

Pines which usually have leaves in threes. Small blocks of different species of pines were planted in the past to test their growth prospects. Overall, Radiata performs best and is now planted exclusively. Pass checkpoint **16A**.

MP17 A winding track passes attractive Blue Gum and Tufted Grass-trees. After turning a corner to the right (at **MP19**) you find yourself on the clear summit ridge of Mt Pleasant where there are graceful, long-leaved Canary Island Pines, with a solitary specimen on the summit. Take in the view at the topogram near the shelter.

Return to **Glen Devon Road Trailhead** by following the track from **MP02** to **MP01**.

or

Return to **Cromer picnic area Trailhead** by following the notes above from **MP02** to **MP10**.

PLANTS YOU MAY SEE ON THE WALK

Blue Gum (SA Blue Gum) *Eucalyptus leucoxylon* tree up to 30m tall, smooth grey/cream bark

Canary Island Pine *Pinus canariensis* tree to 40+m high, long drooping leaves

Drooping Sheoak *Allocasuarina verticillata* tree up to 8m, with dark green leafless branches

Maritime Pine *Pinus pinaster* leaves in pairs, about 15 cm long

Messmate Stringybark *Eucalyptus obliqua* up to 40m tall, stringy bark, barrel shaped fruit

Radiata or Monterey Pine *Pinus radiata* forest tree, slender leaves in 3s, about 10cm long

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

Tufted Grass-tree *Xanthorrhoea semiplana* long leaves frequently drooping to ground level

Umbrella Pine *Pinus pinea* tree to 20m with spreading umbrella-like canopy

Barossa Walks Mt Pleasant



View from topogram



Flame Heath
Astroloma conostephioides



Myrtle Wattle
Acacia myrtifolia

This walk is on lands managed by ForestrySA. It is presented here by the Walking Trails Support Group.
www.walkingtrailssupportgroup.org.au

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

December 2009

Pleasant was the name of the sister of James Phillis, who was a settler and landowner in the district. A walk to the top of this hill provides magnificent westerly views. Mount Crawford Forest Reserve of which this area is a part was established in 1909, although natural hardwood timber had already been harvested for some years. Pine plantations in the Reserve were first established in 1914. All the original plantations have been harvested and replaced.

This is a working forest and on this walk you can appreciate some of the forestry practices which contribute to the production of this important timber.

There are four blocks of native forest which you can also enjoy. The forest is grazed by sheep as this reduces the fire hazard, but you will notice that some of the native forest is fenced to encourage regeneration of native species.

Check with the Mount Crawford ForestrySA office on 8521 1700 for changes to access due to forest work.

Distances and Times: there are three circuit walks, which can be combined to suit your energy!

Circuit 1 4.5km; allow 2 hours

Circuits 1 and 2 7.0 km; allow 2½ - 3.0 hours

Circuits 1, 2 and 3 11.0km; allow 4½ hours

Access:

From the carpark (**Checkpoint MP01** on the walk map) on Glen Devon Road 3.6km from Mount Pleasant town.

Circuit 3 (+2+1) is also accessible from the Cromer picnic area and carpark

Checkpoint MP10 on the walk map.

Notes are written for clockwise circuits from Checkpoint MP01.

Track

Follows forestry access tracks. Mostly gentle grades, some steep sections.

