

0.2 km Pass a track junction at about this point; **40m beyond**, views to the north include the scrub covered Wirra Wirra Peaks, and a distant notched hill is Kaiserstuhl. The grass trees here are different from those seen earlier – taller trunks and shorter leaves belong to the Mount Lofty Grass-tree.

On the summit, the largest of the pine trees was planted in the year of the state's centenary, 1936. Other pines nearby are its seedlings. Today, no surveyor would be able to use the beacon to establish sightlines because of tree growth – and would not need to, as all survey data are now derived from the satellite-based Geographical Positioning System (GPS).

This is a pleasant spot for a lunch break; return the way you came – the views will always look different.

Return to . . .

Centennial Drive Trailhead



Mt Crawford church ruin and cemetery,
Mount Road corner

The stone ruins are the remains of Murrayvale Presbyterian Church built in 1843, which served several denominations until destroyed by a bushfire in 1869. The cemetery was established in 1845 and became the burial place for members of John Murray's family (from Murray Vale) and the Randall family from Corryton Park.

PLANTS NOTED ON THIS WALK

Christmas Bush *Bursaria spinosa* spiny bush with clusters of white flowers in summer

Rough-barked Manna Gum *Eucalyptus viminalis* subsp. *cygnetensis* spreading tree to 20 m, domed fruit

Silver Banksia *Banksia marginata* large shrub or small tree with yellow candle flowers

Tree Violet *Hymenanthera dentata* spiky bush to 2 m, tiny cream flowers in late winter

Tufted Grass-tree *Xanthorrhoea semiplana*

Mt Lofty Grass-tree *X. quadrangulata*



Silver Banksia

This walk is in a Conservation Park managed by the Department for Environment and Heritage and on ForestrySA lands. It is presented by the Walking Trails Support Group.

www.walkingtrailssupportgroup.org.au

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

December 2009

Barossa Walks Mt Crawford



Old trigonometrical station
on the summit

Mt Crawford is believed to have taken its name in 1838-39 from a stockman who was overlanding cattle from New South Wales and was robbed while staying in the area.

The hill itself rises to 562m, and has patches of mature Silver Banksia forest, some trees of which have impressive age. Up to 200 growth rings have been counted on some dead logs.

This small sample of tangled banksia forest is a rare sight in the Mount Lofty Ranges – there could be Banksia Men here!

Self-guided linear walk:

2.2 km one way; 4.4 km return; allow 2 hours. Distances are marked every 200m decreasing as you proceed. The route is part of the Heysen Trail. In places the track may be slippery after rain.

Access: From Mount Road, take the Centennial Drive turn-off into the forest (about 500m from Mount Crawford cemetery and church ruin). Walk starts at camping ground, by the information sign and toilet.

Notes are written to match progress to the summit

Track

Generally an AS2156 Class 3 track in a natural area. Gentle grades.

For your safety

- This is a Class 3 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

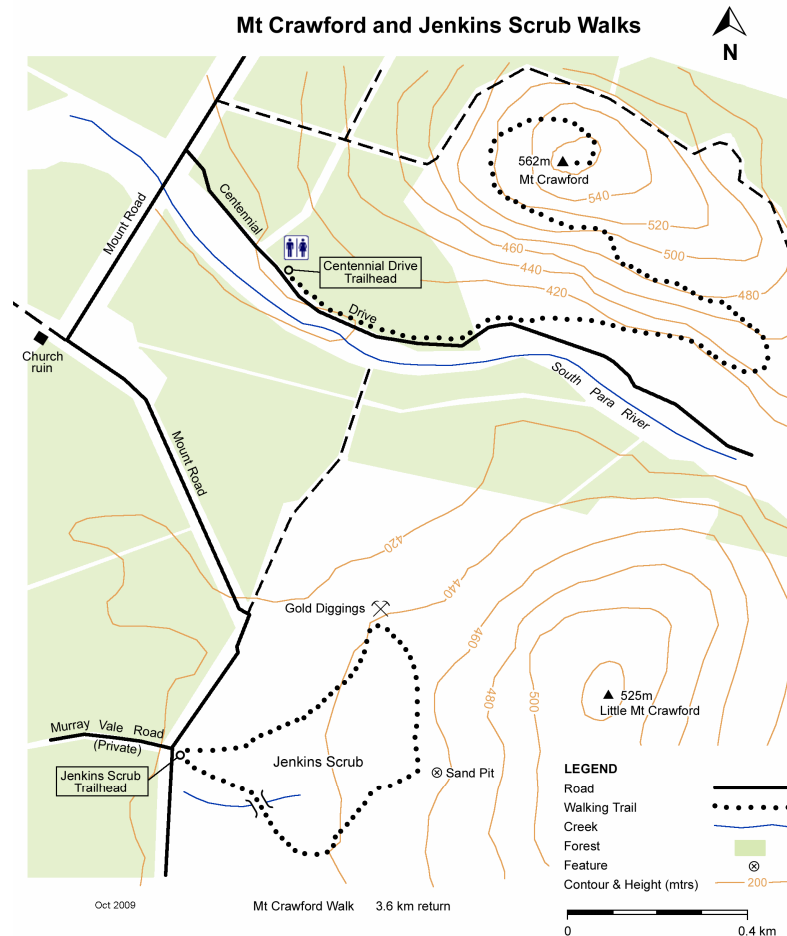
Seasons come and go, and plants and animals mentioned in the notes may not always be there.

Start at Centennial Drive Trailhead

Follow Centennial Drive. Trees were planted along the road to celebrate the State's Centenary in 1936, and recently harvested. Just here, the open flood plain of the South Para River provides a pleasant and popular camping area. This spot could have been popular with Aborigines, as Europeans witnessed corroborees near Mt Crawford in early years of settlement.

MT CRAWFORD WALK

Mt Crawford and Jenkins Scrub Walks



1.8 km Near the gate, you are right by the South Para River at 'The Gap'. Its catchment begins in the ranges of High Eden.

Mt Crawford is formed of erosion resistant Stonyfell Quartzite, which forms a north-south ridge with Little Mount Crawford on the other side of the South Para. Here, at The Gap, shallow ground-water flow from the east pools up against the ridge, forming permanent waterholes.

About 100m beyond the gate, take the little track signposted 'Summit via Heysen Spur' and find your way under the old pines.

1.6 km Look left up a narrow gully to see some of the Silver Banksias referred to earlier. Old trees are falling over and it is interesting to wonder what age they are. Tangled undergrowth consists of a rather spiky bush with the unlikely name of Tree Violet. It is, however, a member of the Violet family, with tiny yellowish flowers.

1.4 km The Banksias gradually become fewer, giving way to more open grassy woodland of Rough-barked Manna Gum.

1.2 km A patch of Christmas Bush. *Cross an old track and continue on, noting pleasant views of farmland on the right. The view includes the long, forested ridge of Mount Pleasant.*

1.0 km There are magnificent Tufted Grass-trees and where the skirts have been trimmed you can see that some have substantial trunks. Their long skirts and the aged Banksias suggest that it is a long time since Mount Crawford was burnt.

0.6 km Beyond this point a marker post indicates that **there are views through the trees**. To the south-east (left) are pine plantations near Mount Pleasant (Mount Pleasant Summit walks); looking down to the south is Little Mount Crawford close by (Jenkins Scrub walk); communications towers in the distance identify Mount Lofty with its white obelisk; and the forest fire tower (passed on the Warren Tower walk) is clearly seen on a grassy hill. Mount Gould is a low half-cleared conical hill named after the nineteenth century natural history artist, John Gould, who spent a few weeks in South Australia in 1839. You may need to move around to see some features through the trees.