

7 THE MALLEE IN TRANSITION

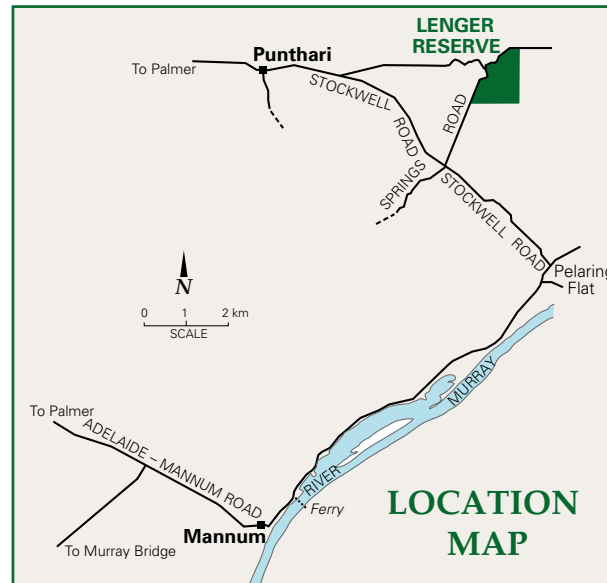
Mallee is very diverse and seven species of mallee are found here! Mallee trees can be very old, and their hollows provide homes for bats as well as birds such as tree martins, wood swallows and parrots. The understorey is sparse but diverse. You will find many semi-succulent plants of the saltbush/bluebush (chenopod) family which transition into sclerophyll shrubs typical of higher rainfall areas.

8 GULLIES AND CREEK BEDS

Tributaries of Saunders Creek have cut deep gullies through the Mannum Formation. Rocky overhangs, crevices and small caves provide homes for goannas, skinks and geckos as well as echidnas and wallaroos. Fauna surveys have identified 20 species of reptiles and 2 frog species in Lenger Reserve.

9 CYPRESS PINE GROVE

Young native cypress pines, *Callitris gracilis* and *C. verrucosa*, are favourite tucker for most grazing animals, both native and introduced. Many young trees can be seen here; they have grown since grazing ceased in 1978. Rabbits are controlled here as they will eat the seedlings and prevent regeneration. Other small trees on the reserve such as quandong, native apricot, and leafless cherry provided bush tucker for the Peramangk and false sandalwood is also found here. The large bushy shrubs near the creek are dryland tea-tree, *Melaleuca lanceolata*. These provide habitat for small birds such as the diamond firetail, variegated wren and several species of thornbill.



National Trust of South Australia

Since its formation in 1955, the National Trust of South Australia has established a network of 24 conservation reserves which contain a valuable diversity of plant communities, significant wildlife habitat, a number of rare and threatened species and sites of geological and Aboriginal significance. We are a not-for-profit organisation and management of these reserves is through a volunteer network and funded by:

- NTSA membership subscriptions
- donations and bequests
- State and Federal Government Grants, and
- sponsorship.

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- becoming a member, see www.nationaltrust.org.au/membership-sa
- making a donation see www.nationaltrust.org.au/donate-sa
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VISIT: www.nationaltrust.org.au/places/lenger-reserve/

NATIONALTRUST OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
631 Glynburn Road BEAUMONT SA 5066

LENGER RESERVE MANNUM



'An oasis in the mallee'



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 NATIONAL TRUST
South Australia

This brochure has been produced by the National Trust of South Australia and the Friends of Lenger Reserve.

WELCOME TO LENGER RESERVE

an oasis of diversity in the mallee landscape.

This 95 ha property was gifted to the National Trust of South Australia (NTSA) in 1978 by Rudolph G. Lenger as a bird sanctuary, and at least 102 bird species are found here. This reserve is also rich in native plants, with 208 species; 26 of which are of conservation significance. Bird and plant lists are available on the NTSA website.

We acknowledge that this is the land of the Peramangk Nation. We acknowledge their deeply spiritual connection with Country and we pay our respect to Elders past, present and future.



2 RESTORING THE MALLEE

The area around the cottage and towards the entrance was cleared for farming and was very barren when NTSA received this land. Volunteers planted hundreds of seedlings here, and you can see this was very successful. Further on you will see areas of land that were cleared and cropped that are now regenerating into native grass and shrub lands. This process is assisted by volunteers who control weeds and rabbits which assists the natives plants to flourish.

