Keep an eye open for wildlife — Fantails, wrens, Grey Kangaroos and a variety of lizards. Most trees were cleared many years ago and only their stumps remain.

3.6 km At the top of the hill is a firewatch tower and a walkers' **Checkpoint W4** is visible**.** The hilltop is a good place to rest and identify some landmarks. Use the compass directions on the post top plate (topogram) by the tower, to find landmarks.

For geologists, a walk down the road to Sailor's Gully, **W6** passes a paddock where large boulders of Mount Crawford Granite Gneiss are exposed. It was intruded as a sheet of granite about 800 mya, when the 1600 myo basement was stretched during the earliest rifting which formed the Adelaide Superbasin (Geosyncline).

To continue the circuit to **W1** leave the vehicle track and pick out a solitary tree to the right of a faint track at about **3.4 km.** Follow the footpath across the grass past 5 or 6 marker posts, noting the Tree Violet amongst the boulders.

A stile takes you back into the scrub. Immediately over the fence you are back into Messmate Stringybark, Tufted Grass-trees, Pink Gum and Kangaroo Thorn. Guinea Flowers and Bush Peas also provide colour. *You will encounter a netting fence. Where the netting ends, turn right on to the fire track.*

2.6 km Under the Pink Gums and Long-leaved Box there is a very wide diversity of heath shrubs with colourful flowers, most of which you will already have seen

2.0 km Checkpoint W7 The trail leaves the fire track and goes gradually downhill passing, as on the way up, dense stands of Tufted Grass-tree and Tea-tree where water seeps from buried rock crevices.

1.8 km Rock platforms give good vantage points for views, which include the South Para Reservoir.

1.2 km A rock outcrop of micaceous sandstone two corners down from this marker has interesting weathering sculpture. Good displays of Fringe Myrtle in October.

1.0 km Rejoin the original track at **Checkpoint W2** and return to Watts Gully Road Trailhead.

Pale Handflower
Scaevola albida

Leafless Bitter-pea (spiky)
Daviesia brevifolia

Rosette Sundew
Drosera whittakeri

Running postman
Kennedia prostrata

Common Flat-pea
Platylobium obtusangulum

Downy Mintbush
Prostanthera behriana

Walk is in a Conservation Park and part of Mt Crawford Forest. It is presented here by the Walking Trails Support Group http://wtsg.au

Notes are based on the Royal Geographical Society of South Australia's guidebook Exploring the Barossa *available from Tanunda Visitor Information Centre.*

MUCH more info available from the *Barossa Country Walks* App, **free** from **App Store** or **Google Play**

Barossa Country Walks

Warren Tower

Cavernous weathering in complex folded sediments

A walk in Warren Conservation Park and neighbouring Forestry SA land which takes you across the headwaters of a creek that drains into the South Para Reservoir. The rich diversity of plants in the little disturbed Messmate Stringybark and Long-leaved Box woodland is best appreciated in late winter and spring when many shrubs and herbs are flowering at their best.*

*Open country in part of Mount Crawford Forest near a fire watch tower provides extended views. The walk returns through the Park via **W7.***

Keep an eye open for signs of wildlife — Grey Kangaroos, Echidna diggings, and lizards.

Look at the rocks too, which are rich in sparkling mica. They were formed from sediments which have been heated and compressed by movements in the earth's crust to form rocks which vary according to the amount of pressure and circulation of hot fluids during folding. They grade over a spectrum and some of the variety is pointed out on the walk. White quartz veins intruded as hot fluid are a common feature.

* John Warren was a member of the Legislative Council for 24 years and an original Councillor (1904) of the District Council of Mount Crawford. His name has been applied to several local features including Warren Conservation Park.

Distance and Time: 9 km circuit, including a linear section; allow 4 - 4½ hours. Distances are marked every 0.2 km decreasing as you return to the Trialhead. Some sections of exposed rock (not steep).

