

Historic Self-Guided Walk
Waterfall Gully

WATERFALL GULLY

First Creek rises in Cleland Conservation Park, flows down Waterfall Gully to Hazelwood Park and eventually runs into the Torrens River. Early European settlers knew it as Greenhill Rivulet and later Finniss' Creek.

The rocks of the Mount Lofty Ranges were laid down as sediments during the Precambrian times. Subsequent uplifting, eroding, deposition and block faulting have produced a west facing scarp edge where the rocks are exposed. The streams dissect these tilted blocks creating waterfalls where they flow over the more resistant quartzite rock. The Second Fall is at a fault between the blocks. It is said that the creek once had 16 falls but continual erosion has eliminated most of these. The most spectacular one remaining is the First Fall at the southern end of Waterfall Gully Road.

The hills were originally covered with open woodland vegetation which included eucalypts, casuarinas, acacias and native grasses. Red gums grew along the creek and ferns where the gully was narrow and steep.

During Autumn the Kurna Aboriginal people moved from the coastal areas to the creeks and gullies along the foothills. During the 1840s J.M. Young, a Burnside nurseryman recollected seeing encampments of up to 600 Kurna people in the vicinity. Some were still living nearby in the early 20th century and one old resident of the Gully recalled later a possum being swapped for two boomerangs.

The European settlers initially used the land for timber-cutting and sheep grazing. Samuel Davenport purchased sections along the gully and used the natural pastures for his sheep. Early residents followed, most establishing gardens in the alluvial deposits built up along the creek. They built slab huts or small houses of local bluestone or water-worn stones. These people introduced into the area many new plants, some of which have adapted well and spread profusely. These include briar, hawthorn, olive, willow, cape tulip, castor oil plant, water cress and rice grass. By the 1850s the gully was known for its beauty and fine garden produce.

This walk starts at Langman Reserve, Waterfall Gully Road. For more information on bus routes and timetables please refer to www.adelaidemetro.com.au The distance covered by this walk is 7.5 km and takes approximately 3.5 hours to complete. There is a steep climb between First and Second Falls, and in sections there are no footpaths and uneven surfaces.

Items 1 - 6 are best viewed by car. To continue the walk, park at Langman Reserve on Waterfall Gully Road.

I Cannan's Saw Mill and the Finnissbrook Flour Mill - 540 Glynburn Road

John Cannan, a surveyor, purchased 80 acres, where he initially established a brick works using the clays east of the creek. By 1839 he had built a saw mill and three small cottages on the site. Thomas Cain and

his sons made the overshot water wheel to drive the mill, the cogs and gear wheels being made of local red gum. The mill was advertised for sale or lease in 1840 and it was suggested that with additional dams there would be enough power during the summer to adapt it for flour milling purposes.

In 1840 Boyle Travers Finniss purchased land, including Cannan's saw mill, for £1,000. He rebuilt it incorporating a three-storey flour mill. Cain fitted it with machinery and a pair of S.A. grinding stones and by 1842 a steam engine had been installed. Finniss, who was on Light's survey staff, built a stone house, 'Traversbrook', on the site of St. John Vianney's Church, and established a garden along the creek.

Some unreliable summers, together with a change in the route of road access to Mt Barker, made the mill unprofitable. Finniss tried to sell the mill in 1847 but reconsidered and leased it instead, renaming it 'Finnissbrook'.

George Soward, a builder, bought the property in 1857, enlarged the house and planted the first sultana vines in the colony. Soward also leased out the mill, and became Chairman of the Burnside Council.

In 1863, J.S. Crocker encouraged him to sell the property in parts. In 1864 Miss Mary Field bought the southern part; William Murray, nurseryman, of Glen Osmond, bought the garden and cottages in 1866, and in 1876 Crocker bought the remainder of the property, dismantling the mill soon after. The northern 24 acres was subdivided into Burnside South, and Dennison Clarke bought the stone quarry and clay deposits east of the creek in 1882.