For your safety

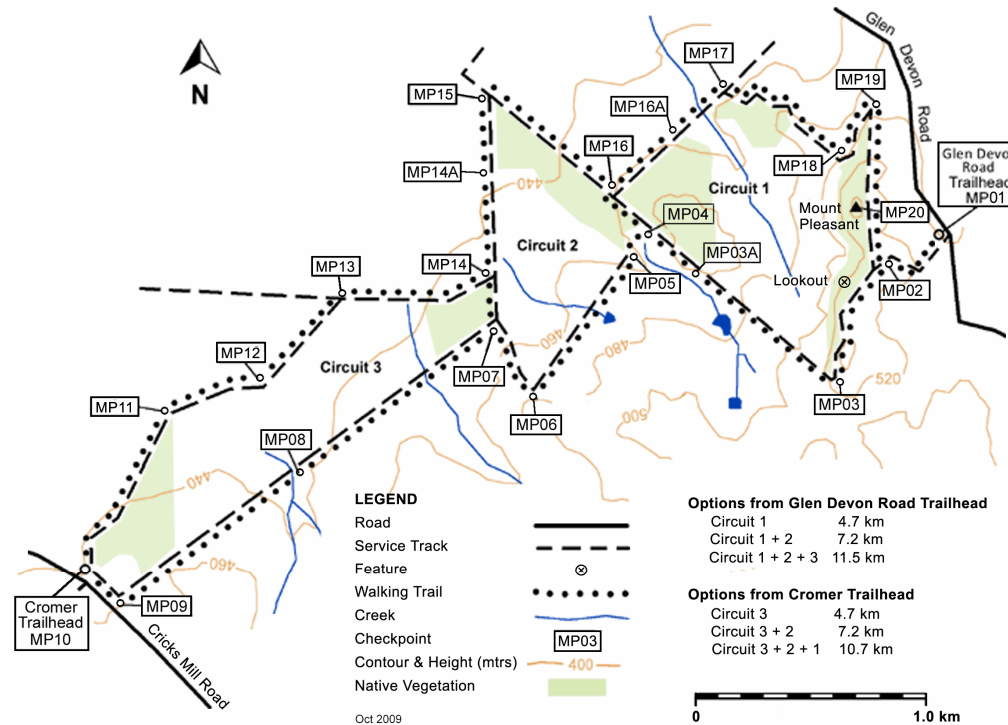
- This is a Class 3 walk in a natural area; beware of inherent hazards
- Walk in a party of four, advise a reliable person of where you are going and when you expect to return
- Wear strong comfortable boots and take adequate food and clothing
- Take at least 2 litres of water per person, more if it 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 Glen Devon Road Trailhead, Checkpoint MP01

Walk uphill for a short distance through forest land to reach the track junction at **Checkpoint MP02**. On the rocky spine of the hill (Tapanappa Formation - grey sandstone and schist, rich in mica and iron oxide) is a compass plate or topogram. It identifies features in the spreading western view near the Lions shelter. Continue along the ridge through the remnant woodland (which includes Messmate Stringybark). Glimpse the view through the trees.

MOUNT PLEASANT WALKS



MP03 As you come down off the ridge and turn right, the long downhill view includes Mount Crawford. Continue to the bottom of the hill, up a slope of white quartz and quartzite, covered with Rough-barked Manna Gum to a checkpoint map plate at **MP03A**. Go over the stile and continue to the map plate at **MP04**.

Checkpoint MP04 *Circuit 1* continues on to **MP16** – follow the notes from **MP16** below.

Circuit 2 + 3 turns left following markers through attractive native scrub (including Tufted Grass-trees, Hakeas, Velvet Bushes and Flat-peas) down to a bridge across the creek then through the fence. From map plate **MP05** follow the boundary fence in a SW direction and then NW from **MP06**, past plantations which have been trimmed and thinned to improve the quality of logs from future harvests of the remnant trees.

Checkpoint MP07 *Circuit 2 + 1* continues on to reach **MP14** – follow the notes from **MP14** below.

All circuits (1, 2 and 3) turn left at the native vegetation. Still following a firebreak, walk downhill, through a gate, and follow the track across the drainage line at **MP08** to **MP09** where native species have been planted to rehabilitate an open area.

Cromer Picnic Trailhead, Checkpoint MP10 — *alternative Start*. Climb over the low rail and turn right up the track. The track runs alongside an area logged and replanted in 2003 and beyond the track junction at **MP11** it passes between two plantations established in 1999 on either side of the creek at **MP12**.

These plantations of Radiata Pine were established from seedlings, but in order to standardise trees as much as possible, many plantations are now established from cuttings of particularly good trees. Use of such ‘cloned’ plants eliminates the natural variability found in any population of seedlings.

MP13 Turn right along a corridor of native trees which are characteristic of the area including Blue Gum, Drooping Sheoak, a range of wattle species and the Tufted Grass-tree.

Checkpoint MP14 *continue on Circuits 1 + 2* Trees to the west of the track to **MP15** were cut in 2003 using a mechanical harvester, which cuts the trunk and strips it of all branches to a measured length. This process takes about 2 minutes per tree, compared with 10 minutes with a hand-held chain saw (see *Discover the Barossa*, p.54). Harvesting takes place when trees require thinning or to satisfy market needs. *Pass checkpoint 14A.*

MP15 *The track takes a sharp turn to the right, to reach*

Checkpoint MP16 *continue on Circuit 1* The pines at **MP16** are Maritime Pines. They have leaves in pairs, and generally have a darker appearance than Radiata