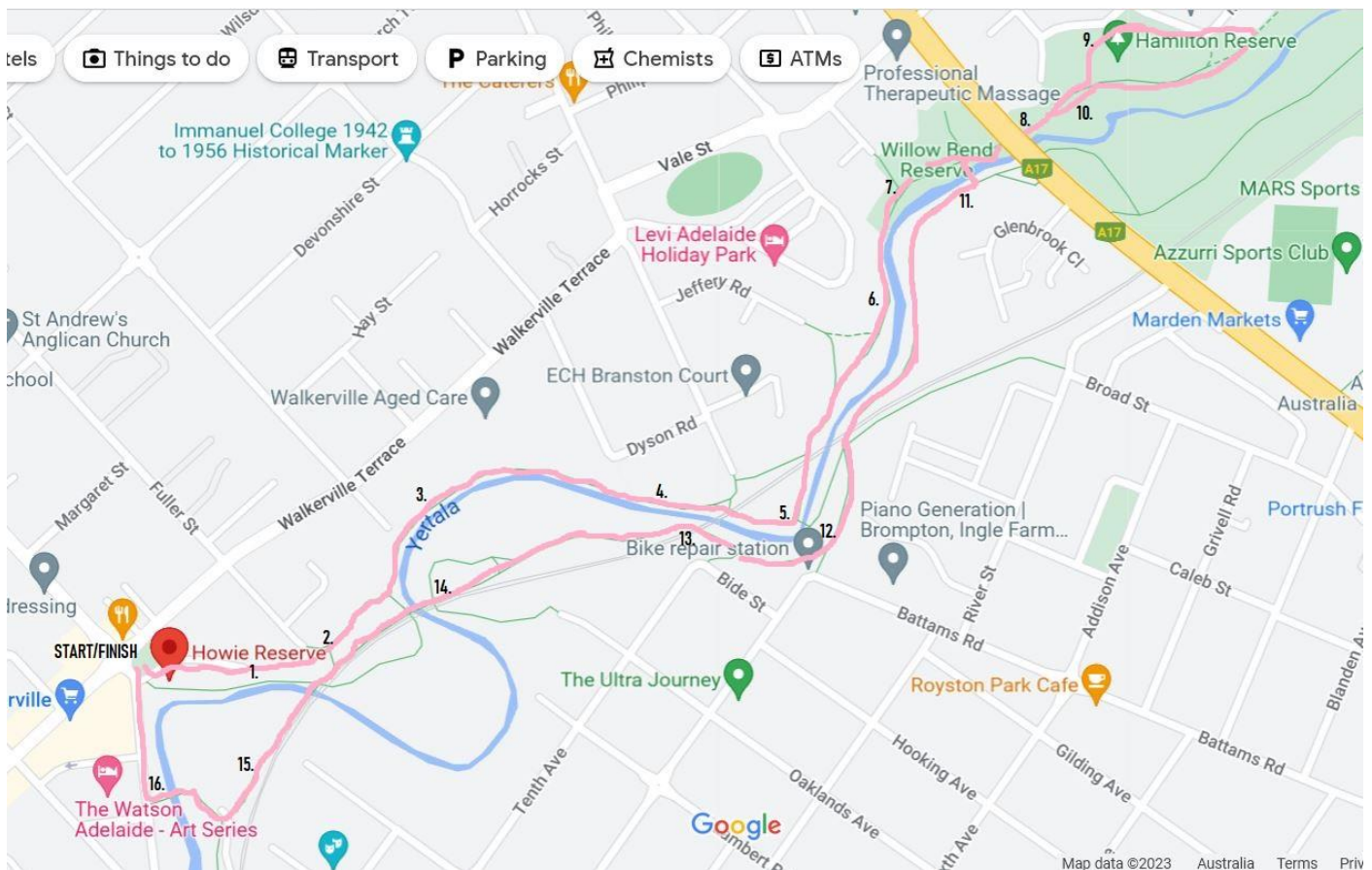


## U3A Howie Reserve Monday Stroll – directions and information

(3.8km)



Park along Howie Reserve in Victoria Street, Walkerville

Meet at Mary Harris '**Bundilla**' Reserve \*1 (between Victoria Street and Walkerville Tce)

