



Woolly Goodenia (*Goodenia robusta*) with flowers in spring.

1.0 Checkpoint 4 - spur track to Mount Brown summit
Follow distance markers up to the summit; it is 2 km return to this spot. Between here and the summit there are rough outcrops of quartzite, with plenty of Mount Lofty Grass-trees, and Long-leaved Box.

0.0 Checkpoint 5 - the summit (970m)
On the summit of Mount Brown there are solar-powered radio installations. The trigonometrical station (trig point) was built during the earliest surveys.

A lookout has been established over the trig point to honour naturalist Robert Brown, who, with a party of others from Matthew Flinders' *Investigator*, climbed Mount Brown on 10 March 1802. This is a significant heritage site for South Australia and information panels on the platform give the history of the site and surrounding country. The Long-leaved Box trees have been cut from time to time for survey purposes and fences.

The view includes (all bearings are magnetic):

Wilpena Pound	27°	115km
Horseshoe Range (Mooakra Tower)	65°	39km
Mount Remarkable	149°	36km
Point Bonython (hydrocarbon storage)	196°	58km
Whyalla	210°	71km
Devil's Peak (below horizon) and the Dutchmans Stern Range beyond	344°	10km 22km

Return to Checkpoint 4; from here you can either return to Olive Grove the way you came (5 km) or continue around the circuit via Checkpoint 6 to Olive Grove (8 km).

8.0 Checkpoint 4 - returning via eastern ridge

8.0 - 7.8 The route traces east round the foot of Mount Brown; the shrubs and Grass-trees under the Grey Box are replaced by Porcupine Grass.

An open saddle is at the head of the tributary to Waukarie Creek that we entered at Checkpoint 2 and is on the same faultline. **Brachina Formation** is identified by a **Geosite** post. It is older than the quartzite of the summit. The wind, past fire regimes and grazing have probably ensured that this area remains free of shrubs and trees.

6.8 From this point, there are good views of Richman Valley and Quorn to the north, and beyond to the sawtooth Yappala Range near Hawker, the Elder Range, Rawnsley Bluff and Wilpena Pound.

5.4 Note fine views south across the Willochra Plain to Wilmington and Mount Remarkable.

5.2 Checkpoint 6 - ridge junction. There are broad views east across the Willochra Plain; look out for ridge-soaring Wedge-tailed Eagles; proceed north down the ridge following the yellow markers.

5.0 The shrubby understorey on this slope of Grey Box woodland includes Grass-trees and a different Curry Bush (or Sticky Cassinia). Lower Slopes have open grassy areas without Grass-trees but include more Fragrant Saltbush.

On your way down look for the views progressively - Mount Brown (south-west), Mooakra Tower (east), Richman Valley (north), Port Augusta (west), Devil's Peak and The Dutchmans Stern Range (north-west).

Richman Valley was part of the pastoral holding originally taken up by John Richman in the 1860s. His head station was at Itali Itali on the Wilmington - Quorn road; he drove his sheep to Port Augusta via Waukarie Creek and Pichi Richi Pass.

0.6 Grassland of Porcupine Grass and Thorn Wattle, then woodland with Narrow-leaved Hopbush.

0.0 Olive Grove Trailhead, Checkpoint 1 - Waukarie Fall.



Flinders Ranges Walks



Flinders Ranges Walks have been established in protected areas to provide visitors with experiences of the Ranges.

Trail maintenance and servicing of these trailhead leaflets is provided by the voluntary Walking Trails Support Group.

For downloads and further information please visit:
www.walkingtrailssupportgroup.org.au

Read *Explore the Flinders Ranges*, a definitive guidebook by the Royal Geographical Society of South Australia

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Flinders Ranges Walks



Mount Brown



The gentle slopes of Mount Brown seen beyond Devils Peak from the Dutchman's Stern

The wooded slopes of Mount Brown provide plenty of interest, from distant landscapes to closer views of plants, birds and other animals. For geologists the footslopes to the west are of particular interest, as the rock in Waukarie Creek (west of the walk route) contains evidence of a kilometre-deep canyon formed some 600 million years ago. The canyon cuts through the coarse, heavy-mineral layered sandstones of the ABC Range Quartzite. Sediments of the Wonoka Formation (sand, silt, limestone, shale and calcareous siltstone) fill the canyon and extend beyond it to comprise slopes crossed by the walk. Similar canyons occur elsewhere in the Flinders Ranges.

The rather bare shale and limestone slopes of the Wonoka Formation are quickly crossed before entering the Grey Box eucalypt woodland on the quartzite for a gradual climb to the summit - a notable spot in South Australia's history.

Here, there is a commemorative lookout for Robert Brown, naturalist on Matthew Flinders' voyage of exploration in Investigator. The walk returns to Olive Grove down a ridge to the east.

Mount Brown

Distance and Time: There are two walks (no steep sections) to choose from:

- 6 km linear walk to the summit; allow 3 hours (6 hours return).
- 15 km circuit walk including the spur track to Mount Brown summit; allow 7.5 hours.

Altitude Range: 410m (Trailhead, Checkpoint 1) to 970m (Summit, Checkpoint 5).

Access: From Quorn; at the Quorn Mill go south following the signs to Richman Valley and Waukarie Fall; drive to the southern end of the Richman Valley road, a total distance of about 14 km. The walk starts at Olive Grove Trailhead, situated 100m from the car park.

Track: Gentle grade, some rocky, but no steep sections.

For your safety:

- This is an AS2156 Class 3 walk in a natural area; beware of inherent hazards, including fire.
- 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 small First Aid kit.
- NOTE between Checkpoints 4 and 6 rough track is Class 4.

