



Danggali Conservation Park

Overview – this Park provides visitors with opportunities to enjoy remote area camping, interesting drives, bushwalking, bird watching, and the chance to explore relics of pastoral history. It lies approximately 90 km north of Renmark, in the northern half of the Murray Basin, and adjacent to the New South Wales Border. It is known for its vastness and wilderness appeal and is dominated by mallee scrubland. In 1977, Danggali Conservation Park was classified as Australia's first Biosphere Reserve under UNESCO's 'Man and the Biosphere program'. Danggali borders several other parks – south is the Chowilla Regional Reserve, to the south east (over the Border) is Tarawi Nature Reserve, and due east lies the Australian Wildlife Conservancy property, Scotia Park – refer to

<http://www.australianwildlife.org/scotia.asp?Type=Landscape>

Aboriginal occupation – the local Tribe (the Dhanggagali) apparently relied mainly on mallee roots for much of their water supply, and would therefore have been more nomadic than tribes based on permanent water sources (such as the Murray). One local aboriginal site is Nanya's wurley, where Nanya and his wives lived many years ago. – two web site references for more Aboriginal information are –

- <http://www.samuseum.sa.gov.au/tindale/HDMS/tindaletribes/danggali.htm>
- http://www.ausanthrop.net/resources/ausanthrop_db/detail.php?id_search=72

4WDing and other activities – There are various roads through the Park, one route being Interpretation Drive, a 100km drive, which can be undertaken in a conventional vehicle. Walking through parts of the park is also recommended, such as on the Target Mark Trail and Nanya's Pad – also see <http://www.southernaustraliantrails.com/trails.asp?id=14114>. Ideally, set up a standing camp, and undertake all of these leisure activities, and include photography and bird watching.

Bird life – one of the Park's biggest drawcards is its abundant birdlife, ranging from tiny fairy-wrens up to eagles and emus – web reference <http://users.wired.net.au/susan/sthaust.htm> gives some idea of the birds which might be seen in the area.

Access – the National Parks website will provide all necessary information regarding camping fees and charges - <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/cgi-bin/parks.pl?DanggaliCP> - for more information, contact Murraylands Regional Office (08) 85952111.

Further information – there is much other material available on the Internet about Danggali. Some useful sites might be –

- <http://www.chowilla.com.au/history.html>
- http://www.riverland.info/product.asp?product_id=9002898
- <http://www.deh.gov.au/biodiversity/threatened/action/bats/16.html>
- <http://www.wanderers4wd.asn.au/2003/danggali1.shtml>

YOU can help – become an educated 4WD driver, engage 4WD on the tracks, lower tyre pressures, and drive with the environment and other users in mind.

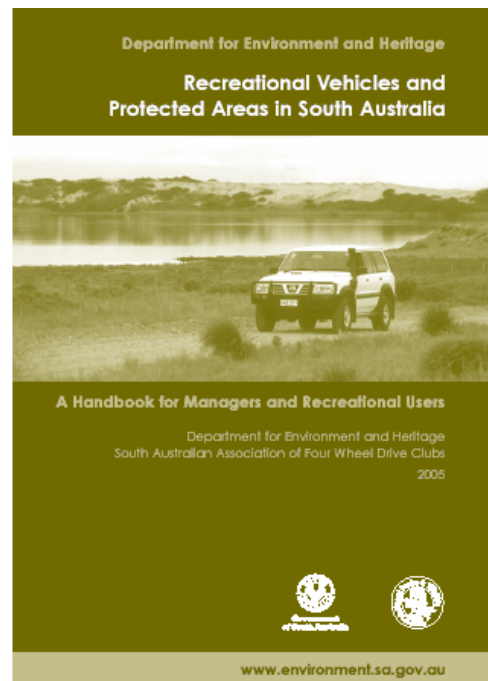
In the end, it is all up to us, the users, whether tracks in the DCP will remain open.

Warning: most States now have large fines for driving on closed tracks.

The South Australian unsealed Outback road network is one of the State's greatest assets. They can be dusty when dry, or prone to flood damage after rain. The roads are often closed after rain to prevent further damage and to ensure the safety of road users. Severe penalties apply for motorists travelling on closed roads.

Road Conditions Hotline – 1300 361 033.

NB - Just because a track is shown on a map does NOT mean the public can access that track - tracks shown on the RAA Map No 13 "Outback" are open to the public (latest edition is November 2002).



The informative and beautifully illustrated booklet - "Recreational Vehicles and Protected Areas in South Australia", a handbook for Managers and Recreational Users - has now been released by the SA Department for Environment and Heritage.

The booklet will be sent to all clubs, and an electronic copy will be made available on the SAAFWDCC website – it comes as a 840Kb PDF file

NGARKAT TRACKS COMMITTEE UPDATE

The next Interclub Working Bee will be held in May 2005. Your Club will be sent full details in due course – please support this very worthwhile activity, and help keep some parks tracks open.

TRACK CLOSURE

In accordance with the Ngarkat Conservation Park Management Plan, the Border Track will be closed from 1 November until 31 March each year for public safety.



ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE
OF AUSTRALIA

Emergency runways

Responding to a motor vehicle accident 80km west of Nullarbor, the RFDS was called to retrieve the patients involved, who had initially been assisted by staff from the Yalata Clinic. Pilot Scott Denton, based in Port Augusta, was excited to be the first to land on a pre-prepared section of the Eyre Highway in December 2003.

The pre-prepared sections of highway have an interesting history. The program started over 8 years ago, with our own Pilot Ray Mundy instrumental in the process of putting together a proposal to present to the State Government. After much research, discussion and liaison with a number of interested parties, the decision was made to propose four strips - two each on the Eyre Highway and Stuart Highway. The purpose of these strips was to allow better access to these remote areas for use in a major emergency where multiple casualties may have occurred.

The State Government committed to the building of four strips as funding permits. At this time two have been built - one on each Highway. The strips are a straight section of highway widened to allow an aircraft to land safely, with a suitable area at one end for up to three aircraft to taxi in and load/unload patients. The police and ambulance service is called if the strip is to be used to close the road and, with portable lighting, can even be used at night. (from Airdoctor, the RFDS newsletter, Issue 227.)

Fire Regulations



When is the 'Fire Danger Season'?

The Fire Danger Season is a period from mid Spring to late Autumn when fire restrictions apply. South Australia has 15 fire ban districts and the Fire Danger Season for each district differs slightly.

What is a 'Total Fire Ban Day'?

Total Fire Ban Days may be declared on days when extreme weather conditions (high temperature, high wind and low humidity) could cause fires to become uncontrollable. On a Total Fire Ban Day severe fire restrictions apply.

A ban may be declared in one or more fire ban districts and may even be declared across the whole State. Bans apply for 24 hours from midnight to midnight the following day. They are broadcast on television and radio from 6:00pm the day before.

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM CLUBS - If your club wishes to contribute in any way to this newsletter, please forward details to The Editor, NRAU Newsletter, PO Box 178, ENFIELD PLAZA 5085, or via email to bigdaddy@picknowl.com.au



IMPORTANT INFORMATION IMPORTANT INFORMATION

We Stand To Lose Access To Our 4WD Areas

The Wattle Rangers 4WD & Mt.Gambier 4WD club are both based in the South East of South Australia. We are fortunate enough to have access to the Canunda National Park, Beachport Conservation Park, Little Dip Conservation Park & Nora Criena, Buggy Park & other private access land within our club area.

In recent times there has been an increase in the amount of damage to the above areas as a result of both vehicles & motor bikes accessing areas of the parks beyond the designated tracks.

It is a privilege to access this coastal resource & at the present rate of damage it is possible that access may be denied.

There is one simple rule –

STAY ON THE DESIGNATED TRACKS & FORESHORE ZONES.

If you do not choose to follow this simple rule there is a very real risk you will not be able to access this resource in the near future.

Copies of the park rules are available from local tourist centres & 4WD club representatives using the following contact numbers –

Police	(08) 87358009
Department Of Environment & Heritage	(08) 87356053
Wattle Rangers 4WD Club Inc	(08) 87358350
Mt.Gambier & District 4WD Club Inc	(08) 87254097

Signed

Wattle Rangers 4WD Club Inc
Mt.Gambier & District 4WD Club Inc





South Australian Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs Inc
Ngarkat Conservation Park Advisory Committee (NCPAC)
(A Sub-Committee of the NRAU)

NGARKAT NGEWS

Vol 1, No 4

The Border Track

October 2005

The SA October long weekend is traditionally when the FWDSA Ngarkat Track Maintenance Committee (NTMC) conducts one of the two working bees each year at Ngarkat Conservation Park.

This year, partly as a result of the survey in early September, and to initiate the plan being developed by FWDSA and DEH for the future management of the Border Track, two sites; one on the one-way section and the other on the two-way section, were worked on.

Work on the former site consisted of re-instating a closed section of the track and closing a diversion track. The latter was repair of a badly rutted section in a clay swale, which, by the way, was a six feet deep bog hole back in 2003 that was subsequently filled. A diversion track, also badly rutted was closed with permapipe posts and dead bush.

A total of 45 men, women and a few children in 22 vehicles from five clubs made up the workforce. The base camp was at Pine Hut Soak near the north end of the Park.

The photo below shows what a fine body of troops they were (not all present)!

On the Sunday, Joe Stelmann led the team on a tour of the Border Track in the Park and down to Red Bluff in Victoria. It gave those who have been on the track an update and those who had not been on the track before a good look at it. All saw first hand the state of the track and gained an insight into the management strategy.

The NTMC is planning for the first working bee in 2006, which is likely to be on more sections on the Border Track designated from the surveys/plan. Adelaide Cup long weekend is the usual time, but, because it will be in March 2006, a change from that weekend for the working bee will be necessary, probably a weekend early in May. Clubs will be notified.



For more information or to register intention to take part in further Border Track surveys, contact:
John Caldecott, Chairman NCPAC. (08)83966817 <johncald@chariot.net.au>

Keeping on the Right Track