R.P. Young owned the Finnissbrook house in 1906 and sold it in 1911 to M.P. McNeil who renamed it 'Willow Bank'. When McNeil's unmarried daughter died she left the house and land to The Little Sisters of the Poor.

The house was demolished and a large Norfolk Island pine tree felled prior to the church being built in 1961.

2 Lambden's Cooperage - Corner of Glynburn Road and Waterfall Terrace

In 1880 Joseph Lambden bought land in Burnside South. He erected a three roomed stone house which he enlarged into a shop and dwelling by 1884. After he died in 1902, his wife, Sarah, continued to run the shop. In 1913, his son, Joseph S., bought adjoining lots, building a new shop and residence on the corner, Joseph S then leased the old house.

Prior to World War I, Joseph was a Cooper at Mile End. From 1930 he worked as a Cooper in a shed behind the shops and later erected a large shed on his vacant lots fronting Burnside Road. By 1935 he had 20 employees.

After Joseph's death in 1946, H.M. Martin and Son of Stonyfell, operated the business until 1978. Some equipment from the cooperage has been

erected on the footpath outside the shed. In 1972 the original house in Waterfall Terrace was demolished to make way for squash courts, which have since been converted to an apartment block. The Burnside Council Works Depot now occupies the site of the cooperage and the adjoining (former) waterworks reserve.

3 The Quarry And Brick Yard - Waterfall Terrace Reserve

East of the creek the red brown clay deposits were used for making bricks, and the underlying bluestone bed rock for building stone. In 1864, G. Soward owned and used the quarry. In 1869 he sold it to J. Crocker and in 1880 Dennison Clarke, a prominent local builder, bought the quarry and brick yard.

W.G. McAllan bought the property in 1905 and established the Adelaide Brick Company in 1912. An 18 chamber Hoffman Kiln was then built in the centre of what is now Langman's Reserve. The clay was blasted from the hillside and taken to the plant by a horse drawn inclined tramway. In 1927, 43 men were employed.



The Company was amalgamated with the Magill Brick Company in 1954, to become the Gilburn Brick Co. It was then making five million red building bricks annually. The entrance to the kiln was near Zenith Avenue.

Clay extraction ceased in the 1960s and in 1970, after the plant, kiln, houses and tall chimney had been demolished, the land was subdivided. Some of the equipment from the works is now on display in the reserve in Waterfall Terrace.

Turn right into Wyatt Road and then left into Kurralta Drive.

4 'Kurralta' - 23 Kurralta Drive

James Hutchinson came out on the Buffalo in 1836 and took a grant for 84 acres in 1841, but immediately sold to George Tinline.



Dr William Wyatt (then Manager of the Bank of S.A.) purchased this section in 1842 when it had a building and stockyards on it. In 1843 George Kingston designed a two storey, eight roomed stone house for Wyatt, which was built on the hillside overlooking the entrance to the Gully. Wyatt called the house 'Kurralta', meaning "on the hill". Wyatt initially conducted a medical practice, but later became the Protector of Aborigines, City Coroner, Chief Inspector of Schools and a founder of St. Peter's College.

Wyatt and his wife were keen botanists and laid out extensive gardens containing exotic plants. Water was pumped to the gardens from the creek. A track led from the house past an orangery down the hillside

to other gardens by the creek. Flowers, vegetables and fruit trees were planted here and in 1866 Wyatt built a gardener's cottage near the spring. Later a dairy was built nearby.

Wyatt died in 1886 and much of his estate went to the Wyatt Benevolent Fund. His wife stayed in the house until her death in 1898 and the property was then sold to G.J.W. Freeman, a Burnside grazier. He sold it to John Dunstan in 1910, and in 1917, M. Percy Ifould, Managing Director of Dunstan's quarrying company took it over.

In the early 20th century the property was mainly used for grazing sheep. Freeman erected a woolshed and Ifould a caretaker's cottage. The gardens were leased but abandoned soon after World War II.

After Ifould's death, Miss Davidson maintained the house until some of the surrounding land was subdivided and sold in 1971. The house lot was five acres which included 2/3 acre of trees, the coach house, stables and a three roomed cottage. The new owner extensively renovated the house at 23 Kurralta Drive, and subdivided more of the land when he sold the property in 1979. Some of the land down the hillside had been sold prior to 1971 and a garden established along the creek.

