

PEKINA CREEK

SHARED-USE TRAILS

POINTS OF INTEREST

- Aboriginal Rock Carvings
- Reservoir Valve Wheelhouse
- Rock Poems
- Natural Springs
- Tank Hill Lookout
- Pekina Run Ruins
- Pekina Reservoir



Pekina Creek rises south from Pekina off the eastern side of the Pekina Ranges in the Southern Flinders Ranges, and flows in a north-north-easterly direction for about 16 km into Pekina Reservoir; downstream from the reservoir the creek eventually disappears underground on the Walloway Plain, north-east from Orroroo.

The creek has a large variety of trees, including the popular Giant Redgum which is further downstream from the Lions Park. Many other native plants, interspersed with exotic plants carried down with floodwaters from earlier settlements along its banks are found in the creekbed. Permanent springs ensure constant waterholes, with running water in places throughout all the year.



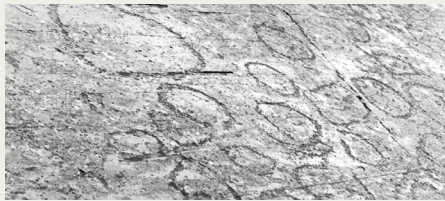
The banks of the Pekina Creek contain a reservoir of sites of historical, geological and botanical interest. The walking trail is a naturally formed and gently undulating 2.9km loop track from the Lions Park to the Reservoir returning on the other side of the creek. Watch your footing especially after rainfall and please judge your own ability to take steps across the creek and down to the rock poem. There is an alternative option to drive direct to the Rock Poem off Price Maurice Road along the Tank Hill Lookout Tourist Loop road.

Lions Park

Locals and visitors may drive right to the shaded picnic area at the creek. Turn at the Caravan Park and head down past the Golf Club. Enjoy the new installations of our nature playground, grassed areas and barbeque facilities. The Pekina Creek Walking Trail loop may be commenced from here, to the various points of interest.

Natural Springs

Permanent springs feed the waterholes and were a source of constant water to the indigenous people and early settlers. These springs were the first water supply for the Orroroo township prior to the construction of the Pekina Reservoir.



Aboriginal Carvings

These carvings believed to be Ngadjuri Aboriginal Carvings have been estimated as being 7,000 years old, and are thought to have included amongst them, directional signs setting out instructions for the indigenous tribes who passed through the area on a seasonal basis.

If you have a knowledge of geology you may even note the scratches left in the rock along the trail by ancient ice sheets, said to have occurred thousands of years before the Aboriginal Carvings.

Rock Poems

Two Poems were carved in 1896 & 1901 by a local boy, D McDonald in the rockface in a secluded gully within the creek. The latter of these poems was a sentimental expression of farewell to the district. The author was departing for America, where he hoped to exploit his invention of a chainless pushbike.

The father of "Roland Nutt," one of the friends mentioned in the poem, erected the deserted Yatina Hotel which is visible for many miles on the Orroroo-Jamestown Road. The old two storey hotel was built in the 1870's when it was incorrectly anticipated that the Northern Railway would pass by, but it never the less proved a boon to early teamsters.

Tank Hill Lookout

Water is gravitated from the concrete tank at the "lookout" to the township. On top of the hill is an excellent view over the artesian basin in the valley of the Walloway Plain and across to Black Rock Peak.

Freshwater Coral

This small formation is of calcareous organic deposits of freshwater origin. It tends to indicate that the whole of the surrounding area was once a lake. This particular formation of coral was of sufficient interest to be photographed and included in an edition of "The Geology of S.A.", with the following extract "Freshwater limestone, formed of the remains of Chara, extinct lake deposits, Pekina Creek, Orroroo".

Giant Wombat

Near the fourth golf course hole, an excavation was the source of bones of the pre-historic 1½ ton giant wombat, scientific name Diprotodon. This species of megafauna was the largest marsupial found in Australia and became extinct 25,000 years ago.

Reservoir & Pekina Run Ruins

The road into the reservoir is a well maintained unsealed road ideal for vehicles towing with ample room for turning around or pulling over to a favourable picnic location along the reservoir. The track to the ruins is a dry weather road only, not recommended if you are towing however another great walking trail.

(For more information on the reservoir or ruins please refer to the Magnetic Hill Flyer)

Other Points of Interest along the Creek (north of the Lions Park)

Giant Gum Tree

This magnificent example of red gum has statistics which could not be matched elsewhere. It is 10.4 metres or 34 feet in circumference, and it climbs 6 metres or 20 feet before there is a fork in the trunk. The tree is estimated to be around 500 years old.



Pekina Creek Red Railway Bridge

The railway bridge was erected when the Peterborough to Quorn railway line was constructed. The section between Orroroo and Quorn was opened on 17 May 1882.

The bridge is constructed using hand driven rivets. During the time of floods in the early years the mailman from Hawker would often walk across the bridge with the mailbags so the mail would be on time for the train to Adelaide.

Your recommendation about
your visit to friends would be
greatly appreciated.

Thank you for visiting our district.