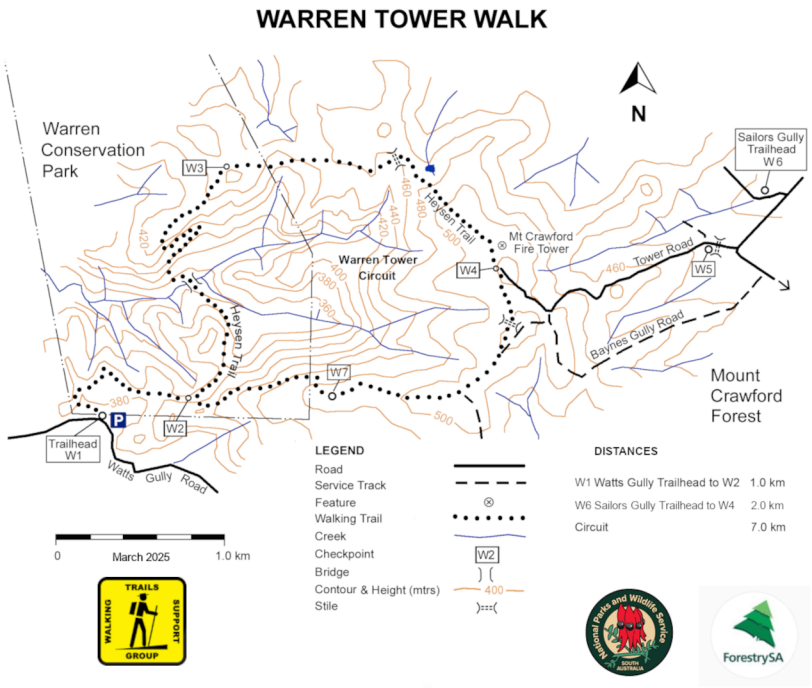
Access: On the Williamstown – Kersbrook road turn off at Watts Gully road which is 7.0 km from Kersbrook and 7.0 km from Williamstown. Warren Conservation Park is 2.7 km along this road. There is a small roadside carpark and pedestrian entrance.
Notes are written for a clockwise circuit.

For your safety:

- This is a walk in a natural area; beware of inherent hazards
- Walk with company, advise a reliable person of where you are going and when you expect to return
- Wear strong comfortable boots and take adequate food and clothing
- Take at least 1 litre of water per person, more if it is hot
- Protect yourself from the sun and carry a simple First Aid Kit

Trailhead and Checkpoint W1
In the first kilometre the boardwalk bridges a wet area. Walk up the foot track (north-west) through some partially cleared land (an old tank stand near the road suggests that this area has been part of a grazing property). Golden Wattles and Tufted Grass-trees and a few other shrubs have survived under the Long-leaved Box.

Kangaroo meadow



Kangaroos shelter here and graze the grassland and neighbouring pastures. Micaceous sandstones (Aldgate Sandstone) are found in this section of the walk. A patch of young Oyster Bay Pines recovering from fire appears just before…

8.0 km Checkpoint W2
Take the left hand route. These rough, dry hill slopes are coarse grained quartz-mica gneiss – see at **7.8 km** – which have undergone greater change than the sandstone just mentioned. They carry a great diversity of plants; this is mirrored by the numbers of birds. On these slopes you can expect to see Hakeas, Running Postman, Flame Heath, Guinea-flowers, Sundews, Downy Mintbush and a variety of orchids. Avoid long branches of Kangaroo Thorn - very thorny.

7.4 km Rock outcrops provide moist clefts for Downy Mintbush and large Tufted Grass-trees. Rock Ferns exploit thin soils and cracks in rock. Flakes of mica are quite clear in the rocks as are the bedding planes of the original sediment layers in this shiny mica-rich sandstone.

Birds to look out for in this scrub include Crescent Honeyeaters, White-throated Treecreepers, Bassian Thrush and Grey Currawongs.

Black-eyed Susan
Tetratheca pilosa

7.2 – 7.0 km Moisture-seeking plants grow alongside the creek and on the cooler slopes you are about to walk up, once you are over the bridge. They include Maiden Hair Fern, Common Buttercup, Flinders Ranges Bottlebrush and Oyster Bay Pine.
6.8 km Climbing up to 6.4 km the ground has an irregular lumpy surface with random boulders, rather than the more even slope with rock outcrops. This is possibly the result of an ancient land-slip which slumped to a rest just here.
6.2 km About 15 m further on is an outcrop of coarse-grained quartz-mica pegmatite, a reflection of high temperature and low pressure conditions during folding of the sediments of the Aldgate Sandstone. The slopes close by carry a grass-like plant, Mt Lofty Mat-rush, common just here but confined to South Australia and to this region.

Heath on top of the ridge includes Pink Gum and you reach some seats for a welcome break.
5.6 km Checkpoint W3 Continue down crossing the Park boundary at about 5.3 km entering a section of Mt Crawford Forest.
5.2 – 4.8 km There are still Stringybarks and Long-leaved Box, but Tufted Grass Trees and Kangaroo Thorn (very prickly) form dense patches. Some low heathland shrubs add colour– Flame Heath, Native Currant and Fringe Myrtle. A fire access track reaches a gate and stile and you turn right, following the fence.
4.2 km Before reaching this marker there is a gate and a dam; walk past the dam and continue up hill towards Long-leaved Box trees on a rocky outcrop.