

Flora

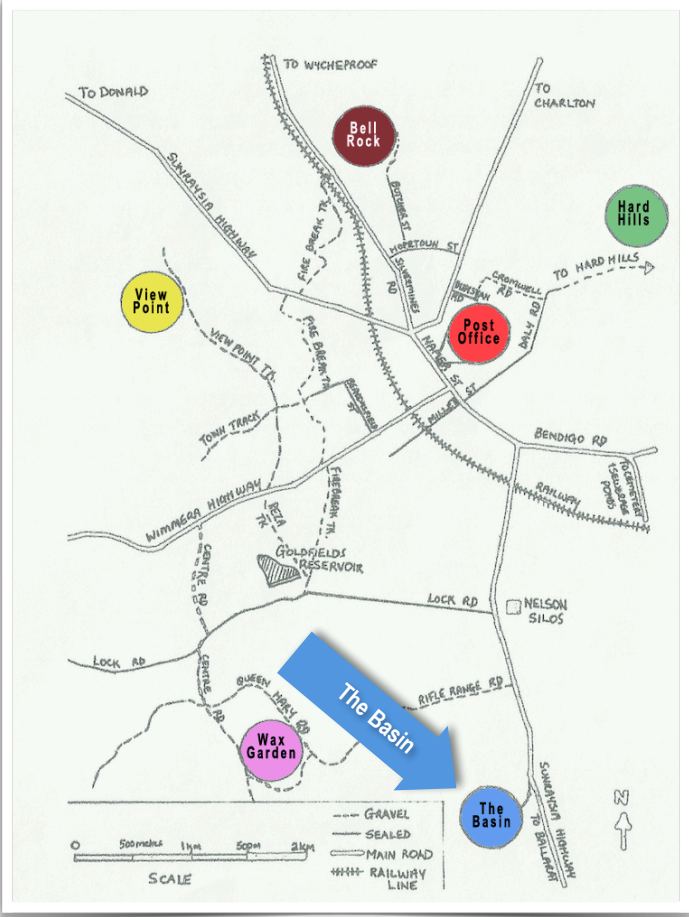
St AFNC holds a complete list of all plants identified to date-around 90 species in the area. The Basin flora includes the following species which can also be found just west in the Wax Garden.

<i>Acacia acinacea</i>	Gold-dust Wattle
<i>Acacia genistifolia</i>	Spreading Wattle
<i>Acacia paradoxa</i>	Hedge Wattle
<i>Acacia pycnantha</i>	Golden Wattle
<i>Astroloma humifusum</i>	Cranberry Heath
<i>Brachyloma daphnoides</i>	Daphne Heath
<i>Bursaria spinosa</i> var. <i>lasiophylla</i>	Sweet Bursaria
<i>Calytrix tetragona</i>	Common Fringe-myrtle
<i>Daviesia ulicifolia</i> ssp <i>ulicifolia</i>	Gorse Bitter-pea Spiny form
<i>Daviesia ulicifolia</i> ssp <i>ruscifolia</i>	Gorse Bitter-pea Broad leaf form
<i>Daviesia leptophylla</i>	Narrow-leaf Bitter-pea
<i>Dianella admixta</i>	Black-anther Flax-lily
<i>Eucalyptus goniocalyx</i>	Long-leaf Box or Bundy
<i>Eucalyptus leucoxylon</i> ssp. <i>pruinosa</i>	Yellow Gum
<i>Eucalyptus macrorhyncha</i>	Red Stringybark
<i>Eucalyptus microcarpa</i>	Grey Box
<i>Eucalyptus polyanthemus</i>	Yellow Box
<i>Eucalyptus tricarpa</i>	Red Ironbark
<i>Grevillea alpina</i>	Cat's Claw Grevillea
<i>Grevillea dryophylla</i>	Goldfields Grevillea
<i>Hibbertia exutiaces</i>	Prickly Guinea-flower
<i>Leptospermum myrsinoides</i>	Heath Tea-tree
<i>Lissanthe strigosa</i>	Peach Heath
<i>Lomandra multiflora</i>	Many-flowered Mat-rush
<i>Ozothamnus obcordatus</i>	Grey Everlasting
<i>Tetratheca ciliata</i>	Pink Bells
<i>Xanthoparmelia flaviscentireagens</i>	Lichen



Cat's Claw Grevillea *Grevillea alpina*

The Grand Circle Tour



The Basin is located approximately 3.7 km south from the township of St Arnaud, along the Sunraysia Highway. Nature tracks include **The Basin Walk** 1km, **Pipe Gully Walk** 2kms and **Moolerr Nature Drive** app 6kms

St AFNC acknowledges the traditional owners of the land - the Dja Dja Wurrung people, past and present.

St Arnaud Field Nats thank you for taking only photographs and leaving only footprints.

Please visit our web site for more information on the St Arnaud Field Nats :
www.starnaudfieldnats.org.au
or email at:
starnaudfieldnats@gmail.com



The Basin
St Arnaud State Forest



Nature walks through State forest

sharing our natural heritage

The Grand Circle Tour is a project of
St Arnaud Field Naturalist Club Inc.
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Indigenous Heritage

All the country visible from the Basin is part of Dja Dja Wurrung Country.

Traces of our first people's lives over tens of thousands of years can still be seen in the area despite the upheavals of European usage.

Today, our Dja Dja Wurrung Traditional Owners still care for this land and are active in its restoration and protection to further traditional commitments to caring for Country and to use it in accordance with traditional lore.

History

The St Arnaud Range provided early Victorian settlers with a rich supply of resources including timber products, gold and silver, eucalyptus oil and grazing opportunities.

St Arnaud was one Victoria's first towns to have a town water supply - the supply was gravity fed from Teddington Reservoir.

