

## YURREBILLA TRAIL NOTES

### **Stage One: Belair Railway Station to Sheoak Rd/Pony Ridge Rd (4.5 kms)**

**Support Stop 1**

***Description:***

Beginning at historic Belair Railway Station, the trail takes you through Belair National Park. The Trail passes Playford Lake, following Workanda Creek to Echo Tunnel, a low pedestrian tunnel that passes under the Adelaide-Melbourne railway line. The trail then skirts a seasonal waterfall along the Workanda Track and then continues along the Wilyawa Track to Sheoak Rd.

***Comment:***

Some stairs and gradual uphill (+100m), but generally an easy section. Take care as track can be a little confusing with poor signage and many other tracks.

### **Stage Two: Sheoak Rd to McElligotts Quarry Reserve (5 kms)**

**Support Stop 2**

***Description:***

The Trail crosses Sheoak Rd and heads down Pony Ridge Road before descending steeply to Brownhill Creek, then westward along the creek. Just past the caravan park, the trail climbs to McElligotts Quarry where the first city views unfold.

***Comment:***

Easy section with switchback downhill (-250m), finishing with short steep climb (+100m) to McElligotts Quarry reserve.

### **Stage Three: McElligotts Quarry Reserve to Kavel's Lookout, Mt Barker Rd (7 kms)**

**Support Stop 3**

***Description:***

The trail winds along behind the top of historic Carrick Hill and enters Waite Conservation Reserve, where a botanically significant remnant Grey Box woodland is located. Magnificent views to the city can be seen as the trail continues on an unmade road reserve that traverses private land before joining Mt Barker Rd, the former South Eastern Freeway. Just over a kilometer up the road Kavel's Lookout provides welcome rest and great views.

***Comment:***

Long gradual climb all the way (+275m). Last kilometre or so on the old Mt Barker Rd can be hard work.

### **Stage Four: Kavel's Lookout to Cleland Wildlife Reserve (3.5 kms)**

**Support Stop 4**

***Description:***

Climbing further up the old freeway to the Eagle on the Hill Hotel, the trail crosses above the Heysen Tunnels, following the Pioneers Women's Trail before veering left on a narrow winding trail down into Waterfall Gully. Joining the main Waterfall Gully Trail the trail passes Chinamans Hut ruin and Wilsons Bog, where lush patches of rare coral fern are located. The trail then joins the Bilba track climbing steeply to Cleland Wildlife Park.

***Comment:***

This section is one for the legs – although not very long, the course begins with final climb to Eagle on the Hill (+50m) followed by steep descent (-150m) then another very steep climb (+150m). Look to veer left soon after leaving Mt Barker Rd when you come to a T intersection followed by a right turn when you get to the bottom of the gully. Then get ready for the climb to Cleland.

### **Stage Five: Cleland Wildlife Reserve to Mt Lofty Rd/Pillbox Track Intersection (4.5kms)**

***Description:***

From Cleland the track winds across the hill face with several ups and downs before finally rising to Mt Lofty Rd at the Pillbox Track entrance.

***Comment:***

Very pretty section of the course that begins with gentle uphill (+50m) then flattens - not too difficult. End of this section highest point of run (600m).

### **Stage Six: Mt Lofty Rd/Pillbox Track Intersection to Horsnell Gully Park (3 kms)**

**Support Stop 5**

***Description:***

Following the road the trail provides beautiful views of Piccadilly Valley before crossing Greenhill Rd. The trail then passes through private land to Coach Rd. The track leaves the road briefly allowing for some stunning city views, but rejoins Coach Rd before coming to the Horsnell Gully Conservation Park gates.

***Comment:***

Be careful crossing Greenhill Rd. Trail continues directly across the road heading north through a fenced off section of private land, passing horse yards – generally easy section of the run with only slight rise (+50m ) at the beginning.

### **Stage Seven: Coach Rd gate to Ridge Track gate - Horsnell Gully Park (4.5 kms)**

**Support Stop 6**

***Description:***

From the Horsnell Gully Conservation Park gates the trail follows the route to Rockdale Hill, briefly leaving the Conservation Park and descending steeply into the Giles section of the park where the trail veers sharply to the right following the upper track past Giles Ruin. This is then followed by a steep climb up to Woods Hill Rd.

***Comment:***

Again another one for the legs. Very pretty steep narrow descent (-250m) in and out of a creek bed to a number of ruins, followed by a long steep climb (+200m) up a fire track.

### **Stage Eight: Ridge Track -Horsnell Gully Park to Scenic Hotel, Norton Summit (2 kms)**

#### ***Description:***

Trail winds around through private property before joining Lobethal Rd and Crescent Rd into Norton Summit.

