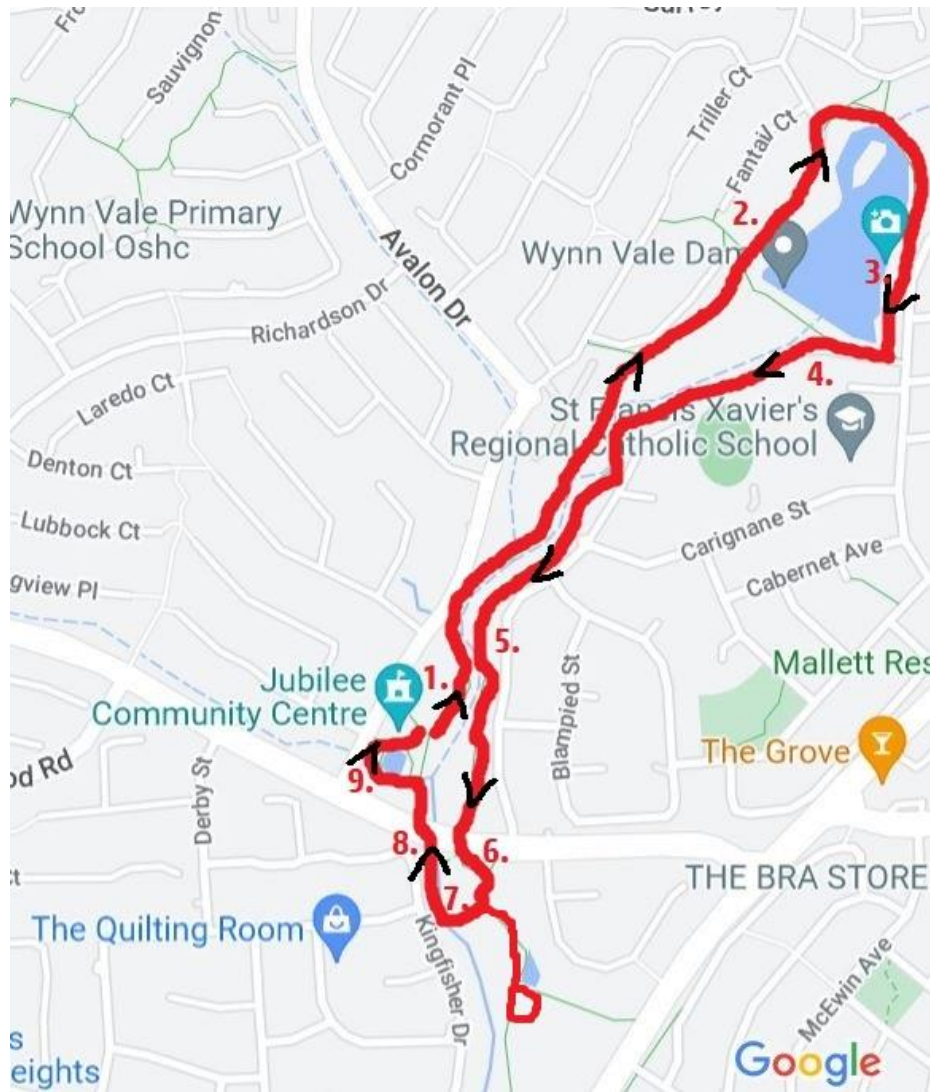


Notes to the Wynn Vale Dam U3A stroll

4km



1. From the Jubilee Centre carpark follow the path north (pass the public toilet) and keep the creek to your right. In the playground there used to be a **huge real and old tractor *1** which was removed due to children safety concerns, it was replaced with a replica of a locomotive, see whether you can find it...
2. When the Wynn Vale dam comes into view continue on the path along the dam keeping the water to your right. Take a detour just before the dam lake onto a bridge with a view of the **Spillway *2**
3. Return to the previous path and continue to walk clockwise around the dam.
4. Take a path near water to see the Shearwater Island in the lake from the **"thinking seat" *3**
5. After crossing the creek that feeds the dam lake stop to read the signs about **Elder Green farm *4** that used to be here. You may see the horse paddocks on your left
6. Continue on the path and take right at the fork to walk on the boardwalk of the viewing platform, there are many **waterbirds *5**
7. Keep walking around the dam but don't turn right to walk on the levy, instead take the path down and turn right at the bottom (the levy will now be above you on the right). Walk past the public toilet and community garden which will be on your left. Pass these and keep left. Soon you will see the school grounds on your left and the creek on your right. Take a note of the chapel overseeing the school's oval

