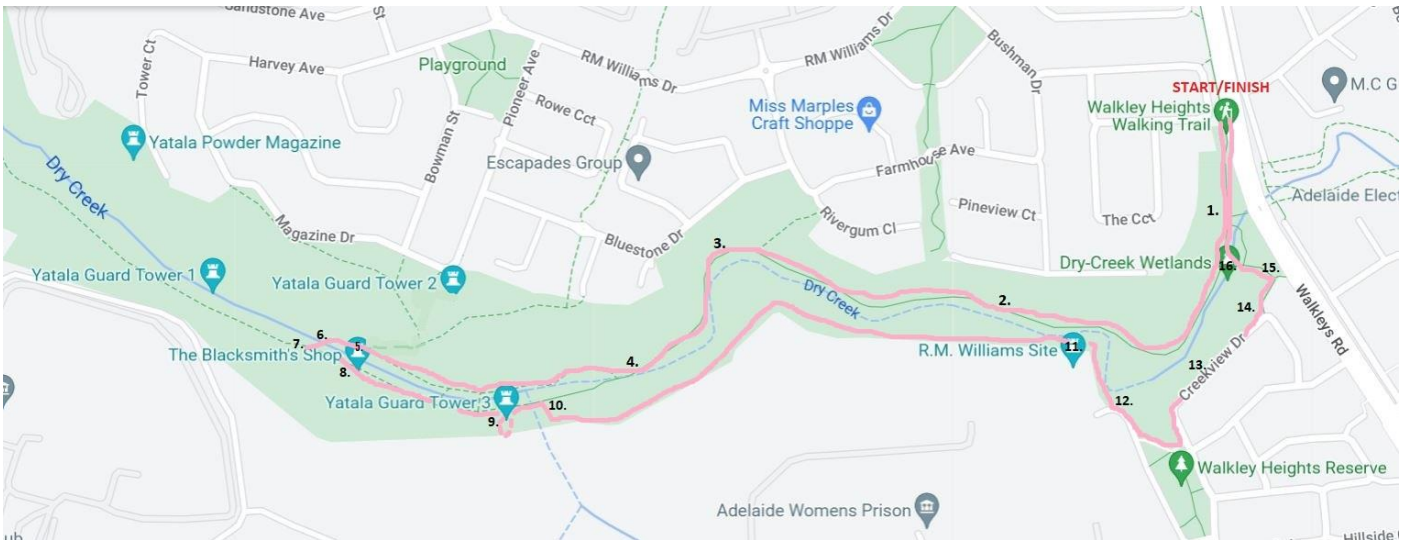


U3A Historic Walkleys Monday Stroll – directions and information (3.8km)



Park at Dry Creek Trail Car Park on the western side of Walkleys Rd (between Grand Junction Rd and Wright Rd) at the Walkleys Heights Walking Trail. If carpark is full drive around to park on streets above the carpark (Jackaroo Cres or Saddle Cres) and then take walkways down to the carpark.

Meet at the entry to Walkleys Heights Walking Trail

START

1. Go east out of the car park and follow the wide asphalt path around a gate for council vehicles only. Look to your left through **two tunnels under road *1**. Don't go under the road.
2. Continue walking on the asphalt path and keep the creek on your left
3. On the creek's bend (by the wooden barriers) there is a good view in both directions of the creek. Take time to think about the **geology of the area *2**. Soon on your right you will see the first **quarry dug out by prisoners *3**
4. Continue until you see on your right a path leading to a boardwalk. Just before entering the boardwalk look to your right to see another prisoner dug quarry. From the boardwalk across the creek note a well-constructed stone wall
5. Cross over the second green bridge (unless walking in summer then continue without taking the bridge to cross the creek at the ford) and then turn right. Note that bridges are built from rails. Here was the end of the **Prison quarries railway *4**
6. If going to the ford: Ignore the road going up on your right; it goes to Yatala Guard Tower. Cross the creek via a ford (unless it is flooded then turn back to take the bridge). When crossing the ford look back at the view of the creek. Turn left onto a path and be prepared for a stink which is always present here.
7. You will come to the **Blacksmith Shop *5**. There is an old plough behind the shop by the stone wall. Continue walking with the creek on your left
8. After passing two green bridges (don't cross any of them) look to your right, you will see a lookout (**Guard Tower 3**)*6 OPTIONAL: turn right before fence to go up to the

lookout. On your way up note a “watch out” nook in the wall under the lookout. From the top there is a view of Yatala Prison and the creek gorge. Retrace your steps down to the main path along the creek

