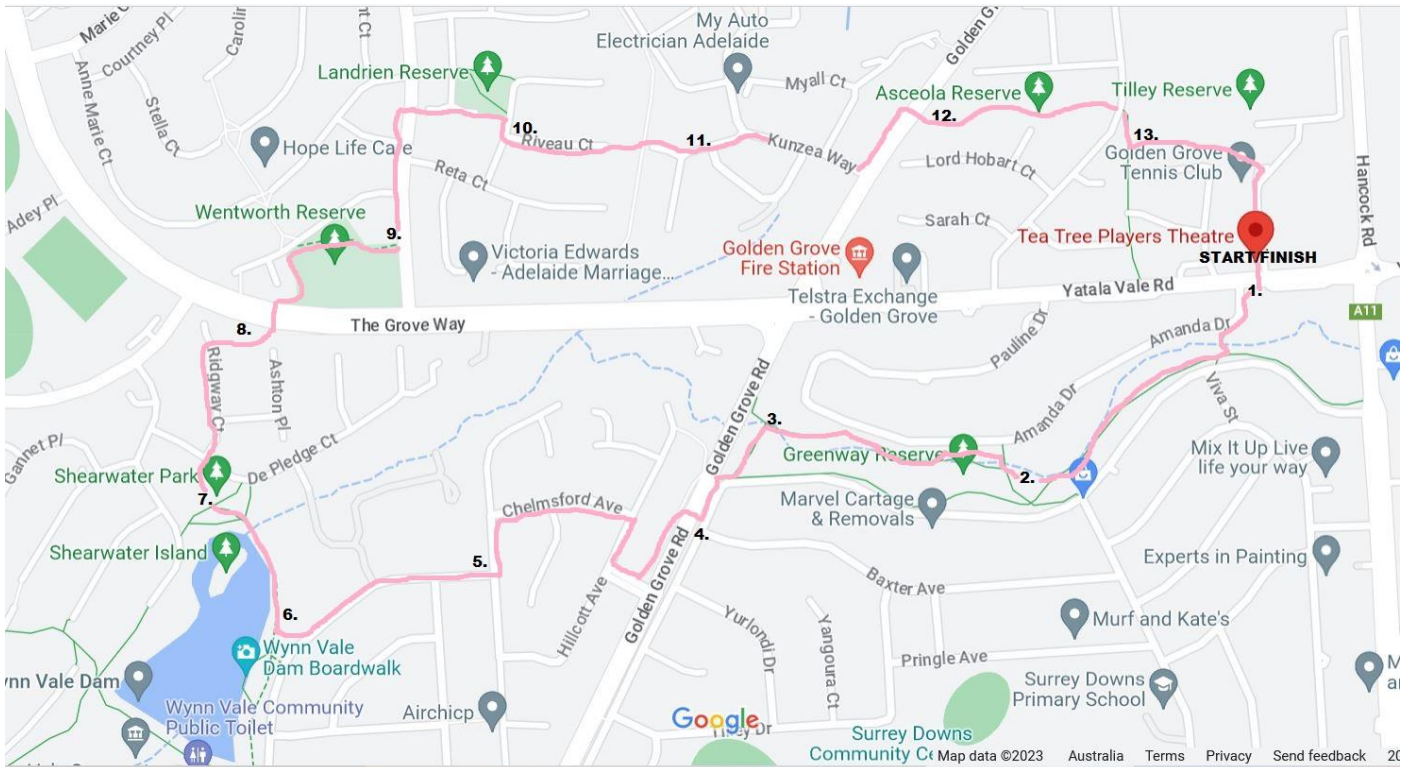


## U3A Tilley Reserve Monday Stroll – directions and information (4.2km)



Park at the Tilley Reserve carpark, close to the old theatre building

Meet on the front deck of the **Tea Tree Players Theatre \*1** (435 Yatala Vale Rd, Surrey Downs)

### START

1. Cross Yatala Vale Road and take Amanda Drive
2. On the bend of Amanda Drive enter the reserve and cross a pedestrian bridge. Follow the creek (the path will narrow) until you see another pedestrian bridge on your right, take it.
3. Continue with the creek on your left until you see a wooden bridge also on your left. Before crossing the bridge look under the road at “Shy” graffiti.
4. Continue to Golden Grove Rd, turn left into it and cross it at the pedestrian island. After crossing the road turn left and then right into Highgrove Road
5. Shortly turn right into Hillcot Ave. then take the first left into Chelmsford Ave. and then take the second left turn into Brunswick Terrace. Next take the first right into Park Lane Drive.
6. Continue until you see the Wynn Vale Dam track on your right; turn right to have the dam lake on your left.
7. Continue to the Shearwater Park playground, spot **a crocodile** here, play a game of “4 in a row” or ride in a jeep.

