

## QUORN FOOTHILLS FLORA

### Quorn Native Flora Reserve

Old quarry sites are interesting places, because the gravel exposes new spaces for plants to colonise. The natural state the soils are thin and poor in nutrients and the plants found here are well-adapted to these conditions. Many of the quarrying activities have become disguised by natural regrowth.

The quarry was opened around the time of settlement of Quorn in 1879. It supplied stone for the buildings that were being erected in the new town. It became a Council Stone Reserve in 1891, but no stone has been removed for many years and in 1992 it became a Flora Reserve.

There is an interesting mixture of plants which are familiar in the cooler climate of the Adelaide Hills and those which are more common in arid locations. Quorn lies in a transition area, as the surrounding hills promote a higher rainfall in a place which otherwise would be quite arid. Seasonal variations from the hot and dry to the cool and moist have sorted out the plants which are able to survive here.

Birds are dependent on this vegetation and in some seasons you should see a wide variety.

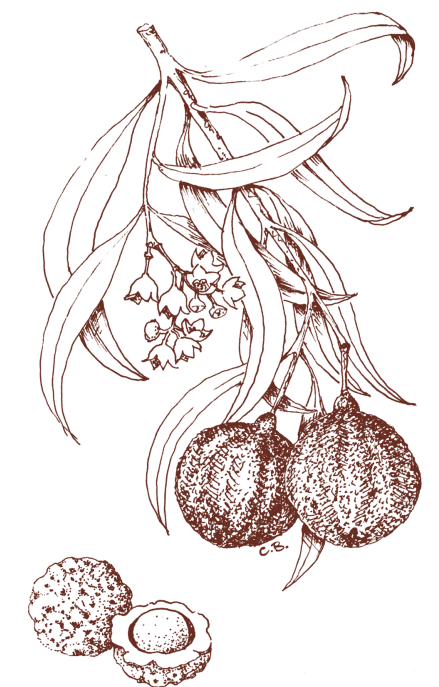
**SELF-GUIDED WALK:** 800m on gentle grades, with gravelled walking surface. Allow 1/2 hour.

**ACCESS:** A 2.5 km drive from the Cross of Sacrifice, turning right at the Mill, cross the railway line, go straight on at the roundabout and cross Pinkerton Creek. Turn left at Quarry Road. As you start to go up the hill, there is a sign indicating the Flora Reserve on the right.

These notes give a brief description of plants which are identified by number and name along the path.

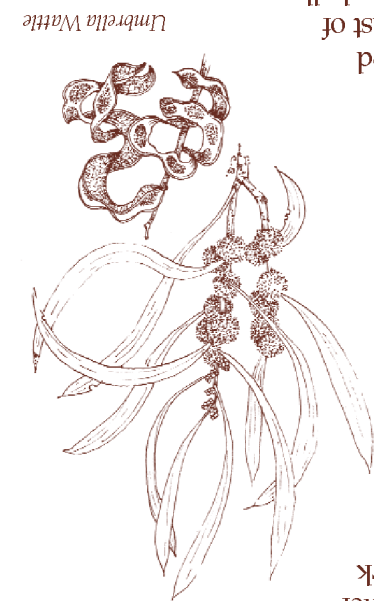


**The Flinders Ranges Council**



Quandong

## FLINDERS WALKS



Umbrella Wattle

### 1. Umbrella Wattle

*Acacia oswaldii*

A small tree, this one rather straggling, with dark bark and stiff blue-green 'leaves' (phylloides). Widely distributed in South Australia from the Murray Mallee to southern Northern Territory. Grows as scattered trees in many communities.

### 2. Golden Wattle

*Acacia pycnantha*

Small short-lived tree distributed from here to the South-east of

South Australia. Has large balls of bright yellow flowers in late winter and early spring. In the nineteenth century, the bark was collected in hills nearby as a rich source of tannin. Gum which oozes from the bark was eaten by Aborigines.

### 3. Bullock Bush

*Alecyon olifolius*

This tree which looks rather like an olive tree is easily confused with other trees along this walk (Sandalwood and Umbrella Wattle). When in fruit, it is quite distinct having a shiny black seed partly covered by a bright red appendage.

### 4. Drooping Sheoak

*Allocasuarina verticillata*

The canopy of this tree is made up of dark green branchlets which carry minute leaves in whorls. It has distinctive cones and in spring, male trees can be orange with pollen producing anthers.

### 5. Northern (or White) Cypress-pine

*Callitris glaucophylla*

Very common in the Flinders Ranges growing on rocky slopes, either as individuals or as a woodland.



Quandong, fruit and nut

### 10. Quandong

*Santalum acuminatum*

An icon fruit for the Flinders Ranges, Quorn has been a centre for improving strains of Quandong for culinary use in Australia and overseas. Although the flesh of the bright red fruit can be rather dry and tart, it makes highly sought after pies and preserves. The deeply pitted stone has an edible kernel. This semi-parasitic plant is widely distributed throughout the state.

### 9. Native Apricot

*Pittosporum angustifolium*

Gets its name from the colour of the rather woody fruit which splits into two valves exposing bright orange seeds. A small tree with a grey trunk and weeping foliage.

