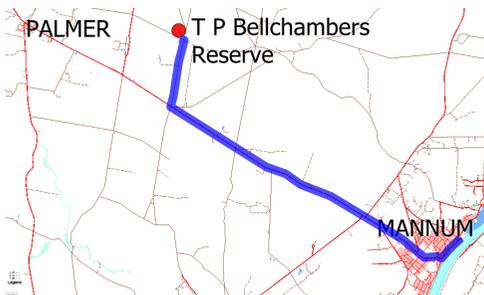


Best time to visit

During the day, particularly late winter and early spring, when the native plants are flowering. Make sure you bring your own water as there is none available on site and wear sturdy walking shoes and sun hat.

Access

T P Bellchambers Reserve is accessed from the Mannum to Palmer Road along Fischer Road and is around 10 km from Mannum. Care should be taken after rain as the roads can be slippery when wet.



Eastern Hills & Murray Plains Catchment Group is an independent not for profit community run association that assists landholders to enhance and protect the environment. It is one of ten Local Action Planning groups operating in the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin and is funded with state and federal government grants.



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T P Bellchambers Reserve

➤➤➤ Cnr Fischer and Wachtel Roads,
Milendella, South Australia



Silver Daisy Bush, *Olearia pannosa var pannosa*

Who was Bellchambers?

Born in England in 1858, Thomas Paine Bellchambers arrived in Australia in 1874 in search of work. He spent the years between 1881 and 1905 in and around Mannum and ran the first local apiary. Tom was intensely interested in the environment which was greatly influenced by his mother. Tom was a well known naturalist and conservationist. Tom wrote many articles for the local papers on the topic of conservation and the native flora and fauna which he saw slowly degrading due to the destructivism of man.

"Nature always provides a surplus for legitimate use, far in excess of needs, to ensure continuance of species...unrestrained, man uses up the capital instead of the surplus and this must, by natural law, end in disaster."
T.P. Bellchambers

Tom wrote two books, "Nature: Our Mother" and "A Nature-Lovers Notebook". In 1914, he became the first person in the world to breed Malleefowl in captivity.

In his ideas and beliefs Tom Bellchambers was



truly ahead of his time. Thomas Paine Bellchambers was a remarkable man with a remarkable vision. He died in 1929 at his beloved Humbug Scrub Sanctuary where he now rests.

Flowers

TP Bellchambers Reserve is small, but its significance lies in the small colony of Silver Daisy Bushes that it protects. *Olearia pannosa* var *pannosa* is listed as Vulnerable under the national Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act. There are only around 1000 of these plants left in the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin, mostly on roadsides, where it is vulnerable to further clearance, motorcycle activity and grazing by rabbits. This reserve has been rehabilitated since 2009 by volunteers from the local community using state and federal grants.

In late winter and spring there are many wildflowers to see. The plant list for this reserve has over 60 species.



Birds

Local amateur birdwatchers are developing a list for the reserve. In summer the reserve is visited by Rainbow Bee-eaters that fly south from as far away as the Philippines to nest in short tunnels in local sandhills. Parrots and honeyeaters are residents all year round, feeding on nectar or insects attracted by the plants.



Walking Trail

Volunteers have built a short walking trail through the most interesting parts of the reserve. The trail is well marked and interpretative signs are placed along the way describing the plants.

