



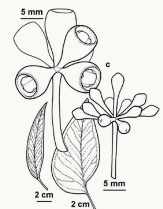
Rakali (*Hydromys chrysogaster*)

12 COX CREEK

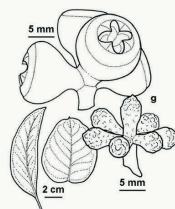
Cox Creek arises in Uraidla and flows into the Onkaparinga River, south of Bridgewater. In winter the creek flows strongly and overflows in places, so take care! In summer there are pools of water in this part of the creek which can be a nice place to cool off (if you're careful). This area was once a forest of the weed Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) until our volunteers cleared it. Rakali (*Hydromys chrysogaster*), the native water rat, is found in Cox Creek. Rakali have webbed feet, water-repellent fur, burrow in the banks of waterways and eat insects, fish and crustaceans.

13 STRINGYBARK

The Messmate Stringybark (*Eucalyptus obliqua*) is one of two stringybark eucalypts at Engelbrook Reserve. The name "stringybark" refers to the rough reddish bark. The stringybark grows in higher rainfall areas and on hillsides facing south. Another stringybark here is Brown Stringybark (*Eucalyptus baxteri*) which is a more stunted and twisted tree. These two species are differentiated by their gumnuts.



Messmate Stringybark
(*Eucalyptus obliqua*)



Brown Stringybark
(*Eucalyptus baxteri*)

It is rare to see truly old stringybarks in the Adelaide Hills as many of the larger and older trees were logged many years ago. Can you spot some tall, old stringybarks with thick trunks?

Kids – Look at a leaf from the Messmate. See how one edge of the wide leaf is narrower and shorter than the other. Find some gumnuts under the stringybarks and see if you can guess the species.

You probably noticed a number of dead stringybark trees, both standing and fallen. We are not sure why. It may be drought, as stringybarks prefer wet areas. It may be the root rot fungus (*Phytophthora cinnamomi*), which kills many native species. As a precaution all bush-care workers spray their boots and tools with a disinfectant before working in the park, so as not to spread this fungus. We ask visitors to keep to the tracks.

14 HOLLOW TREE

This hollow probably developed after a bushfire killed one side of the trunk. This tree is still living even without central wood and could possibly live for another 150+ years. The tree still has living tissues under the bark allowing it to grow. Eucalypts have hidden buds growing under their bark and when a tree is burnt these buds pop out to grow new branches. Hollows in dead trees provide important nest sites for many birds, possums, insectivorous bats and other small mammals. Many birds use areas with dead trees and fallen timber, such as falcons, hawks and Laughing Kookaburras. Have you noticed any other eucalypts with blackened trunks?

15 TRACK MAINTENANCE

To reduce the impacts of flowing water eroding the fire access trail, drains have been dug diagonally across the trail.

Kids – What do these drains do? How do they stop erosion of the track?

ENGELBROOK NATURE TRAIL CIRCUIT



WELCOME TO ENGELBROOK RESERVE

As you wander through this beautiful and peaceful reserve take your time and immerse yourself in the natural surroundings. Listen to the birds and the rustling of the trees in the wind, observe butterflies fluttering through the bush, koalas nestled in the tall trees and small skinks running across the tracks. Make the most of your time here.

ENGELBROOK RESERVE AND N TSA

The National Trust of South Australia was established in 1955 for the conservation of lands and buildings of beauty, historical, scientific, artistic, or architectural interest, the preservation of natural features in land and the protection of animal and plant life. Anyone can join the National Trust and new members are welcome.

The Engelbrook property was given to N TSA on the 14th of January 1964 by Carl and Vera Engel to hold in trust as a flora and fauna reserve. Carl was a very keen botanist and for most of his life operated a nursery in what is now West Croydon. The reserve is maintained by volunteers in order for it to be kept open to the public.

Engelbrook Reserve comprises 27.5ha with a variety of plant communities. There are Blechnum and Coral Ferns in boggy areas, stately Candlebark trees along the Cox Creek valley and Messmate Stringybark forest with a complex shrub layer over the steep hillsides. The springtime wildflower season is an extravaganza of stunning herbs, lilies and many orchid species.

It will probably take around an hour for you to walk the trail. The trailhead entry is located at the end of Wattle Street. The trail has been left as natural as possible so good footwear is advisable. The trail is marked and the numbered posts correspond with points of interest described in this brochure.

In the spirit of reconciliation we acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of country and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to their elders past, present and emerging.

Please support the National Trust of SA

We are non-profit. Volunteers manage this reserve, and donations and bequests pay the bills. We need you to help keep Engelbrook Reserve open for everyone!

To find out more, contact the Natural Heritage Manager:

CALL: (08) 8208 9200

EMAIL: admin@nationaltrustsa.org.au

VISIT: www.nationaltrust.org.au/sa

NATIONAL TRUST OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

631 Glynburn Road BEAUMONT SA 5066





1 FIRE BREAK

This firebreak is slashed each spring to reduce fuel for fire. This helps to prevent the spread of wildfire and allows access for fire crew. Preventing the growth of shrubs and trees here promotes wildflowers such as native orchids, lilies and everlastings so it is a good place to look for these in late winter and spring.

Kids – How many different flowers can you see?
How many different colours are there?