#### ***Comment:***

Easy section of the course with slight downhill (-50m) then flattens out. Take care crossing Woods Hill Rd and look for trail as it heads up the hill to the right. Again take care running on Lobethal Rd – cross the road and run single file into the traffic keeping as close to the right hand side as possible. Look out for cars coming from multiple directions as you cross the main intersection of Norton Summit. Toilets are available just across the road from the pub, as you head down Colonial Drive.

### **Stage Nine: Scenic Hotel, Norton Summit to Morialta Cottage (2 kms)**

**Support Stop 7**

#### ***Description:***

The trail runs adjacent to Colonial Drive to the historic Morialta Barns before returning to the road. Further along Colonial Drive the trail passes The Farm turning back towards Morialta just past Morialta Cottage.

#### ***Comment:***

Gentle downhill (-50m). Look for the track to the left soon after the CFS station. Tracks winds around to the old barns then back onto Colonial Drive for 1km. Look out for cars as you run on Colonial Drive.

### **Stage Ten: Morialta Cottage to Deep View Lookout (4.5 kms)**

**Support Stop 8**

#### ***Description:***

Turning back past Morialta Cottage the trail runs alongside fourth creek with vineyards to the south, before entering Morialta Conservation Park. The trail winds through the Morialta Gorge past Third Fall and then coming out on top of the Second and First Falls. The trail then cuts across the northern hills finally coming out at Deep View Lookout.

#### ***Comment:***

Gentle descent (-100m) then up and down over last 1.5 km (+100m). Easily the most stunning section of the trail with amazing views. Not an easy section though, with the first part of the course still not fully repaired from floods in November 2005. Then some long uphill sections that will test the legs up to Deep View lookout – but well worth the effort! Not long after crossing the creek you come to an intersection. Take care to take the left hand or lower track to the Second and First Falls and not the higher track which is the Heysen Trail.

### **Stage Eleven: Deep View Lookout to Moores Track/ Fox Hill intersection (4.5 kms)**

**Water stash**

#### ***Description:***

Beginning with a climb directly above Deep View Lookout the trail joins the Rocky Hill Track for several kilometers before turning left at Moores Track. At the end of a downhill section the track comes to an intersection where the choice is to continue downhill into the suburb of Rostrevor or turn right to Fox Dam.

#### ***Comment:***

Immediately (!) from Deep View Lookout the trail heads straight up the hill. Signs are a bit confusing from the lookout – if in doubt head upwards! After a steady climb around the western hill face, the trail comes on to the Rocky Hill Track, a wide fire access road which climbs in a series of steps (+150m). This section of the trail can be hard running along a sandy firebreak beside electricity towers. At the Moores Rd intersection turn left for a steep down hill and first glimpses of Black Hill.

### **Stage Twelve: Moores Track/ Fox Hill intersection to Montacute Rd, Quarry track (4 kms)**

**Support Stop 9**

#### ***Description:***

Heading past the Fox Dam the trail winds across the hills before finally descending to Montacute Rd. The trail then descends for a kilometer or two to the commencement of the Quarry Track

#### ***Comment:***

This part of the trail will be familiar with those who have run the infamous Bun Run, an event held on Good Friday for the past 25 years (though it is run in the opposite direction!). One gradual uphill (+50m) then nice downhill section (-150m) to the last stopover. Koalas often sighted in this area.

### **Stage Thirteen: Montacute Rd, Quarry Track to Gorge Rd, Athelstone (5 kms)**

#### ***Description:***

The trail heads back eastwards along the quarry line before climbing steeply up Black Hill. Near the summit the trail joins the Black Hill Track where it flattens out. Continuing on, the trail turns north-east onto the Sugarloaves Trail before a sharp right hand turn down the Ambers Ruins track on the way to Gorge Rd.

#### ***Comment:***

Hell of a way to finish with such a steep climb (+300m). Veer right at the top of the Quarry Track and proceed along undulating but still rising trail. Take a left hand turn at the water tanks at the top of Black Hill and begin gradual descent. Just after the intersection with Ghost Tree Gully Track on your left, you come to a short rise (the last up hill!). At the top of this rise take the left hand trail down the Three Sugarloaves Track. About 100m down this trail look out for the right hand turn down the Sugarloaves Trail. This section of the course will test tired legs as the trail is narrow and quite rocky, and involves extra care as you pass the frozen waterfall immediately to your right. A lovely way to finish for those who still have any knees with a final steep descent (-375m) to the lowest point of the trail and home!

**NOTE:** Course notes and descriptions are taken from the Department for Environment and Heritage publication 'Yurrebilla Trail – A Hiker's Guide', an 84 page pocket-sized guidebook available to purchase for \$9.95. Included with this publication is a detailed bushwalking map (available separately for \$3.95). See <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/parks/sanpr/yurrebilla/yurebilla.html> for more details and where to purchase.

Comments prepared by Terry Cleary in preparation for the inaugural Yurrebilla run in 2007.