



**Rock Sida** (*Sida petrophylla*) in some seasons can cover whole hillsides.



**Harlequin Fuchsia-bush** (*Eremophila duttonii*) occurs near Checkpoint 8

**4.0** Mt Babbage to the north can be seen from this slope; and 700 metres downstream is a defunct flow-gauging station at the entrance to Terrapinna Gorge.

A detour down the creek to the gauging station, shows you some water-worn Terrapinna Granite; over many thousands of years, the scouring floods of Hamilton Creek have achieved a series of sculpted basins, with a finish many artists strive for.

Narrow gorges like this slow down flood flows helping to create the sandy empoundment seen at 4.8 km and causing the stranding of logs high above normal creek level.

Return to the marked crossing point, where following rain waterfowl may be attracted to the small waterhole.

**3.9** In the creek bank by the waterhole, there is a contact between the dark, greenish amphibolite dyke and Terrapinna Granite. This is at the entrance to a tributary creek of the Hamilton.

**3.8 Checkpoint 4** — on a sandy bank of the tributary creek. The creek follows the line of the fault and amphibolite dyke referred to at 5.65 km and in the creek bank.

For **Option 1**, continue on in an easterly direction for Checkpoints 5,6,7. We follow the markers up the side of the creek through Rock Fuchsia-bush to negotiate granite boulders and granite pebbles (grus).

For **Option 2**, take a northerly direction – about 600 m to Checkpoint 8.

**3.0** Continuing east, the greenish amphibolite is clearly seen at the bottom of the slope across the creek.

*(Do not be alarmed by any rumbling noise. When operating, the Mt Freeling talc mine may blast around lunchtime.)*

**2.9 Checkpoint 5**—creek junction

Walk up the minor creek to the north (big rounded boulders to negotiate).

**2.8** Pink weathered feldspar crystals are obvious in the attractive water-washed boulders of the creek; Corkbarks and Wyrilda grow at the side, while Lemon-scented Grass may grow in the coarse gravel or grus (weathered granite) between the boulders.

**Checkpoint 6** - on the western bank.

*Climb out of the creek and make your way up slope to the north.*

**2.4** The ridge is covered with grus (fragments of decomposed granite), which tends to roll underfoot. To the south (200°) in a large tor are caverns, characteristic of weathered granite. The caverns form by natural salt damp processes where repeated salt crystallisation between winter and summer gradually breaks up the rock. Case-hardened rinds of some tors are resistant to such attack and may result in caverns.

**2.0 Checkpoint 7**—ridgetop saddle

Some familiar landmarks:

Mt Babbage	309°	4.0km
Mt Livingstone	244°	22.0km
Freeling Heights	222°	37.0km
Brindana Gorge	221°	6.5km
sand empoundment	232°	2.0km

**1.8** This is the head of a small, steep gully between two granite hills. *Keep right in descending the gully and bear north (right) to skirt the foot of the larger hill, following the track towards a clear saddle.*

**~1.3 Checkpoint 8** – Option 2 joins this track

**1.0** From this saddle Terrapinna Gorge is to the north-west; the ridge is of laminated, stressed granite and is a continuation of the one crossed at the beginning of the walk.

