

# Welcome to

## The Cana Cottages, Aldinga Beach.

Four cottages, a very short stroll to the beach, uninterrupted views of Adelaide's southern coast line. An easy 45 minute drive from Goodwood, but a world away from your daily life. The Cana Cottages are operated by volunteers from [Emmaus Catholic Parish](#) and offer a very affordable break, whether you're thinking of one night, a weekend or a week.

The Cana Cottages are a great spot for all ages, all year round. Each cottage sleeps ten people (one Queen bed and 8 bunk beds).

They are fully equipped (bring your own pillows, sheets and blankets (& heaters for winter)) and have a small television in each unit. Two shared BBQs are available (BYO 9kg gas bottle).



Great swimming, easy access to the McLaren Vale wineries, or just take in the sea air and snooze.

The Cana Cottages are located at 235 Lower Esplanade, Aldinga Beach (less than an hour from Adelaide).

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/canacottages/>  
and [www.canacottages.com](http://www.canacottages.com)

## **The story of the Cana Cottages**

Back in the early 1960s Mr MG Henderson was the generous donor of two blocks of land at Aldinga for Goodwood Catholic Parish Priest Father Patrick Kelly to use as he saw fit. These blocks were behind the sand hill. Father Kelly subsequently purchased and donated an adjoining esplanade block. He wrote to all parishioners on 24 June 1965 outlining his good news and his vision to do something for his parishioners.

The first Cana Cottages committee members were: Father Kelly, Bruce Lynch, John Ryan, Phil Heysen, Noel McAdie, Lawrie McEvoy, Frank Mulhall and Kevin Moore. With the help of these and other dedicated parishioners they evolved the plan to have four cottages placed so that each had a sea view.

Four ex South Australian Housing Trust temporary homes were purchased in 1966.

Parishioners rallied to Father Kelly's call to give a day here and there to make these homes liveable. Tradesmen and non-tradesmen came from all over – brickies, electricians, plumbers, labourers and the non-skilled. Father Kelly himself undertook much of the labouring work on the Cana Cottages site. Then came the biggest garage sale ever, but nothing was sold – instead everything was donated to set up the cottages. By December 1965 Cottage 1 was ready, and gradually 2,3 and 4 were completed. Those early years were magical.

During his time at Goodwood Father Kelly also helped select the design of the current Holy Cross Church at Goodwood, the first circular Catholic Church in South Australia.

Fifty years later that holiday dream of Father Kelly is still a reality – four cottages nestled on the sand hills overlooking Aldinga Bay, each accommodating ten people – a place where one can relax in a quiet atmosphere, have an affordable break from the rat race while absorbing the peace, beauty and serenity of God's creation.

Today the Cottages are administered by an incorporated body of volunteers – parishioners and others who have enjoyed the benefits of Cana and want to share that joy. We rely on volunteers to help keep the cottages in good order and maintain the very affordable holidays as was Father Kelly's vision.

**If you've enjoyed Cana, why not contact our Booking Secretary and volunteer for the next working bee?**

Father Kelly died in 1989, at the age of 81, and is buried in the Cabra Dominican College cemetery.

## **Why Cana?**

Cana is a village near the Sea of Galilee. In the Gospels, Jesus and His disciples were invited to a wedding at Cana. There were many, many guests there and they were all having a special time together - until, during the meal, the servants went to fetch some more wine and discovered there was none left!

Mary, who was helping with hosting the wedding, whispered to her son Jesus, "They haven't any wine left." She then told the servants, "Whatever He tells you to do, you do it." This is when Jesus performed his first miracle – he turned water into wine, and not just any wine but better quality than the original.

Down here at the Aldinga Cana Cottages we also believe that miracles can take place as water becomes wine – both physically (from the surf to a glass of vino) and spiritually as the stresses of daily life drip away.

## **Enjoying the Cana Cottages and keeping everyone happy**

The Cana Cottages are maintained by a small group of volunteers from the Emmaus Parish, Goodwood. Please take note of the following matters, so that you and other patrons can enjoy your holidays at the Cana Cottages now and into the future:

1. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES are pets allowed on the property\*.
2. No smoking of any sort in the Cottages\*\*.
3. The cottages must be vacated by **2pm** on your day of departure and may not be occupied before **3pm** on your day of arrival.
4. Remember to bring your own bedding (sheets, blankets and pillows) & toiletries.
5. Remember to bring cleaning products (sponge, dishwashing liquid etc).
6. Furniture, crockery and cutlery are NOT to be moved from cottage to cottage.
7. When returning from swimming you are asked to use the showers provided outside Units 2 & 3. This will avoid sand being washed into the floor trap, causing annoying and expensive blockages.
8. Should any urgent plumbing problems arise you are asked to contact Dave at Aldinga Plumbing Services on 0418 831 845 (or call the Cana President for advice).
9. BBQs - if a total fire ban has not been declared you are permitted to use a **gas or electric** BBQ for cooking, as per CFS Regulations which include the following conditions -
  - You must have cleared away all flammable material for a 4 metre space around the BBQ, stay in attendance while the BBQ is lit and have appropriate equipment to put it out should the need arise.
  - Fire Blankets can be found in the kitchen of each unit.
10. Camp fires on the property and on the beach are banned at ALL TIMES.
11. Rubbish removal is your responsibility. Bins must be put out before 7am on Monday mornings for collection (please, put them out Sunday before you leave). Red bins each week, recycling or green bins fortnightly, check what the neighbours have put out.
12. Before leaving you are asked to clean your cottage as per the instructions in the cottage, including wet mopping all floors (including the bathroom).
13. When vacating the cottages please ensure that mains power is off at the switchboard inside your cottage and that all windows and doors are locked.
14. Return the keys promptly to the booking secretary – preferably the day you vacate.
15. Please report any faults or damage when you return your key.
16. Matters of an urgent nature may be referred to the Booking Officer, David Kilmartin, 0422 912 697.

***We hope you have a relaxing and enjoyable holiday.***

Failure to abide by these matters will result in patrons being unable to rent the Cana Cottages in the future. If you enjoy the cottages please come along to our working bees. More information is available at [www.canacottages.com](http://www.canacottages.com) and [www.facebook.com/groups/canacottages](https://www.facebook.com/groups/canacottages).

\*Pets include cats, birds, hamsters, guinea pigs and other small animals. Leave them home with a carer, please. \*\*This includes hookahs, pipes and all other smoking devices. Please smoke outside and bin your butts.

### **A gentle reminder regarding booking a Cana Cottage**

The Cana Cottages are maintained by volunteers, as is the booking process. The cottages are established for the use of parishioners of the Emmaus Parish, and parents and friends of the parish school communities. Despite having a convenient website, the cottages are not available to the general public, unfortunately. We just don't have the people power or funds.

Please note:

- Read all the information in our guide regarding being a good tenant. You'll be asked to confirm this.
- Bookings need to be for a minimum of two nights.
- Check in time 3pm. Check out time 2pm.
- Bookings need to be made ahead of time. You can't book the day before.
- Payment is only accepted via EFT from a bank account prior to entering the premises, so please allow time for your payment to be cleared.
- As we have very limited funds, and rely on the goodwill of tenants to leave the cottages tidy, **we may require the name of a referee who is already a good friend of Cana.**
- We may require a refundable cleaning bond to be paid, and a scan of your driver's license.
- Summer bookings may be via a ballot system to ensure fairness in the case of over subscription for certain popular dates. Friends of Cana who participate in working bees or contribute in other ways to the upkeep of Cana may get priority (as a vote of thanks).
- You can book via the Book a Cottage tab on the website or via email with your details to [bookings@canacottages.com](mailto:bookings@canacottages.com).
- Please be patient and book ahead so that we can arrange that confirmation and also arrange exchange of keys. If you haven't received confirmation, please send another email reminder.