2 NATIVE CHERRY



The Native Cherry tree (*Exocarpus cupressiformis*) (pictured left), has striking green foliage with small red fruits which are edible! They are common in higher rainfall areas. The fruit is sweet, attracting birds which help in the distribution of the seeds. Native cherries are semi-parasitic, as their roots attach to those of other plants for nutrients. It is

common to find dead trees, such as gum trees, near Native Cherries which may be due to the parasitism of the Native Cherry trees.

Kids – Try to find a native cherry to taste. How many would you need to eat if you were hungry?



3 HIDDEN CITY!

Not just a pile of dirt, this is an active termite colony.

Termites or ‘white ants’ spend most of their time underground. Their mounds may look abandoned, but inside is a maze of tunnels and passages housing over a million termites! After rain you may see them outside building on another layer. Termites are important recyclers in the bush because they eat fallen timber.

4 HILLSIDE HABITAT

On the slopes of the reserve conditions are very different from the moist valleys. The soil is shallow, low in fertility and does not retain much water. Plants growing on the slopes are well adapted to cope with these harsher conditions during summer. Examples are Pink Gum (*Eucalyptus fasciculosa*), Myrtle-leaved Wattle (*Acacia myrtifolia*), Beaked Hakea (*Hakea rostrata*), Dusty Miller (*Spyridium parvifolium*) and Red Parrot Pea (*Dillwynia hispida*).

Kids – How many different shrubs can you see?

5 CHRISTMAS BUSH

Here is the South Australian Christmas bush (*Bursaria spinosa*). Most states have a Christmas bush, each one with a different species. This is ours. It has masses of white flowers at Christmas.

6 WEEDS!

A weed is a foreign invader that pushes out our precious Australian natives. Can you see where the native bush transitions into weeds? Can you see how weedy areas have fewer native species? Weeds displace native Australian species, so they have to go! The five major weeds of Engelbrook Reserve are Watsonia, Erica, Blackberry, Broom and Gorse. Many were introduced as garden plants. Dedicated volunteers carefully remove weeds so a diversity of native plants can fill the spaces. Over time we hope to remove all weeds and return the area to pristine bush once more.

7 VIEWING PLATFORM

This platform was originally built in 1994 and upgraded in 2018, all by volunteers. It is a lovely spot where you can bring a picnic, watch and listen to birds. There are 69 species of birds that visit Engelbrook Reserve. You can see the full list on the N TSA website. Some species include New Holland Honeyeater, Red-browed Finch, Adelaide Rosella, Superb Blue Wren, Scarlet Robin, Grey Fantail and Laughing Kookaburra.

Kids – Make a list of the different types of birds you can see or hear. What would you need to help you make a better list?



Common Froglet *Crinia signifera*

8 BOG CREEK

Bog Creek is a peat bog that flows into Cox Creek. This peat bog is a rare and protected community and one of the most valuable assets in Engelbrook Reserve. Peat bogs take many years to accumulate peat and some bogs are thousands of years old. They provide important habitat for plants, animals and insects. As the climate is changing with less frequent rain events, unfortunately Bog Creek may dry up.

Not too long ago parts of Bog Creek were a mass of blackberry bushes. While blackberries are good to eat, they smother native plants! The blackberry bushes were all carefully removed, allowing native ferns such as Soft Water-fern (*Blechnum minus*) to grow back. Ferns provide good habitat for frogs and many other animals such as Red-bellied Black Snakes and Brown Snakes (which feed on frogs). One frog species here is the Common Froglet. If you listen closely you might be able to hear them call.

Further downstream from the platform there are many clumps of the tall Red-fruited Saw sedge (*Gahnia sieberiana*). Its towering flower spikes usually carry dozens of the little red fruits. If you rub your fingers, carefully, along a leaf, you'll find out why it is called a saw sedge!

9 SILVER BANKSIA

Can you spot the tag on the Silver Banksia (*Banksia marginata*)? Banksias are named after Joseph Banks, the botanist, who travelled as part of the 1768–1771 scientific expedition from England to Australia. Banksias were made famous by May Gibbs in Snugglepot and Cuddlepie as the Big Bad Banksia Men. The large, bright flowers are full of nectar providing food for birds, insects and mammals such as pygmy possums, honeyeaters, lorikeets and native bees.

10 UNDERSTORY

The understory consists of plants such as Flat-leaf Grass-tree, or Yacca (*Xanthorrhoea semiplana*), Mount Lofty Ground-berry (*Acrotriche fasciculiflora*), Common Flat-pea (*Platylobium obtusangulum*), and Large-leaf Bush-pea (*Pultenaea daphnoides*). Here the shrubs, smaller trees and plants grow close together. Birds, lizards and small mammals particularly appreciate this messy and crowded understory habitat as they can hide from predators. The vertical layering of large trees, small trees, shrubs, herbs and grasses are vital for the survival of many species of animal.

This is another good place to sit and notice the forest sounds. Wait quietly for ten minutes here and you may see creatures such as Fairy Wrens and skinks. Sit still, look and listen.

Kids – Do you know which one of the plants listed above is a grass?

11 GUM TRANSITION

Here you can take a path down to the creek. Can you notice the difference between the trees along the creek-line and those on the hillside? Along the creek the gum trees have smooth white bark. These gums are Mountain White Gum or Candlebark (*Eucalyptus dalrympleana*) and Manna Gum (*Eucalyptus viminalis*). These creek gums prefer wetter areas.

Kids – Can you spot a koala in these trees? They are common here, but not always easy to see! Take your time, you never know what you will find.

