

Look at the topogram.

Peregrine Falcons may nest on the cliff and will make noisy threats as you approach, while on some days, Wedge-tailed Eagles soar overhead in the updraughts caused by the cliff.

From a saddle beyond the Checkpoint, Mt Remarkable is visible (south) to the left of Mt Brown, above the floor of Richman Valley.

5.8 to 5.6 A patch of Drooping Sheoak woodland on a slope of quartzite blocks; their even size suggests that they all grew at the same time following a fire.

5.4 to 4.6 This slope has an eastern aspect and is quite different from the slope we walked up; the Sugar Gums are much larger, there is more Christmas Bush, Curry Bush, Rock Wattle and Native Cherries.

3.8 to 3.6 Big Sugar Gums—some lose their tops from lightning strikes and some fall over during storms or when the ground is very wet. Here there are birds that occur no further north—the Scarlet Robin, Eastern Spinebill, Adelaide Rosella and Grey Currawong.

This steep gorge with its scree slopes is the valley of Stony Creek.

3.4 to 3.0 The golden gorge walls are composed of hard ABC Range Quartzite. Rock colour lights up particularly during late afternoon and early morning. You may be lucky to see some Yellow-footed Rock-wallabies on the cliffs.

On the scree between these markers are the Velvet Daisy-bush (dark green shiny leaves, velvet underneath with large white daisies in August-September) and yellow Feathery Groundsel (confined to rocky hills in southern central Australia, and near to its southern limit here).

2.8 to 2.4 There are increasing amounts of Brachina Formation siltstone recognisable by its platy fragments. Here, Blue Gums and Mallee Box have taken the place of large sugar gums.

2.2 A minor creek, tributary of Stony Creek.

1.8 Checkpoint 4—trail meets vehicle track (Heysen Trail).

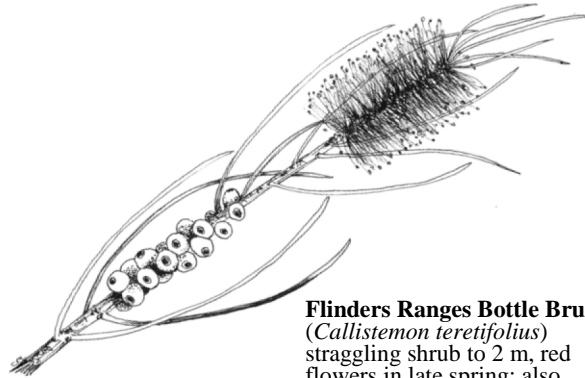
By the checkpoint are the remains of an old trolley or

sled. This may have been used for transporting tan bark which was collected from Golden Wattle (mostly during depression years).

From here the walking track bears left and the narrow footpad winds through Blue Gum and Mallee Box woodland, typical of the lower slopes, with Curry Bush, Clammy Daisy-bush and Golden Wattle. Cypress-pines cling to the sides of rocky creeks.

1.0 Checkpoint 2—Cross the vehicle track and retrace the early morning walk across the paddock to the trailhead. Elegant Parrots may flash past here, while the Southern Scrub-robin frequents the Quorn Wattle and Curry Bush.

0.0 The Dutchman Trailhead 1.



Flinders Ranges Bottle Brush
(*Callistemon teretifolius*)
straggling shrub to 2 m, red flowers in late spring; also occurs in Mt Lofty Ranges.

Flinders Ranges Walks

- ♦ have been established in protected areas to provide visitors with experiences of the Ranges
- ♦ trail maintenance and interpretive leaflets at the trail-heads are provided by the voluntary Walking Trails Support Group
- ♦ support in kind and donations are welcome
- ♦ enquiries and comments via the website

www.walkingtrailssupportgroup.org.au

- ♦ donations via BSB 065132: Account 10111714
- ♦ more downloadable information on geology, plants, animals and culture is available on the website and in *Explore the Flinders Ranges* a definitive guide-book by the Royal Geographical Society of South Australia, AND from
- ♦ *Flinders Ranges Walks* App on Google Play Store.