### 8. False Sandalwood

*Mycoporum platycarpum*

Has rather sticky foliage and small white flowers. An attractive rounded green bush when young, it develops into a somewhat staggy tree. The burning timber has an aroma of sandalwood.

### 7. Peppermint Box

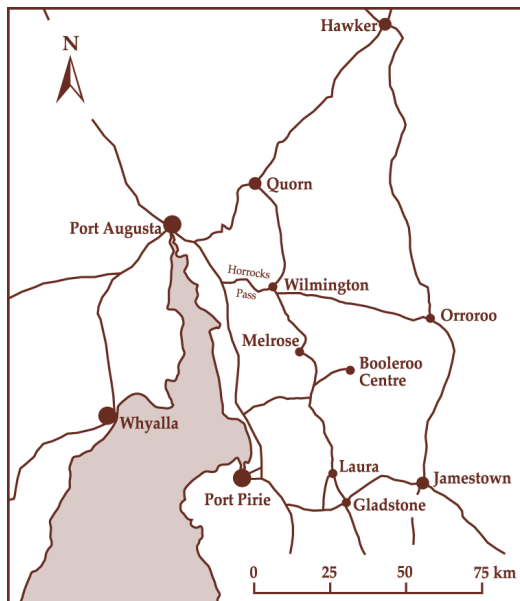
*Eucalyptus odorata*

Can develop into a tree up to 20m high under favourable conditions. Here, near the northern (drier) limit of its range, it tends to have multiple trunks.

### 6. Red Mallee

*Eucalyptus socialis*

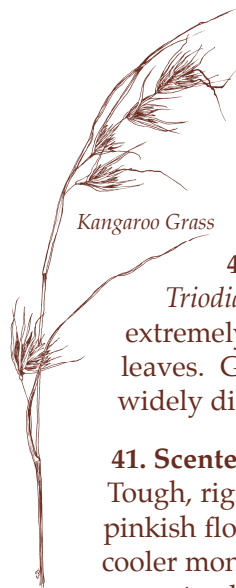
Mallees are trees generally with multiple trunks; in this one the new growth is red in colour, hence its common name.



### Prepare for your walk

- Wear comfortable shoes, hat and sunscreen
- Wear cool clothing in summer
- Take a drink of water
- Please keep to the formed pathway
- For wildlife's sake, leave pets behind and ...
- Look after habitat - do not remove plants or dead wood, which are home to many creatures

For information about other walks contact  
Flinders Ranges Information Centre Seventh Street Quorn  
Ph/Fax (08) 8648 6419



Kangaroo Grass

### 39. Kangaroo Grass

*Themeda triandra* Apalatable native grass which has disappeared from many places; golden and reddish flower parts are characteristic.

### 40. Porcupine Grass

*Triodia irritans* A tussock grass with extremely sharp-pointed grey-green leaves. Good habitat for lizards and widely distributed throughout the state.

### 41. Scented Mat-rush

*Lomandra effusa* Tough, rigid, blue green leaves; white or pinkish flowers develop at base during cooler months, male and female on separate plants.

**42. Sticky Sword-sedge** *Lepidosperma viscidum*  
Tough, fairly rigid sedge like plant, widespread in southern Australia; flowers at any time.

**43. Bamboo Spear Grass** *Austrostipa breviglumis*  
Tall branching grass up to 1.5 m high, often grows through other vegetation, which supports it.

**44. Flax Lily** *Dianella revoluta* With stiff grass-like dark green leaves this plant has blue flowers in spring. Widely distributed to the north of South Australia, and very common in wetter areas.

#### Sources and further reading:

Quorn Native Flora Reserve 1999 leaflet produced by Flinders Ranges GreenCorp Team 2, with Maureen McColl and Brian Powell  
Cunningham et al. 1981 *Plants of Western New South Wales* Govt Printer NSW  
Pedler R 1992 *Wildflowers of the Southern Flinders Ranges* pub by Author  
Pedler R 1994 *Wildflowers of the Northern Flinders Ranges* pub by Author

Illustrations: Chris Bigwood

**11. Sandalwood** *Santalum spicatum* Is related to the above and has similar if less colourful fruits which are not edible. The stone is smooth. Harvest of the timber for its fragrant qualities is now prohibited in South Australia. Confined to northern regions.

**12. Drooping mistletoe** *Amyema miquelii* Mistletoes can very often occupy almost an entire tree canopy. As they are semi-parasites, they can seriously affect the health of a tree or a stand of trees. The sticky seeds are spread by Mistletoe Birds.

**13. Thorny Wattle** *Acacia continua* The thorns of this small wattle are continuous with the stem. They are modified phyllodes which take the place of leaves.



Thorny Wattle

**14. Jockey's Cap** *Prostanthera striatiflora* A member of the mint family this shrub has aromatic leaves and when the showy spring flowers have faded the calyx remains as a 'Jockey's Cap'.

**15. Needle Wattle** *Acacia rigens* This is a young healthy plant. Further along the walk, the stiff leaves or phyllodes of a dense stand are infested with gall-forming insects and appear not to have flowered for a number of years.

