



5 Ephemeral Wetland

As you cross the culvert here you may notice signs of occasional inundation in the reserve and adjoining paddocks. After persistent heavy rain, several hectares may be under water here.

6 Mallee Vegetation

Here there is mallee vegetation on heavier soils. You may also notice broom-bush (*Melaleuca uncinata*), the species harvested to make brush fencing. The other common *Melaleuca* here is the dryland tea-tree, *M. lanceolata*. The twining plant is a native creeper (*Cassytha*) with the uncomplimentary common name of snotty-gobble.

To the south-west from here is a strip of younger native plants alongside the mature mallee. A strip of former (cleared) farmland between Dry Plains Road and Nurragi Road was added to the reserve in 2010 and this is being revegetated, mainly by direct-seeding.

7 Nurragi Siding

This is the location of the former Nurragi Railway Siding, where trains would stop to pick up farm produce or passengers. The local children would climb aboard to go to school at Milang, Strathalbyn or Sandergrove.

8 John Eckert Memorial

To the south-west of this marker is a memorial to the late John Eckert, an outstanding local naturalist who chaired the Friends of Nurragi for around 20 years.

From here for the next 1.5km towards Milang is another strip on the south-western side that has been added to the original reserve and is being revegetated with local native species.

9 Mallee Vegetation

Here is another good example of mallee trees with broom-bush and dryland tea-tree. The twining creeper, snotty-gobble, is also prevalent here.

10 Native Pine

At this location, you'll note a change in the vegetation. Native pine (*Callitris*) is present along with some fine specimens of native fuchsia (*correa*), holly-leaved grevillea and wattle (*acacia*).

11 Concrete Structures

The large concrete structures here were part of culverts carrying the railway line over low-lying and occasionally inundated land.

12 Early Revegetation Area

You may notice some different plant species here. Some replanting was done by local people in the early 1980s. While much of this planting was very useful, some of the species planted were non-local and had the potential to become weedy. The Friends of Nurragi have been progressively replacing these with local (indigenous) species.

13 Revegetation Area

You are now on the section of land that was included in Nurragi Reserve in 2001. This part was revegetated by direct seeding in 2002.



14 Revegetation Area

This is part of the land added to the reserve in 2001 but was open to grazing from adjoining farmland until more recently. It was direct-seeded in 2008 with further seeding in 2010.

