Historic Bundaleer Forest Reserve

Bundaleer Forest Reserve is proudly known as the ‘birthplace of Australian Forestry’ and is the first plantation in Australia. It was established in 1875 when nurseryman William Curnow started planting Tasmanian Blue gums, local Red gums and Sugar gums adjacent to the Jamestown - Spalding Road (R.M. Williams Way).

Bundaleer derives its name from an aboriginal word for ‘stony place’. It was originally part of the Bundaleer Station, a large pastoral property established in 1841. The Bundaleer Forest Reserve covers an area of 3,200 hectares and is situated in South Australia's mid-north, two and a half hours drive north from Adelaide and approximately 10km south of Jamestown.

The Bundaleer Forest Reserve includes two state heritage listed buildings and a number of other historic buildings, ruins and sites. It contains significant areas of hardwood and softwood plantations that provide a number of opportunities for recreation such as bushwalking and cycling as well as some habitat for native fauna.

Pets in the Forest

Dogs are welcome in plantation forest areas, provided they are kept under direct control at all times and kept on a leash when in picnic areas for the safety of other forest users, and to protect native wildlife.

Conservation and Heritage

Bundaleer Forest Reserve does not contain any gazetted Native Forest Reserves. However, large areas of Sugar gum and other hardwood and softwood plantation species provide some habitat value for native fauna.

The Bundaleer Forest Reserve includes a number of heritage buildings and sites. Places of high state heritage value are recognised under the Heritage Places Act 1993. The Conservator’s Hut, first Forestry Office and the original nursery site from 1876 are listed on the SA Heritage Register (Australian Heritage Directory, 2007).

In 2006 Bundaleer Forest Reserve was named as a Bank SA South Australian Heritage Icon. This program is managed by the National Trust of South Australia and it recognises items and places that have made a significant contribution to the cultural identity of the state.

Over the last ten years stabilisation, restoration and maintenance work has been undertaken on the Bundaleer Cottage and outbuildings and other heritage buildings and sites. The majority of this work has been undertaken through the ForestySA – Community Engagement Program supported by the local community with participants from local schools and employment training programs.

Forest Access

ForestrySA maintains many roads and tracks within Bundaleer Forest Reserve for forest operations such as plantation establishment and tending, logging and fire protection.

Forest roads and tracks that are open to the public are subject to normal road rules. Please note that not all roads will be adequate for your vehicle.

Facilities for Hire

BOOKINGS REQUIRED

Enquire at the Wirrabara Forest Information Centre.

Conservator’s Hut

Located close to the Conservator’s Trail, approximately 800 metres northwest of the Bundaleer Picnic Ground. This small hut was erected around 1890 and was used as overnight accommodation for the Conservator of Forests when undertaking inspections of Bundaleer.

It has been restored and is now available as accommodation for visitors to the forest offering 4 beds, a pot belly stove, dining table and chairs, outdoor fireplace/BBQ, untreated rainwater and toilet. Bedding is required. Camping is not permitted in the surrounding area.

Curnow’s Hut

Located in the south of the Bundaleer Forest Reserve with access from Springs Road. Originally built for William Curnow, Bundaleer’s first nurseryman, this 3 room hut has been renovated and is available for accommodation, offering a basic kitchen, pot belly stove, outdoor fireplace, untreated rainwater and toilet.

Total Fire Ban and Forest Closures

For your safety, forest reserves are closed to the public on declared Total Fire Ban days and in areas where forest operations such as harvesting are being undertaken. Visitors must keep clear of logging operations and pay attention to all signs.

For your safety, forest reserves are closed to the public on days of declared total fire ban.

This forest is located in the Flinders Fire Ban District. For CFS fire ban information phone 1300 362 361 or visit the CFS website. Being aware of a Total Fire Ban is your responsibility.

Campfires and Barbecues

Wood fires are permitted within the forest from 1 May to 31 October each year. Gas fires are permitted from 1 April to 30 November.

Fireplaces should be cleared of all flammable material for a distance of 4 metres. Someone must be present at all times and ensure that the fire is fully extinguished before leaving.

Visitors may collect wood for campfires from the plantation forest floor only, near their campsites and picnic areas. It is an offence to cut down or damage standing trees or plants. Campfires are restricted to designated fire places located in campgrounds, picnic areas and at huts. Please conserve wood supplies by keeping fires small.

Campfire and Barbecue Fireplaces

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Picnic Areas

Bundaleer Picnic Ground

The Bundaleer Picnic Ground has been a favoured recreation area for over 100 years. The area contains picnic tables and toilet facilities, and is the starting point for the Maple Walk, Sculpture Walk, Conservator’s Trail and Scenic Trail.

Bundaleer Arboretum

Located within the Arboretum, this picnic area is nestled amongst a variety of trial plantation species. The area contains a small number of picnic tables and access to the Conservator’s Walk.

Forest Activities & Events

Organised competitions and events are held in Bundaleer Forest Reserve. These require the submission of an event application, which are approved on a case-by-case basis. Such events may include orienteering, mountain biking, school camps and organised motorsports.

Multiple Use Trails

Walking, cycling and horse riding are all popular activities in Bundaleer Forest Reserve. The Heyes and Mawson trails both pass through the Bundaleer Forest Reserve. Within Bundaleer Forest Reserve, there are two multi-use trails and two short walks. For more information regarding the extensive trail and fire track network within Bundaleer Forest Reserve, please refer to the map or contact the Wirrabara Forest Information Centre.

Forest Trail Code

The forest trail, road and Fire track network is used by walkers, horse riders and cyclists. To ensure everyone’s enjoyment and safety please consider:

- For your safety, avoid areas where access is restricted, including where forestry operations are in progress. Look for signs.
- Always wear a helmet when cycling and horse riding and travel at a safe speed according to your experience, track conditions and terrain.

For your safety, forest reserves are closed to the public on days of declared total fire ban.

- Consider other users. Cyclists give way to walkers and both must give way to horse riders. Courtesy is the key.
- Avoid steep muddy or loose trails and surfaces, where the tracks you leave behind can channel rainwater and cause erosion.

It is an offence to cut down or damage any living or standing vegetation, or to remove any timber from a forest reserve without a permit.