Drive to Waterfall Gully Road. On your right...

5 The Finnisbrook Gardens - Slape Crescent

In 1866, William Murray, a nurseryman of Glen Osmond, bought the three acre garden established along the creek at Finnisbrook. It included the mill dam, reservoir and two of the mill cottages. In 1883 he replaced the cottages with a six roomed stone house at 2 Slape Crescent.

Murray leased the land to Chinese gardeners after 1880. These men were remembered for their long knives, wooden clogs, coolie hats and shoulder yokes. They built a stone wall on the edge of the garden (opposite 13 Waterfall Gully Road) and a small, one room brick cottage nearby. They also planted the gums along the side of the road between Garden Avenue and McAllan Avenue.



Robert Slape leased the gardens in 1908, prior to buying two acres in 1912. He extended the house, and the nearby reservoir became a popular swimming hole. After Slape's death, two of his sons continued the gardens. The land reverted to open paddocks prior to subdivision and demolition of the house in 1962.

Continue up Waterfall Gully Road. From 19 Waterfall Gully Road, look across the creek and you will see:

6 Miss Field's Property - 20 Garden Avenue

In 1864 Mary Field built a six roomed house on the 20 acres she bought from 'Finnissbrook'. She established vineyards, an orchard and a colonial garden. William Coote subsequently bought the property and two adjoining acres to the south in 1878 and extended the house and gardens. The property passed to his son after his death.

In 1909 William G. McAllan bought the property, together with the clay deposits east of the creek. All but seven acres around the house were subdivided in 1952. The house, now known as 'Finnissbrook', is at 20 Garden Avenue.

Drive to Langman Reserve to park your car. Continue the walk on foot.

7 Langman Reserve

The recreational part of the reserve has been created out of the old clay pit of the Adelaide Brick Company. An area at the eastern end of the reserve was not mined for clay and retains relics of the original Grey Box woodland of the area. This area is being restored by the City of Burnside. There is a walking trail through this small area of woodland.



8 Row of Gum trees - 23 - 27 Waterfall Gully Road

In front of these properties is a row of old Sugar Gum trees (*Eucalyptus cladocalyx*). This species was commonly planted towards the end of the 19th century. They are not indigenous to the area.

9 Marks' Violet Farm - Corner of Waterfall Gully Road and 43 McAllan Reserve

In 1923, L.M. Marks, a German, bought four acres along the creek, and built a house near a spring at 'Willow Springs'. He and his wife planted violets on the land between the road and the creek, and peas and beans further downstream. They conducted much of their business by the roadside. A sign at the gate advertised "Pick mur self," where passers by could pick a bunch of violets for 4 pence.

Marks also supplied coral fern, collected from just above the Second Falls at Waterfall Gully, to customers in the city. Balfours used the ferns to decorate their restaurant tables and Mrs Marks made a tasty cold drink from cooking green peas in salted water.

The property was sold in the 1950s and the house demolished.

10 Waterfall Gully Reserve - 50 Waterfall Gully Road

This land is a Council reserve consisting of a broad swampy area along First Creek. At the western end of the reserve is a reed bed of *Phragmites australis*. This is now a rare habitat feature. The rest of the reserve is heavily infested with weeds including willow and blackberry. The Council has an ongoing project of restoring this wetland habitat. The native trees in the reserve are River Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*). This species was originally common along Waterfall Gully.

11 Lea's Cottage - after 61 Waterfall Gully Road

In 1930, soon after arriving from Scotland, Richard Lea bought two acres of Kurralta land from R. Goldsack. He built a small cottage near the creek using a packing case shed as a base. Posts then supported wire netting which was plastered. Possums and white ants damaged the house and was later burnt down with only the brick chimney surviving. Lea lived here until he married and built another house higher on the hill. He an engineering graduate from the University of Adelaide and became General Manager of the Electricity Trust.