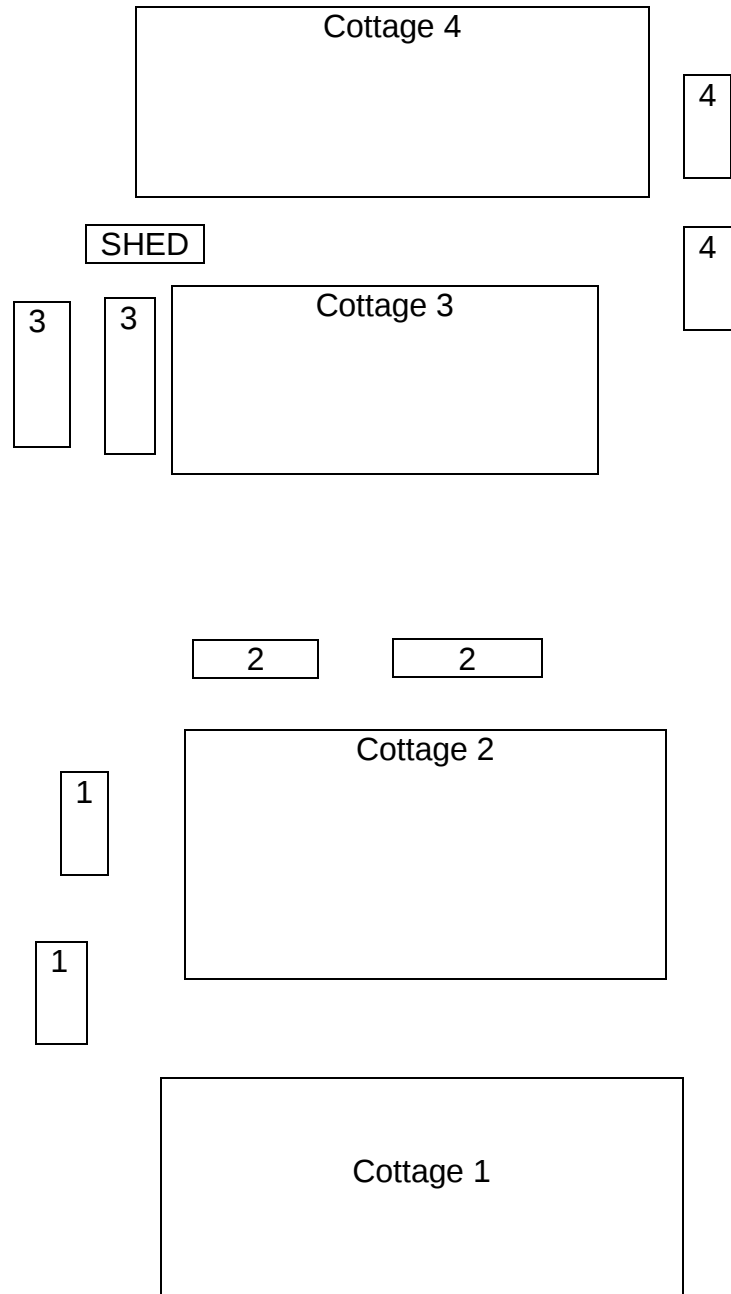
## CANA COTTAGES CAR PARKING PLAN

Many families enjoying holidays at Cana Cottages have more than one car, and parking can become a problem.

This car parking plan enables several cars to be parked on the property and still provides easy access for everyone.

Please note that ***under no circumstances*** should anyone park on the neighbour's driveway (the southern half of the driveway).

Thank you for your Co-operation.



LOWER ESPLANADE

### **What do the cottages look like?**

The Cana Cottages offer affordable, retro-style accommodation taking you back to the era when people came to the beach to get away from the hum-drum rat race. The Cottages are a self-funding, community run service. If you haven't stayed at the Cana Cottages before, you might be wondering what the internals look like. Here are a few pictures from the cottages to give you an inkling. It's basic family accommodation in a wonderful setting. Each cottage has a queen-sized bed and bedroom and two bedrooms with 4 bunks. So sleeping for 10.

It's Holy Cross Church community-owned and run, we trust each tenant to pay it forward, leaving the cottage as they'd like to find it. We don't have someone who comes down to inspect or clean between tenants. That's how we are able to keep the rate so low (*in 2019 at \$55/night. For a comparison of rentals, a powered site at Willunga Caravan Park is \$40/night, while some Air BnB holiday accommodation further back from the Esplanade may charge \$120/night upwards for up to 4 people*).

What Cana offers isn't for everyone, but we hope you enjoy your stay.

### **What's there – and what's not?**

There is no free wi-fi available at Cana. There is mobile phone reception so you can always use mobile data to access the interweb.

There are no heaters or electric blankets – please bring your own doonas and rugs.

There is no electrical air conditioning – just a sea breeze.

There is a small television in each cottage – no large smart TV, however.

There is an electric oven and stovetop, microwave oven, kettle, toaster and the standard assortment of pots, pans and utensils to cook.

Plates, dishes, mugs, glasses, and cutlery – all the usual suspects ready for a great escape by the seaside.

Each cottage has a sea view.

Each cottage has a clothes line.

There is no washing machine or dryer available.

Each cottage has a shower, but no bath.

Each cottage has sleeping for 10 (double bed and 8 singles arrange as 4 double bunks – across three bedrooms).

The beach, just a very short walk across the Lower Esplanade (head north and you'll find stairs leading down to the sand), offers a safe swimming environment and lovely walks.