### START

1. Go east along Victoria Street to the end of the street. Spot a **statue in Howie Reserve**
- \*2 Take a path between house number 6 on your left and pepper trees on your right
2. When the residential fences end continue straight ignoring paths on your left and right. The O-Bahn tracks will be a short distance on your right
3. The path will follow the river from here. This area used to have private properties abutting the river until the government purchased the land along the river. Look carefully to your left and spot old staircases which residents used to get down to the water's edge. Along the way you will also see fruit trees, remnants of residential gardens. First you will see Fig trees and later a Mulberry tree. The river here has **Gabion reinforcements** \*3 on your right
4. Walk along the new river boardwalk, some may remember when it was a rickety wooden boardwalk. Here you will see tall and smooth Citrus gums, smell the citrus in the air and rub the gum's trunk
5. Keep right to go under the O-Bahn. Ignore the bridge on right. Go under the O-Bahn again. Keep right at the fork in the path
6. On your left you will see the wooden cabins of **Levi Holiday Park** \*4

7. Soon after the holiday park you will arrive at the **Willow Bend Reserve \*5**. Here you will find a public toilet and a “forgotten” Wildflower Walk.
8. Go under the **Ascot Ave bridge \*6**. On your left you will see painted poles created by primary school students.
9. Enter **Hamilton Reserve \*7**, wander around the reserve to find clues in the grass labyrinth, check out the new playground. There is a public toilet here.
10. When you finish exploring Hamilton Reserve go back the same way under the Ascot Ave Bridge
11. Just before you re-enter the Willow Bend Reserve take the bridge on your left. There is a QR code just before the bridge that when scanned will take you to more information about the area. After you cross the bridge turn right and continue along the river
12. Go under the O-Bahn and at the fork in the path keep left. Soon you will see a **bike repair station \*8** on your left. It may or may not have all the tools as vandals cut them off.
13. Take a right turn at the next fork and follow the path down under the **O-Bahn \*9**
14. At the fork keep left to end up on the O-Bahn and above the river again. Stop to look on your right, the land there used to house **Conrad’s Slaughter House \*10**
15. Walk along the empty **old carpark \*11**
16. Cross over bridge above the Torrens and turn right to walk back to the cars along Victoria St.

FINISH

## Annotations

### \*1 Mary Harris 'Bundilla' Reserve



*The plaque (located in Howie Reserve) commemorates artist Mary P. Harris.*

Mary Packer Harris D.A. (Edin.) (1891 -1978) was a Scottish artist and art teacher with a considerable career in South Australia. Mary was born in Yorkshire and educated in Scotland. In 1922 she accepted a position with the SA School of Arts and Crafts, where she taught for 30 years in a wide range of media: oil and watercolour, lino and woodblock printing, tapestry and embroidery.





Mary lived at "Bundilla", 116 Walkerville Terrace, Walkerville (current house on the spot pictured above is worth 1.26m). Mary filled the house with her own and her students' art, and with a lovingly tended native bird garden punctuated with sculptures by various artists. Her bequest of this home to the Town of Walkerville was declined, but the Council did accept the many works of art, including sculptures by her friend Ola Cohn.

## \*2 Statue in Howie Reserve

The statue of an Aboriginal was carved from Stawell stone by Mary Harris' nephew Quentin Harris. Although not installed until 1967, carving of the statue had commenced by April 1964. In relation to the concept for the statue, Quentin Harris had said about his sculpture:

*I saw an aboriginal whom I shall never forget. He was walking with a straight back and quiet dignity toward the camp and in his hand was a pitchi of water covered with fresh leaves. He reached the camp and put down his pitchi and the young children drank first. It is this man*

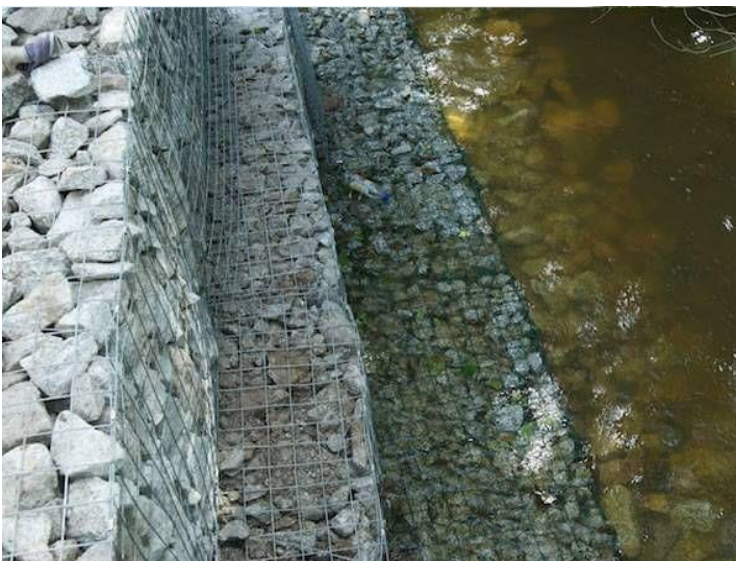


The reserve was named after Laurence Hotham Howie (1876 - 1973) was a teacher at the School of Art and Crafts, Adelaide, South Australia until around 1915 and during this time he produced artworks incorporating Australian flora, as well as a range of other subjects. The Art Gallery of South Australia holds one of his watercolours.



