

## Introduction

Welcome to the Heritage Fleurieu Coast tree trail. Trees play an important and sometimes undervalued part in making this area a wonderful place to live and visit. The guide will lead you to some of the trees significant to this district. Included are those which pre-date European arrival and trees endemic to this area as well as those that are part of our more recent heritage, planted as memorials or beautification projects by people with a vision beyond their own lifetimes. This is by no means a comprehensive guide and more information is available at: [www.nnrc.com.au/trees.php](http://www.nnrc.com.au/trees.php)

## History

For thousands of years, the landscape of the Fleurieu Peninsula was maintained by the Kaurna, Ramindjeri and Ngarrindjeri people through careful and considered use. Following European colonisation this was replaced by systematic clearing of land for agriculture including cropping, grazing, logging, mining and the wattle bark and yacca gum industries. The remaining native vegetation exists in small pockets that should be treasured.

The Fleurieu Peninsula has several main plant associations that can be observed along the trail. The high rainfall, sandy soils of the highlands are dominated by stringybark forest with a dense shrub understorey. As rainfall declines, the vegetation opens into woodland, with pink gum and drooping sheoaks becoming important on exposed ridges and hillsides. In the river valleys, rolling hills and flats with deep, fine-grained soils, river red gums and S.A. blue gums become the main trees, widely spaced with a grassy understorey.

## Get in touch with nature in the Fleurieu Coast:

- Heysen Trail
- Ingalalla Waterfalls
- Myponga Reservoir
- Deep Creek Conservation Park
- Eric Bonython Conservation Park
- Nixon Skinner Conservation Park
- Spring Mount Conservation Park
- Talisker Conservation Park
- Yulte Conservation Park
- Parawa State Forest
- Second Valley Forest

Note that some parks may be closed on days of high fire danger.

For more information visit:

<https://www.visitfleurieucoast.com.au/>

The Fleurieu Coast Visitor Centre  
163 Main South Road, Yankalilla SA 5203  
(08) 8558 0240  
[cooe@visitfleurieucoast.com.au](mailto:cooe@visitfleurieucoast.com.au)

To download a digital version with more information and links go to [www.nnrc.com.au/trees.php](http://www.nnrc.com.au/trees.php)

### Acknowledgements

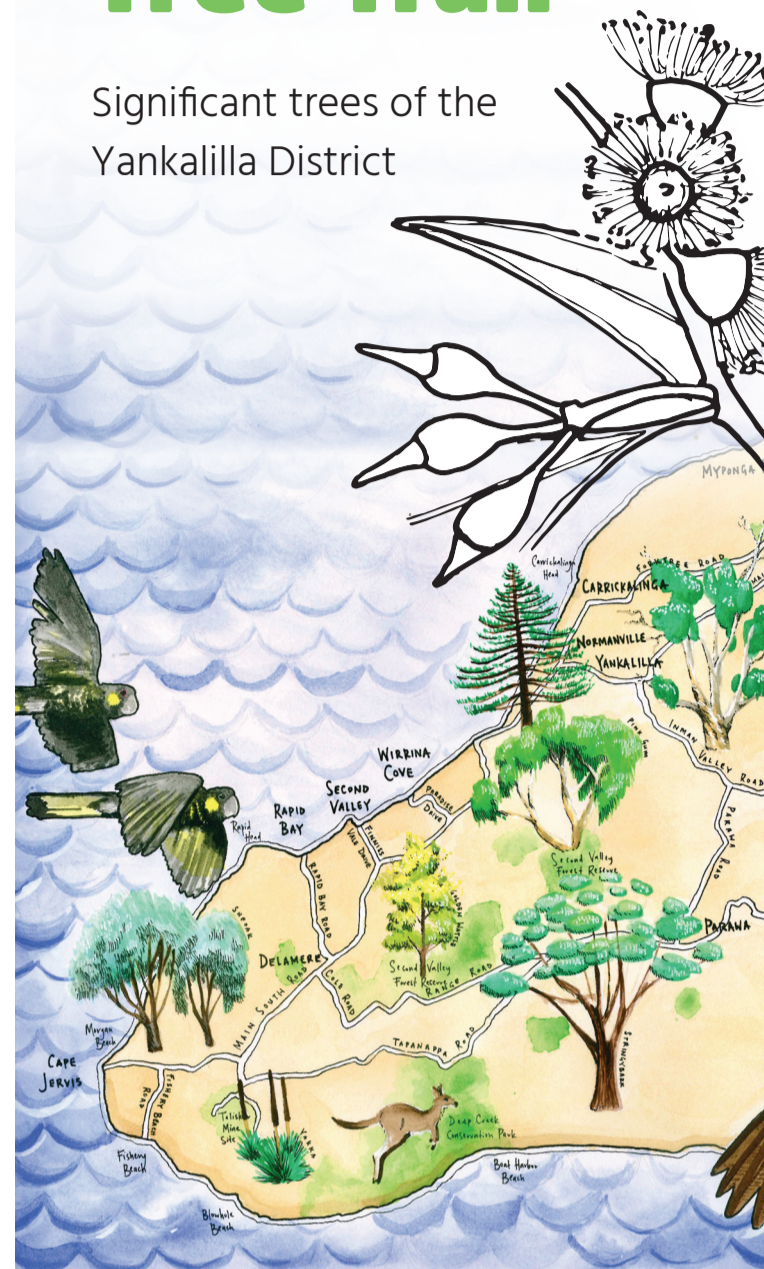
Thanks to all those who have helped with this project, particularly those who created the original 2015 Festival Fleurieu Tree Trail.

