



Aroona Dam Sanctuary

... 44 sq km of restored natural Flinders Ranges beauty.

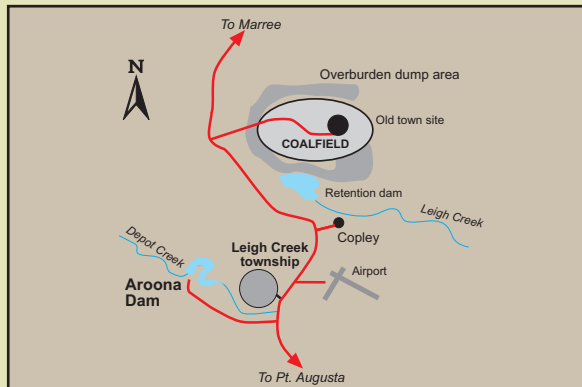
Park your vehicle and take the user-friendly 5.5 km Class 3 discovery walking trail, which starts below the main wall of the huge 5,000 megalitre Aroona Dam – the largest of its type outside the SA metropolitan area.

Enjoy this unique part of the Flinders Ranges, while taking in the views to Lake Torrens to the west, Mt Scott to the south and the surrounding northern Flinders Ranges.

Witness how a local community, with help from people from other parts of South Australia, interstate and overseas – brought life back into what was, until recently, a badly degraded area and home to feral goats, rabbits and foxes.

Look for the turnoff 5 km south of Leigh Creek township and, while you are in the area, visit the Leigh Creek Visitor Information Centre (ph 8675 2723, email lcvic@internode.on.net) for details of more of the region's attractions.

Remember, bushwalkers should always carry drinking water and wear a hat and sensible walking shoes.



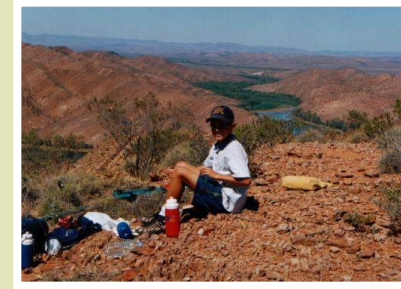
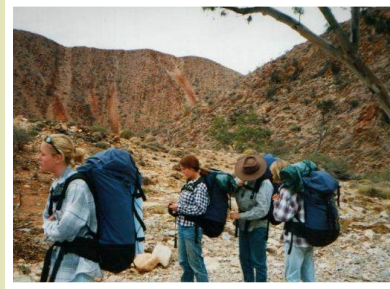
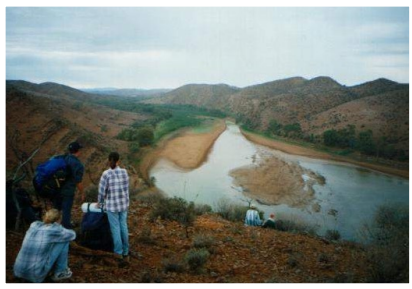
Open for your inspection and enjoyment

Aroona Dam Sanctuary Leigh Creek



The home of rare Yellow-footed Rock-wallabies, other unique wildlife and a wealth of different native plants.





Aroona Dam Sanctuary ... A vision splendid

Brought back to nature

A wonderful natural area in the Northern Flinders Ranges has been brought back to nature.

Thanks to a comprehensive biodiversity enhancement project, gone are the thousands of feral goats, rabbits and foxes. Gone are the erosion scars and the weeds which choke out native vegetation.

In their place is the first reintroduced colony of the shy and timid Yellow-footed Rock-wallabies, other animals and birds and a vast range of native plant species.

The wallabies, which became extinct in the area in 1980, were bred at the open range zoo at Monarto and were reintroduced to Aroona in 1996 following the control of feral animals and predators.

The success of the program has made it a model for further Outback releases of captive-bred wildlife.

Now the Aroona Dam Sanctuary can be accessed via a specially-constructed 5.5 km interpretive walking trail.



The trail traverses wetlands below the dam, mountainous terrain, rocky outcrops, saltbush rangelands and redgum-lined creeks.

Barbecue sites and toilets are available at the car park near the dam wall.



A real community effort

With the hard work of more than 200 people, the creation of the Aroona Dam Sanctuary has been completed.

The aim of the sanctuary, which was declared in 1995, is to create a perpetual habitat for local native plants and wildlife.

Until 1985, the area was characterised by serious land degradation – mainly caused by rabbits and feral goats. The effect on local flora was significant, with remnants of mulga, sandalwood and other native species under threat. No Yellow-footed Rock-wallabies (called 'andu' by the local aboriginal people) had been seen in the area since 1980.

The work started by eradicating the feral pests and controlling weeds and active soil erosion.

Schoolchildren and scientists, local pastoralists and public servants, mine workers and environmentalists ... people from all walks of life have combined to overcome the problems and present this vision splendid.

With the support of the Natural Heritage Trust, Flinders Power, SA Department for Environment and Heritage, zoological societies in Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney, the Northern Flinders Soil Conservation Board and the Leigh Creek Area School, the Aroona Dam Sanctuary is now open for your enjoyment.

Aroona Dam Sanctuary – a biodiversity enhancement initiative of a remote Outback community