

2 km Note Nugent Well to the south. One could include a side trip to an important geological feature (Geosite 966). Collect information about this site at the Shearers' Quarters.

Various *eremophila* sp survive due to sinking their roots down in crevices in the rocks to find damp sources of water. Some of these are quite sturdy small trees.

3 km Mallee. Various stands of mallee are found where soils are deeper, or where fissures in the rocks allow tree roots to penetrate to damper ground.

3.5 km To the north of the trail one may see an Australian Native Boxthorn (*Lycium austral*) with its spikey branches, fleshy grey green leaves, small cream flower and dull orange berry



4 km Wombat burrows



4.5 km A large Native Apricot tree (*Pittosporum angustifolium*) is growing beside the trail. The fruit of this tree (also known as Gumbi Gumbi, Bitter Bush or Native Willow) changes from green to orange and when ripe, splits open, exposing

sticky red seeds. An infusion of the seeds, fruit and leaves was a remedy for pain relief and cramps while a concentrate of the fruits was a bush medicine for colds, cramps and itches.

A short (100m) walk directly left (north) of the trail reveals a low flared granite cliff (a smaller version of the well-known "wave rock"). This leads to a higher perfectly sheet fractured surface which displays caves, boulder-strewn platforms with rock basins and a "guardian" balanced boulder landmark – "the Green Lady".

5 km Boulders and water course



The thinner soils are covered with Spinifex (*Triodia*) species.

6 km Stands of Bullock Bush (*Alectryon oleifolius*) with its leaves resembling those of the European olive.

After crossing the ridge, one then begins the descent towards the flatter landscapes at Pretty Point.

At Pretty Point, you may also like to walk the Betty and Bob Lewis Walking Trail, prior to the return to the Shearers' Quarters along the same track.

Please advise the Hiltaba Manager of your return and note this in the registration book.

These notes (text and photos) are provided by Nature Foundation SA volunteers.

To support the work of Nature Foundation SA, please consider donating through our Managers or visit our website.



Grevillea sp



Acacia sp



Crimson Mallee



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Cleland Walking Trail

Welcome to Hiltaba Nature Reserve!
The Cleland Walking Trail commemorates Mr David Cleland, one of the founders of Nature Foundation SA.

The trail distance markers show distance at 500m intervals to Pretty Point if commencing from the Shearers' Quarters, and to the Shearers' Quarters if starting at Pretty Point.

The trail crosses rough and steep terrain. All walkers should wear weather-protective clothing and strong footwear, carry an adequate supply of water (min. 2 litres per person), as well as an adequate supply of food. It is recommended that you do not walk alone. UHF Duplex ch6 can be used in an emergency. Limited Telstra mobile coverage may be available from higher points.

❖ Before you set off ...

Inform a responsible person of your proposed route and expected time of return.

Getting started. The Cleland Walking Trail commences at the Shearers' Quarters, 2 km from the Hiltaba Homestead. It can be reached by 2 WD in dry conditions.

This trail is a 7 km linear trail, therefore 14 km return. If you only want to walk the 7 km to the Pretty Point Camp Site, you will need to leave a vehicle at Pretty Point. To get to Pretty Point, continue on the main road heading South from the Homestead, turn left (East) at the junction, onto the Iron Knob road. After 5.5 km, turn left, and follow the signs to Pretty Point. One km further on, leave your vehicle at the Pretty Point Camping Area.



Landscapes of Hiltaba

Refer also to the brochure *Welcome to Hiltaba Rocks and Landscapes*.

Hiltaba Nature Reserve in the Gawler Ranges is part of the ancient Gawler Craton, formed nearly 3 billion (3000,000,000) years ago. Geological cratons (large areas of typically very old and uniform rock types, mostly granites and gneisses), make up the oldest rocks of many continental landmasses.

The Gawler Craton was wracked by two cataclysmic geologic events. The first of these was a global scale super-volcano which erupted 1592,000,000 years ago. This Gawler Ranges Volcanic (GRV) Event led to a vast outpouring of most unusual silica-rich lavas from rifts and vents within, and onto the already formed crust across a vast area. A billion years later in geological history, the second cataclysmic event was the collision of an enormous meteorite on the site of the current Lake Acraman, where the remains of the GRV super-volcano are exposed. (You can see Lake Acraman from the Barbara Hardy Walking Trail.)