Behind the two houses there are two zig zag tracks marked by rows of stones. These tracks descend the hill from the old road above to the gardens that were along the creek bed.

12 Chambers' Gully Quarry - Corner of Waterfall Gully Road and Chambers Gully Road

In 1844 there were short-lived iron and manganese mines near the entrance to the gully and a silver lead mine further on. In 1863 a small amount of stone was quarried by J. Hallett and J. Stilling. In 1894 free gold at about 200 oz./ton was found in the ironstone quartz on the south side of the gully. The Burnside Gold Mining syndicate was formed but operated only for that year.



J. Dunstan bought the land in 1910 and in 1912 he formed John Dunstan and Son Ltd., to systematically quarry the quartzite and bluestone.

A crushing plant was constructed, the water for which came from a permanent spring at the head of the gully. The water from the settling ponds along the gully was channelled on the contour around the hill to the Kurralta gardens. Clydesdale horses were used to pull the trolleys, carts and drays between the quarry face and the crusher. The horses were stabled in paddocks west of 61 Waterfull Gully Road.

M.P. Ifould was the Managing Director of the company and rode his horse along a track from his house, 'Kurralta', to the quarry office.

By 1927, 42 men were employed and the output was about 300 tons daily. One of the workers, Peter Laar, lived in the Gully in a humpy made of rocks built out from the cliff face. It had only a door-way opening, the roof was made of old iron and kerosene tins supported by posts. After quarrying stopped in the early 1950s he grew vegetables which were sold to neighbours.

The rock-walled amphitheatre was used for a sing-in and band festival in 1969, but was subsequently used as a Council run garden refuse dump. In 1993 it became a Council reserve and is being progressively rehabilitated and revegetated. Pistol and rifle ranges are set into the hillside.



13 Samuel Finn's Orchard and Garden - 74 Waterfall Gully Road

In the early years of settlement Sir Samuel Davenport was the largest landowner in Waterfall Gully. He owned a thousand acres freehold on both sides of First Creek which included some of the surrounding hills of Cleland Conservation Park.

Samuel Davenport came to South Australia in 1842. He experimented with growing tobacco, fruit trees and herbs, of which fennel and cress continue to grow wild today. In 1847 Davenport brought in twelve Chinese labourers to work as shepherds. They lived in two-roomed, wattle-and-daub huts in the surrounding hills.

By 1855 he owned 60 acres which he leased to James Durbridge. He established a slab hut and a garden and orchard of 10 acres between Chambers' Creek and First Creek. In 1864 a stone house of two rooms was added and from 1868 the property was leased to Samuel Finn who was probably Davenport's head gardener.

The Davenport land was sub-divided in 1903 and was bought by Christopher Faehrmann who also worked for Davenport.

Faehrmann enlarged the cottage and established tea-rooms, a boarding house and a restaurant. In 1922, the property was sold to the Lillingstons, who ran the 'Natuva Tea Gardens' during the Depression of the 1920s and 1930s. They sold it in 1946 and it has since become a private home.

14 Tucker's Nursery - 67 - 85 Waterfall Gully Road

During the 1930s and until the early 1950s, H.S. Tucker had a nursery. It was located along the creek flats to the bridge (where the road crosses the creek) and up the hillside as far as Davenport's Old Road. In the valley he grew dahlias, roses and chrysanthemums as seedlings and for cut flowers, and on the terraced hillside he grew bulbs and exotic plants. A windmill by the creek (behind number 71) pumped water up to three tanks from which reticulating gutters ran down the hillside. The remnants can still be seen from Davenport's Old Road.

Mr Tucker's gardener lived like a hermit in an old humpy in the Gully. Tucker also owned some acres on the other side of the road near the entrance to Chambers Gully Reserve.

15 The New and Old Roads - Near 87 Waterfall Gully Road



As early as 1840 the public would frequently approach the Falls by climbing down tracks from Mt. Barker Road. Access along the Gully was also popular, though more difficult as it was a rough cart track to private properties. Visitors often walked, crossing the creek on boulders and planks. They would picnic on the way and pick the wild flowers and ferns.

