

6.0 km Checkpoint S2 Leave the gate as you find it and take the left hand track down hill. To the right is 'Regari Waters' with fenceline rows of Radiata (Monterey) Pines, clearly visible from vantage points around the Valley. Look for landmarks; binoculars and clear weather will help.

From south to north:-

- tucked in behind a hill is part of Hoffnungsthal Lagoon – generally dry (230°)
- centre of Lyndoch (250°)
- glass bottle factory (275°)
- Orlando tank farm in Rowland Flat with sand quarries beyond it (300°)
- motel resort (315°)
- Tanunda (330°)
- Belvidere Hill (335°)
- Close by to the north is Regari Waters cairn (5°), and ...
- communications tower on Rifle Range Road (25°) (Little Kaiserstuhl walk).

The floor of the valley is generally clad with vineyards, but other crops are interspersed. The railway weaves its way across the valley floor (two train loads of marble leave Angaston per day). Beyond Tanunda is the Greenock Range.

This section of the route takes you down the fault scarp which forms the eastern boundary of the Valley. Formed by movement along the Stockwell fault zone which began about 50 million years ago, the scarp face has since been modified by erosion, and alluvial material at its foot has concealed all trace of the fault.

At the bottom of the hill continue north over the stile (at 4.6km) walking in the undeveloped road reserve. Treat any stock that may be there with respect. Follow the track over another stile, continuing to walk between the fences. A creek bed hosts shady Red Gums. Gates and a stile mark the unsigned Jacob Road track.

From here, follow Jacob Road up the hill along the fence towards the 3km mark. A deep gully to the north, lined with Red Gum trees, comes into view. It is Jacob's Creek, a name now widely known for the wines that carry that brand.

2.0 km Eventually you arrive back at 'Regari Waters' track junction, **Checkpoint S2**; walk back to Trial Hill Road past Steingarten, taking in the different views.



Kaiserstuhl (centre) and Little Kaiserstuhl (left) seen over Steingarten Vineyard

Greg Stirling, Orlando Wines

This walk is on lands managed by The Barossa Council. It is presented here by the Walking Trails Support Group. www.walkingtrailssupportgroup.org.au

Interpretation is based on the Royal Geographical Society of South Australia's Exploring the Barossa available from the Tanunda Visitor Information Centre

December 2009

Barossa Walks **Steingarten**



Pewsey Vale peak

This walk from Trial Hill Road across the open hills of the Barossa Range overlooking Rowland Flat provides some delightful views – near ones to the north-east, of Kaiserstuhl and part of Mt Crawford Forest, and distant ones to the north-west, of the Barossa Valley and beyond. The walk passes the Steingarten – Garden of Stones – vineyard.

Jacob's Creek and Steingarten are well-known brand names of the Orlando Winery which has been located at the foot of this hill since 1877.

Views across the Valley are best in the morning before the sun gets into the western sky.

Distance and Time: 8.0km circuit, including a linear section; allow 4 hours. Distances are marked every 1km, decreasing as you return to the Trailhead. Markers are located on the fence.

Access: Park on Trial Hill Road near a heavy timber gate about 300m uphill from Parson's Lookout. Climb the stile to start the walk.

Notes are written for a clockwise circuit.

