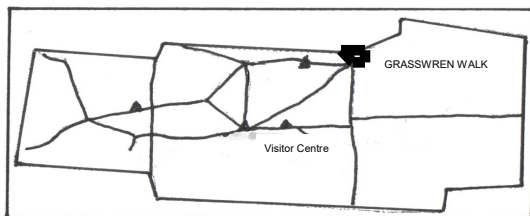
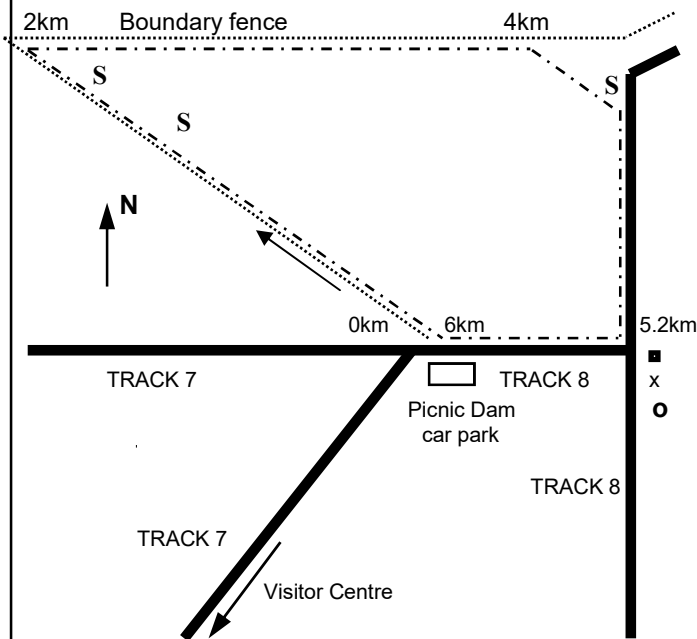
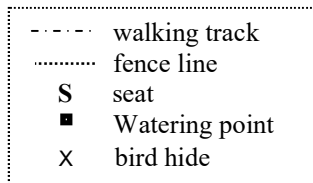


THE GRASSWREN WALK

Map NOT to Scale



THE STRIATED GRASSWREN

Striated Grasswrens can be found on Gluepot in areas where mature stands of *Triodia* (spinifex) hummock grasslands with an overstorey of mallee eucalypts are present. This type of habitat is found on the east-west dunes that abound in this area. Grasswrens move about between the *Triodia* clumps and if they choose to, can quickly “go to ground” in a *Triodia* clump to avoid detection. They become more evident in the breeding season when they can be seen calling from a low exposed perch before retreating to the *Triodia* clumps. Grasswrens eat seeds of *Triodia* and other plants. They also eat arthropods; mainly ants and beetles.

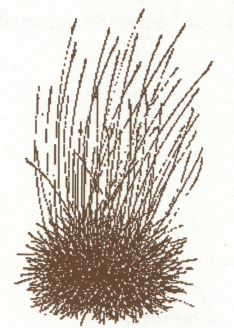
They build a dome-shaped nest in a *Triodia* clump. The nest is composed of *Triodia* stems, leaves and soft bark and is lined with fine grasses and downy seeds. Usually 2 eggs are incubated by the female.

The clearing of habitat for agriculture **was** a major threat to this species, but in SA and VIC this has been essentially halted. Grazing by herbivores is also thought to reduce their abundance, so the removal of sheep grazing and the control of feral goats over almost all of the mallee habitat in this region, provides a significant protected area for this species.

TRIODIA ON GLUEPOT

Spinifex is the common name that many people give to the plant *Triodia scariosa*. Others refer to it simply as *Triodia* (see opposite) or porcupine grass. There is no doubting which plant people are talking about. The plant’s needle-like leaves with a firm sharp pointed end soon makes its presence felt if one gets too close.

Young plants are rounded tussocks up to 60 cm high and in a favorable season can be topped with a flower stem which reaches up to 90 cm in length. The tussocks themselves can be 90-120 cm across, but are often much smaller. The pointed leaves are greyish/bluish green.



Old plants form rings up to 3 metres in diameter, where the centre has died and in most cases disappeared, leaving bare earth. At this stage they can become indiscernible as a single plant. It has been estimated that a plant that has a dead (or bare earth) centre, which is 1 metre in diameter, is about 40 years old.

These spiny plants are home to a range of animals in addition to the Grasswrens. A variety of lizards and some small mammals find refuge under these tussocks.

Birdlife Australia Gluepot Reserve
 contact details:
gluepot@gluepot.org
www.gluepot.org

WALK DETAILS

6.1 km circuit
2 to 3 hours
easy walking, some sand

The starting point for this walk is located 10 km from the Visitor Centre, along track 7, just past the junction of this track with track 8. The car park for this walk is located 100m east of this track junction on track 8, near Picnic Dam. The walk follows an old fence line which heads north-west from track 8. The vegetation is mainly mallee/senna in this first section, but also contains some really old mallee (*Eucalyptus oleosa*).

After 2 km the walk comes to the northern boundary of Gluepot.

At this point the walk follows the boundary fence to the east. It passes through a variety of vegetation associations until it turns south. At this point it winds its way over a triodia/ mallee dune to meet up with the vehicle track 8. The walk follows this vehicle track south until it forks and heads west back to the car park.

At the fork, there is a bird hide and watering point which provides an opportunity for a rest and also a chance to observe some birds at close quarters as they drink.

THIS WALK IS HABITAT FOR

Striated Grasswren, Chestnut Quail-thrush
Southern Whiteface, Crested Bellbird
White-browed Treecreeper

IF YOU BECOME LOST ON THIS WALK

walk south to intercept tracks 7 or 8
walk north to the boundary fence

FIRE!!!!

Many of the threats to the mallee habitat are being addressed. These include land clearance, excessive grazing and predation by foxes and cats. This means that the single greatest threat remaining is that of fire. Much of the mallee burns extremely well and so will readily carry a wildfire. The initial impact of a large fire would significantly reduce the population of mallee species and it would be some time before the habitat would be suitable for recolonization. Striated Grasswrens will move back into triodia stands after about 3-5 years, however, Malleefowl and Black-eared Miners require areas that have not been burnt for at least 40 years in order for them to breed successfully.

Work has begun on a fire management plan for the whole of this region

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.**

W2

GRASSWREN WALK

Old growth mallee Mallee/Triodia dunes



Striated Grasswren *Amytornis striatus*

GLUEPOT RESERVE
WALKING TRACK NETWORK
SPONSORED BY



South Australian
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