



FRIENDS OF THE GREAT VICTORIA DESERT PARKS

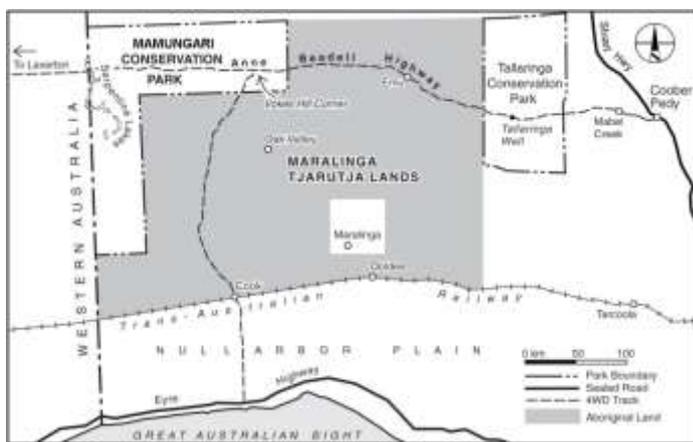
Patron: Professor Mark Shephard OAM

www.fgvd.org.au



INFORMATION SHEET

The Friends of the Great Victoria Desert Parks is a volunteer group, formed in 1994. We are supported by staff of the South Australian Department for Environment and Water (DEW). The approval of the traditional owners of the area, the Maralinga Tjarutja people, is sought for all our projects.



The Great Victoria Desert (GVD) straddles 42 million hectares of outback South Australia and Western Australia. The South Australian section of the GVD encompasses the Maralinga Tjarutja Lands, part of the Woomera Prohibited Area and the Mamungari, Tallaringa, Yumberra, Yellabinna and Pureba parks.

Most of our work to date has taken place in and around South Australia's largest conservation park, the 2.1 million hectare Mamungari (formerly the 'Unnamed') Conservation Park. Its international significance as an arid wilderness was recognised by UNESCO in 1977 when it was proclaimed a Biosphere Reserve. In 2004, Mamungari was handed back to its traditional Aboriginal owners and is now managed cooperatively. Our field work in Mamungari has included:

- clean-ups of mining debris
- flora and fauna surveying in collaboration with the State Herbarium, the SA Museum and other bodies
- vegetation monitoring
- vegetation photopoint data collection

The Newsletters on our website have reports and photos from recent field trips.

In 2005 we published *Shrubs and Trees of the Great Victoria Desert*, a high quality vegetation field guide which is now in its second printing. We also publish interpretative trail notes (overleaf) and bird and plant lists. To purchase the field guide or download these lists, go to our website.



Several permits are required for travel across the South Australian section of the GVD - go to the DEWNR parks website at <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/parks> and search for the relevant park.

Visit our website at www.fgvd.org.au for more information.

For travellers in the GVD, we have developed an interpretative self-drive trail along the Anne Beadell Highway, west of Voakes Hill Corner. Please take the time to stop at each of the seven numbered posts and learn a little about the surrounding plants and their regeneration following fires. *Shrubs and Trees of the Great Victoria Desert* describes most of them. The GVD is an area of great biodiversity and you should be able to find six or more different plants within ten metres of most posts.

Post 1: GPS 28° 33' 13" S, 130° 30' 35" E

Black oak, *Casuarina pauper*, provides welcome shade. You will also see *Acacia*, *Eremophila* and *Senna* with its Y-shaped leaves.

Post 2: GPS 28° 32' 25" S, 130° 07' 17" E

This post is surrounded by spinifex (*Triodia basedowii*), *Eucalyptus* trees are regenerating after fire. To the south is a stand of mallee cypress pine (*Callitris verrucosa*). Look for the magnificent red flowers of the grass-leaved hakea (*Hakea francisiana*) over the track.

Post 3: GPS 28° 31' 46" S, 129° 49' 15" E

This area shows extensive post-fire regeneration. Old, fire-damaged marble gums (*Eucalyptus gongylocarpa*) and grass-leaved hakeas have seeded, producing many babies.

Post 4: GPS 28° 31' 52" S, 129° 45' 53" E

South-west of the post is a stately, single trunked tree like nothing else in the GVD. It's the desert kurrajong (*Brachychiton gregorii*), whose long tap-root seeks out the water.

Post 5: GPS 28° 30' 23" S, 129° 15' 47" E

The dominant shrub here is the pretty desert heath myrtle (*Aluta maisonneuvii*). If you're lucky, it will be flowering.

Post 6: GPS 28° 30' 29" S, 129° 06' 55" E

You're in marble gum country. You'll see them on the dune to the south and along the track. Closer to the post, burnt *Ooldea* mallees (*Eucalyptus youngiana*) are regenerating from underground lignotubers.

Post 7: GPS 28° 30' 24" S, 129° 05' 25" E

Our last post is in mulga (*Acacia aneura*) woodland. Across the road are groves of *Eremophila longifolia*, with its long, drooping leaves, and the warty-leaved *Eremophila latrobei*.

Serpentine Lakes East Bank:

You'll know when you're here. Look for the narrow-leaved hopbush (*Dodonea viscosa*), the attractive silvertails (*Ptilotus obovatus*) and the salt-loving samphires (*Tecticornia* species).

If you'd like to join the Friends, please email the treasurer at treasurer@fgvd.com.au for a membership form and bank deposit details. The membership fee is \$25 per year (for individuals or families). New members who join after 30 September need not repay for the following year. New members will receive a copy of *Shrubs and Trees of the Great Victoria Desert*.

Other enquiries should go to the secretary at secretary@fgvd.org.au