For this 2021 version Joel Catchlove created the maps and Gilbert Dashorst the illustrations. Corey Jackson, Carolyn Schultz and others have overseen the accuracy of the guide. Members of the Yankalilla Historical Society have gathered valuable background information and Quentin Wollaston of Raywood Nursery has been very helpful. The project is supported by the District Council of Yankalilla and the Normanville Natural Resource Centre. Thank you to all those who have answered my questions and corrected my mistakes, any remaining are my own. More information will be added to the digital version and associated files so please send any contributions or corrections to me via the NNRC website. Sue Speck



# Heritage Fleurieu Coast Tree Trail

## Significant trees of the Yankalilla District



- 12** At Second Valley, visit Leonard's Mill. Built in 1859 when the region was a thriving wheat-growing region, the Mill continued to grind wheat until 1890 and was then converted for grinding wattle bark from the local **Golden Wattle - Acacia pycnantha**. The wattle bark was used in the tanning industry. Park in the car park and find nearby a very old **Mulberry - Morus** variety, estimated to date back to early colonisation days. There are other mulberry trees of similar vintage near the spring at Second Valley, at Wirrina Homestead and at Rapid Bay.

- 13** Travelling towards the beach along Finnis Vale Drive you will pass an avenue of **Pink Gums - E. fasciculosa** and **Sgar Gums - E. cladocalyx**. Further down are **pinus**, planted in the 1940s. Past students of Second Valley School remember planting these trees each Arbor Day. Photographic evidence shows that the **pinus**, mainly **Aleppo - Pinus halepensis** near the Jetty Store were planted in a fenced reserve and were well grown by 1929. The **pinus** in the caravan park were planted later, about 1937. The **Norfolk Island Pines** came later, planted in 1953. (*The Second Valley* by Ron Blum)

- 14** Leaving Second Valley take Main South Rd and drive to Rapid Bay. You will pass a plantation on the left of **Spotted Gums - Corymbia maculata** and **Tasmanian Blue Gums - E. globulus**. Rapid Bay was a company township and many of the planted trees date back to the 1940s. Near the campsite are **Aleppo Pines** planted for the State centenary celebrations in 1936 around the cairn commemorating Colonel Light's landing here.

- 15** At Delamere stop near the store and notice the row of **Red Flowering Gums - Corymbia ficifolia** opposite. Quentin Wollaston of the Raywood Nursery grew these from seed collected nearby on Forest Rd. His son Lucas planted them in 1989 and watered them through the first two summers. The project required a lot of replanting when the seedlings were eaten or trampled and the resulting avenue is a credit to them. While here look at the tree in a fenced plot nearby. This **Sugar Gum - E.**

**cladocalyx**, supplied by Quentin, planted in 1979, is in memory of Allen G. Collins, an early postmaster for Delamere, later grader driver, with a love of native vegetation.

