

# Barossa Walks

## Altona Scrub

### A11 Orlando viewpoint (091 709)

This is a highlight of the walk. A small platform funded by the winery provides lovely views of Rowland Flat with its church steeple, vineyards, the spread of old brick buildings and new steel structures of Orlando set against the hills of Rifle Range road (radio mast), Steingarten and Kaiserstuhl. Look down into the North Para River at a sheer rock face - the once-horizontal layers of the basement rock have been tipped to a near vertical position by earth movements.

Return to **A8** and **A7**; continue on to the shed at **A2** passing the woodland of aged pine trees on your right.

Return to the start of the walk at **A1**.



Common Fringe-myrtle  
*Calytrix tetragona*

### PLANTS YOU MAY SEE ON THE WALK

- Blue Gum (SA Blue Gum)** *Eucalyptus leucoxylon* tree up to 30m tall, smooth grey/cream bark
- Common Fringe-myrtle** *Calytrix tetragona* slender shrub 1m, clusters of pale pink flowers in spring
- Drooping Sheoak** *Allocasuarina verticillata* tree up to 8m, with dark green 'leafless' branches
- Flame Heath** *Astroloma conostephioides* shrub to 1m, red tubular flowers in late winter-spring
- Kangaroo Grass** *Themeda triandra* clumps to 0.5m, rusty green nodding flowerheads
- Lavender Grevillea** *Grevillea lavandulacea* spreading bush with pink-red 'hook' flowers in late winter
- Peppermint Box** *Eucalyptus odorata* tree or mallee up to 12m tall, rough dark grey bark
- Pink Gum** *Eucalyptus fasciculosa* tree up to 18m, with smooth cream-grey bark and masses of white flowers in summer
- Silver Banksia** *Banksia marginata* large shrub or small tree with yellow candle flowers
- Silver Broom** *Babingtonia behrii* slender shrub to 2m, small white flowers in spring and summer
- Southern Cypress-pine** *Callitris gracilis* cypress-like tree up to 15m, woody globular fruit
- Yam Daisy** *Microseris lanceolata* dandelion-like yellow daisy, with yam-like roots

Walk is on lands managed by The Barossa Council and the Williamstown, Lyndoch and District Landcare Group. It is presented here by the Walking Trails Support Group, [www.walkingtrailssupportgroup.org.au](http://www.walkingtrailssupportgroup.org.au)

Interpretation is based on the Royal Geographical Society of South Australia's guidebook Exploring the Barossa available from Tanunda Visitor Information Centre.

December 2009



Old quarry face

*This abandoned sand quarry has three interesting aspects – (1) the geological story of the sand seen in exposed quarry faces (2) the value of the remnant native vegetation, including native grassland, in the overall biodiversity of the Barossa Region (3) the rehabilitation of the old quarries to avoid pollution of the North Para River by silt-laden runoff. This was undertaken by the Williamstown, Lyndoch and Districts Landcare Group.*

*Many millions of years ago the Barossa was surrounded by high mountain ranges. Erosion of these resulted in the deposition of sand and clay in a large river or lake system which traversed the area during the Tertiary period, between 65 and 1.5 million years ago. These deposits provide valuable sands and gravels for the construction industry and were extracted at Altona by CSR and other companies up to the 1960s. Extraction continues at Sandy Creek and Rowland Flat.*

### Distance and time:

There are three short circuit walks

- Circuit 1 3.3 km; allow 1½ hrs
- Circuit 2 2.7 km; allow 1½ hrs
- Circuit 3 3.1 km, allow 1½ hrs

A combination of the three circuits is 5.3 km, 2½ hours; some steep sections, but there are plenty of seats to rest and take in the view.

**Access:** East from Lyndoch on the Barossa Valley Way take the first turn left (Altona Road); the trailhead is located where Altona Road turns a corner.

*Notes describe a clockwise walk of the combined circuits.*

### Track

Generally an AS2156 Class 3 track in a natural area. Mostly gentle grades, some steep sections.

### For your safety

- This is a walk in a natural area; beware of inherent hazards
- Walk in a party of four, advise a reliable person of where you are going and when you expect to return
- Wear strong comfortable boots and take adequate food and clothing
- Take at least 2 litres of water per person, more if it is hot
- Protect yourself from the sun and carry a First Aid Kit