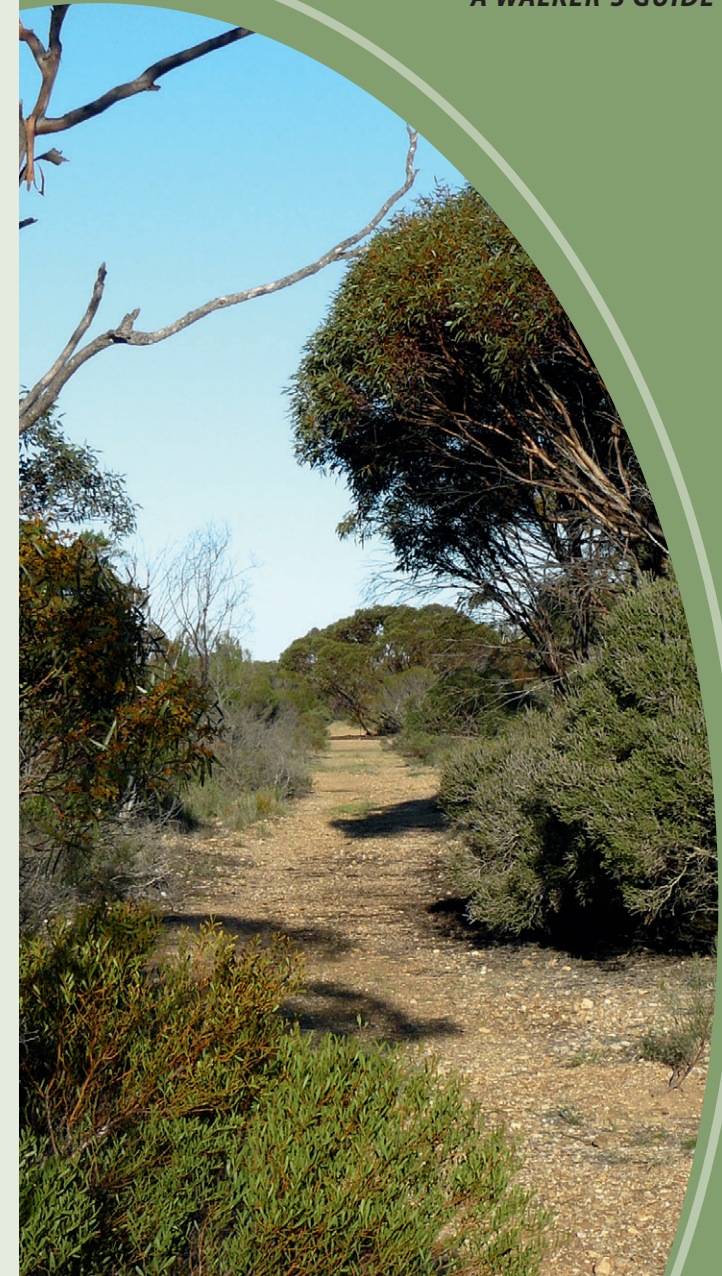
Further Information

For further information about the Nurragi Reserve, please contact the Friends of Nurragi Secretary on (08) 8272 8496, the National Trust of SA on (08) 8202 9200 or check the Trust's Places To Visit web page on http://www.nationaltrustsa.org.au/index.php/places_to_visit/

Nurragi Conservation Reserve

*Following the old Sandergrove
to Milang railway line*

A WALKER'S GUIDE



Welcome to Nurragi

The **Nurragi Conservation Reserve** is a former railway corridor that now has a vital function in the conservation of native plants and animals. It covers 65 hectares and includes the former Sandergrove to Milang railway reserve, terminating at the heritage Milang Railway Yard. It's a fascinating nature corridor that also reflects the early railway history of the State.

The Sandergrove – Milang railway operated between 1884 and 1970 as an off-shoot of the Adelaide – Victor Harbor line. With closure of the line, disposal of the land to adjoining landholders loomed as the next step. However, local groups lobbied for its retention as a reserve because of its important native vegetation.



With the support of the State Government, the area was dedicated as a Nature Reserve in June 1991. For several years, the reserve terminated on the outskirts of Milang but in 2001 a further section was dedicated, completing the link through to Milang and Lake Alexandrina.

The reserve contains extremely important vegetation in a region that has been cleared of over 98% of its original cover. More than 300 native plant species are present, with over 50 of those being of particular conservation significance (eg rare or endangered). The reserve is an important bird corridor, linking the lakeside environment to the foothills.

Nurragi Conservation Reserve is jointly managed by the National Trust of South Australia and the Friends of Nurragi. The Friends of Nurragi are a group of local volunteers including members from the Strathalbyn Naturalists and Local Government.

With funding assistance through the State Natural Resources Management Community Grants Program, a self-guided walking trail has been established along the Nurragi Conservation Reserve. This brochure has been prepared by the Friends of Nurragi to inform and assist walkers along the reserve.

Nurragi Walks

Nurragi Conservation Reserve is linear with several access points. The entire trail is 12.4km long and is marked at 0.5km intervals. The 0.5km markers commence from Sandergrove. For those walking from Milang, the markers start at 0.4km and continue at 0.5km intervals (0.9km, 1.4km etc).

Walkers can do an "out and back" walk from a particular starting point, or a one-way walk with a vehicle at each end. Walkers therefore have the following options, or a combination thereof:

- **The Full Nurragi Walk**, Sandergrove to Milang: 12.4km, allow at least half a day*
- **Tucker Road to Dry Plains Road**: 1.4km, allow 45 minutes
- **Dry Plains Road to Nurragi Road**: 4.1km, allow two hours
- **Nurragi Road to Milang-Finniss Road**: 3.2km, allow one and a half hours
- **Milang-Finniss Road to Landseer Road**: 2.4km, allow one hour
- **Landseer Road to Milang**: 1.3km, allow 45 minutes

(* Time estimates are for one-way travel.)

Please note that there are no facilities along the reserve, other than normal township facilities at Milang; please take adequate water etc. There are also several stiles for crossing fences along the reserve. No fires are permitted and it is recommended that you do not walk the trail on fire ban days. Please also be mindful that there may be snakes in warmer weather.

Features along the Nurragi Walking Trail

The Nurragi trail has a number of features of interest from a natural or cultural heritage perspective. Sites of particular interest are numbered 1 to 14 on the map and are marked on the ground on numbered posts. Information on these sites is provided below.

1 Former Sandergrove School

The land adjacent to the reserve to the south-west is the site of the former Sandergrove School. This operated from the late 1850s until the 1950s. No evidence of the small school building remains.



2 Railway Culvert and Ephemeral Wetland

The area around the old culvert here is often inundated after heavy rain. While it is dry most of the time, it can become a fascinating wetland in this area of generally low rainfall. If the main path is under water at the culvert, there is a short loop path to the south-west that should get you through.

3 Bottle-Brush Location

Alongside the trail here are several bottle-brush plants (Callistemon). These occur at several places along the trail on low ground prone to occasional inundation.

4 Pink Gum Location

Here the trees are mainly pink gum (Eucalyptus fasciculosa). The soils along the reserve vary from sandy soils, with pink gum, to heavier red and brown soils with a tree cover of mallee species.