Flinders Ranges Walks Dutchman's Stern

Quorn Wattle
Acacia quornensis



A good walk for the family takes in this prominent hill north-west of Quorn. It is, like Mount Brown, an outcrop of ABC Range Quartzite; it and The Bluff to the north are remnants of a higher range that had its summit between them. All the material between has been removed by erosion over millions of years. Look for rocks showing layers of the sediments as they were laid down under water. In places the angle of the layers changes abruptly, indicating possible change in the direction of water flow. The quartzite sits on top of reddish Brachina Formation siltstones.

Changes in vegetation reflect rock type, altitude and aspect. Sugar Gums occupy the crest and upper slopes, with stands of Drooping Sheoaks scattered amongst them; Northern Cypress-pines occupy cliff faces some distance below the crest of the range and Blue Gums clothe the lower slopes. An attractive heath of Fringe Myrtle and Flinders Ranges Bottlebrush on thin soils of the northern slopes contrasts with the Christmas Bush and Curry Bush on deeper moister soils of southern and lower slopes.

Distance and time: There are three walks to choose from:

- 10.6 km circuit walk; allow 5 hours
- 4.2 km one way to Summit Viewpoint; 4 hours return
- 2.5 km one-way to Terrace Viewpoint: 2 hours return

Altitude: range from 440 m (Trailhead) to 810 m (Checkpoint 3).

Access: From the Arden Vale road; the signposted turn-off to the park is 6.5 km from the Port Augusta road intersection in Quorn. It is then a further 3 km to The Dutchman car park. The trailhead is at the car park.

Track: Gentle grades, some rocky, but not steep, sections

For your safety

- This is an AS2156 Class 3 walk in a natural area; beware of inherent hazards, including fire
- Walk in a party of four, 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 First Aid Kit

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



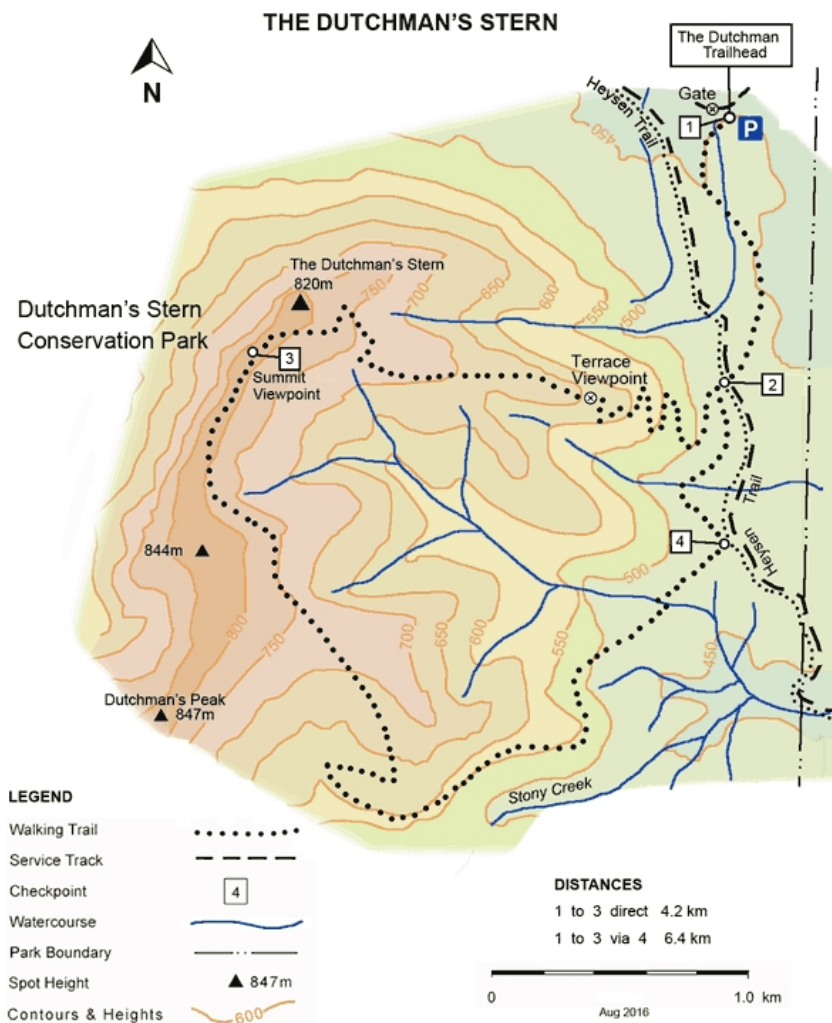
Notes read for an anti-clockwise circuit starting at Checkpoint 1 with marked distances every 200 m decreasing as you proceed.