**0.4** Overlooks Terrapinna Waterhole.

**0.2** Fence and stile; a short walk across the creek returns you to the . . .

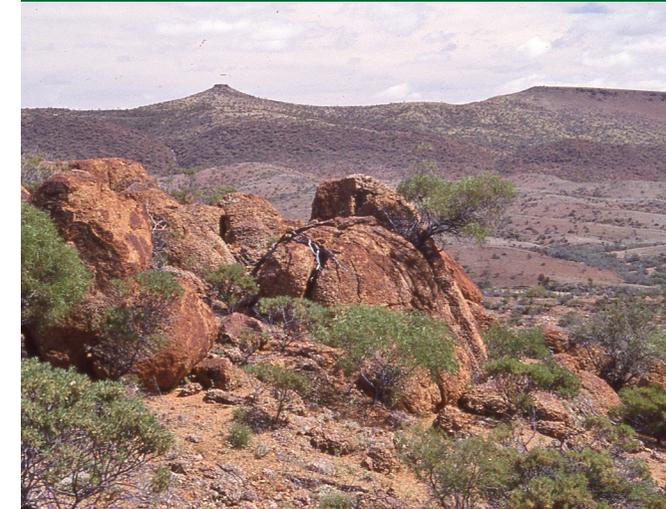
**0.0 Hamilton Creek Trailhead.**



Flinders Ranges Walks



## Terrapinna Tors\*



View of Mt Babbage from Checkpoint 7

*About 1550 million years ago molten material from deep within the earth's crust intruded into overlying layers and solidified as granites. Having been exposed by millenia of erosion, these granites (Mt Neill, Yerila, Wattleowie and Terrapinna) constitute the north-east corner of the Flinders Ranges. They give rise to an attractive if confused landscape of low hills crowned by tors.*

*These rocks are much older than those forming the ranges south of Arkaroola; they form the base on which were deposited rocks of the ancient trough (Adelaide Geosyncline) in the time between 800 and 500 million years ago. This short walk is an introduction to the Terrapinna Granite country.*

*It lies in country managed as a sanctuary by Moolawatana Station, in a remote area around Terrapinna Waterhole. The walk first crosses a granite ridge which has been deformed by faulting, before finding its way through bronze-weathered tors (boulders) of undeformed granite. It recrosses the ridge of deformed granite on the way back to the road.*

*\*Tor is a Cornish term meaning tower, which refers to isolated granite boulders or masses of blocks on hilltops, such as those found at Terrapinna.*



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](http://www.walkingtrailssupportgroup.org.au)

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

Or download our FREE Flinders Ranges Walks App!



# Terrapinna Tors

**Distance and time:** 7.2 km circuit walk; allow 3½ hours.

**Altitude range:** 120 m (**Trailhead Checkpoint 1**) to 180 m (**Checkpoint 7**).

**Access:** Hamilton Creek Trailhead is best approached from the eastern side via Moolawatana Station. The Trailhead is 9 km west of the Balcanoona - Mt Hopeless road on the Lyndhurst track. Many wash-aways, **4WD only**.

**Track:** Easy grade, but rocky in places; there is one short, steep descent at 5.4 km. **Note** *There is no readily visible foot pad because the gravel surface is disturbed by heavy rain. Markers (yellow and blue) are very frequent and can generally be seen from one to the next.*

## 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.

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

## Options;

1. The longer walk 7.2 km shown on the map has two short boulder cascade scrambles (not steep) and takes in the highest viewpoint. The notes describe this walk in full.
2. A short walk of 5.4 km leaves Option 1 at Checkpoint 4, rejoining it at Checkpoint 8, thereby avoiding the cascades and elevated sections which pass Checkpoints 5, 6 & 7.

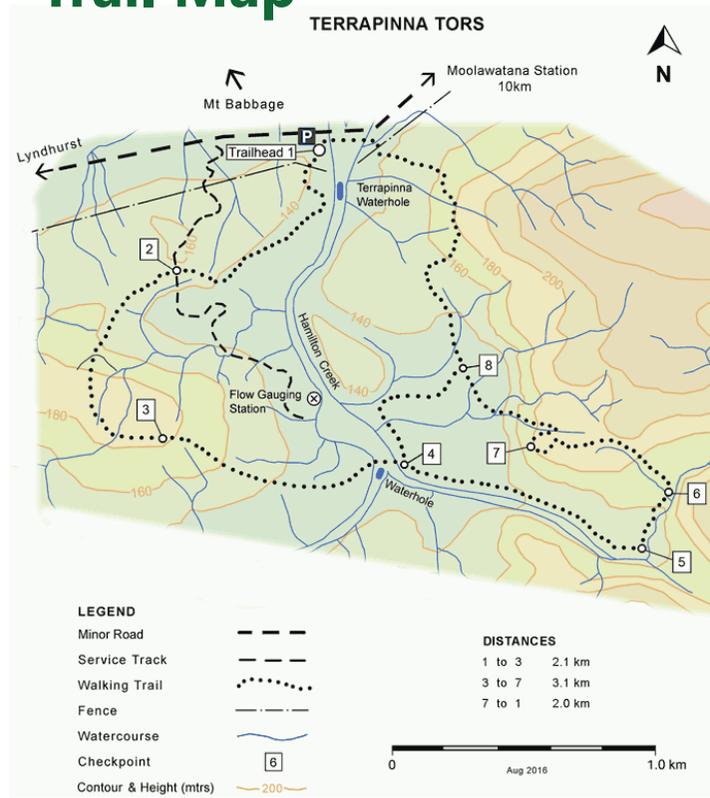


Notes reads for an anti-clockwise circuit starting at **Trailhead Checkpoint 1** with marked distances every 200 m decreasing as you proceed.