Demands for a public road along the gully from landowners, gardeners and wood cutters were met in 1880. The new road cut through Samuel Finn's orchard. The old dray road made by Davenport from Beaumont House descended round the shoulder of the hills to the gully near Chambers' Gully. Its junction with the new road is seen north-west of the bridge before number 87. It continued along the gully floor then up the track to Zig Zag Hill and eventually to Mt. Lofty and down to the market gardens at Piccadilly. The old road is now used as a fire and powerline access track and is open to the public as a walking track.

16 'The Olives' - 93 Waterfall Gully Road

This house was built in 1893 around an earlier two-roomed wattle-and-daub hut used by Davenport's gardeners or shepherds. It was probably built for Samuel Finn who looked after the olive trees which were part of Davenport's large olive plantation extending from Beaumont to both sides of Waterfall Gully Creek. By 1900 there were 10,000 trees, a Chilean Mill was imported for the production of olive oil. The oil produced here was said to have won gold medals against other olive oils from around the world.

The home was bought by Mrs Fauser in the early 1900s and used as a boarding-house for girls going to College. Mrs Fauser's daughter (Mrs Creedy) enlarged it in 1921 and lived there for many years.

17 Mines - Waterfall Gully Road (opposite No. 98)

Near where Davenport's old dray road joins the present Waterfall Gully Road, is Finke's Mine. It adjoined the Glen Osmond, Wheal Gawler mines and was worked for silver, lead and copper between 1844 and 1846.

Opposite 98 Waterfall Gully Road and 1.2 km below the First Fall, are the remains of a tunnel leading into another mine. It was worked in 1844 after the discovery there of the first manganese deposits in the colony.

18 'Homelands' Tea Gardens - 98 -100 Waterfall Gully Road

After Davenport subdivided his land in 1903, the portion here was owned by Louisa Florence Fauser, the wife of Ulrich Fauser, a master tailor, from Leipzig. Davenport had built two cottages at numbers 98 and 100 for his workmen at the olive plantation. One of the cottages forms part of the house at number 100. In the term of her residence Mrs Fauser had the verandah added and built steps with creek stones. The Fauser's kept five cows and Mrs Fauser made cheese and sold butter and milk to the Mugges for their hotel further up the road.

In a red tin shed, by the oak tree, which was planted in 1906 near the gate of number 98, Mrs Fauser sold home-made jams and cheese. Passers by used to ask for hot water for their picnics so the Fausers developed the tea gardens, near the oak tree, with sixteen shelters set up with tables and chairs. Mrs Fauser subdivided the land in the mid 1950s but continued to live in the house until 1958.

19 Pump Shed - Opposite 100 Waterfall Gully Road

Parts of the land in this area were transferred to the Mt. Osmond Country Club Ltd. This allowed them to erect a pumping station beside Waterfall Gully Road to supply water to the Golf Club. In 1926, a pump plant was installed.

20 Woolshed Gully - next to Waterfall Gully Road

Arthur Hardy, who arrived in South Australia in 1839, had some land near Woolshed Gully. Between 1844 and 1856 he had bought large holdings near Mt. Lofty which he used for grazing. Hardy then sold most of the land in the 1870s to Davenport. In 1877 Davenport owned four dwellings, a woolshed, orangery, large garden and 360 acres of pasture in this area. An old resident also remembered a tobacco plantation here.



On the right of the fire access and walking track, are the remains of the woolshed used for storing bales of wool and later to store figs and plums. Below this an apple house is still standing from Davenport's time.

Frank Draper, who married Samuel Finn's daughter, had a market garden here after Davenport subdivided it in 1903. He sold nuts, fruit and vegetables from a roadside stall and had refreshment rooms here in the 1920s.

Maurice Creedy owned the property in the 1950s and subdivided it after 1966. It was also known as Hood's Gully after Mr Hood who lived there in a humpy and Dry Gully by some Burnside residents. There is a fire access and walking track (called Winter Track) that leads to Long Ridge and the Cleland Park.