- 16** Turn left into Cole Rd and left into Range Rd. At about 2.5kms further on, just past gate J-05, you'll get to where you can safely pull over on the left hand side. Forestry SA allows the public to walk in the forests and so you can take a short walk to get the feel of a timber plantation of **Pinus radiata**, part of the extensive Second Valley pine forests. At nearby Bedlam Flat there is still a small plot of mixed varieties of eucalypts planted in 1914 and all through the forest native vegetation has been preserved along creek lines by Forestry SA.

- 17** Navigate your way through to Tapanappa Rd where **Stringybarks - E. baxteri** vault together to form a Tree Tunnel. In colonial times, Stringybark timber was in demand for fencing and building. The Deep Creek Conservation Park established in 1971 has preserved some of the oldest in SA.

- 18** Call in at Tapanappa Campground to see the small, ornamental **Cup Gums - E. cosmophylla** nearby. Flowering from mid-April to late May the nectar rich flowers are sought out by birds and bees. The nearby **Stringybark** Loop Walk circles through magnificent Stringybark forest, containing equally striking **Grass Trees - Xanthorrhoea semiplana**. On the walk, as you look to the centre of the loop, you can also see tall **Native Cherry Trees - Exocarpos cupressiformis** with light green pine-like foliage. The loop takes approximately 20 minutes.

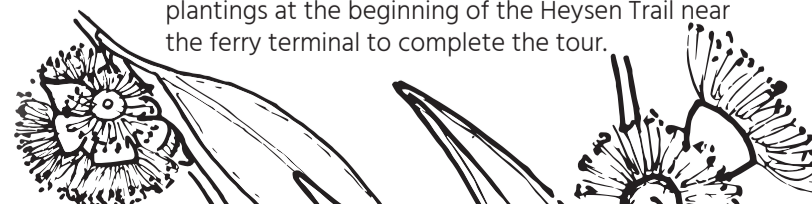
- 19** Close by is Raywood Nursery. Next to the car park are majestic **Stringybarks**, perhaps 500 years old. There is also a large **Blackwood - Acacia melanoxylon** which is estimated to be over 80 years old. The owner Quentin Wollaston has a wealth of knowledge about trees and the importance of understorey. He might have a moment to show you a magnificent **Manna gum - E. viminalis** he planted over 40 years ago, and,

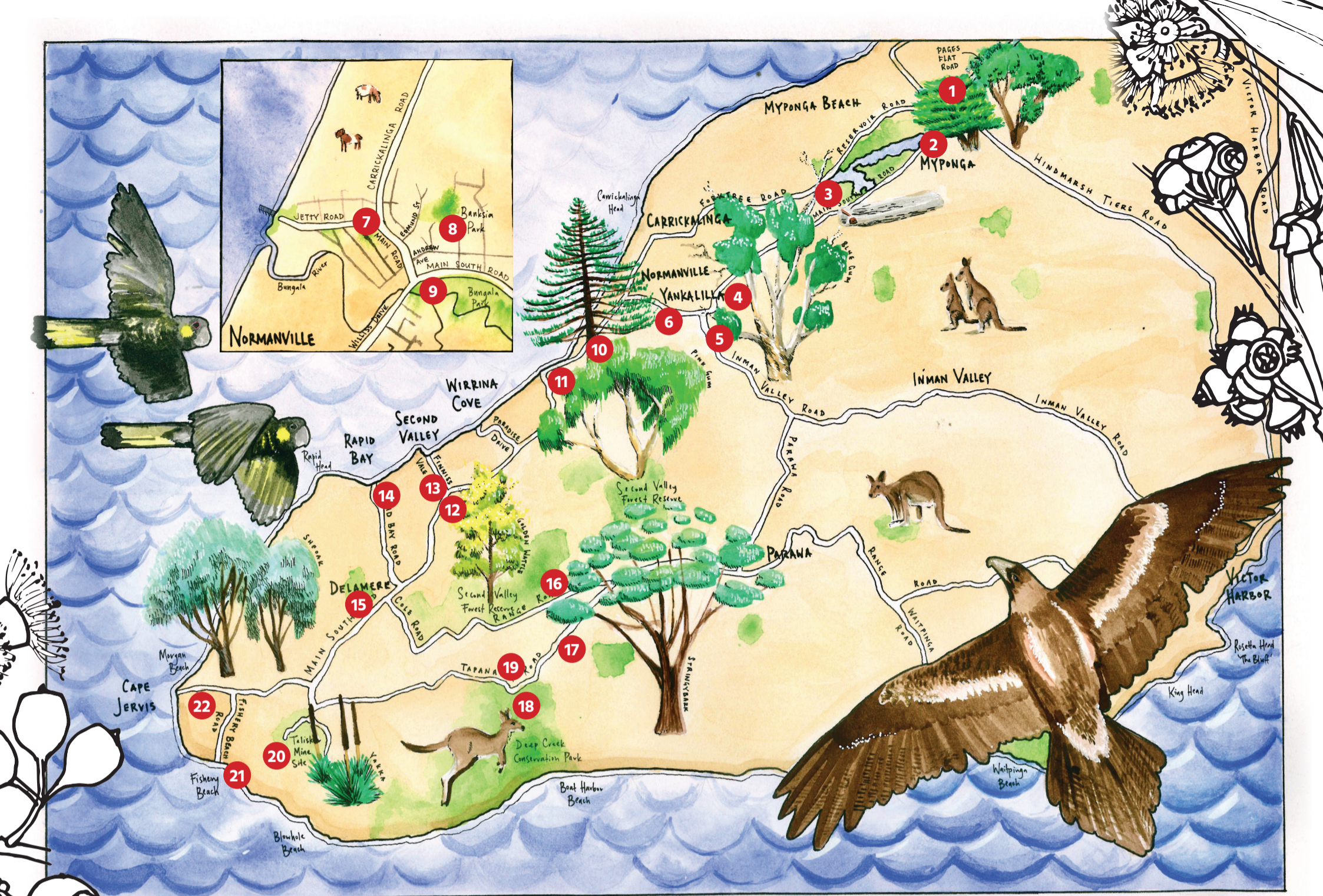
if you are lucky, you'll see Superb Fairy Wrens and Flame Robins as you wander through the picturesque nursery.