Track

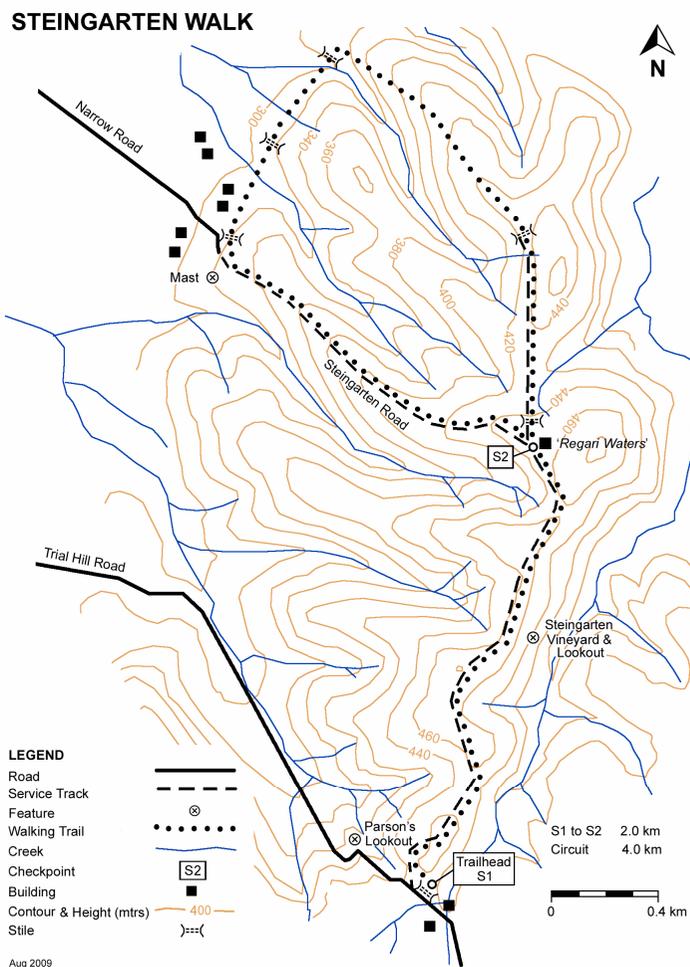
A mixture of paddock tracks and little used roads.

For your safety

- This is a walk in a semi-natural area; beware of inherent hazards
- Walk in a party of four, advise a reliable person of where you are going and when you expect to return
- Wear strong comfortable boots and take adequate food and clothing
- Take at least 2 litres of water per person, more if it is hot
- Protect yourself from the sun and carry a First Aid Kit

Seasons come and go, and plants and animals mentioned in the notes may not always be there.

Spot the difference ...



Start at Trial Hill Road Trailhead, Checkpoint S1

Follow the gravel road to the north. On the right hand side (east) of the track there are two gullies between you and the dark green pine plantations of Mt Crawford Forest on the horizon. The farthest one, just below the pines, is Jacobs Creek; the other an unnamed creek immediately below you joins Jacobs Creek about 3 km to the north.

The pines are Mt Crawford Forest's most northerly plantations. There is much remnant scrub on the upper slopes of the range, some of which lies within the Kaiser Stuhl Conservation Park. The highest point is Kaiserstuhl itself (600m). A stone wall on the southern ridge runs up to the top.

Looking back, Pewsey Vale Peak, the highest point in the region (629m) can be easily recognised by the characteristic flat-topped Stone Pine on top. North-facing vineyards on the other side of Trial Hill Road are in a sheltered spot.

After walking about **1 km** you come to a stone wall. Just below the ridge on a cool east-facing slope is the Steingarten vineyard, established to grow Riesling grapes under similar conditions to those found in the mountainous Mittel Mosel of Germany. The ground was deep ripped to bring slabs of the underlying soft schist to the surface and mix it with the thin soil. The larger pieces of rock were broken up by hand using stone hammers to give a surface layer of stone. The ground was so stony that holes had to be dug to get stakes in. Vines were planted 1.2m apart, giving a density of about 6700 vines per hectare instead of the more usual 1700-2000 per hectare.

This experimental vineyard was established in 1962 by Colin Gramp of the Orlando Winery, to produce grapes which have a high natural acidity when they are fully ripe (difficult to achieve in Australia). The climate is tough because of the exposed, cold and stormy site. Grapes are picked by hand in late March (later than Riesling grapes in the Valley), and are hand-pruned. The distinctive style of Steingarten Riesling has encouraged extension of the vineyard.

6.8 km A lookout installed in 2004 allows you to look down on the vines. Yellow lichen occurs on their slender, slow-growing trunks.