*The plaque commemorates Laurence Hotham Howie and the students he brought here to sketch and paint the River Torrens and surrounding countryside.*

### **\*3 Gabion reinforcements**



Gabion reinforcements along the river are a recent addition to stop the erosion of the banks. They are quite literally rock solid. Their outstanding durability makes them very cost-effective options for any retaining wall applications.

### **\*4 Levi Adelaide Holiday Park**

The park is home to Adelaide's earliest colonial residence, the heritage-listed Vale House. Levi purchased the Vale House which over the next 96 years became one of the centres of social activity of Adelaide society. The house has been adapted into four separate heritage apartments (from \$176pn), lovingly restored to promote the period features of the building.

### **\*5 Willow Bend Reserve hosts an outdoor gym, Wildflower Trail and a new toilet.**

The photo below was taken before improvements



The eastern section of the reserve was originally known as Hamilton, after Robert Hamilton, who owned the first farmhouse built there, Hamilton House. This was demolished in 2017. Hamilton was home to a few farmers; however, the original subdivisions weren't very popular because the land was thought to be too far from the city. In the 1930s the area started to be referred to as Willow Bend. Market gardens and horse trotting tracks were the main uses of the land until the early 1960s. The suburb of Vale Park was proclaimed in 1961 and development started. The 1960s houses remained relatively untouched until recently, when they have started to be demolished in the process of urban infill, which is becoming increasingly common in inner-city Adelaide suburbs over 50 years old.

Wildflower Trail in Willow Bend, is an unloved tiny network of paths on a slope below the Ascot Ave bridge takes you through a selection of wildflowers (spring time) with identification plaques.

Spanning the Adelaide Plains, the River Torrens is the most significant and important stretch of inland water around Adelaide. The river itself is 85km long, starting in the Adelaide Hills near the impressive Mount Pleasant. From there, it weaves its way across the sprawling Adelaide Plains, through the city centre and into the Gulf St Vincent between Henley Beach South and West Beach.

*Karrawirra Parri* (red gum forest river) is the Kaurna name for the River Torrens. It is also known as *Tarndaparri Red kangaroo river*. It was named the Torrens by Colonel William Light after Colonel Robert Torrens.

Karrawirra Parri was a prime camping area for Kaurna people and provided many food and other resources as well as shelter. It was also a travelling corridor between the coast and the foothills and places in between. Early colonist A. H. Davis noted that '[a] native track runs on either side of the Torrens, and [it is] pretty well trodden too'.



Our River Torrens Linear Park concept has a long history!

The river banks were a sleeping place where the old people were laid to rest. Many burial places have been located and lost as the river has been disturbed over time.

#### \*6 Ascot Avenue bridge

This bridge is part of the North-South corridor from Grand Junction Rd to the South Eastern Freeway. This section of road changes its name 5 times in a distance of just under 14km (Hampstead Road, Taunton Road, Ascot Avenue, Lower Portrush Road, Portrush Road). Portrush Road carries approximately 36,000 vehicles per day, including heavy freight trucks. Along with Grand Junction Road, Portrush Road constitutes a major heavy road transport route through suburban Adelaide.

Ascot Avenue was a minor street running off North East Road which did not exactly line up with Taunton Road on the other side of North East Road. The nearest bridge over the River Torrens was the Felixstow Bridge on Felixstow Road, which is now O.G. Road. Lower Portrush Road and the bridge across the Torrens were opened in November 1970. Had the Metropolitan Adelaide Transport Study of the 1960s progressed, a Hills Freeway would have been constructed to link the South Eastern Freeway to the Port of Adelaide. This would have subsequently removed the freight that utilises Portrush Road today.