3 SAUNDERS CREEK – AN OASIS OF SPRING-FED WATERHOLES & REED BEDS

“The Springs” is the local name for this part of Saunders Creek. In particularly wet years, heavy rains in the Mt Lofty Ranges can cause Saunders Creek to flow. Flood debris can be found on and around the large River Red Gums (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*). Regular water testing has shown the water in the waterholes is moderately saline, 6,000 – 9,000 ECUs. If you look into one of the water holes you may see an introduced fish; *Gambusia holbrooki* – the Plague Minnow or Mosquito fish. Another fish, the native Murray Darling Carp Gudgeon has also been found here. A local told us how, as a child, he helped to trap 400-500 yabbies overnight here for the Murray Cod fishery in the 1930s.

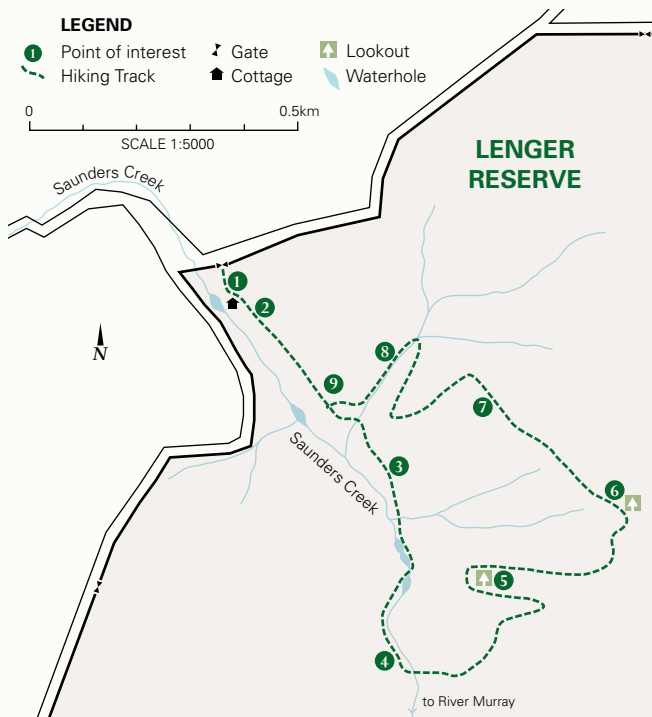
4 ANCIENT MARINE FOSSILS IN THE MANNUM FORMATION

At the cliff you can find fossils such as sea urchins, scallops and worms in the cliff face and boulders. This is part of the sandy Mannum Formation that was deposited into a shallow sea known as the Murray Basin between 20 and 24 million years ago. The Murray Basin was open to the ocean to the south at this time, and with retreating sea levels and some uplifting these rocks are now exposed.

5 & 6 LOOKOUTS

Climb to the top and be rewarded with a panorama spanning from the Mt Lofty Ranges in the west to the River Murray valley in the east. A reedy reach of Saunders Creek stretches below you.

Emerging from the mallee reveals views to the north. Look for kangaroos here. Three species can be seen in the reserve: the red, the western grey and the stocky wallaroo or euro.



Hiking Track

Grade 4

Length

2.7km

Allow Time

1hr 30min

POINTS OF INTEREST

1 THE PICTURESQUE FARM COTTAGE AND CORRAL

Look at the construction of the cottage. The circa 1900 pug and pine rooms are made by packing a mixture of clay, cut straw, fresh manure and water between native cypress pine posts. Cypress pine is resistant to white ants, and is also used for the roof timbers and veranda posts. The interior was originally plastered over and the ceilings made from whitewashed hessian wool bales. You will find traces of the original whitewash and hessian ceiling here. When the original roof collapsed much of the pug washed out, but volunteers replaced the roof and restored the pug and pine walls with materials that reflect the heritage of the building.

The stone section is a newer construction of limestone rubble which was probably added by Friedrich Pese, who owned the land from 1912 to 1924. This was also in poor shape when it came into the hands of NTSA. Volunteers repaired and stabilised the walls to halt the deterioration.

Near the cottage see the ruin of a stone corral. At one time wild horses that came to drink at the waterhole below the house were trapped and kept in this corral before sale.