

Black Swamp

By the best available estimates, more than 120,000 square kilometers of Australian wetlands have been destroyed in the last two hundred years. That is more than half of the original area of wetlands.

Black Swamp located at Currency Creek winery is one of three Fleurieu Peninsula swamps listed on the National Estate Register. The register is an inventory of natural sites in Australia. It includes sites that have aesthetic, historic, scientific or social significance. These are places recognised as worth preserving to pass onto future generations. In 1979 a report of flora and fauna of the Black Swamp was undertaken by S.E Lamprey and L.H Mitchell and used as the basis for its inclusion in the National Estate Register.

Currency Creek Winery is committed to preserving the the Black Swamp in part because quite a few rare and endangered species make their home there. One of these unique species is the Triglochin procerum or Water Ribbons. This uncommon plant species can be seen occupying the surface as strap like leaves in some of the more open waters and gaps in the swamp.

The Mitchell and Lamprey report also sited 106 bird species and noted the presence of a relatively large number of native fish which had virtually disappeared from most permanent

streams on the Fleurieu Peninsula. The fish include the *Pseudaphritis bursinus* (Congoli), *Craterocephalus fluvitilis* (Hardy Head), *Nannoperca australis australis* (Pigmy Perch), *Philypnodon grandiceps* (Big-Headed Gudgeon) and *Mongurnda striata* (Chequered Gudgeon).

A significant resident of the swamp in the *Acanthoferonia Ferox* (Carabid Beetle) Thought to be extinct for 108 years and then rediscovered on the property in December 1996 in the Black Swamp.

Another illusive species spotted in the swamp is the *Stipiturus malachurus* or Southern Emu-wren pictured on the front one of the most nationally endangered bird species of South Australia. The Emu-Wren (pictured on the front of the brochure) is a small, shy, virtually flightless bird. It is entirely dependant on swamps such as the Black Swamp for its survival. The conservation council is conducting a 10 year recovery project at the swamp designed to halt the decline in the species and to investigate ways to increase its distribution and abundance.

These are just a few of the unique species that live in or around the Black Swamp. We ask that you respect their home by leaving nothing but footprints, and taking nothing but photographs. If we work together we can preserve this special place and pass it on to the next generation in better condition than we found it in.

Black Swamp Walk Information

Please register at cellar door before commencing

The 3 km walk begins by turning left upon exiting the front of the winery continue down the side of the cellar door towards the Alpaca paddock where you will see a blue arrow which indicates the start of the walk.

Follow the track through the grass and continue down past the flood indication markers and through the gate on your left remembering to close it behind you.

From here the trail is clearly marked by the blue reflective arrows. For the environment as well as your safety, please stay on the trail. One of the swamp residents is the highly venomous and aggressive Tiger snake.

Follow the walking trail and witness an eco tone, an area of delineation between different habitat types, dry (Mallee) and wet (Swamp). Pass a Banksia plantation on the right. The trail continues with a gentle incline but at the top is a bench to sit on and admire the beautiful view.

Turn left at the windmill and walk parallel to the Historic Railway Bridge. The bridge supports the oldest railway line in Australia and it is still used today. The Tookayerta stop was famous for its water quality and the steam engines on this track outlasted most other steam engines.

The trail narrows as it crosses the swamp. Please be careful walking over the earthen "bridge". Turn left after the bridge and continue through the pine trees. Notice an old hermit's humpy in its original site note the bed and Wash tub. Just across the creek are the remains of a settler's old mud brick cottage built in the early 1900. Continue on and view some old farm vehicles, before veering right.

Walk through the gate and emerge into 15 acres of Australian and South African Native flowers planted in 1984. Along this stretch are various species including *Leucadendron conicum*, *Leucadendron discolor* and *Leucospermum erubescens*. Some rare native Australian Tea-Trees are also planted.

Continue on through another gate, pass a residence and make your way back to the winery by way of the vineyard. The Shiraz vines in this area are some of the oldest on the property planted in 1970, they make up our flagship wine Ostrich hill Shiraz available for tasting at the cellar door.

We hope you enjoyed the walk and invite you to write a few words in the visitor book in cellar door.

Black Swamp Walk Map

