

WALK DETAILS

10.6 km out and back
3 to 4 hours
easy walking, some sand

This walk commences from track 1, 2 km west of the Visitor Centre, back towards the entrance to the reserve. There is a car park on the northern side of the track.

The walk follows a line of old fence posts south of track 1 for about 4.8km.

At this point there is a fence corner with the fence turning west.

The walk continues southward and follows a marked trail to a seat at the top of the dune.

From here, walk west along the dune crest for a short distance where views to the north show a large area of dense mallee.

Here the track ends.

The 5.3 km return walk is back along the same track taken to get here.

THIS WALK IS HABITAT FOR

Gilbert's Whistler, Chestnut Quail-thrush,
Grey Shrike-thrush, Striated Grasswren,
Shy Heathwren, Crested Bellbird,
Regent Parrots occasionally.

IF YOU BECOME LOST ON THIS WALK
walk north to intercept track 1

LERPS

A tiny female lerp bug lays her eggs on the leaves of a eucalypt, and when the nymphs hatch, they feed by sucking sap from the leaves and stems of the plant. These sap-sucking psyllids secrete a shield which is high in sugars and starch. This shield resembles a conical mound of white "fairy floss", under which they live. Many birds including Malleefowl feed on these sugary secretions.

In some seasons lerps can be present in large numbers and attract many honeyeaters to one location. Up to 200 Yellow-plumed and White-fronted Honeyeaters have been observed in a single flock feeding on lerps, with a smaller number of Brown-headed Honeyeaters coming along behind the first "wave" to mop up the remaining sugary feast.

SAFETY GUIDELINES

A few simple precautions should always be taken when walking at Gluepot.

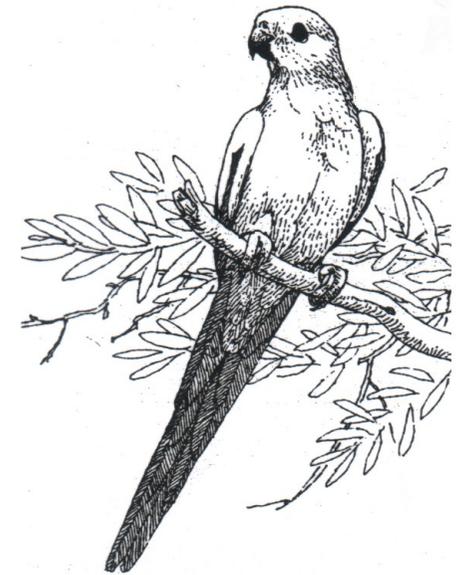
Dehydration is always a real risk as the temperature can get extremely high (over 45°C), and humidity is normally very low.

- **Carry sufficient water**
- **Protect yourself from the sun**
- **If on a long walk take at least one piece of warm clothing**
- **Carry a compass & plan or map**
- **Carry a snake bite kit.**

