

ENCOUNTER WALKING TRAIL

(FOLLOW THE 5 INTERPRETIVE SIGNS COMMENCING AT THE JETTY, TRAVELLING ALONG WEST TERRACE AND NORTH ALONG JOHN LEWIS DRIVE)

1. Mundoora Arm

Introduction: The Mundoora Arm is a unique environment providing nursery areas for the Marine Life in Spencer Gulf. It is a pristine marine cove. You can share the experience simply watch and observe...

Mangroves: Mangroves grow on the water edge where there is regular tidal movement. They provide nesting space for cormorants, egrets and herons. Mangrove flowers provide nectar for butterflies and bush birds.

Dunes and Ridges: Low dunes surround the Mundoora Arm and along the shore northward. These well drained sandy soils support a variety of plants including wattles, casuarinas and eucalyptus. They host goannas, skinks, snakes, rabbits and feral foxes and cats.

Salt Marsh and Samphire: Low growing Samphires grow in areas of high salinity and are valuable fish nurseries. Some areas are dryer and support spiders, lizards, snakes and native birds.

Tidal Flats: Meadows of seagrass are exposed at low tides on tidal flats. The calm water, fine sediment and dense growth provide habitats for small fish. Waders, stilts, and egrets explore the shallows for a meal.

Salt Flats: Large arid clay pans are found at the Southern end of Mundoora Arm and around the southern and northern ends of Fisherman's Bay. These are harsh environments where surface temperatures can be in excess of 50 degrees C.

2. Station without a Train!

Port Broughton was once famous for having a railway station, station house, rolling stock and a station master but NO Train!!

For fifty years between the 1870s and 1920s the local farmers delivered their grain by dray to the railway yards at Mundoora, where it was loaded onto empty flat topped carts and then pushed off for the gravity force 16 kilometre ride down hill to Port Broughton.

A worker travelling with a load would courageously race to stop carts by manually applying the brakes while jumping from cart to cart. There is many a story of life and limb lost. Empty carts were pulled back to Mundoora by horse. Passenger transport for the trainless railway town managed by using well-loved, 12 seater pie cart – a passenger carriage that was pulled along the tracks by a team of horses and later a tractor. The pie cart took 75 minutes to travel the 16 kms to Mundoora. It sometimes left the rails at its own accord and occasionally the driver had to delay the service to fill rabbit burrows under the track.

3. Buried at Sea

In 1926 Dr. Mathwin a well respected Port Broughton Doctor, Citizen and Mariner was South Australia's last citizen to be buried at Sea. As was his wish, in true nautical fashion, with no coffin, his body was sewn in canvas, weighted and covered with the flag. He was committed to the deep about 10 Kilometres south of Broughton Channel Beacon. Dr. Mathwin was known for his lifetime as a ship's doctor and member of the naval reserves. His fine reputation as a G.P and Obstetrician encouraged people to travel long distances to access his services.

Dr. Mathwin always tried to go sailing on Sundays so he had arranged for his wife that in an emergency she would hang a large white sheet on the front veranda, signalling him to sail home at once.

4. Did you know?

- As a general of thumb, blue swimmer crabs are usually caught in local shallow waters during the months that contain the letter 'R'.
- Port Broughton's newer streets were named after the ketches and windjammers, which frequented these waters long ago. There are:
 - Penang Drive
 - Parma Street
 - Passat Drive
 - Falie Street
 - Grace Harwar Drive
 - Moshulu Street
- Port Broughton jetty is 374 metres long and was constructed in 1878. A cyclone all but destroyed the jetty in 1953 and it was speedily repaired. The stumps on the first landing, constructed in the 1870's can be seen to the South of the present jetty.
- The land opposite the Port Broughton jetty is called Sunnyside because it reflects the first rays of the morning sun. This is also where the sun goes down, creating spectacular sunsets.
- Upper Spencer Gulf is one of the only three places in the world to experience the phenomenon of dodge tides. The sea dodges its normal tide, ceasing to move from mid level for approximately 18 hours. The only other places where dodge tides occur are the Gulf of Mexico and along the North African Coast.

5. Mini Cyclone Devastation

On the 14th November 1979, local residents noticed sea spouts as a storm approached from the West. The storm hit Port Broughton at 4:12pm with the strength of a mini cyclone and left a total damage bill of \$6 million. The most severely damaged areas were north of the main street and the south and eastern areas of the town. Whole buildings, caravans, wardrobes and personal belongings were seen flying through the air at a 45 degree angle. The Norfolk Island Pines were severely damaged with caravans and debris left perched on their branches. The tree surgeon was required to repair and nurse the trees to their present state.

Flying debris from local shacks and buildings caused a substantial amount of damage. Cars in the street were found with sheets of iron wrapped around them. Hardly any electricity/telephone poles were left standing on the north side of town, most being snapped off their base.

After the storm there was very little power and even the hospital had no backup. It is a credit to those involved that power was restored in a week.

Facts:

- The storm lasted 3 minutes
- Up to 30 homes were destroyed
- 100 people were made homeless
- 150 holiday homes were destroyed
- 13 caravans were devastated
- The golf club was demolished