- 20** Back on the Range Rd head to Talisker Conservation Park. In front of the car park (near the park map) look for a line of **Golden Wattles - Acacia pycnantha**, Australia's floral emblem, with their characteristic dark, gum-oozing bark used in the wattle bark industry. Continue along Talisker Rd to the junction with Woodroffe Rd at the western end of Talisker Conservation Park. Here on the left are a group of **Manna Gums - E. viminalis** and on the right **Pink Gum - E. fasciculosa** woodland with some large examples of **Grass Trees - Xanthorrhoea semiplana**.

- 21** Travelling towards Cape Jervis, turn left on to Fishery Beach Rd and park in the car park at the end of the road. Taking the southern pedestrian access to the Heysen Trail, follow the gravel track downhill, over the stepping stones then up the hill and continue south as the trail does a sharp turn. Proceed until you see a fence line on the left and follow it uphill to find some of the **Drooping She-Oaks - Allocasuarina verticillata** planted here. Continue uphill along the fence line until you reach a dirt track and a sign explaining the 20 year old Glossy Black-Cockatoo project to establish food trees for this endangered cockatoo. There are many **Golden Wattles** planted here too.

- 22** Drive to the corner of Coastview Close and Seaview Close in Cape Jervis to see some ancient **Dryland Tea-trees - Melaleuca lanceolata**. The prevailing winds have twisted the branches; can you guess their direction? Driving back along the streets of Cape Jervis you will be able to see several other spectacular specimens, as well as some big **SA Blue Gums - E. Leucoxydon**. Take some time to visit the Cape Jervis Coastal Community Group's display plantings at the beginning of the Heysen Trail near the ferry terminal to complete the tour.





## Identifying Trees

One of the aims of this guide is to help with tree recognition. Many of us are familiar with the distinctive shape of the Norfolk Island pine and the bright yellow flowers of the golden wattle with near black trunk oozing gum. But many trees, especially eucalypts can be difficult to identify. The same species can appear very different depending on age, soil and growing conditions so a more detailed examination can be necessary. A good example of variability is to look at the Manna Gums near Talisker, growing as multi trunked spreading trees. Compare them with the cultivated example at Raywood Nursery.

## Identification Guides

EUCLID is an identification key for eucalypts available for anyone to use for understanding or identifying eucalypts. It covers three genera: Angophora, Corymbia and Eucalyptus. A free online version was released in 2020.