8. Cross De Pledge Court and enter Ridgway Court. Almost at the dead end go to your right on a grassed reserve. Cross it diagonally to end up on the Grove Way. Cross this road carefully to end up on the edge of Wentworth Reserve and go around the reserve clockwise
9. Turn left into Bicentennial Drive and cross it at the 61A bus stop on the other side of the road. Take the passage by the bus stop to enter Ruse Court. Keep right of Landrien Reserve.
10. Turn right into Landrien Ct and immediately left into Riveau Ct. Go to the end of the court and take the path to enter a linear reserve. Look at the **view of the hills**
11. Cross the reserve to enter Iberis Court, turn left into Laurina Court and then right into Kunzea Way.
12. At the end of Kunzea Way turn left into Golden Grove Road. Cross the road by using the pedestrian island and enter **Asceola Reserve \*2** on the other side of the road (either side of the brush fence)
13. At the end of Asceola Reserve take the diagonal path on the other side of the street and follow it until you see tennis courts. Turn left just before the courts. There will be a second set of tennis courts, go around them clockwise to end up back at the **Tilley Reserve \*3** carpark

## FINISH

## Annotations

### \*1 The Tea Tree Players Theatre



In September 1976 a Public Meeting was held, which resulted in the birth of TTP, a committee was formed and planning commenced for the first production six months later, but before that could occur there was an enormous challenge to meet and defeat.

In reality, all they had was the part-time use of an old building with a flat floor and a small raised area in one corner, and an intention to present two one-act plays in March 1977. For

this to occur a couple of quite important things had to happen, namely to erect and equip a stage of some sort and some seating for the audience.

The first one required a bit of creative thinking, to buy enough timber to complete the task, with the expectation that payment for it would be met by the audience numbers who would attend the performances. The second was a little more difficult, and to solve that one they were able to obtain a grant of \$500 from the Tea Tree Gully Council.

By a quirk of circumstance they learned the Cinema at Kadina was closing, and everything was to be auctioned off. We were interested bidders on the day and obtained (150) seats and legs for the princely sum of \$150. Other theatre items were purchased, including curtains and track, so it was a most productive trip.

Every theatre has a foyer and to cater for that particular need a “do-it-yourself” version was created, which was large floor to ceiling panels bolted together with an entry door on each outside edge. It could be erected by tall people on tall ladders and for many years the separation of the foyer from the auditorium by this method worked well.

Because of the shared usage the theatre had to be created on Thursday evening for Friday/Saturday performances, and enable the Table Tennis Club to practice on Sunday mornings, it all had to be returned to the shed on the Saturday night before anyone went home, and then re-installed on the following Thursday for the second weekend. They were fittest amateur theatre group in the world.

## **\*2 Asceola SHIP**



Henry Tilley (we learn about his fate later) came to Australia with his son John who was then only 11 years of age. They left Plymouth in the migrant ship "Asceola" (also known as "Osceola") on the 24th December 1850 and arrived in Adelaide 4 and a half months later on April 5th 1851. After dropping the Tilleys off in Port Adelaide the "Asceola" went back to Plymouth UK but it never completed the return trip to England. It was presumed lost at sea.

### **\*3 The Tilley Recreation Park**

The Tilley Recreation Park was named after the Tilley family, after Hannah Cooper Tilley (nee Steven) gave the 7 acres of land to the community in 1946. Thirty nine years prior to this the land was virtually in private ownership and it was used as a showground and cricket oval, as well as the hall being used for local functions.

Henry Tilley was born at Hilcot Wiltshire, England and after losing his wife Jane and 2 children, David and Elizabeth, through sickness, decided to come to Australia with his son John who was then only 11 years of age.

In 1853, Henry and his son John, then only 13, went off to the Victorian gold-fields. Henry Tilley on his return was able to pay £800 for a 77 acre section of land (Section 2131) at Upper Dry Creek in 1854.

The home Henry Tilley built on the section he named Hilcott Farm, after his native village of Hilcot in Wiltshire. The homestead was built close to a branch of Dry Creek, near the south-west corner of Yatala Vale Road and Golden Grove Road, this house existed until it was demolished in 1998 to make way for a new housing development.

Henry died in 1877 and was buried at Golden Grove Cemetery.

After the grounds were handed over to the public, a trust deed was formed and later they became an incorporated body and many of the facilities were upgraded, firstly the tennis court site was excavated and levelled and over the years many improvements were effected. Prior to that, the present old hall was built in 1916 after a previous hall had burnt down in 1915. Both these halls had been built and used by the community. The lean-to or supper room was added in the late 1940's.

In addition to the initial 7 acres, Council purchased a further 7 acres in the late 60's and early 70's to double the size of the area and to confirm it as a major reserve of Tea Tree Gully Council. The Golden Grove joint ventures added a further 7 acres to make further expansion possible. The Trust which had been managing the park from 1946, handed over the park to the Council in 1973.