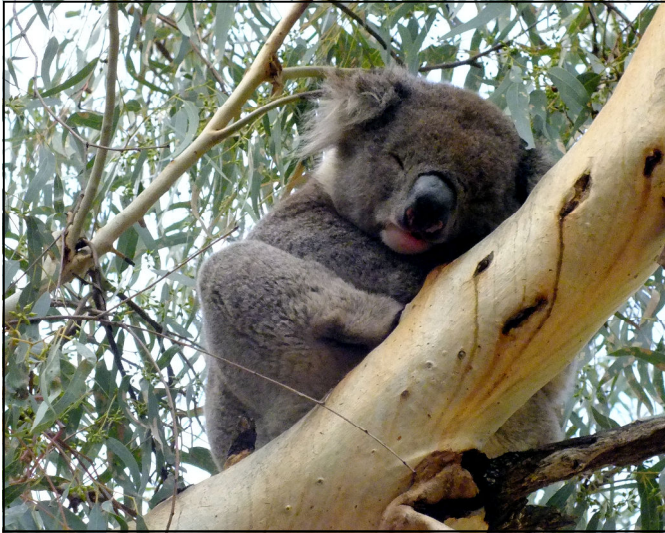


## Look up and down too

You will not see our two possum species during the day, even though there are about 400 possums in the Reserve. But you can often see koalas. Usually you will see them asleep, because the tough gum leaves that they eat have chemicals in them that take the koala a long time to digest.



As you walk, look for the scratching of echidnas where they have dug for ants. If you are very quiet, you may even see an echidna at work. The Reserve has a significant population of these very busy, but shy animals.



## Friends Of Waite Conservation Reserve

Waite Conservation Reserve has a small group of very special Friends. These Friends volunteer their time to protect and care for the Reserve.

The Friends, in conjunction with Adelaide University, are involved in controlling pest plants and animals, maintaining the walking trails and providing events to help the public understand the flora and fauna of the Reserve.

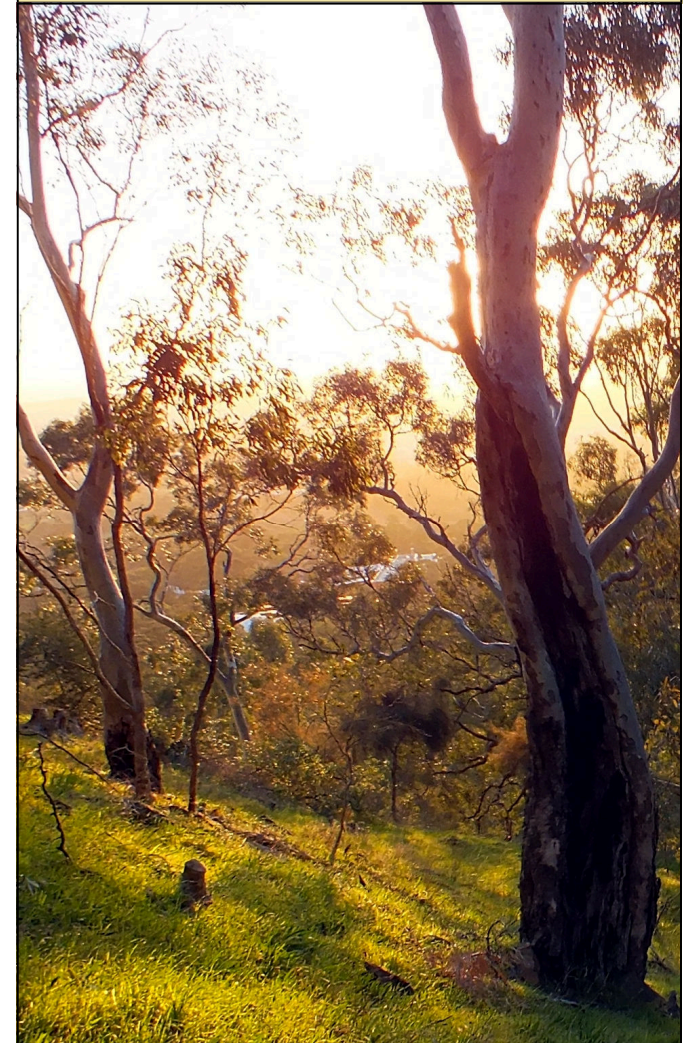
There are working bees starting at 9.00 am on the first Saturday and third Sunday of each month from mid April to early December. During these walks, the main activity is the removal of olive seedlings. Olives can completely change the environment, which is why they are our target species. Details of working bee dates can be found on our website and on the Waite Conservation Reserve Facebook page. You can also donate to their work from the website.

