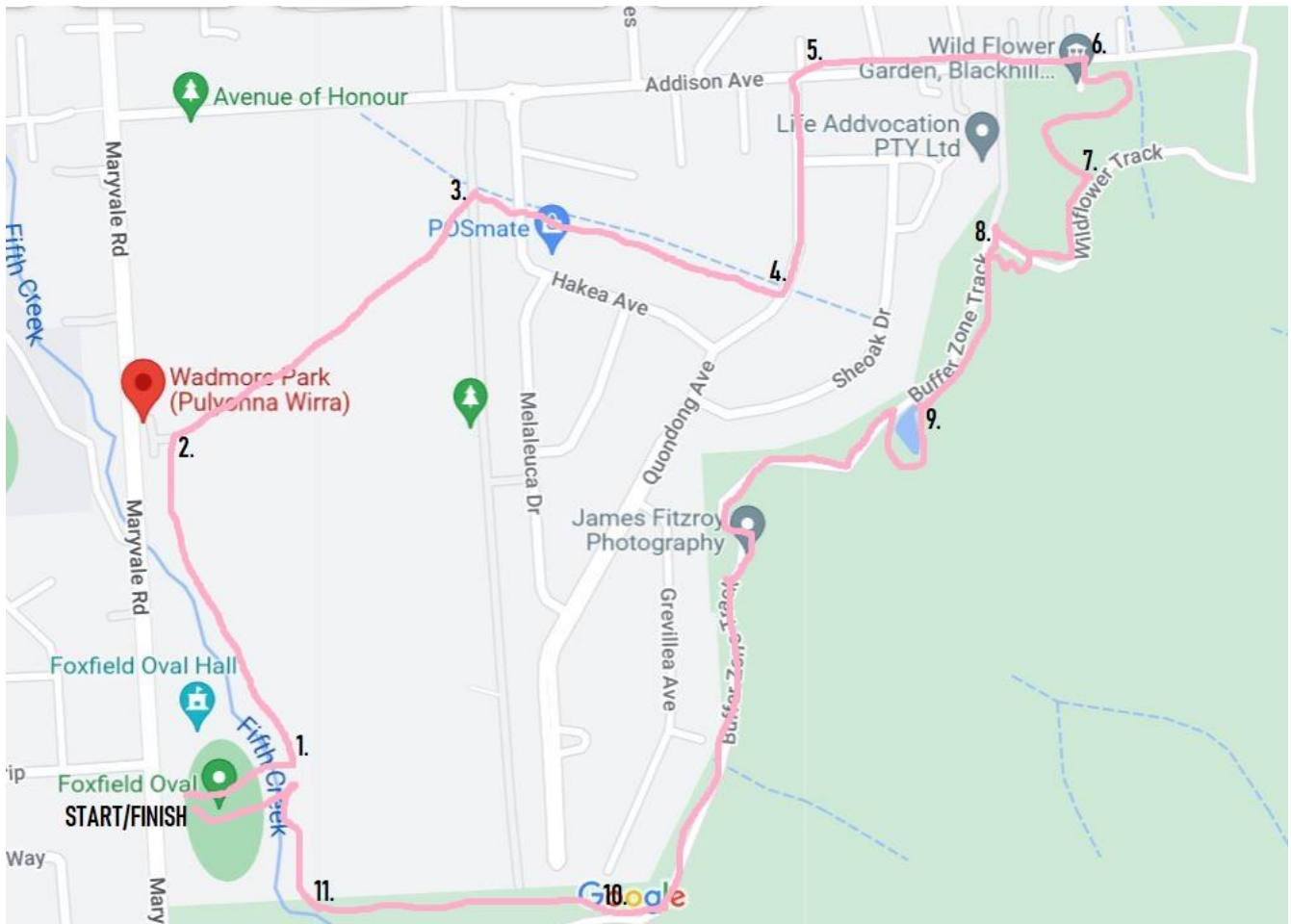


## U3A Wadmore Park Monday Stroll - directions and information (4km)



Meet at the Foxfield Oval carpark, 88 Maryvale Road, Athelstone

### Start

1. Walk across the Oval and after crossing the creek turn left on an earthen path. The easiest creek crossing in dry or wet weather is by the old windmill. There are stepping stones
2. Follow Fifth Creek to a small carpark with information about **Wadmore Park \*1**
3. From here follow several paths that link up to cross the park diagonally (taking note of lizard tiles), and end up at the entry to the creek reserve signposted as **Adelaide 100 \*2**. (Alternatively from this carpark follow signs for the Adelaide 100 trail and turn right into Addison Ave. Enter the Wildflower Garden further up the Avenue)
4. Follow the trail along the creek to Quondong Ave (ignore the left turn over the pedestrian bridge) and turn left into Quondong Ave
5. At the T-intersection turn right into Addison Ave (cross the street to walk on the footpath) Take note of unusual houses along the way
6. Enter the **Wildflower Garden \*3** on your right. Look for a local heritage plaque for the wildflower garden
7. Follow the path left to end up on the Wildflower Track (a wide gravel road). There is a more adventurous wild path parallel to the garden path. Turn right into the road and

re-enter the garden a few meters further to look at a stone wall. Retrace your steps back to the gravel road and turn right into it.