The pipeline is a tribute to the initiative of the early settlers to the area. The original water supply scheme had a capacity of 170 million gallons, which was held in the reservoir built at Teddington during 1898 -99 by the St Arnaud Waterworks Trust.

Water was conveyed from Teddington to the Black Range Reservoir (now known as "The Basin") through 22.5 kilometres of 10 inch (250 mm) diameter stave steel bound pipeline.

Imagine digging a 22.5 km trench through these hard, stoney soils with nothing more than basic tools and a creative mind!

The pipeline itself was quite a unique design, with lengths of tongued Oregon wood wrapped with wire and asphalt over the top. Volunteer community crews carried out pipe repairs including hammering wooden spikes into the pipe to seal leaks.



Relict wooden stave pipe

Over the years, sections of the pipeline were replaced with wrapped metal pipes with lead joints as well as cement pipes.

The township faced water restrictions in 1962 and 1967, and the St. Arnaud Waterworks Trust continued to press the State Rivers and Water Supply Commision for money to renew the pipeline from Teddington. Due to the cost of renewing the pipeline, the Water Trust decided that it was too expensive "for the amount of water it would get from Teddington", and after this date there was no further mention of the renewal of the pipeline.

The capacity of "The Basin",around 3.5 million gallons, was subject to evaporation problems and finally abandoned in 1967 as a towns water supply, now only supplying local piggeries. It remains an emergency water supply for the town.

Evidence of old pipelines can be seen on the walking tracks.

Ecology

Underlying rocks in the St Arnaud Range are extremely ancient and were laid down some 550 million years ago as part of a deep marine sediment. Natural weathering and later incursions by ancient seas have resulted in the worn hills and poor soils.

The shallow stony soils around 'The Basin' support Box- Ironbark and Heathy Dry Forest vegetation, with a diverse shrub understorey and ground layer of native grasses, orchids and lilies.

Typical of the shrubs are Daphne Heath (Brachyloma daphnoides), Gorse Bitter- pea (Daviesia ulicifolia) more commonly known as Egg and Bacon, Heath tea-tree (Leptospermum myrsinoides), Spiky Guinea-flower (Hibbertia exutiaces) and the rare Goldfields Grevillea (Grevillea dryophylla).



Pink Bells-Tetradlea ciliata

Also notable during early spring is the Cypress Daisy Bush (Olearia teretifolia) with its eyecatching spires of white flowers.

The range of eucalypt species that typically occur in the Box-Ironbark Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC) are: Red Ironbark (E.tricarpa), Red Box (E.polyanthemos), Red Stringybark (E.macrorhyncha), Yellow Gum (E.leucoxyton) and Grey Box (E.microcarpa). The creekline at the south end of Pipe Track hosts ancient River Red Gums (E.camaldulensis) and Yellow Box (E.meliiodora).

The floral diversity attracts a number of rare birds, including the Swift Parrot (Lathamus discolor), which is an autumn/winter migrant from Tasmania and one of Australia's most endangered birds. The Painted Honeyeater (Grantiella picta), is normally found in more northerly climates but has also been found to frequent these forests.

The River Red Gums and Yellow Box trees provide habitat for the biggest and most mysterious of our owls - the Powerful Owl (Ninox strenua), which is often seen roosting with the remains of prey clutched in its sharp talons.



Powerful Owl

Mammals and Reptiles

Reptiles in the local area are represented by the fierce- looking but harmless Shingle-back Lizard (Trachydosaurus rugosus), the Tree Goanna (Varanus varius) and many species from the Skink family.

Less welcome but still a necessary part of the ecology is the Eastern Brown Snake (Pseudonaja textilis). Reptiles are seen more often in the warmer months and care should always be exercised when walking through bushy and grassy areas.

The Black or Swamp Wallaby (Wallabia bicolor) and the Echidna or Spiny Ant-eater (Tachyglossus aculeatus) are solitary animals that may be seen at any time of the year in the bush around 'The Basin'. Other mammals you may see at night include gliders and possums as well as small bats. Frogs are also found around 'The Basin'.

The plants and animals of the Box-Ironbark region are well adapted to their sometimes harsh environment, which includes exposure to temperature extremes, periods of water shortage and fire.

The Eastern Brown Snake (*Pseudonaja textilis*) and Tree Goanna (*Varanus varius*) are also about and care should be exercised when walking through the Reserve and elsewhere in the bush.



Tree Goanna

Birds

Many species are present with some 47 recorded for the Bird Atlas over the last decade including a number of rare and threatened woodland species.

Following is a list of species seen in the Reserve since 2002.

Species marked * are either listed under EPBC Act or FFG Act as threatened, endangered or rare.

Australian Magpie	Musk Lorieet
Black-chinned Honeyeater *	Peaceful Dove
Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike	Red Wattlebird
Brown Treecreeper *	Red-capped Robin *
Brown-headed Honeyeater	Restless Flycatcher
Common Bronzewing	Rufous Whistler
Crested Bellbird *	Southern Boobook
Crested Shrike-tit *	Speckled Warbler *
Crimson Rosella	Spotted Nightjar
Dusky Woodswallow *	Spotted Pardalote
Eastern Rosella	Striated Pardalote
Fuscou Honeyeater *	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
Galah	Superb Fairy-wren
Golden Whistler	Swift Parrot *
Grey Currawong	Varied Sittella *
Grey Fantail	Weebill
Grey Shrike-thrush	White-breasted Woodswallow
Little Lorieet	White-browed Woodswallow
Little Raven	White-eared Honeyeater
Masked Woodswallow	White-naped Honeyeater
	White-winged Chough
	Willie Wagtail
	Yellow Thornbill
	Yellow-faced Honeyeater
	Yellow-rumped Thornbill
	Yellow-tufted Honeyeater

Black -faced Cookoo-Shrike