The Friends group can be contacted at:  
PO BOX.231  
Mitcham Shopping Centre SA 5062  
Our Website is at:  
<https://friendsofwaitereserve.org.au/>

Text, map & photos—Clint Garrett



# WAITE CONSERVATION RESERVE

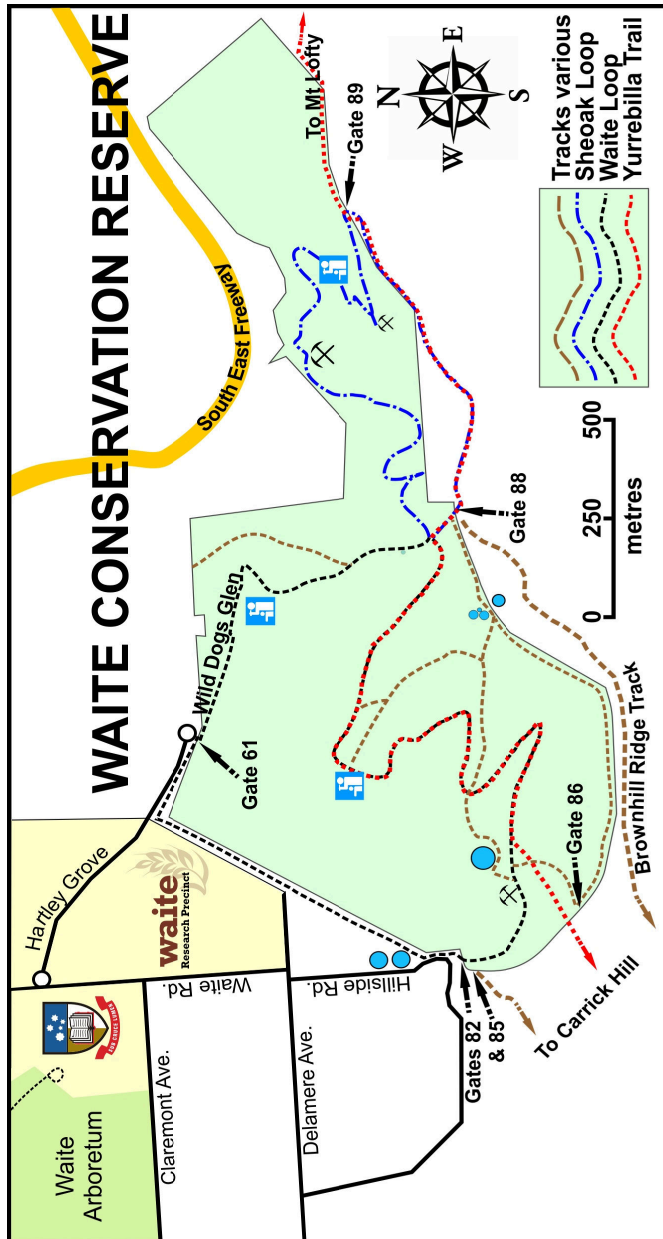


## NATURE AT YOUR DOOR



## Location

The 121 hectare Waite Conservation Reserve is located on the eastern side of Waite Road at Urrbrae. When you look at the area behind the Waite Campus, much of what you can see on the hill's face is the Waite Conservation Reserve.



## Exercise with a walk

The Reserve is open to the public from dawn to dusk throughout the year, **except** on Total Fire Ban days and days of extreme or higher fire risk in the Mt Loftly Ranges Fire Ban District.

There are entries to the Reserve from Gate 61 at the eastern end of Hartley Grove, at Gate 82 near the SA Water tanks on Hillside Rd and at Gates 88 and 89 off the Brown-hill Ridge Track.

The Waite Loop Walking Trail is a 4 kilometre loop walk which you can start from the eastern end of Hartley Grove or from Gate 82. You should allow 1.5-2 hours for the walk, as the trail is uneven and there is one short, steep rocky section to navigate.

As you follow the blue arrows along the trail you will get to see a large part of the Reserve and will have great views out over Adelaide and to the sea. Markers along the trail give information about points of interest.

The Sheoak Loop Trail is a 2.9 kilometre eastward extension from the Waite Loop and will add another hour of walking time. This loop is best done in an anti-clockwise direction.

### No Dogs Please!

Just remember that dogs are not allowed in the Reserve. No matter how well behaved you think your pet is, their natural behaviour and even their smell frightens wildlife.



Photo:Charlann Pfarr

## Meet the locals

The reserve preserves an area of Grey Box Grassy Woodland. This is an nationally endangered ecological community which contains more than 200 different species. The Blue Devil (*Eryngium ovinum*)(below left) is one of several rare species found in the Reserve.



Springtime is the best time to see wildflowers, but you can find something in flower throughout the year.

## Birds & Reptiles

80 species of birds have been observed in the Reserve, covering the full range from Australia's smallest bird, the Weebill to our largest eagle, the Wedge-tailed Eagle. One of the most frequently heard species is the Striated Pardalote, (photo at left) which has a loud "Chip Chip" call.

15 species of reptiles have been recorded in the Reserve. The Common Garden Skink, Eastern Brown Snake and Sleepy Lizard are the most commonly seen species.

**Do not approach any snake seen in the Reserve.**