

WALK DETAILS

11. Note the “old growth” Mallee trees. These are Oil Mallee (*Eucalyptus oleosa*). Check the area for small raptors, for example: the Australian Hobby and Nankeen Kestrel.

Sit and listen to the Black oak (*Casuarina pauper*) to your left sighing in the breeze. These trees are found in low lying areas throughout the reserve.

Look out over the depression. Note that vegetation often grows in clumps throughout dryland Australia. This is because the soil nutrients are often irregularly dispersed.

SAFETY GUIDELINES

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

De-hydration 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.**

950 m circuit. 1 hour Easy walking on firm flat ground

Note: Bicycles are not permitted on walking tracks

The Airstrip walk commences at the car park 1km from the southern end of Track 6, and proceeds on a circuit through a natural depression which is part of the old airstrip. It ends where it started, at the car park.

The walk is marked by blue triangles on orange topped droppers. The points described in this brochure are marked by numbered plaques on the droppers.

The walk passes through a seasonal claypan which has been periodically (but rarely) inundated over past years. The soil consists mainly of heavy cracking clays with a cover of low growing Prickly Acacias (*Acacia colletioides*), Spotted Emubush, (*Eremophila maculata*) Blue Morgania (*Morgania floribunda*) and Nitre Bush (*Nitraria billardieri*).

This area and many others like it on Gluepot are an excellent habitat for Southern Whiteface, Purple-backed Fairy-wrens and Splendid Fairy-wrens. A number of species of honeyeater are also found here, particularly when the Spotted Emu-bushes are flowering (spring).

THIS WALK IS HABITAT FOR

White-fronted Chats, Fairy-wrens, Thornbills, Richard's Pipit, Brown Songlark, Southern Whiteface, Singing, White Fronted and Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters and small raptors.

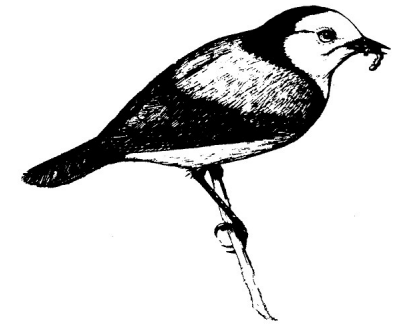
IF YOU BECOME LOST ON THIS WALK

Walk east to intercept track 6
or south to intercept track 2.

W10

AIRSTRIP WALK

**Low scrubland
Periodically flooded claypan**



White-fronted Chat *Epthianura albifrons*

GLUEPOT RESERVE WALKING TRACK NETWORK

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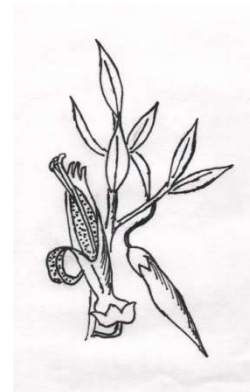
AIRSTRIP WALK

Map **NOT** to Scale

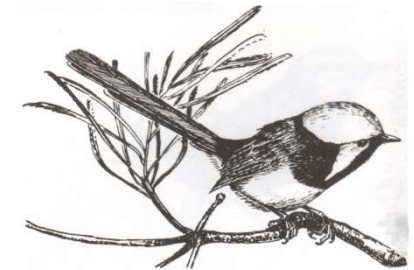
THE WALK

THE CAR PARK. The whole area is a natural depression. In rare high rainfall years this area would be inundated. The water could remain for months. Typically a large rain event would occur in summer.

1. Look at the ground. There are several species of lichen found in this area. This organism is important for binding the fragile mallee soils. At times of infrequent rain the lichen will activate and grow, then dry out and shut down, sometimes over a 12 hour period.
2. Look out over the depression. Chats, particularly White-fronted Chats are frequently seen here. These birds commonly perch on the tops of bushes. Crimson and Orange Chats are also visitors to the Airstrip.
3. Around you Spotted Emubush (*Eremophila maculata*) dominates. These drought-resistant plants produce masses of yellow, orange and red flowers in spring after rain. Honeyeaters feed on these.
4. This area has been inundated periodically. Holes in the soil called "crab holes" (no crabs exist) hold water for prolonged periods. Blue flowering Morgania (*Morgania floribunda*) are also found on these flood prone areas.



5. Listen for the high pitched twittering of the Splendid and the Purple-backed Fairy-wren.
6. Listen for the clear, melodious calls of the Spiny Cheeked Honey Eater.
7. Yellow-plumed Honeyeaters are common in this area in spring feeding on Nectar. Look also for white-browed Wood swallows and tree martins wheeling above.
8. Check above you for small raptors, for example the Australian Hobby and Australian Kestrel.



Purple-backed Fairywren *Malurus assimilis*

9. This Umbrella Wattle (*Acacia oswaldii*) is used by kangaroos for shade. It is believed that local aborigines shaped boomerangs from this plant.
10. On these higher areas, denser vegetation including Sennas (*Senna artemisioides*) and False Sandalwood (*Myoporum platycarpum*) occur. These slopes provide increased water runoff. Long periods of inundation would drown these species.

Birdlife Australia Gluepot Reserve
contact details:
gluepot@gluepot.org
www.gluepot.org
Phone: 08 8892 8600

