



History, Heritage and Tall Trees...

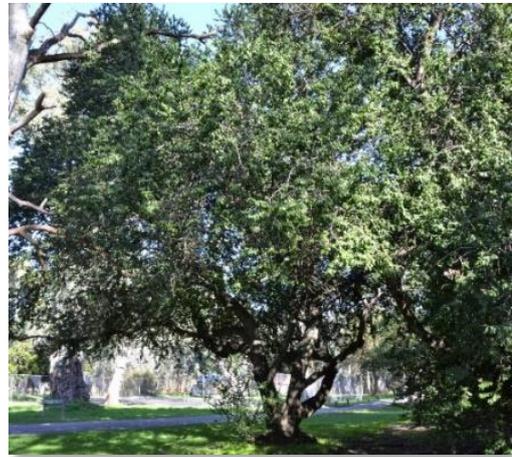
Some Significant Sites in Belair National Park

For this walk, we have chosen to walk through the cooler, more fertile, alluvial valleys of Belair National Park to look at some of the history and heritage of the park – the way humans have impacted on this place.

In Belair, exotic trees and plants were actively planted until 1923 - leaving a legacy of invasive weeds and some superb specimens of exotic trees. This walk focuses on the things that have been planted, things that have been built and the things that remain from the early days at Belair National Park.



Bunya Pine - *Araucaria bidwillii*. Not native to South Australia, but from Queensland, there are now many of these trees in BNP. The trees are known to reach a height of 40m, and the female cones can grow up to 130cm long and weigh up to 10kg.



Hollyleaf Cherry - *Prunus ilicifolia*. This holly-looking evergreen tree has small purple-black fruit, though they have little or no pulp and thin-shelled stones. It is a native of Pacific North America.



Cork Oak - *Quercus suber*. A semi-circle of Cork oaks was planted in the Joseph Fisher Picnic Ground in 1896-1898. These evergreen oaks were originally planted to provide shade in the picnic area. They now have a dense cover of cork bark.



Canary Island Pines - *Pinus canariensis*. This line of Canary Island Pine trees was planted in 1910 as a paddock border for Government Farm. In 1840 Governor Gawler set aside an area of this farm, to be used for growing hay and agisting stock.





Giant Redwoods - *Sequoia sempervirens* and *Sequoiadendron giganteum*. These huge Sequoias from California were planted throughout the park in the 1890s. These trees are under threat in their native California, due to constantly encroaching urban development. The fine, healthy, old specimens in Belair are considered important in maintaining the species. A memorial avenue of Sequoias is also in the park – the ‘RSL Walk’ will show you these.

(Picture of the trees at Joseph Fisher)



Incense Cedar - *Calocedrus decurrens*. Another North American species, this tree originates from the forests and mountain slopes from Oregon to central California. It was one of many planted along the banks of Minno Creek in 1895, and only this one survives. A hundred years ago it was considered a desirable landscape tree and was widely planted, but few survived. It is an attractive tree despite its lean, and the crushed leaves smell of boot polish or turpentine.



River Red Gum - *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*. A shelter tree (left) typically has a north-east opening and other openings for ventilation, and enough space inside to lie down in. This tree is believed to be one of at least four Kaurna shelter trees remaining in Belair National Park and is estimated to be 700 - 800 years old. The tallest tree in Belair (right) - a huge redgum, said to be 35-40 metres tall. If only these two trees could talk, imagine the stories they could tell! These giants were ‘supermarket trees’ for Kaurna people – providing food, wood, shelter, medicine and tools.

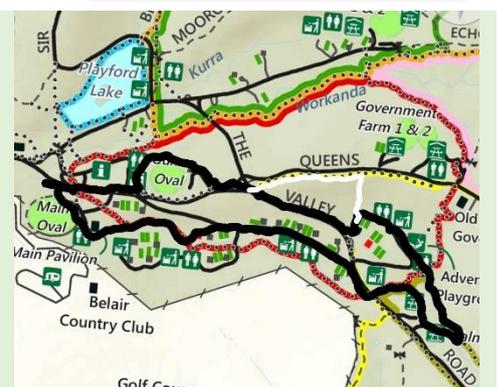


Walk distance: ~3.2km. A flat walk, on well-defined tracks, with dappled shade for most of the route.

Allow at least: 90 Minutes.

Directions: Start at the Green Shed, adjacent Main Oval. Follow the track past the Main Pavilion and walk along the Lorikeet Loop to the carpark at the eastern end of Creek Road. Walk from here to the Valley Road. Follow Valley Road to Gold Escort and Walnut Paddock. Cross the creek and return via the Adventure Playground to ‘Brownies’ Triangle and back to the Green Shed, stopping to give the giant Redgum on Gums Oval a hug!

If we have time on the day, we will do a little ‘Grey Box Diversion’ (shown in white), to look at some lovely native flora.



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Guided walks from April to November on the second Tuesday of the month, repeated the following Sunday. Meet at the Green Shed near Main Oval 1:45pm for a 2pm start.



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