8. Keep to the gravel paths with the creek on your right but don't cross it. Shortly after you will cross under Grenfell Rd. There will be a bridge on your right but do not cross it yet. You will cross this bridge after taking a short detour to Lot 50 (previously known as Willison's Farm) Look at **a mural in Kingfisher Reserve *6** and **a reconstituted cottage *7**. Return to the bridge, cross over the creek turn right onto the path.
9. The path will take you under Grenfell Rd again but the water channel will be on your right. On your left (before the buildings of the Jubilee Community Centre) you will see a little lake with a fountain, go around it clockwise, over flat stepping stones and between the lake and the building. Around this building is the carpark

FINISH.

Annotations

*1 Tractor/locomotive



*2 Spillway

The dam was originally constructed in 1962 by winemakers, S Wynn & Company, to irrigate a portion of their Modbury Estate vineyards. The dam consists of an earth embankment constructed across the Dry Creek Valley and fills from water running along Dry Creek; overflow is via a spillway on the western side of the dam wall.

In 2009 a storm water filtration system was put there. The stormwater treatment plant at Wynn Vale Dam is the first of its kind in Australia. It makes use of an existing dam, as opposed to constructing new wetlands to clean water before storing it in aquifers. Stormwater is extracted from the dam and passes through pressure filtration units to remove sediments and organic materials from the water. The water is disinfected using ultra-violet technology and stored in fractured rock underground aquifers, with the potential to generate 400 ML annually of recycled water.

During the warmer months the water is extracted from the aquifer and used to irrigate Council's sporting ovals and nature reserves.

*3 "Thinking seat"



***4 Elder Green Farm**

The property that was to become Elder Green was owned originally by the Dowton family purchased for thirty pounds in c 1840. Apart from the fact that the Dowton's came from Herefordshire, England, not a lot is known of Mr. & Mrs. Dowton as they died in 1856 and 1857 respectively, leaving four young daughters.

George Chapman was a runaway sailor. He left his ship at Port Adelaide with one shilling and a pocket-knife and made his way to Tea Tree Gully. He hid out in a barn (part of the steam mill – now the Fox & Firkin) for three days. R. Smith Snr. who owned Surrey Farm, gave George a job. The residence at Surrey Farm at that time was a small cottage. It was during this time that George met Lavinia Dowton, who lived on the next door property, with her younger sisters.

George eventually bought; what was to become Elder Green from the Dowton sisters, who were quite young when their parents died, Lavinia being about 17 years old was the oldest of the sisters and George was 22 years old when they married in 1858.

They lived in a two-roomed slab and daub cottage, where two of their children were born. About six years later George built two stone rooms nearby, where they lived until 1888, when the present house was built, reputed to be the best in the area at that time. George and Lavinia had 5 children, one died at eighteen and the baby, 3 weeks after Lavinia in 1871.



In 1873 George married Rebecca – Lavinia's younger sister – they had 7 children. George Chapman made use of all the land he had. Lemon and orange trees as well as grapevines grew around the house. George made wine from the vines, Mulberry wine and Elderberry wine: It is said of the Elder-berry "whether for neuralgia or nostalgia is not known" ~. He died in 1910, working to the last – picking grapes.

The top paddock was planted with hay for the horses, with orchards on most of the land – apricots, apples, pears, peaches and almonds. George Chapman grew many types of fruit tree and supplied Glen Ewin Factory with some of the first apricots that were made into jam. Many years later the orchards were replaced with vines.

Mrs. Chamberlain the present owner of Elder Green is the daughter of Allan Chapman the youngest child of George and Rebecca. After George Chapman's death in 1910, sons, Allan and William Chapman continued to work the property – they bought land next door, known as Gregory's, so Elder Green land stretched from Yatala Vale road (now Grove Way) to Grenfell road.