The higher ground of the hills and ridges of the Gawler Ranges are composed of coarsely crystalline granites (intrusive rock types) and fine grained lavas with some bigger crystals (volcanic rhyolites). Many of these hills and ranges form Inselbergs or "island mountains" which are surrounded by valleys and alluvial plains of the much younger lowland areas. Over millions of years, the upland hilly areas have gradually eroded whilst the low-lying surrounding plains and valleys have been gradually filled with the detritus leaving a more subdued landscape.

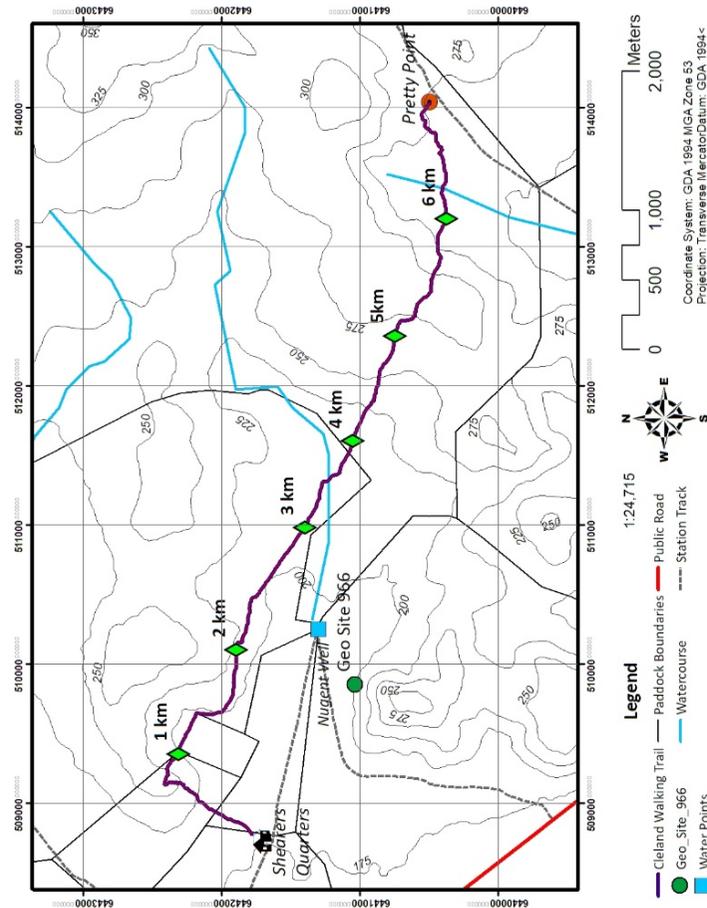
The landscape evolution at Hiltaba is strongly influenced by the weathering patterns of these granites and lavas. Please refer to the brochure 'Welcome to Hiltaba Rocks and Landscapes' for further information.



Fresh Hiltaba Granite (L) with coarse crystal texture and weathered equivalent rotted granite (grus right)



Lavas – fine grained Rhyolite (red) and Dacite (grey) with large tabular feldspar (mega) crystals



Cleland Walking Trail Notes

These notes assume the starting point is the Shearers' Quarters.

If commencing at the Shearers' Quarters, walkers start walking towards the north east.

The trail leaves the valley floor and the stands of Black Oak (*Casuarina pauper*), which grow on the slightly deeper soils of the valley floor.

The trail climbs about 100m in altitude on a gradual well-formed track through scrubby vegetation of native hops *dodonea sp*, *grevillea* and mallee to a point which allows views to the north east towards the airstrip and beyond. This isolated and elevated granite inselberg displays many spectacular features of granite weathering including large smooth and rounded blocks, some with flared (concave upwards) sides, plus fallen, slid and rolled boulders.

1 km Upon descending down the East side of this point, the trail follows along an old fence line at the top of a flattish "pound" area. You will notice the remains of fenced paddocks on the flattish land on the valley floor. These paddocks were cropped even up to the 1960s in order to provide feed for the many horses which were used in so many of the property activities.

1.5 km Note the numerous wombat burrows on the flat sandy valley floor. The Southern Hairy Nose wombat, digs these burrows with its strong blunt claws. The burrows (connected into warrens with many entrances, may be up to 2m deep, and may include tunnels up to 30 metres long) may be shared by up to ten individuals, as well as with other native marsupials and introduced species such as rabbits, cats and foxes. Wombats are very energy efficient animals, having a home range of only 4 hectares, foraging on the tough native perennial grasses and sedges growing close to the burrows.

2 km On the northern side of the valley, one walks along a low vegetated ridge with smooth bald outcrops of uniform grey rock. The rock is the Hiltaba Granite, named after the original Hiltaba Station. These outcropping sheets of reddish granite are very typical of coarse grained granite.