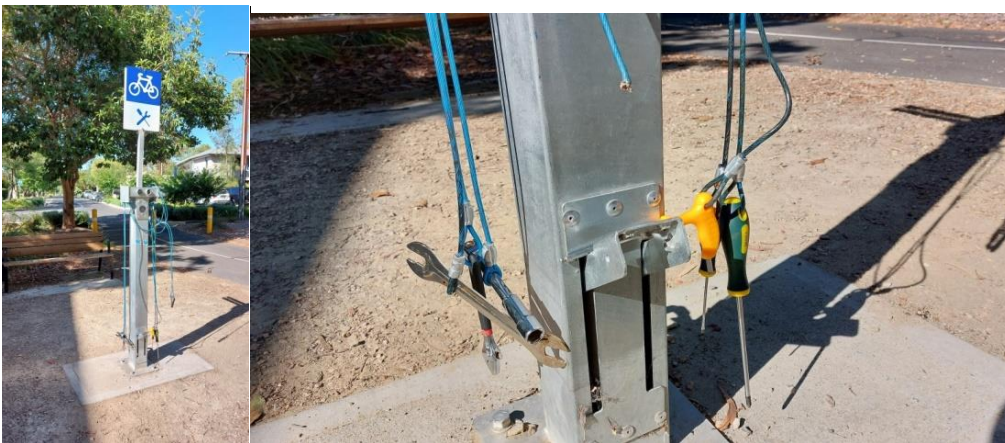
#### \*7 Hamilton Reserve

Hamilton Reserve Rejuvenation Project is complete and the nature play park is open to the community. Hamilton Reserve was formerly Stewart Avenue Park. In January 2022 Council installed a self-cleaning, disability-friendly Exeloo toilet block.

There is a children's bike track loop and nature play equipment, undercover barbecue areas and a **secret grass labyrinth code**. Both children and adults have managed to master the encrypted message, locating each icon and deciphering the clues that lie around the reserve.

#### \*8 Bike repair station

There is a comprehensive little workshop with tools for many bike repairs and an air pump for tires.



### **\*9 O-Bahn (2020 commentary)**

Adelaide's O-Bahn was introduced in 1986 to service the city's rapidly expanding north-eastern suburbs, replacing an earlier plan for a tramway extension. It was also the first guided busway in the southern hemisphere. Until 2011, it was the longest full-scale operational guided busway in the world, taking passengers the 12 kilometres from Tea Tree Plaza, via Paradise and Klemzig, to the city centre in under 20 minutes. The Cambridgeshire Guided Busway in England (connecting Cambridge, Huntingdon and St Ives) became the longest (25 km) route, more than double ours.

The park-and-ride concept provides around 2000 car spaces in total across the three interchanges, easing traffic congestion in the burgeoning north-east corridor.

“It is nowhere near its capacity, either,” says Prof Derek Scrafton. “It could conceivably carry 18,000 passengers an hour in each direction with the use of articulated buses. The only constraint to the existing system is the availability of kerb space in the CBD for bus stops, picking up and delivering people to their destination.”

A controversial \$168 million extension of the guideway from Gilberton to the CBD via a tunnel under the parklands was completed in 2017, reducing travel time by four minutes.

More recently, a major transport study has recommended the O-Bahn be extended to Golden Grove, but the proposal is yet to be discussed in Parliament. It would require the acquisition of extensive tracts of private property, a major hurdle.

The O-Bahn track is made of concrete; it is elevated from the ground because of the poor quality of alluvial soils along the River Torrens, which frequently move due to their high level of plasticity.

The O-Bahn is officially considered a road, due to a court ruling in the early years of the system's operation. This ruling permits the South Australia Police to install speed cameras and fine speeding drivers.

An average of four cars per year enter the O-Bahn and must be removed by crane.

### **\*10 Conrad's Slaughter House**



Conrad's Slaughter House (63 Fuller Street, Walkerville).

View the site from point 14 on the directions' map.

Conrad's also slaughtered sheep at Dry Creek. Mr E Kennedy, a butcher from Unley during the 1930s, recalled his younger days in the early 1900s working seasonally at Dry Creek:

*The best of the carcasses would be used for export, the legs would be made into mutton hams and the rest would be rendered down. During the Boer War Conrad's worked three shifts, 12 hours a day, canning for export and making smallgoods.<sup>22</sup>*

The Walkerville and Dry Creek slaughterhouses closed when the Gepps Cross abattoirs opened in 1913. Conrad operated a piggery and a boiling-down works at Northfield and owned land near Gepps Cross, where he kept the stock he purchased at the Gepps Cross markets. The farm also grew hay to feed his 200 horses. He also had a farm at Redbanks, near Mallala. Leopold Conrad was appointed as the vice-regal supplier to Government House in Adelaide and had the English coat of arms placed on the front balcony of his shop. Anti-German sentiment during the First World War saw the coat of arms removed because Conrad was from Prussia; he was saddened by this action. He died at his East Terrace home in 1918 after giving 60 years' service to the meat trade. He is buried in Adelaide in the Catholic cemetery in West Terrace and an obelisk was erected in his name.<sup>23</sup>

#### **\*11 Old Carpark**

The carpark is unused because there is toxic waste from a huge pile of rubbish which was cemented over to create a car park for the Highways Department (now a hotel and apartment block)