10.6 The Dutchman Trailhead 1—at the car park.

Follow the narrow foot pad and yellow markers, across the paddock.

This paddock would have had heavy use when The Dutchman was a sheep station. It is now carries the roundish bushes of Quorn Wattle (*Acacia quornensis*), which is confined to the Quorn/Hawker area.

An enclosure is used by Friends of the park to propagate the Many-flower Mat-rush (*Lomandra multiflora* ssp. *dura*) which is the food plant for larvae of the rare White-spotted Skipper butterfly (*Trapezites luteus luteus*).



10.2 On the other side of the little creek is spiny Porcupine Grass and the Garland Lily which has bright pink to maroon flowers in March.

9.6 Checkpoint 2—at crossing of vehicle track (Heysen Trail). Take the right hand footpad up the hill (the left hand one goes to **Checkpoint 4**).

9.4 A view across the valley slightly north of east to Mount Arden reservoir. This was built in the 1880s to supply water for Quorn and the Northern Railway. It is fed by several creeks including the creek that passes The Dutchman homestead.

Stony Creek, which we see later, was diverted to a concrete channel in order to supply the reservoir. The town now obtains water from bores.

9.2 to 8.8 The Sugar Gum woodland begins about here at about 550 m altitude; it prefers the higher slopes which capture rain and mist. Tree Martins are especially evident here in spring months, as they dip and swoop catching insects in flight.

Higher rainfall in the hills means that the shrubs of these slopes are similar to those of the Mount Lofty Ranges near Adelaide—Curry Bush, Clammy Daisy-bush, Golden Wattle, Mt Lofty Grass-tree, Native Cranberry and Christmas Bush.

8.7 Around here there is a rock overhang. In this seemingly dry spot, Blanket Ferns grow underneath in rock crevices where moisture seeps out. Further up the hill Northern Cypress-pine trees become more numerous.

8.1 Terrace Viewpoint: view north to Mt Arden, named by Matthew Flinders for his maternal grandmother. South is Devil's Peak, with Mt Brown on the horizon beyond.

8.0 This exposed aspect close to a cliff top, has thin soils and is a heath with Fringe Myrtle, Flinders Ranges Bottlebrush, Drooping Sheoaks, Mt Lofty Grass-trees, Sticky Hopbush, Guinea Flowers and an occasional Rock Wattle. Here, Redthroats, Variegated Fairy-wrens and Inland Thornbills seek the cover of the shrubs, whereas Tawny-crowned Honeyeaters are more easily seen.

Termite mounds may be seen. They exploit tree stumps or grass trees as the foundation for their mound, which may about 0.5 m high. Termites are important recyclers of nutrients. Trees, dead or alive, provide food and shelter for many animals.

6.6 Ripple marks in rocks ahead and at the summit are a reminder of the shallow river deltas in which the sandy sediments were originally laid down.

6.4 Checkpoint 3—the top, 810 m.

A view across more or less treeless hills to the western plains and through the trees to the eastern plains—there's plenty to take in, but you will need to take glimpses between the trees.