Seasons come and go, and plants and animals mentioned in the notes may not always be there.

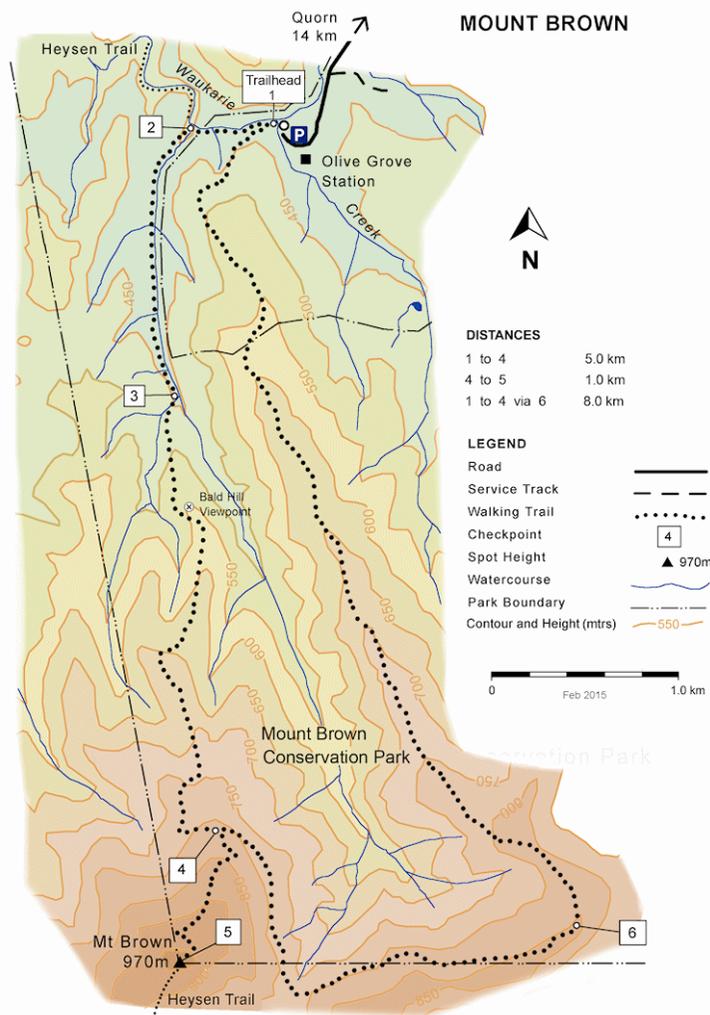


Notes read for an anti-clockwise circuit starting at Olive Grove **Trailhead, Checkpoint 1** with distances every 200m decreasing as you proceed.

Walk 100m down to the track from the car park to the Trailhead Checkpoint 1 near Waukarie Fall.

6.0 Olive Grove Trailhead, Checkpoint 1 - near Waukarie Fall There is often water in Waukarie Creek; an old mill indicates the approximate site of a spring. Big River Red Gums, rushes, sedges and Cumbungi (bulrush) take advantage of the moisture deep in the creek bed. Along the banks of the creek is woodland typical of quartzite hills - Northern Cypress-pine trees, Grey Box, Drooping Sheoaks, with shrubs of Christmas Bush, Narrow-leaved Hopbush and Sennas. Despite a history of sheep grazing, native Kangaroo Grass still occurs on these slopes.

Trail Map



5.6 Checkpoint 2 - tributary creek enters Waukarie Creek from the south (left). Heysen Trail (red markers) from Woolshed Flat joins here.

Turn left and walk up the tributary. It is located on a fault which the creek follows up to a saddle east of Mount Brown.

5.4 Near here a timber-lined well has been fenced off. Pale coloured soil indicates that we are now on Wonoka Formation which, as explained earlier, is derived from carbonate sediments laid down in deep oceans.

5.2 Very old tree stumps suggest that this was an old woodcutters track.

5.0 - 4.4 The characteristic vegetation of the Wonoka Formation includes the round bushy Wallowa (a wattle), Dryland Tea-tree, mallee, Shrubby Twin-leaf. In the creek and on the quartzite slope opposite, are River Red Gums, Curry Bush and Narrow-leaved Hop-bush.

4.0 Checkpoint 3 - small gully enters from west. Follow round the slope of the hill. Still on **Wonoka Formation** limestone find a **Geosite** post explaining 'book leaf' weathering of rocks next to track.

3.3 Take in the view from Bald Hill.

3.2 Grey Box woodland starts where the Wonoka Formation begins to peter out and is replaced by **ABC Range Quartzite**. Find a Geosite post. The woodland which clothes the quartzite includes Grey Box, Drooping Sheoak and Christmas Bush.

Below the trees are many shrubs and herbs including Thorn Wattle, Guinea Flowers, Narrow-leaved Hopbush, Curry Bush, Sword Rush, Porcupine Grass, Spear-grass, Irongrass and Native Cranberry.



Native Cranberry (*Astroloma humifusum*)
very low shrub.

2.4 With increasing altitude Sugar Gum with smooth mottled buff and grey bark appear.

2.0 The slopes of Mount Brown consist of boulders or scree. Compression of the original sediments caused the development of hidden fractures (joints) deep within the rock, but as weathering proceeded and these became exposed, blocks separated along the joints resulting in scree slopes. Some rocks clearly show the bedding layers (picked out by dark minerals) and some have pebble-sized pock marks where balls, probably of clay, have been weathered away.

1.9 Stands of Drooping Sheoaks such as those near here are more or less even-sized, suggesting that they all grew together following a fire. Sheoaks are fire sensitive and frequent fires do not allow them to grow into large trees.