



VICTORIA PARK PAKAPAKANTHI

# Grasslands FIELD TRIP

**Imagine Observe & Explore**

Step into a piece of Adelaide's original grassy plains and discover rare and fascinating plants and insects close-up!



CITY OF  
ADELAIDE

# Imagine

Take yourself back in time before the Europeans arrived & imagine what you might see...

**These mammals and marsupials lived here:**

RED KANGAROO

PLATYPUS

QUOLL

BILBY

BURROWING BETTONG

ECHIDNA

ANTECHINUS

DUNNART

BANDICOOT

WOMBAT

POSSUM

KANGAROO

BUSH RATS

& 14 TYPES OF BATS.



## You may have smelt smoke

When the Kurna people were the primary caretakers of this land, the area was dominated by open grassy plains with patches of trees and shrubs. The landscape was well-adjusted to the Kurna people's frequent use of fire as a management tool. Fire would maintain the open grassland and encourage new, tender plant growth, which attracted kangaroos and other animals to the area for hunting. The absence of fire in these ecosystems contributes to many management challenges in our modern landscape.



# Tarntanya

tarnt = red kangaroo  
anya = rock

The **Kurna** people are the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the Adelaide Plains and have skilfully managed this land for hundreds of generations.

The area now occupied by the city and Park Lands is known in the Kurna language as **Tarntanya**.

The Adelaide Plains looked a lot different before European settlement in 1836. It was one of the most biodiversity-rich areas in South Australia. You may imagine it being filled with a forest of trees, however it was an open grassland landscape - a mosaic of native grasses, wild flowers - shaped by how the Kurna lived and managed the land.

ABOVE | This watercolour *Mount Lofty from the Terrace, Adelaide* was painted by Martha Berkeley, circa 1840. Courtesy of the Art Gallery of South Australia.

# Observe



Stop and take a closer look.

There are many ways to observe and record the natural world. Photography, illustration and using a microscope are great ways to take a closer look at the world around you.



IMAGES | 1 Spurred Spear-grass detail (SA Seedbank) 2 Chocolate Lily (SA Seedbank) 3 River Red-Gum patterns 4 Detail of the Native Sorrel (SA Seedbank) 5 Chequered Copper Butterfly watercolour by William John Swainson from 1833 (Biodiversity Heritage Library, digitized by Smithsonian Libraries) 6 Butterfly wing detail under a microscope (Linden Gledhill)

# Rediscovered

## Chequered Copper Butterfly

*Lucia limbaria*

WINGSPAN: male 23 mm; female 25 mm

MATURE LARVA LENGTH: 16 - 18 mm

ABUNDANCE IN ADELAIDE: Rare

FLIGHT PERIOD: September - April

This butterfly was rediscovered here in Victoria Park / Pakapakanthi in 2011. Before this, the butterfly was last recorded on the Adelaide Plains in 1967.



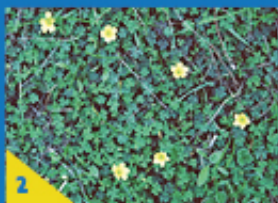
## A good relationship

There's a fascinating relationship between the Chequered Copper Butterfly, the common Rainbow Ant and a small plant - Native Sorrel.



- 1** Butterfly lays its eggs on the Sorrel leaves
- 2** Once the eggs hatch, the Rainbow Ants bring the caterpillars into their nest for protection. The caterpillars give the ants a sugary gel to feed on - see image 3 below
- 3** Reaching pupa (chrysalis) stage
- 4** After around 8 weeks from egg stage, the Chequered Copper Butterfly emerges

With good weather and lots to eat the Chequered Copper Butterfly can lay eggs during the warmer months, with each cycle taking up to 8 weeks.



IMAGES | **1** The Chequered Copper Butterfly **2** Native Sorrel **3** Rainbow Ants feeding on the sugary gel of the caterpillar (All photos courtesy Butterfly Conservation SA Inc)

# Explore

Can you see any of these plants as you walk through the grasslands?  
Mark them off on the checklist at the end of this booklet.