21 Natural Pool and Spring - 138 Waterfall Gully Road

In the early days this was a popular swimming place for children. In the 1970s, Mr Holley, the owner of the land, sold soda water and mineral water from the spring for 20 cents a flagon. The present owner is still selling "natural mineral spring water".



22 'The Chalet' - (Waterfall Gully Hotel) 155 Waterfall Gully Road

Several German families moved into the Gully in the 1850s. In 1851 Edward Hempel leased land from John Horsnell and then bought it in 1853. In 1854, he leased the 90 acres to Wilhelm Mugge who was a local saddler. He and his wife developed one of the best nurseries and market gardens in Adelaide and within five years they were able to buy the land.

In 1883, they built a two-storeyed, licensed hotel which became a popular tea stop for visitors from Adelaide. Mrs Mugge and her son carried on the hotel until it was leased to Henry Buck in 1904. In 1910 it was sold to W.C. Hodgetts. Inger Hunnerup owned it from 1924 until 1941 when it was transferred to Estelle Kerrison. During World War II it was used as a rest home for American soldiers and then became the Chalet Residential

Hotel in the 1950s and 1960s. After renovation, it became a private residence in 1972.

On the opposite site of the road is a large Magnolia tree and two fine Hoop and Bunya Pines.

23 House - 185 Waterfall Gully Road

This tudor-style home was built by Arthur Fisher in the early 1920s on 26 acres of land. It was then owned by F.W.T. Geyer who was the first lessee of the Waterfall Gully Kiosk.

24 Waterfall Gully Kiosk - near First Falls



In 1912, a Swiss-style Government Kiosk was opened near the First Fall. In 1936, it was reported to be a popular place for dances and private parties. It is still used for similar functions.

25 Cleland Conservation Park

When the foothills were subdivided in 1856, the Government retained 130 acres which included the Falls, as a reserve. In August 1883 the Government was urged to place the Waterfalls Reserve under the management of the Burnside Council. This eventuated and in January 1884 it was Gazetted, "as a place for the amusement and recreation of the public". The first job undertaken was planting and then improving the path up to the First Fall.

On the 6th April 1911 control of the area was returned to the State Government and in 1915 Waterfall Gully became the State's first National Pleasure Resort.

In 1945 the South Australian Government bought the land higher up the gully at public auction after Professor J.B. Cleland, a distinguished Adelaide scientist and naturalist and also a nephew of Davenport urged the protection of the native vegetation above Waterfall Gully to help control erosion and flooding, which were recurrent problems in the gully due to timber felling and clearing on the upper slopes. It was placed under the control of the Tourist Bureau as the Obelisk Estate National Pleasure Resort. The problem of over grazing continued into the early 1960s, and in 1963, management was transferred to the National Parks Commission and the area gazetted as the Cleland Wildlife Reserve.

In 1972, Waterfall Gully and Mt. Lofty Summit Reserves were added and the combined area became Cleland Conservation Park.

26 The Falls - Top of Waterfall Gully Road

Amongst the first Europeans to see the falls were Y. Bingham Hutchinson and William Burt, whose account was published in the South Australian Gazette and Colonial Register in July, 1837.



In 1856 when the foothills were subdivided, the Falls were known as Wyatt's Falls. Afterwards they were officially the First Falls at First Creek. In 1881-82 a weir was built at the foot of the First Falls. It had a capacity of 551,000 gallons and water was pumped to the Burnside South Reservoir. It provided the first reticulated water to Burnside, but reduced the water supply to the Gully and, combined with large floods in 1889 and 1897, led to the decline of large-scale gardening in the gully. A large flood in 2005 completely filled the weir pool with flood debris (since cleaned out), the first time that this had happened.

There is a winding path that lead to the best known waterfalls. The tree ferns and many flowering shrubs in the immediate vicinity of First Falls are introduced, but the tree fern *Dicksonia antarctica* once grew here, together with a brilliant display of red and white heath in season. In the early days, Second Falls had a special charm with the luxuriance of the coral fern which grew here and gave it (for a time) the name of Fern Waterfall.

