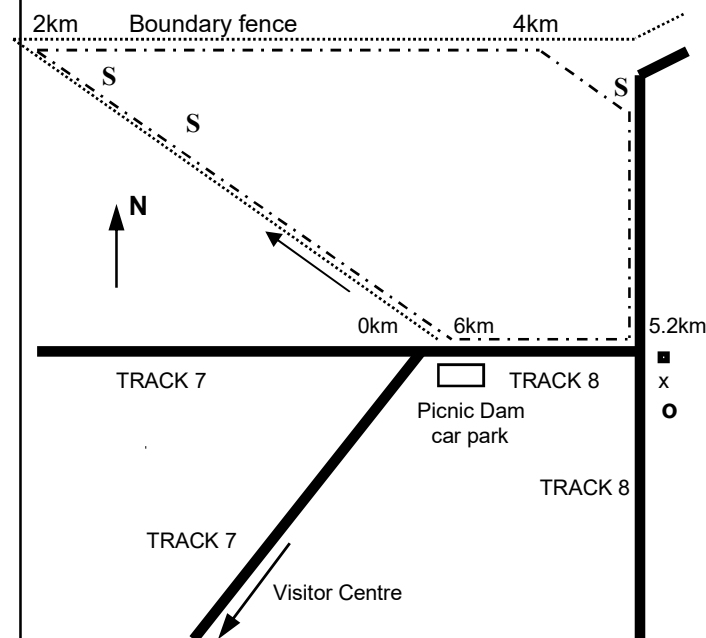


THE GRASSWREN WALK

Map **NOT** to Scale

- - - - -	walking track
.....	fence line
S	seat
■	Watering point
x	bird hide



THE STRIATED

Striated Grasswrens can be found in areas where mature stands of hummock grasslands with eucalypts are present. They move about on the east-west dunes through clumps and if they choose "ground" in a *Triodia* clump. They become more evident in season when they can be exposed perch before retreating to clumps. Grasswrens eat seeds of *Triodia*. They also eat arthropods such as beetles. They build a dome-shaped nest in a clump. The nest is composed of leaves and soft bark and downy seeds. Usually built by the female. The clearing of habitat for threat to this species, but has been essentially halted. It is also thought to reduce the removal of sheep grazing goats over almost all of the region, provides a significant threat to this species.

RED GRASSWREN

can be found on Gluepot in stands of *Triodia* (spinifex) with an overstorey of mallee. This type of habitat is found in areas that abound in this area. It is found between the *Triodia* tussocks, and can quickly “go to ground” to avoid detection. It is most evident in the breeding season when it can be seen calling from a low perch and retreating to the *Triodia*

tussocks of *Triodia* and other plants. It is found in tussocks; mainly ants and

cup-shaped nest in a *Triodia* tussock composed of *Triodia* stems, and is lined with fine grasses. Usually 2 eggs are incubated

that for agriculture **was** a major threat, but in SA and VIC this has been reduced. Grazing by herbivores is not a threat to their abundance, so the conservation of their abundance, so the conservation of the mallee habitat in this significant protected area for

TRIODIA ON GLUEPOT

Spinifex is the common name that many people give to the plant *Triodia scariosa*. Others refer to it simply as *Triodia* (see opposite) or porcupine grass. There is no doubting which plant people are talking about.

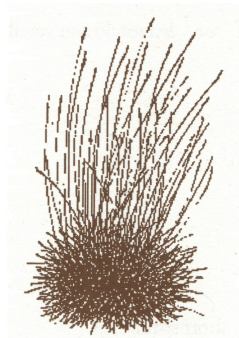
The plant's needle-like leaves with a firm sharp pointed end soon makes its presence felt if one gets too close.

Young plants are rounded tussocks up to 60 cm high and in a favorable season can be topped with a flower

stem which reaches up to 90 cm in length. The tussocks themselves can be 90-120 cm across, but are often much smaller. The pointed leaves are greyish/bluish green.

Old plants form rings up to 3 metres in diameter, where the centre has died and in most cases disappeared, leaving bare earth. At this stage they can become indiscernible as a single plant. It has been estimated that a plant that has a dead (or bare earth) centre, which is 1 metre in diameter, is about 40 years old.

These spiny plants are home to a range of animals in addition to the Grasswrens. A variety of lizards and some small mammals find refuge under these tussocks.



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

WALK DETAILS

6.1 km circuit
2 to 3 hours
easy walking, some sand

The starting point for this walk is located 10 km from the Visitor Centre, along track 7, just past the junction of this track with track 8. The car park for this walk is located 100m east of this track junction on track 8, near Picnic Dam. The walk follows an old fence line which heads north-west from track 8. The vegetation is mainly mallee/senna in this first section, but also contains some really old mallee (*Eucalyptus oleosa*).

After 2 km the walk comes to the northern boundary of Gluepot.

At this point the walk follows the boundary fence to the east. It passes through a variety of vegetation associations until it turns south. At this point it winds its way over a triodia/ mallee dune to meet up with the vehicle track 8. The walk follows this vehicle track south until it forks and heads west back to the car park.

At the fork, there is a bird hide and watering point which provides an opportunity for a rest and also a chance to observe some birds at close quarters as they drink.

THIS WALK IS HABITAT FOR

Striated Grasswren, Chestnut Quail-thrush
Southern Whiteface, Crested Bellbird
White-browed Treecreeper

IF YOU BECOME LOST ON THIS WALK

walk south to intercept tracks 7 or 8
walk north to the boundary fence

FIRE!!

Many of the threats to the mallee are addressed. These include land clearing, excessive grazing and predation by feral cats. This means that the sin- gular threat remaining is that of fire. Much mallee has recovered extremely well and so will recover after a fire. The initial impact of a large fire is to reduce the population of mallee birds, but it would be some time before the mallee is suitable for recolonization. Striated Thornbills will move back into triodia stands within a few years, however, Malleefowl are slower. Miners require areas that have been burnt for at least 40 years in order for them to breed successfully.

Work has begun on a fire management plan for the whole of this region

SAFETY GUIDELINES

A few simple precautions should be taken when walking in the mallee.

Dehydration is always a risk

as the temperature is extremely high (often over 40°C) and humidity is non-existent.

- **Carry sufficient water**
- **Protect yourself from the sun**
- **If on a long walk, carry more than one piece of water**
- **Carry a compass**
- **Carry a snake bite kit**

E!!!!

the mallee habitat are being
the land clearance,
predation by foxes and
the single greatest threat
much of the mallee burns
readily carry a wildfire.
the fire would significantly
mallee species and it
the habitat would be
. Striated Grasswrens
a stands after about 3-5
owl and Black-eared
have not been burnt for
for them to breed

management plan for the

GUIDELINES

ons should always be
king at Gluepot.

Always a real risk

perature can get
h (over 45°C),
normally very low.

Get water

yourself from the sun

walk take at least

f warm clothing

pass & plan or map

ke bite kit.

W2

GRASSWREN WALK

Old growth mallee Mallee/Triodia dunes



Striated Grasswren *Amytornis striatus*

**GLUEPOT RESERVE
WALKING TRACK NETWORK**
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