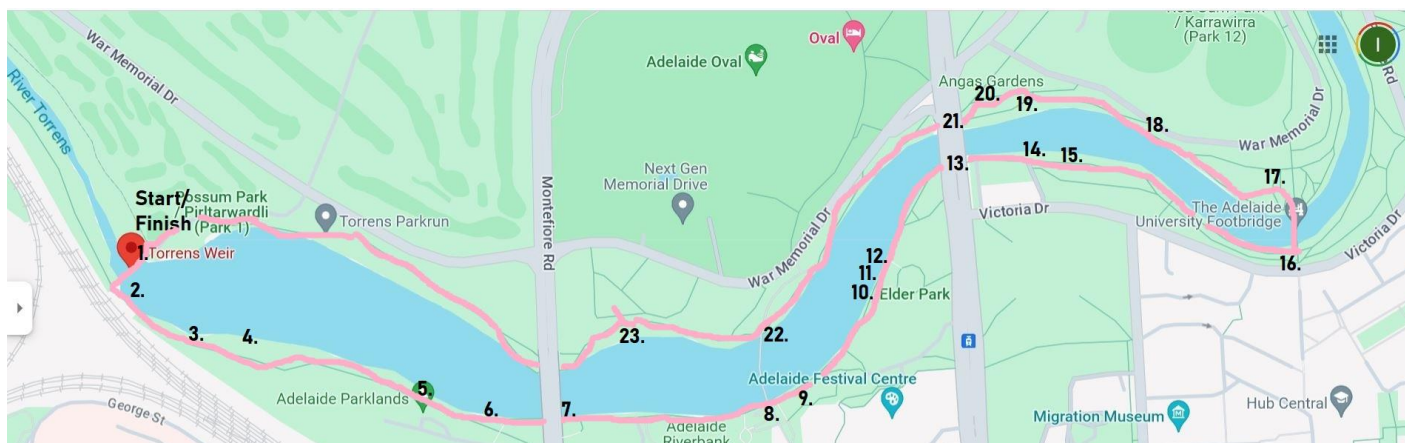


## U3A Torrens Weir Monday Stroll - directions and information

(4.2km)



Meet at the River Café/Golf course carpark

### START

1. Walk towards the River Café and pass the Golf Course Café. There will be a toilet by the café. Across the river you can see a glimpse of Adelaide Oval and the new RAH. Stop by the **Kaurna Camping Ground \*1** sign just before the Weir and look at the tall vertical silver signs on your right. Go to a viewing corner on your right before crossing the Weir.
2. Walk across **the Torrens Weir \*2**. Turn left after crossing. Follow the river on your left
3. Almost across the river from the River Café is an Information Board "**Swim- throughs in the Torrens**" **\*3**
4. Note a single tree bench by the shore on your left. Take note of the spectacular modern architecture of the buildings across the train tracks on your right. On the stroll you will pass a number of rowing clubs
5. Soon you will come across another information board on your left about **Camping along the Torrens \*4**
6. Immediately after the board keep left of the fork to walk close to the river.
7. Walk under what used to be **Victoria Bridge \*5** (now Morphett St bridge) and look at the historic plaques
8. Go under the state of the art Riverbank pedestrian bridge
9. Almost level with the Convention Centre is an information board about **Crossing the River Torrens \*6** and soon after is a stone plaque for the first bridge ever to cross the river.
10. Near the Rotunda is the information board about **The Palais de Danse \*7**
11. **Adelaide's first Pleasure Garden \*8** is depicted on the next information board.
12. Opposite the garden sign you will see paper boats in the river "**Talking our way home**" by Shaun Kirby **\*9**
13. Walk under the King William Street bridge and spot a large mural
14. Pass Jolleys Boathouse and Lounders Café. There is a toilet behind them.



The inaugural swim took place in 1913 and became an annual event. The swimmers raced 1.8km from the weir to the Uni bridge (the exact section of the river this stroll is circling!) The final swim took place in 1969 as the quality of the water became unsafe.



#### \*4 Camping along the Torrens

Especially during Depression when 30% of workforce was unemployed the banks of the Torrens were filled with tents and about 100-200 men lived in them. Sanitation was dire.



#### \*5 Victoria Bridge





## \*6 Crossing the River Torrens

Prior to any bridge being constructed the very early settlers used a ford to cross it or used a punt. The first bridge, possibly a plank bridge, was built on the ford. But this and subsequent other attempts at building a bridge were washed out in floods.



## \*7 The Palais de Danse

In 1929 a two storey floating barge was moored here. It had a large dance floor on the ground floor and a promenade on the upper deck. It also had a soda fountain, an orchestra performance pit and a buffet area. Inspired by the Taj Mahal it had 5 painted domes and arabesque decorations and motifs in the Moorish style. It lasted until 1929 despite red tape, flooding and vandalism.



## \*8 Adelaide's first Pleasure Garden

The Rotunda (manufactured in Glasgow) was erected in 1882 in what was called the Rotunda Park, now Elder Park, to beautify the area. There was a stone walled and arched 6m deep cavern under the rotunda to store musical equipment for band practice.







### **\*12 The Angas monument**

John Howard Angas – pioneer, pastoralist and philanthropist

Gorge Fife Angas – patriot, politician and philanthropist



### **\*13 Simpson and his donkey statue**

John "Jack" Simpson Kirkpatrick (6 July 1892 – 19 May 1915), who served under the name John Simpson, was a stretcher bearer with the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) during the Gallipoli Campaign in World War One. After landing at Anzac Cove on 25 April 1915, he obtained a donkey and began carrying wounded British Empire soldiers from the frontline to the beach for evacuation. He continued this work for three and a half weeks, often under fire, until he was killed.



### **\*14 A mural and two plaques**



### **\*15 Riverbank pedestrian footbridge**



The \$40m Riverbank pedestrian footbridge was constructed in 2013 to link Adelaide Oval with the Torrens River Precinct.

At the end of the 255 metre long bridge an 8 metre wide waterfall cascades into the Torrens River. There are 3000 unique white glass panels. It is the highest pumped free-falling waterfall in Australia

The waterfall continues the bridge theme of "touching the ground lightly".



## **\*16 Pinky Flat**

Indigenous people used to camp here and eat bilby "Pingko" hence the anglicised name Pinky Flat