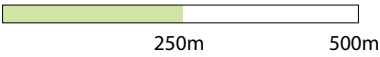
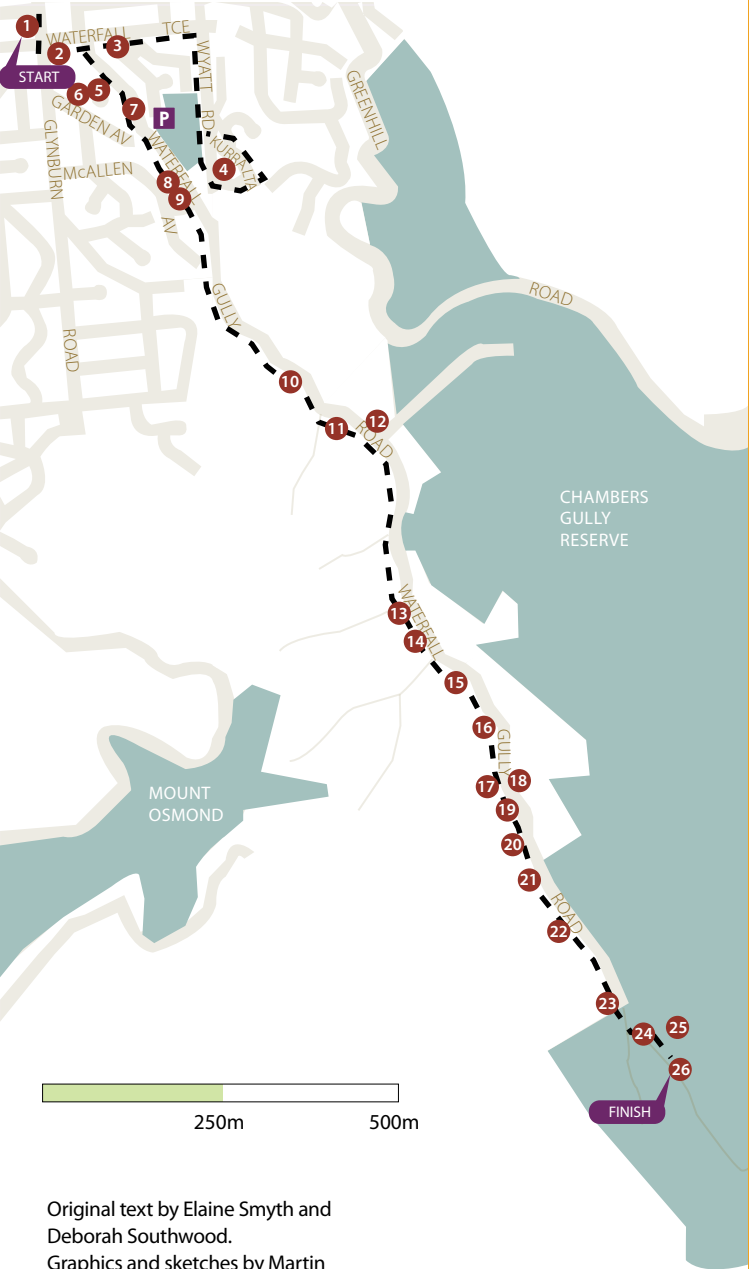
As early as 1885 a notice cautioned people against taking the ferns and other plants, but cutting persisted and this, combined with the impact of floods (increased by tree felling and over-grazing on the upper reaches of the creek) and competition from introduced pest plants, led to the virtual disappearance of the ferns from the immediate vicinity of the Falls.

On rising ground south of the Waterfall and near the old Mt Barker Road a look out was constructed. On a clear day there were extensive views over the Adelaide Plains. Many early sketches, paintings and photographs were either made or taken at this point.

An electronic copy of this historic self-guided walk and other historic walks within the City of Burnside can be found on www.burnside.sa.gov.au

Every effort has been made to ensure the content of this brochure is accurate. If you have any feedback about the content, please contact us via the Burnside Council website at www.burnside.sa.gov.au





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