9. After passing the fence (but before reaching another ford) take a right turn up a gravel road. The old road becomes more overgrown as you proceed and goes up and down along a low fence visible through bush on your right. When you pass an open field on left with a post in the middle spot a private climbing wall in a house across the creek. On the right you will see the back of the Adelaide Women's Prison. Keep to the most defined (least overgrown) road
10. Soon you will see the ruins of outbuildings of the **R.M.Williams property *7** (the stables) which will be visible on your right and immediately on the left below the road you will see the ruins of the pump house. After the road bends right the Stockman's Cottage will be on your right. Next to it there is a huge stone walled circle, possibly for rodeos.
11. At the dead end of the old road you will enter Parkway Ave, turn left and left again onto a path crossing Walkleys Heights Reserve.
12. From the reserve turn left into Creekview Drive. Follow this street and take note of a row of grand houses. At house nr 9 look at neatly woven bark on a palm tree trunk
13. Cross the street on the bend and take a path on your left
14. Just before seeing Walkleys Rd take a sharp turn left and down the asphalt path
15. Cross the bridge and then turn right. Walk straight back to the cars

FINISH

***1 Under road tunnels**



***2 Geology of the area - Shaping The Land**

In geological terms, up until early Tertiary times 60 to 50 million years ago, the catchment drained in a southerly direction, flowing into the Torrens River. In more recent times, during the Pleistocene and Holocene periods, which began about 1.8 million years ago, tilting and uplifting of land east of the Para Fault caused what is now Dry Creek, to drain in a westerly direction. Walkleys Heights is part of the uplifted Para Fault Block.

The trench carved out by erosion to form Dry Creek, has exposed layers of Precambrian sedimentary rock (sought after in the quarries for building stone). These rock layers were formed from sediments which were deposited in the Adelaide geosyncline, a process which began about 900 million years ago and continued until about 520 million years ago. This rock formation continues north and similar rock is exposed in spectacular features in the Flinders Ranges. The ramparts of Wilpena Pound are carved from late Precambrian rock.

The earths are underlain by variable calcareous slates and siltstone. Fragments of these greenish grey rocks can be seen exposed along the creek bed.

***3 Dry Creek stone quarries**

Yatala Labour Prison (previously Dry Creek Labour Prison) was finished in 1854. In July 1854, twenty-five convicts were transported from Adelaide to a 160-acre reserve at Dry Creek, where they were to begin quarrying stone for use in the construction of buildings and roads.

Production from the quarries included high grade quartzite for building, road metal and a clay slate, which was used for production in a cement factory. Cross-jointing of the quartzite allowed rectangular blocks to be produced as 'builders'. These were mainly used to form the lower courses for walls, between the foundations and the brick superstructure.

***4 Prison quarries railway**

A branch from the Gawler railway line to the prison quarries was completed in the late 1850s. The track entered from the west and extended along the southern bank of Dry Creek for several hundred metres. In 1861, two turntables were constructed towards the end of the track. Cart tracks branched out from the line and spanned Dry Creek to reach the heart of the quarries. The line was used to transport stone to Port Adelaide.

***5 The Blacksmiths Shop**

The Blacksmith's Shop was constructed in 1854 by prisoners using stone from the nearby quarries. For many years, the trades of boot making, tailoring, tin smithing, blacksmithing, carpentry and canvas work existed at the Yatala Labour Prison.



***6 Guard Tower 3**

The prisoners, many of them in chains, worked in the quarries for eight hours a day, in well-guarded gangs. As part of their daily duties, prisoners were required to break up a cubic yard of road metal to a 2 inch gauge. The quarries were worked by hand, with holes bored by hammer and drill, and then blasted. Large stones were broken with spalling hammers. From that time on, the reserve was known as Yatala Labour Prison. The prison quarries continued to be worked until the late 1960s.

***7 R.M.Williams Site**

The 55 hectares of land adjacent to the prison was purchased by R.M.Williams in July 1951. An impressive R.M.Williams homestead was built using stone from a quarry on Dry Creek, but after the land use changed in the late 1980's by correctional services, the homestead was demolished. It was thought the homestead may be used as a hiding place by prison escapees.



A small cottage was built as the Stockmen's Quarters; this along with the stable and ruins of the pump house next to the creek still remain. Rodeos were held on the property and thousands of visitors gathered on the terraces, on the southern side of Dry Creek to enjoy the spectacle.