**16. Native Cranberry** *Astroloma humifusum* This low-growing or prostrate shrub with blue-green leaves has erect bright red flowers in winter and round fleshy fruit which are edible.



Native Cranberry

**17. Pale Turpentine Bush** *Beyeria lechenaultii* Light green shrub, with male and female flowers borne on separate plants. Sticky foliage.

**18. Christmas Bush** *Bursaria spinosa* This medium to tall shrub has spiny stems and clusters of white flowers which appear about Christmas time. Seeds are held in heart-shaped pods.



Christmas Bush

**19. Common Fringe-myrtle** *Calytrix tetragona* tetragona In favourable conditions this flowers prolifically and puts on a display of white to pink clusters of small flowers in winter and spring. After the petals have gone the sepals, with a long thread-like points, turn reddish brown. Nearing the northern limit of its distribution here, but very common further south.

**20. Curry Bush** *Cassinia laevis* If you crush the sticky leaves of this bush, you will understand how it got its name. In summer it has white heads of tiny daisy-like flowers. A similar bush, *Cassinia uncata* (30), has greener leaves and creamy flowerheads.

**21. Crinkled Hopbush** *Dodonaea baueri* There are many different types of hop-bushes. This is one of the smallest, but they all have papery fruit something like beerhops. This hopbush is not very common.

**22. Lobe-leaved Hopbush** *Dodonaea lobulata* This is a very common hopbush in the Flinders Ranges and has striking red 'hops' in spring.

**23. Ruby Saltbush** *Enchylaena tomentosa* Frequently referred to as the Bush Tomato on account of its small orange or red fleshy fruit, which were eaten by Aborigines. The plant was used by Charles Sturt's exploration expedition as an antiscorbutic.

**24. Tar Bush** *Eremophila glabra* A species widespread throughout South Australia and other states. It is one of three eremophilas found on this walk. As here, it is a low bush, with red tubular flowers.

**25. Emu Bush** *Eremophila longifolia* The long, hanging leaves, which look like emu plumage on mature bushes, give this eremophila its name. A tall shrub or small tree it suckers successfully as demonstrated along the carpark fence. It has dull red flowers in spring and early summer.



Emu Bush

**26. Sandalwood Eremophila** *Eremophila santalina* The light green willowy leaves are characteristic of this eremophila, which is only found in the Southern Flinders Ranges. It is not common but also occurs in Mt Remarkable National Park, at Devil's Peak and in Napperby Gorge.

**27. Leafless Ballart** *Exocarpus aphyllus* This tangled shrub appears leafless, because the tiny leaves soon fall off. Small cream flowers give rise to a small nut sitting on a bright red cup-like succulent stem which was eaten by aborigines.

**28. Desert Jasmine** *Jasminum lineare* This narrow-leaved climber has white, fragrant starry flowers. It produces dark, globular berry about 1 cm in diameter.

**29. Clammy Daisy-bush** *Olearia decurrens* Another daisy with sticky leaves. Starry flowers with 3-5 petals are borne in loose heads in summer and autumn.

**30. Sticky Cassinia** *Cassinia uncata* With leaves smelling of curry similar to (20), but more compact flowerheads; flowers summer and autumn.

**31. Showy Daisy** *Olearia pimeleoides* This bush is very striking when flowering in good seasons. It has large white daisies 2-3 cm across, borne singly at the end of stems.

**32. Shrubby Riceflower** *Pimelea microcephala* This untidy 1-2m shrub has far more attractive relatives which grow in softer climates. Small heads of cream flowers give rise to orange berries. It is a good indicator of the presence of feral goats which seem to graze it preferentially, reducing it to a few miserable stalks.

**33. Fragrant Saltbush** *Rhagodia parabolica* When flowering, particularly in damp weather, the clusters of tiny flowers give off a sweet smell. These green-grey mealy shrubs tend to grow under the canopy of trees.

**34. Spiny Fanflower** *Scaevola spinescens* A tough shrub with dull greyish leaves, which produces small glossy white fanflowers at any time of year when conditions are suitable.



Spiny Fanflower

**35. Silver Senna** *Senna artemisioides* This elegant shrub has silvery leaves which are made up of 4-6 pairs of leaflets. It has sweet smelling, bright yellow flowers in spring, which in good seasons provide a decorative display.



Silver Senna

**36. Desert Senna** *Senna artemisioides var coriacea* Similar to the above. It has a similar number of leaflets on its leaves but they are shorter and broader. Again a colourful spring display.

**37. Stiff Westringia** *Westringia rigida* Another member of the mint family which usually occurs in sandy soil as here. It is widely distributed in southern Australia. As you can see, the short stiff leaves are arranged in whorls of three. The flowers, which appear in late winter to spring, are white to pale mauve with orange to brown dots on the lower 3 of the 5 lobes.

**38. Scrambling Twinleaf** *Zygophyllum billardieri* This small succulent shrub flowers in spring. It has yellow buttercup-like flowers with 4 petals. Like many plants with weak stems it tends to scramble over other growth to form a mound. Common in drier areas throughout Australia.