**EARLY NANCY**  
*Wurmbea latifolia*



**NATIVE  
SORRELL**  
*Oxalis perennans*



**TINY STAR**  
*Pauridia glabella*



**WINDMILL  
GRASS**  
*Chloris truncata*



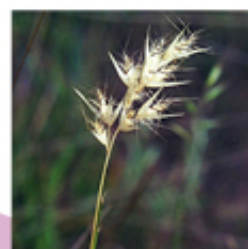
**CHOCOLATE/  
VANILLA LILY**  
*Arthropodium* sp.



**SPURRED  
SPEAR GRASS**  
*Austrostipa gibbosa*



**PINK  
GARLAND LILY**  
*Calostemma  
purpureum*



**WALLABY  
GRASS**  
*Rytidosperma* sp.



VICTORIA PARK PAKAPAKANTHI

# Grasslands

Pakapakanthi is the Kaurna word for trotting, and refers to the former use of this park as a racecourse from 1846-2007.

Trail you might walk

Path

START



protects an endangered ecological community of remnant Grey Box Grassy Woodland.

Many small native creatures such as butterflies, bees, crickets, grasshoppers and ants live on the ground between the native grasses to feed and breed. More than 50 species of the native plants are still found here. Lillies, daisies, wildflowers and saltbushes also grow seasonally in these gaps.

The City of Adelaide has a specially trained Biodiversity Team who is constantly working to ensure that the native plants and animals continue to flourish on this site.



# FIELD TRIP NOTES

## Imagine

Use this space to sketch the landscape around you. Imagine how it may have looked like before European settlement.





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# Observe

Take a closer look at the different plants and the patterns and textures around you. Try making a rubbing of a tree trunk or sketch a tiny flower.



# FIELD TRIP NOTES

## Explore

Can you find any of these plants and animals as you move through the grasslands? Check them off this list.



NATIVE SORRELL



CHEQUERED COPPER



ANTS



WINDMILL GRASS



TINY STAR



KNOTTY SPEAR GRASS



RIVER RED GUM



CHOCOLATE LILY



EARLY NANCY



PINK GARLAND LILY



WALLABY GRASS

ADD SOMETHING YOU'VE SEEN!



Find all the grasslands-related words in the word search puzzle below. You will find them across, down, diagonally and even backwards!

Y	Q	E	P	C	G	B	Q	W	E	T	C	X	I	X
T	U	V	O	E	O	V	U	R	O	H	O	H	O	N
I	S	R	S	E	U	P	O	T	O	B	T	U	A	Y
S	N	E	S	H	V	L	P	C	T	N	N	T	C	S
R	C	S	U	Y	P	I	O	E	A	E	U	I	M	H
E	H	B	M	X	L	L	T	K	R	R	R	O	A	I
V	E	O	E	A	A	I	A	A	E	M	K	F	Y	R
I	Q	A	N	T	R	P	L	U	N	E	J	S	L	W
D	U	N	E	A	A	I	M	A	G	I	N	E	Q	Y
O	E	C	E	K	A	N	T	E	C	H	I	N	U	S
I	R	H	A	N	R	U	A	K	U	B	U	E	O	X
B	E	P	A	Y	N	A	T	N	R	A	T	R	L	R
S	D	S	O	R	R	E	L	L	E	M	S	I	L	N
H	E	Z	A	A	G	Z	W	M	N	O	F	F	J	D
Z	K	E	Q	Y	Z	H	O	Q	X	V	D	U	F	W

ANT

ANTECHINUS

BIODIVERSITY

BUTTERFLY

CHEQUERED

CHOCOLATE

COPPER

EXPLORE

FIRE

HEAR

IMAGINE

KAURNA

LILY

NATIVE

NATURE

OBSERVE

PAKAPAKANTHI

POSSUM

QUOLL

RAINBOW

SEE

SMELL

SMOKE

SORREL

TARNTANYA

TOUCH





VICTORIA PARK PAKAPAKANTHI  
Grasslands

To encourage the community to use and enjoy this site the City of Adelaide has installed a path and interpretive signage to lead you through this unique space. Tread lightly if you venture off the path, tiny plants are growing.

Thank you to our partners



City of Adelaide Reconciliation Committee acknowledges that we are on traditional country of the Kaurna people of the Adelaide Plains and pays respect to Elders past and present. We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship with the land. We acknowledge that they are of continuing importance to the Kaurna people living today. And we also extend that respect to other Aboriginal Language Groups and other First Nations.



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[www.cityofadelaide.com.au/grasslands](http://www.cityofadelaide.com.au/grasslands)