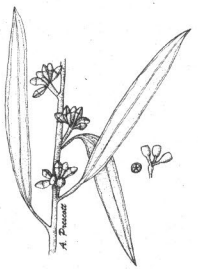
Trees you will see

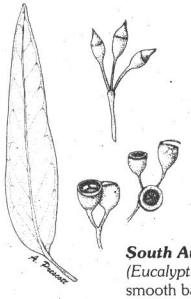
There are several different types of trees in this wooded grassland.

The grey, rough-barked Peppermint Box occurs near the bottom of the hill.



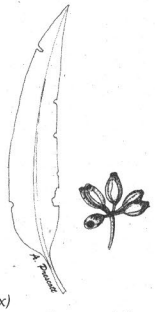
Peppermint box
(Eucalyptus odorata)
rough grey bark

As you walk up the hill a few South Australian Blue Gums (known as Yellow Gums in the eastern states) are mixed with the Peppermint Box.



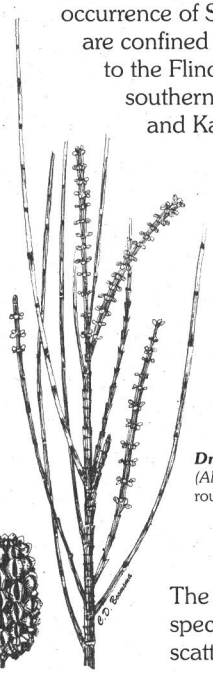
South Australian Blue Gum
(Eucalyptus leucoxylon)
smooth bark, yellow/cream & grey patches

The first rocky outcrops mark the occurrence of Sugar Gums, which are confined in South Australia to the Flinders Ranges, southern Eyre Peninsula and Kangaroo Island.

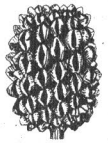


Sugar Gum
(Eucalyptus cladocalyx)
smooth bark, yellow, orange & grey patches

The Drooping Sheoak occurs at the top of the hill.



Drooping Sheoak
(Allocasuarina verticillata)
rough bark, 'leafless', weeping branchlets



The Golden Wattle, which flowers spectacularly in late winter, is scattered throughout.

Look for the leaves, buds, gumnuts and cones of the trees, using these pictures to help you identify them.

The Australian Bush & Country Code

Drive carefully – keep to roads and tracks
Consider local people – respect their property and stock
Leave no litter – take your rubbish home
Think of others – avoid being noisy
Respect the past – leave old things as you find them
Care for our native plants and animals – respect their habitat
Safeguard water – don't waste it, keep it clean
Take care with fire – wildfires destroy
Be cautious with firearms – do you really need them?
Think safety – take care of yourself and others

... and please remember in a park or sanctuary pets and firearms are not permitted - please leave them at home and keep to walking tracks to avoid damaging vegetation.

Walk Safely

Think about your own safety
– choose a walk to match your capability
– tell a responsible person where you are going and when to expect you back
– walk in a party of four
– stay on the route and manage your time
– wear sturdy comfortable boots
Take with you in a comfortable rucksack . . .
– clothes for hot and cold weather
– basic first aid in case of emergencies
– wear a broad-brimmed hat and sunscreen
. . . and most important
– take 1 litre of water per person and adequate sustaining food

Botanical illustrations by courtesy from :

It's Blue with Five Petals	Ann Prescott
Wildflowers of the Southern / Northern Flinders Ranges	Rosemary Pedler
Native Trees of South Australia	Forestry S.A.

Design and production by :
Carto Graphics, 147 Unley Road, Unley, South Australia

