



THE HISTORY AND SCENIC TRAIL OF WALK MY WAY

History

The Pioneer Women's Trail honours the early European refugees who worked the land in and around Hahndorf, delivering fresh produce to Adelaide on foot by walking a 35 km trail.

These immigrants arrived on the ship 'Zebra' in 1839 and its sympathetic captain, Dirk Meinertz Hahn, helped fifty-four Lutheran refugee families establish farms in the picturesque Onkaparinga River Valley near Mount Barker.

Within weeks the women and girls of the community commenced walking through the night on a 35 km rough bush track to Adelaide, carrying baskets of vegetables and dairy products on their backs or on yokes across their shoulders, arriving in time for the morning markets.

"The carrying of vegetables and dairy produce to Adelaide in those days across the hills, along a hard and rugged track, was not only a test of strength and endurance but also of courage and bravery . . . but these matrons and maidens seemed to know no fear"
The Observer, 11 February 1928

At a stream in the foothills near Beaumont the women rested briefly before walking on to Adelaide to sell their wares. On the homeward journey they carried necessities such as sugar, tea and tobacco for the menfolk, and two bricks each for building the new church in Hahndorf. At a time when most foodstuffs had to be imported into South Australia, this manner of provisioning Adelaide continued until the late 1850s.

While we walk in the footsteps of these early refugees, we also reflect on the journey of today's refugees seeking safety. At the same time, you raise money to help refugee children go to school.

Along the Trail - Hahndorf to Beaumont

The modern trail has been developed between Verdun and Beaumont and traverses the Mt Lofty Ranges, passing through the townships of Bridgewater, Stirling and Crafers. At approximately 26km long, the Pioneer Women's Trail mainly follows country roads, laneways and bush tracks through a delightful section of the Adelaide Hills with historic homes, deciduous trees and native bushland.

From Hahndorf the road crosses the Onkaparinga River then passes under the freeway where the official trail begins. It climbs Silver Road, a pleasant country road and then onto the road verge on the south side of Mt Barker Road. It goes along some quiet roads to Cox Creek, which is followed to Bridgewater Oval. This section is rough in places. It then goes under the bridge to the Lions Park and past the historic Old Bridgewater Mill. The 19km walk starts here.

Behind the Mill the trail goes under the railway and about one kilometre later passes through a tunnel under the freeway. It then winds through Mount George Conservation Park and across Mt Lofty Golf Course to the Old Carey Gully Road, where it turns left. The road crosses over the South Eastern Freeway bridge to Old Mt Barker Road, then follows local streets to Pomona Road which leads to the centre of Stirling township.

Steamroller Park in Stirling is ideal for a rest, and is the start of the 12 km walk. The trail continues to Crafers along a laneway at the north-western corner of Mt Barker Road and Avenue Road. The freeway is crossed via a footbridge only about 100 meters from the Crafers Interchange, where the trail joins a bikeway to Shurdington Road. In Cleland Conservation Park the route follows the Beela and Mireen Tracks, where there is one short, steep section, and exits at the start of the Bullock Track. The 6km walk starts here (Eagle on the Hill).

The Bullock Track leads to Mt Osmond Recreation Park. After the Mt Osmond Golf Course the trail joins a walking track contouring down the hills face with good views of Adelaide and surrounding suburbs, to Brock Reserve on Dashwood Road.