8. Follow the Wildflower Track to Buffer Zone Track and turn left into it. There is an alternative narrow path with stone steps to cut this corner
9. Take a left turn off Buffer Zone Track to walk around a dry lake (sometimes, depending on the season, there is water in it). When back on the main track spot an old stone fountain on your right
10. Continue down on the wide path, when you see a large white house lift your eyes up for the views of the City.
11. Walk along the fence down to a large gate in the fence (needs to be open manually) where you turn right and walk along the creek and then cross the creek to end up on Foxfield Oval with the cars in view across it

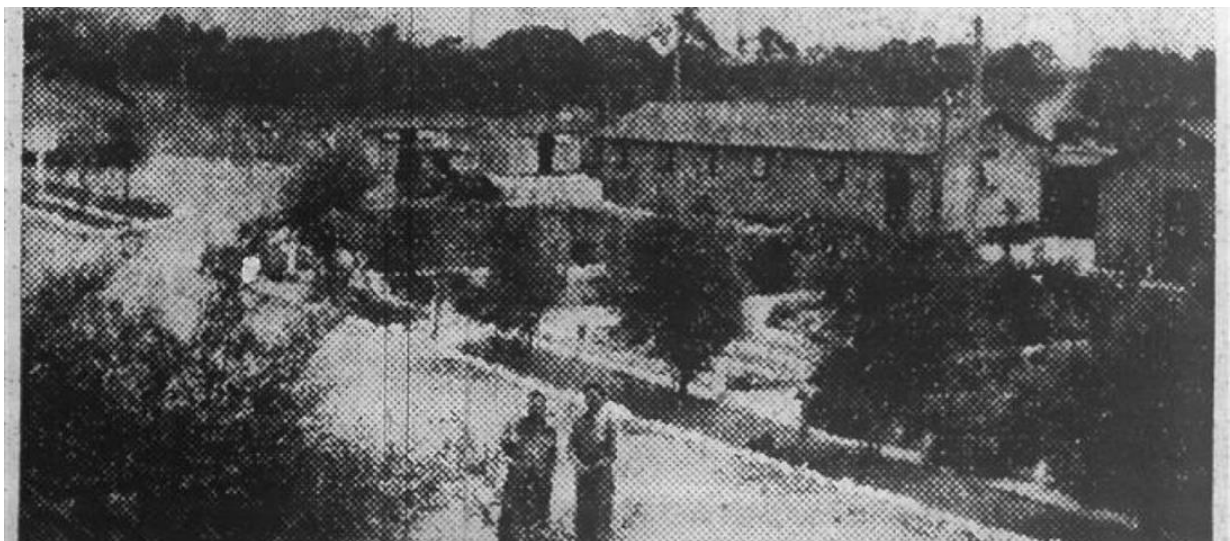
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## Annotations

### **\*1 Wadmore Park**

The park has a 7.4km network of walking trails. It was named after Edward Royal Wadmore, who served on the council for 21 years, including eight years as Mayor. Wadmore Park is co-named Pulyonna Park meaning Black Forest, in recognition of the Kaurna people, the original inhabitants in the area.

From 1942 to 1946 Wadmore Park was the site of the 123rd Australian Special Hospital. Its primary purpose seems to have been to treat soldiers returning from overseas with contagious venereal diseases. It was a temporary hospital made up of nearly 20 prefabricated huts and nearly 100 tent sites. A garden was started and with patients and staff assisting it was well established by 1943. It became quite substantial, including a rockery, fish ponds and an avenue of 45 Chinese elm trees leading off Addison Road



The hospital remained in operation until 1947, after its closure the wood and iron buildings were auctioned off and removed from the site, leaving only the garden. There are cement foundations scattered around the site.



Although the Chinese elms have long gone, the Campbelltown City Council has worked with the Campbelltown Landcare group and the Campbelltown Historical Society to develop an Avenue of Honour using Indigenous tree species along the original access road from Addison Avenue to the hospital site.

In 1947 the entire camp was sold off at public auction and the site abandoned. Newspaper reports indicate that the auction was attended by over 1000 people with spirited bidding and reserve prices being quickly reached. The Zinc Corporation at Broken Hill was a principal purchaser

## \*2 Adelaide 100 trail

A loop walking trail of over 100km that takes in the coast, waterways and hills of the capital city of South Australia. The trail links up existing trails with new short connection sections.





### **\*3 Wildflower Garden**

In 1949 Mr & Mrs F.C. Payne retired and developed the Athelstone Wildflower Garden. Plants from all states and varying habitats were collected and planted in this site. Visitors could wander and enjoy the diverse flora and rich bird life.

The Paynes sold the garden in 1963 to the Corporation of the City of Campbelltown. Council adopted its new role and with the expert management of Mr Ray Holliday the Wildflower Garden Nursery flourished. Countless locals and visitors wandered through the garden and were able to purchase a wide variety of native plants at very reasonable prices. The garden was later expanded when Council accepted adjoining land.

Soon after, when the Department of Environment & were consolidating the 900 hectare Black Hill Flora Park, Council was pressed to sell the Wildflower Garden. One of the conditions of sale was that the plants should continue to be made available to the public. In 1976 the fungus *Phytophthora cinnamomi* was said to be found in the garden. The entire plant stock was destroyed and a much larger nursery was established on the corner of Maryvale and Montacute Roads.

Due to continued reductions of funding and staff, the National Parks and Wildlife Service found itself unable to continue with the maintenance and upkeep of the Wildflower Garden. In 1990 the Friends of Black Hill & Morialta Inc. agreed to rehabilitate the garden and a 5 year plan was agreed upon. Revegetation work, along with educational activities, continues to be carried out by the Friends Group and its supporters.

In 2000 National Parks and Wildlife SA commenced a program to upgrade the walking trails in the Wildflower Garden. Over 20 years later the garden had seen no improvement.