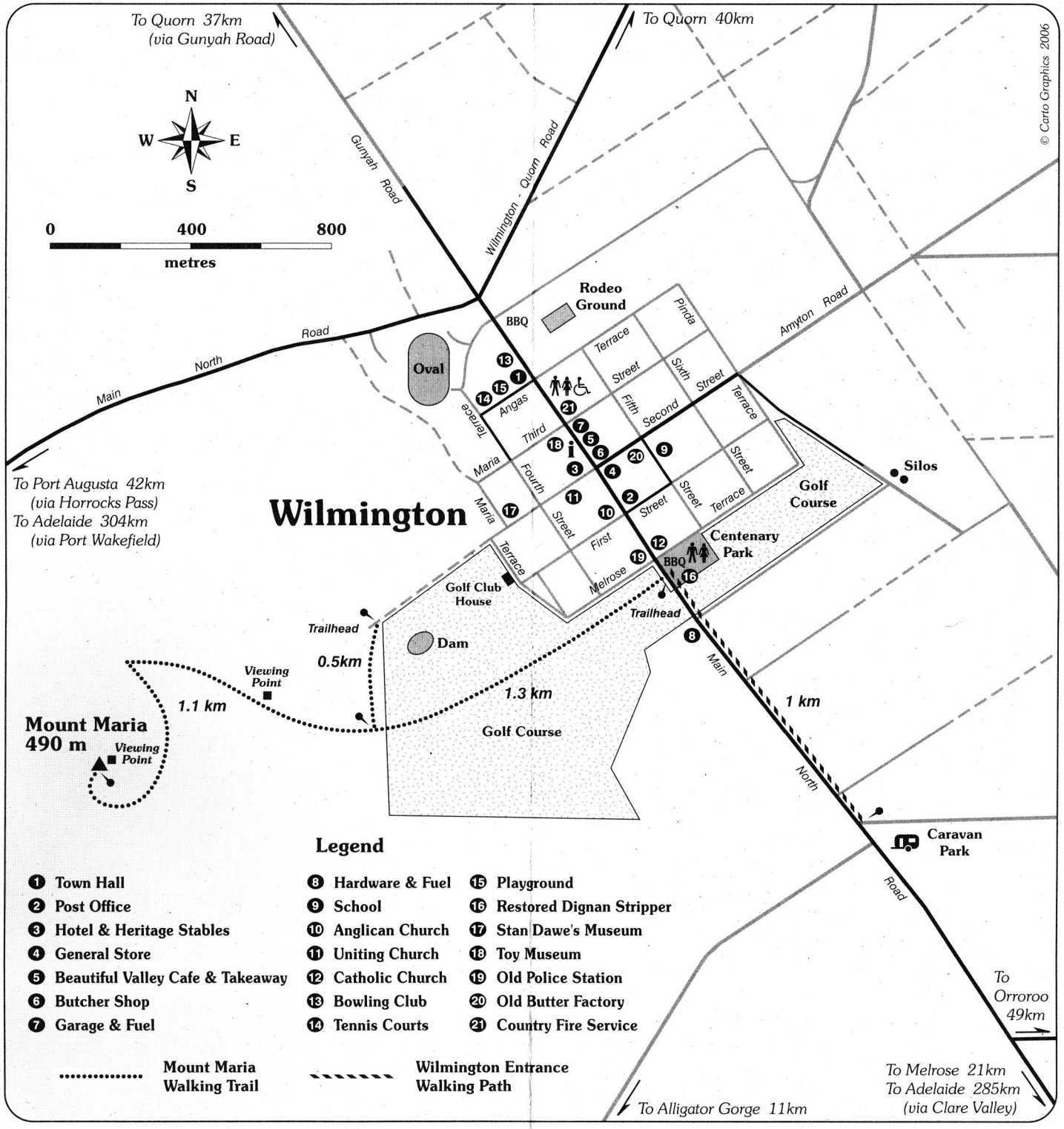
Mount Maria Walking Trail

R. Marshall

Outcrop of ABC Quartzite, Mount Maria Wilmington, South Australia

Allow 2 hours for a pleasant return walk to the top of Mount Maria.
A shorter return walk of 1 hour to the first viewing point is well worthwhile.

District Council of Mount Remarkable



A Historical Perspective

Colonel William Light laid out the City of Adelaide so that business and residential areas were surrounded by public parklands for recreation. His street plan followed a regular grid pattern. Many government-surveyed country towns followed this style and Wilmington is one of them. It was proclaimed a township in 1876.

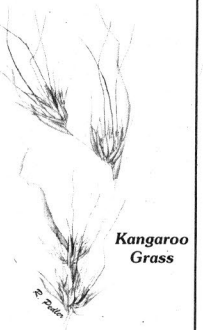
The grid street plan is quite clear, surrounded as it is by the parklands which include Mt Maria, Centenary Park and the Golf Club.

The town's water supply came from the dam located at the foot of Mount Maria, until the supply became inadequate. Water accumulating in the abandoned Spring Creek Mine was then piped to supply the town.

Although there are wheat paddocks around Wilmington which indicate a slightly higher rainfall, the dry Willochra Plain stretches away toward the east to the distant Horseshoe Range distinguished by the knob of Moockra Tower.

A Remnant Woody Grassland

Native grasslands and grassy woodlands were once widespread across this part of South Australia. They formed the basis of a thriving pastoral industry until the large sheep stations were subdivided for farmland.



Sheep stations were established about 1851 long before the town of Wilmington developed. Mt Brown Station, north of Wilmington on the Gunyah Road, was owned by Abraham Scott and Mt Remarkable Station, south of Wilmington was held by John Howard Angas, who also had land in the Barossa. Coonatto Station near Hammond also survives from this era. These stations were cut up for farmland in the 1870's.

This walk crosses a wooded remnant grassland, with scattered trees, a few shrubs and a grassy sward. The most obvious native plants here are Kangaroo Grass *(Themeda triandra)*, a few species of Spear Grass *(Stipa spp.)* and, near the top of the hill, Garland Lily *(Calostemma purpureum)*. There are many plants introduced from other parts of the world, including several grasses and clovers, Wild Mustard, blue-flowered Salvation Jane and the tiny Thread Iris. Most flower in spring except for the reddish-purple Garland Lily which is an autumn treat.