<https://www.csiro.au/en/Research/Collections/ANH/Supporting-conservation/Identifying-eucalypts-made-easy>

If you prefer a hard copy guide Dean Nicolle's lavishly illustrated pair of books, Taller, and Smaller Eucalypts for planting in Australia can be recommended and Dean's Currency Creek Eucalyptus Arboretum has open days where you can tour with an expert. [www.dn.com.au](http://www.dn.com.au)

The Normanville Natural Resource Centre has a library of books for loan to members covering a wide range of trees and plants. They can also put you in touch with Landcare groups and the Yankalilla Community Nursery at Kemmis Hill Rd Yankalilla to learn about plants, their identification and growing requirements.

- 1 The tour begins at Myponga, junction of Pages Flat Rd and South Rd. Here are two significant trees, a **\*Monterey Cypress - *Cupressus macrocarpa*** planted in 1935 to commemorate the life and service of Sister Dorrington. The other, a **\*Claret Ash - *Fraxinus oxycarpa "Raywoodii"*** was planted a year later as part of the South Australian centenary celebrations, the only survivor of three trees planted by three local octogenarians. (\* indicates inclusion on the National Trust Significant tree register.)
- 2 Stop in the township of Myponga at the playground and see the **Redgum - *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*** horse trough, a reminder of an era when massive examples of these trees provided many of the raw materials for European settlers.
- 3 Just out of Myponga, at Gate 1, alongside the reservoir, the Nixon Skinner Conservation Park was donated by Lucy Eleanor Page, of the Field Naturalists Society of SA. The first privately funded reserve to be established in South Australia. The park supports a **Stringybark - *Eucalyptus obliqua***, open forest in the north and central parts and a woodland of **SA Bluegum - *E. leucoxylon*** in the south. **Pink Gum - *E. fasciculosa*** is a smaller tree scattered through the Park.
- 4 As you drive down the hill into Yankalilla look (carefully) to the left at Manna Farm. Named after the **Manna Gums - *E. viminalis*** on the property, early colonists recorded that local Aboriginal groups sought out the trees for sweet exuded sap. Also a favourite food of koalas. Get a closer look at this gum at Talisker, later in the tour.
- 5 To see some fine specimens of **SA Blue Gums - *E. leucoxylon*** and **River Red Gums - *E. camaldulensis*** take the Main Rd towards Inman Valley and turn off into Kemmis Hill Rd. Just past the Community Nursery is a row of these mature gums.
- 6 Back on the Main South Rd travelling towards Normanville stop and visit the Museum and Visitor Information Centre. The Museum houses the **Jones Collection**, showcasing the importance of the timber industry in the district.
- 7 At Normanville stop to admire the **\*Moreton Bay Fig - *Ficus macrophylla*** trees which formed the first World War 1 memorial avenue in Australia, begun on 13th May 1915. The trees were provided by and planted by Mr R. B. Clark as 'A living Roll of Honour'. Each tree had the volunteer's name and details attached. Continuing along Jetty Rd are 3 different types of fig planted at different times, the **Moreton Bay, Port Jackson - *Ficus rubiginosa***, and **Small Leaved Fig - *Ficus obliqua***.
- 8 Situated between Mary Avenue and Banksia Court, visit Banksia Park, home to some remnant **\*Silver Banksias - *Banksia marginata***, possibly several hundred years old. Other banksia species have been planted in the park in recent years.
- 9 Returning to Main South Rd stop at Bungala Park where you will find 2 very old **pear trees - *Pyrus*** variety, still bearing fruit. Look across at the big **\*Norfolk Island Pine - *Araucaria heterophylla*** on the corner near the hotel. A plaque at its base indicates when it was planted.
- 10 Travelling on Main South Rd towards Lady Bay, this section is named after Bernie Willis, who served on Yankalilla Council for 30 years from 1935. Willis Drive is planted with **Norfolk Island Pine - *Araucaria heterophylla***. Starting in 1938 at the Little Gorge they extended to Normanville by 1972 after much replanting where trees failed. It is believed some funding came through a bequest by Garnet Kelly of Anacotilla Station. He was killed in WW1 at the age of 33. He bequeathed £100 to the Rapid Bay Council for it to invest and use the interest for planting and protecting trees on public land.
- 11 Stop at Garnet Kelly Reserve which has further information on Garnet and take the walking trail up the Great Gorge. Follow in Colonel William Light's footsteps enjoying local flora and fauna. See some magnificent **River Red Gums - *E. camaldulensis*** bearing the scars of generations.