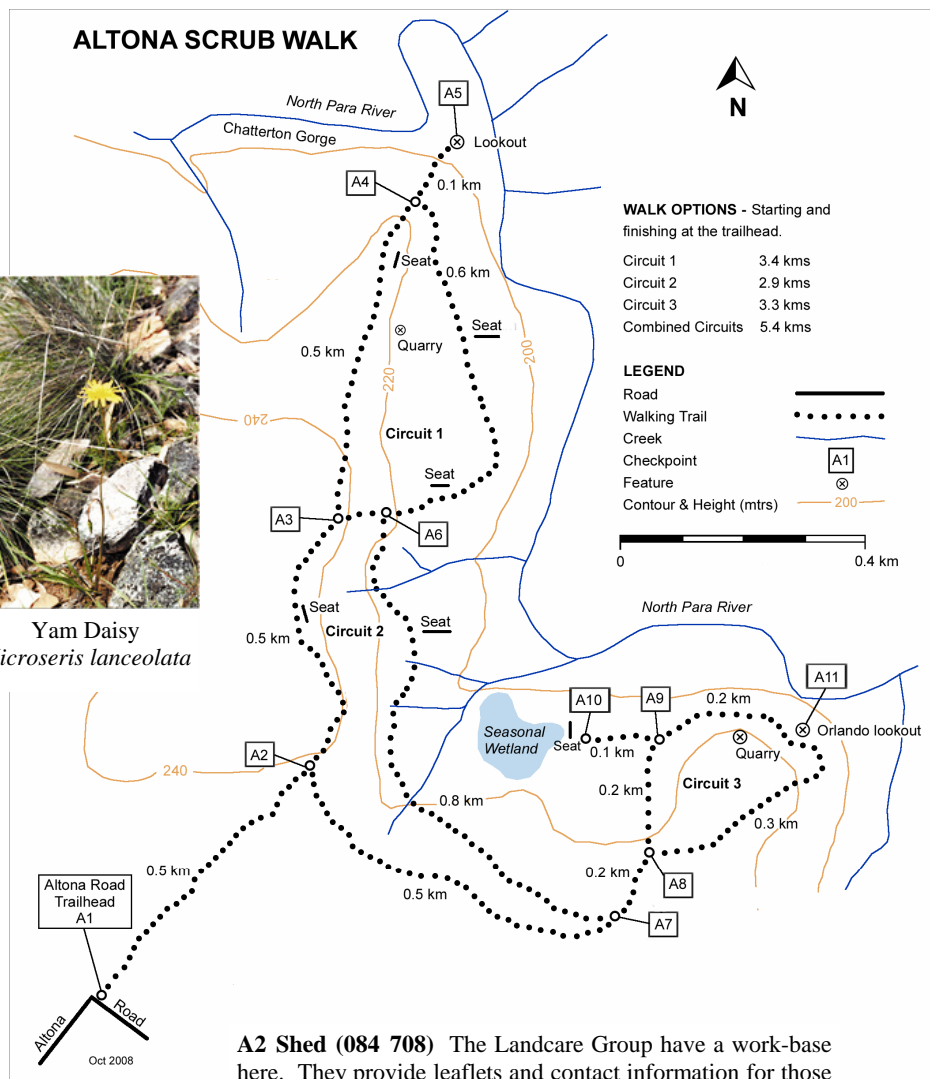
Seasons come and go, and plants and animals mentioned in the notes may not always be there.

### Start at Altona Road Trailhead, A1 (082 705)

The bush welcomes you at the gate and in spring provides a decorative and diverse display of heathland species which thrive on the sandy soil as does the Southern Cypress-pine. At Altona it forms a mixed woodland with Blue Gum, Pink Gum and Peppermint Box. Look for orchids (about 40 different ones in the reserve), Flame Heath, Lavender Grevillea, Silver Broom and Common Fringe-myrtle. All along this walk there is a wide variety of attractive spring flowers to look out for.



Yam Daisy  
*Microseris lanceolata*



**A2 Shed (084 708)** The Landcare Group have a work-base here. They provide leaflets and contact information for those who would like to know more about their projects, which include monitoring the recovery of the rehabilitated quarries. Turn north (left); Dandelion-like flowers are those of the Yam Daisy, the roots of which would have been harvested by Aborigines for food.

The first of the lookouts is sheltered by Drooping Sheoaks; it overlooks old quarry faces and Orlando winery.

**A3 Track junction (085 712)** Keep left. In about 400m, a seat gives a view across to the ranges on the eastern side of the valley – hilltops of Kaiserstuhl (to the east) and Pewsey Vale Peak (south-east) and a row of pine trees followed on the Steingarten walk.

**A4 Track junction (086 718)** Continue down to the **lookout at A5**, where you have a good view of the North Para River as it flows through Chatterton Gorge. The rock walls and outcrops in the riverbed are the basement rocks over which the Tertiary sands were laid down. Kangaroo Grass grows nearby and kangaroos shelter and graze under the gum trees.

Return to **A4** The pairs of numbered posts you will see along this next section are part of a program to monitor vegetation regeneration. Mostly they focus on old quarry faces that have been covered over and planted. You will see ten sets of posts as you continue along the walk.

Slopes overlooking the North Para River carry a grassy Blue Gum woodland with wattles.

An old quarry face exposes sands which were laid down in rivers, lakes and deltas - coarse sands being deposited in swift-flowing rivers, finer sands and silts in quieter lakes. Pockets of grey clay are sandwiched in yellow sand.

**A6 Track junction** Here you have the option of completing *Circuit 1* and returning to the car park. The track which continues on as part of *Circuit 2*, has several flights of steps. After about 100m, it takes you past a patch of Silver Banksia which is a valuable remnant for this area. In some seasons, Pale Sundews may grow thickly here.

**A7 Track junction (088 706)** As the track rises towards **A7** you pass through a woodland of large native pines. The size of the trees suggests that they may be survivors from before European settlement; they crown the deeper sand deposits.

At **A7** we join *Circuit 3* (*Circuit 2* turns right to return to **A1**), still in a fine woodland of native pine.

**A8 (089 707) Follow left hand track** and at **A9**, detour to see at **A10** an important rehabilitation site developed as an ephemeral wetland. On this old quarry face planted trees are growing well and run-off from the surroundings is held in a swampy basin during wet seasons.

Return to **A9 (089 709)** and continue (left) along *Circuit 3* noting another exposed quarry face about 120m further on. Sand layers show cross-bedding, where changing water currents have altered the angle at which sand is deposited.