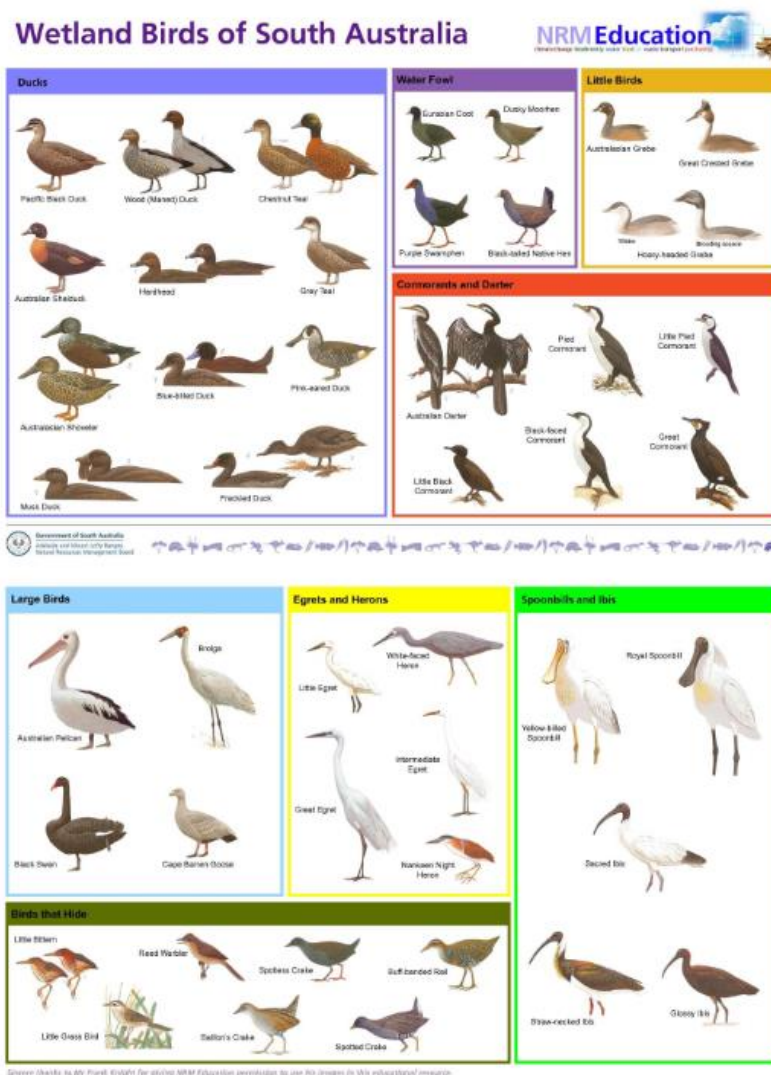
In 1915, Allan Chapman married Laura Sandford, they lived at Elder Green for about 18 months before buying land in the Millicent District and moving there. They returned to Elder Green in 1934 after Rebecca Chapman died. Allan planted more vines until there were about 56 acres of vines. The grapes were sold to wineries. The grapes were used for Sherry or the dark Grenache grapes were made into Port. They were grown without the assistance of irrigation and so had high sugar content.

The vines started to get 'dieback' and the apricots got a disease called 'Gummosis', finally most of the apricot orchards roundabout died. With the sudden death of Allan Chapman in 1943, Mrs. Chapman and her daughter Joyce Chamberlain with the help of an elderly uncle carried on farming. When Mr. Chamberlain, Joyce's husband, came back from the war in 1946, he organised the vines and called for tenders and rented to Penfolds.

Penfold's rented the vineyards for the next ten years, after which Wynn's who had Surrey Farm Estate, took it on for approximately the next fifteen years. During this time eight or nine acres was sold to Wynn's to enable them to build a dam for irrigating their vines. This was the first parcel of land belonging to Elder Green that was sold.

After it was decided to sell the remaining land to Hookers, the Land Commission stepped in and took everything to the North of Dry Creek. This left Hookers with about fourteen acres of comparably flat land without views! As developers moved through the area, Elder Green still remains the home of Mrs. Joyce Chamberlain nee Chapman, with a few token acres left around the house, where horses are still kept and stabled. The original slab and daub cottage built by George Chapman is still in existence on the property. The remains of the original Downton family cottage lay underneath the Wynn Vale Dam.

*5 Waterbirds



***6 A mural in Kingfisher Reserve**

Created by the very talented Senmen Creations, the larger-than-life mural celebrates the beauty of local flora and fauna.



***7 A reconstituted cottage**

The sculpture utilised stone, bricks and rubble from the remnants of an 1850s farmhouse recovered from the site.

The farmhouse was dismantled in 2012 due to restoration costs and the remnant grapevines were re-located to Baymor Reserve, Modbury and Balmoral Reserve, Dernancourt.

Andrew Willison owned the property in 1937