W6

BIG SAND DUNE WALK

Tall sand dune, Views
A variety of habitats



Regent Parrot *Polytelis anthopeplus*

GLUEPOT RESERVE
WALKING TRACK NETWORK
SPONSORED BY

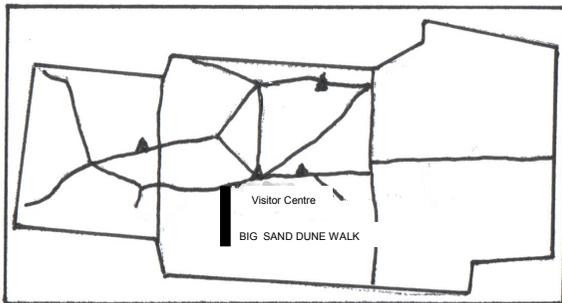
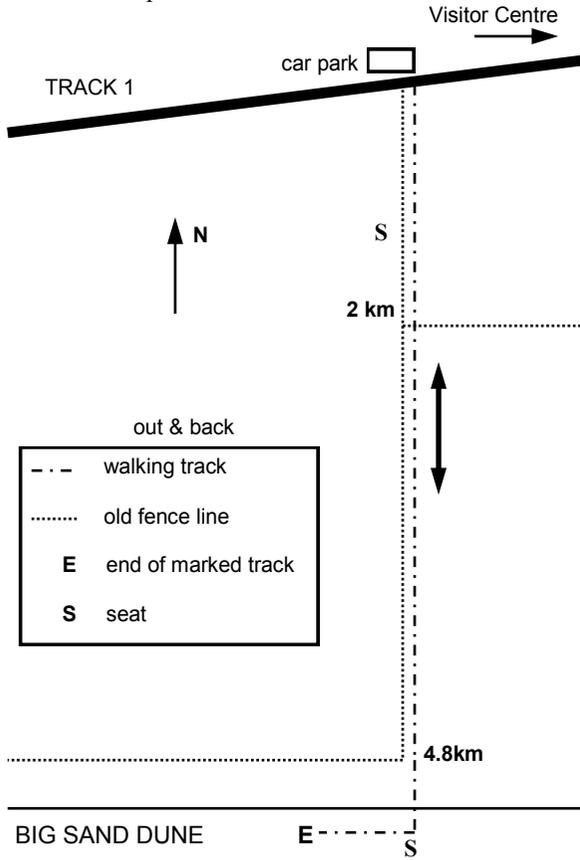


South Australian
Tourism Commission



THE BIG SAND DUNE WALK

Map **NOT** to Scale



THE REGENT PARROT

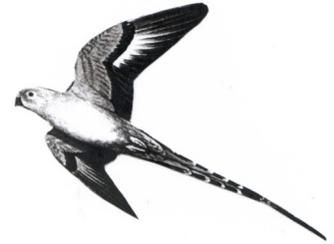
The eastern sub-species of the Regent Parrot has a limited distribution in eastern Australia along the river corridor from above Murray Bridge in SA upstream to Balranald in NSW and Swan Hill in Victoria. However, this range is not continuous with gaps in excess of 200 km around Mildura and other quite large gaps elsewhere. Regent Parrots occur in reasonable numbers in the Renmark and Barmera areas in SA, and the Hattah-Kulkyne area in Victoria.

Regent Parrots breed in large hollows in River Red Gums *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* along the river corridor and usually within 100m of water. The hollows can be in live trees, but in SA a significant proportion of nesting hollows have been located in trees that drowned in the late 1920's when the locks were constructed.

Regent Parrots rely on adjacent mallee areas for foraging during the breeding season. Early in the breeding season the male birds form flocks that fly to the mallee before returning to feed the incubating female. Later, both males and females are in these feeding flocks as both parents feed the nestlings.

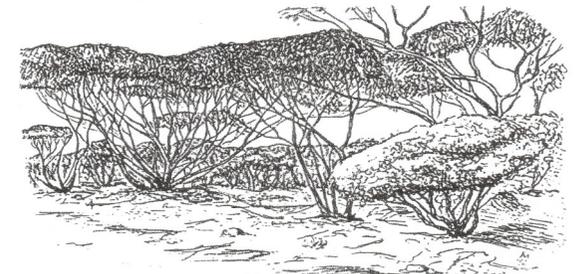
Mallee foraging sites need to be within flying

distance of the nesting sites (approx. 20 km max.). Because extensive clearing of mallee vegetation has occurred in some areas, there are no suitable feeding areas close to the river, and so no Regent Parrots nest in these locations.



Regent Parrots breed in late August—November and during this time the birds spend most of their time along the river corridor. They are colonial breeders with 1 to 30 nests in one colony.

When the young have fledged and are strong, quite large flocks form and these move around the mallee areas in search of food. Flocks of up to 200 individuals have been reported at watering points (dams) in mallee areas during the summer. In times of drought, these birds will move into the horticulture districts where they seek out grasses and cover crops between vines and trees. Often they sit on a vine trellis and may nip a few vine tips. This brings them into conflict with growers and unfortunately some birds are eliminated (illegally).



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