**7.2 Hamilton Creek Trailhead**—roadside at Terrapinna Waterhole, west of the creek bed Terrapinna waterhole lies on the Hamilton Creek which drains into it from the south. The pool does not hold as much water as it once did, possibly because clay sediments which sealed the sandy creek bed have been disturbed by scouring floods, now allowing water to seep away. It is an important supply of water for stock and wildlife, and should be left undisturbed.

*Follow the track towards a stile in the fence and continue on through an open mulga woodland.*

# Trail Map



**7.0** An outcrop of greyish quartz here lies in a shear zone where rocks became stressed during faulting; the granite on either side has been deformed so that it looks layered. The quartz, more formally known as quartz mylonite, is derived from the granite under great strain, forcing plastic flow and lateral movement in the rock which causes the layered appearance. Most of the granite in this ridge up to the 5.65 km marker has been affected in this way.

**6.8** Near cliff top overlooking the waterhole, which is smaller now following drought years.

**6.2** The distinctive blocky white quartz (vein quartz) nearby has formed as a filling or lining to fractures in the granite after it has completely cooled. It is therefore different to the grey quartz mylonite noted at 0.2 km.

**Checkpoint 2**—NW side of a vehicle track.

**6.0** There is a good view of Mt Babbage to the north-west with a plateau of Mesozoic sediments to the east of it. Mt Babbage has a remnant of Mesozoic rocks sitting on top of Terrapinna Granite. Other granites referred to in the introduction (Yerila and Wattleowie) also occur in the hills around Mt Babbage.

**5.65** The route crosses an amphibolite (altered dolerite) dyke which shows as finely laminated, dark greenish rock underfoot. It was intruded when molten, along a fault which can be seen in the landscape from here as a valley to the east about 1 km away (which this walk eventually follows). To the west, the dyke appears as a belt of bare, dark reddish-green ground. The last major folding of the ranges changed the intruded dolerite to amphibolite.

**5.6** Granite is composed of a number of crystalline minerals—feldspar, quartz and mica. In Terrapinna Granite the feldspar crystals are pale coloured (grey if fresh, pinkish if weathered) large, a few centimetres in diameter and oval in shape. They can be easily seen in the rocks and tors. The mica is usually black.



**Wyrilda** (*Acacia confluens*) only occurs in the Northern Flinders Ranges.

## Checkpoint 3—low granite crest.

There are views of:

Mt Babbage	329°	3km
Freeling Heights	220°	36km
Parabarana Hill	142°	8km
Mt Livingstone	242°	21km
Mt Neill	186°	14km
notch of Brindana Gorge		
below horizon	210°	6km

Mount Babbage was first seen by explorer Benjamin Herschel Babbage (son of Charles Babbage, who developed computer theory and designed the first mechanical computer) in 1856 and he named it Mt Hopeful, because he had learned from an Aboriginal that there was a gap in Eyre's 'horseshoe lake'. Surveyor-General Goyder renamed it Mt Babbage in 1857.

Tors carry characteristic vegetation, including Wyrilda (a small bushy wattle tree), Striped Mint-bush (Jockey's Cap), Rock Sida, Stiff Spurge as well as more frequent plants like Silver Mulla Mulla, Rock Fuchsia-bush.

**4.8** Thirty metres or so beyond this marker, green coloured stones indicate shallow diggings for copper—a minor occurrence. A further thirty metres provides a good view south up the Hamilton Creek to a wide section of the creek about half a kilometre away where large amounts of sand have accumulated during floods, forming a broad sandy terrace which the creek skirts to the east and west.