The nearest large shopping centre is Aldinga Central, which includes a petrol station. There are several options for eating out – including a couple of eateries at Aldinga Beach, several in the town of Aldinga, several at Willunga and in the vineyards nearby, and Star of Greece at Port Willunga. Head a bit further east to reach the wineries and restaurants of Maclaren Vale or the renowned Victory Hotel on Sellicks Hill. Fish and chip shops are located at Sellicks Beach (south), and also at Jimmies at Snapper Point (north of Cana).



Sunrise from the dune behind the cottage



Each cottage has two bedrooms with 4 single bunk beds, as well as one bedroom containing a double bed.



Main bedroom: Cottage 1 (as an example, no two rooms are the same at Cana).

# CLEANING REQUIREMENTS PRIOR TO VACATING THE COTTAGES

Everyone likes to start their holiday in a clean cottage. To keep our prices down, you are the cleaner for the next tenant so please pay it forwards by cleaning your cottage as if you were the next ones coming to stay.

Ensure that the following basic cleaning jobs are completed prior to leaving your cottage.

1. All electricity turned off at the power box inside your cottage.
2. Fridge turned off, defrosted and wiped out. Fridge doors propped open to avoid mould.
3. All floors swept and mopped.
4. Hand basin, toilet and shower cubicle cleaned.
5. All bench tops wiped down.
6. Kitchen sink, stove top and oven cleaned.
7. Please discard used dishcloths, scourers, soap etc.
8. Please do not leave sugar, flour and other consumables.
9. If leaving on the weekend, please place bins at kerbside for Monday collection (not blocking the driveway).
10. The Cana Cottages are run by volunteers; please consider coming along to a working bee during the year to ensure the cottages remain viable. For more info:  
[www.facebook.com/groups/canacottages](https://www.facebook.com/groups/canacottages) and [www.canacottages.org.au](http://www.canacottages.org.au).
11. **Booking officer (2020): David Kilmartin, 0422 912 697.**

# Aldinga Scrub Conservation Park



*Healthy Parks  
Healthy People*



Aldinga Scrub Conservation Park has been recognised as a significant area for nature conservation and protects many rare plants. Covering an area of 300 hectares, its natural features include sand dunes, sand blows, mallee scrub, remnant red gum forests, lacy coral lichen and closed heaths.

In such a fragile sand environment people can easily disturb the natural balance causing erosion and damage to vegetation. Please tread carefully and keep on the designated walking trails as you discover Aldinga Scrub's plant communities and the animals living in them.

## How to get to the park

Aldinga Scrub is situated on the coastline of Gulf St Vincent between the townships of Aldinga Beach and Sellicks Beach, 46 kilometres south of Adelaide. From Adelaide take Main South Road and turn right at Aldinga Beach Road or Norman Road. Bitumen and gravel roads provide conventional vehicle access to the park boundary.

Visitors cannot drive into the park. Walkers can enter via stiles or gates at the corner of Wattle Avenue and Acacia Terrace, Quandong Avenue, Fraser Street, Boomerang Avenue and Cox Road west of Camp Kursa. A small car park is located on the corner of Fraser and Dover Streets.

On **total fire ban days** the park is closed for safety reasons.

## Facilities

- Visitors to the park must be self-sufficient as there are no facilities provided.
- Camping is not permitted and all types of fires including gas barbecues are prohibited.
- Accommodation is available close to the park at Aldinga Beach and Sellicks Beach.

## Things to do

Walking trails of varying lengths provide the opportunity to explore the park's habitats and unique plant life. Take the time to stop, look and listen for animals and birdlife. You will hear a wide range of sounds and see a variety of plants. During spring the park is ablaze with wildflowers making any walk an enjoyable experience. Allow 20 minutes to walk one kilometre and carry drinking water with you.

## Geology

Aldinga Scrub is situated in an area known as the Willunga sub-basin. This was formed by red clays being washed down from the Willunga Hills over several thousand years. Sands from the ocean floor have been deposited over the clays and an older red marine sand deposit.

Mobile sand dunes known as 'sand blows' occur along the western boundary of the park. These mobile dunes are backed by semi-stabilised sand dune ridges which reach up to 35 metres high. Further inland, stabilised dunes up to ten metres high alternate with swales to form an undulating sand plain.

## History

Aldinga Scrub was part of the territory of the Kaurna Aboriginal people who used the area during the summer months. The scrub yielded a rich and bountiful supply of food and materials used for utensils. Shellfish, fish, marsupials, reptiles, birds and plant foods such as nardoo, muntries, yams and quandongs were abundant.

The first European settler in the area was Mr F Culley in 1857. Before World War I the scrub was subdivided and several attempts were made to farm the area. Because of the sandy soils, farming did not prove viable.

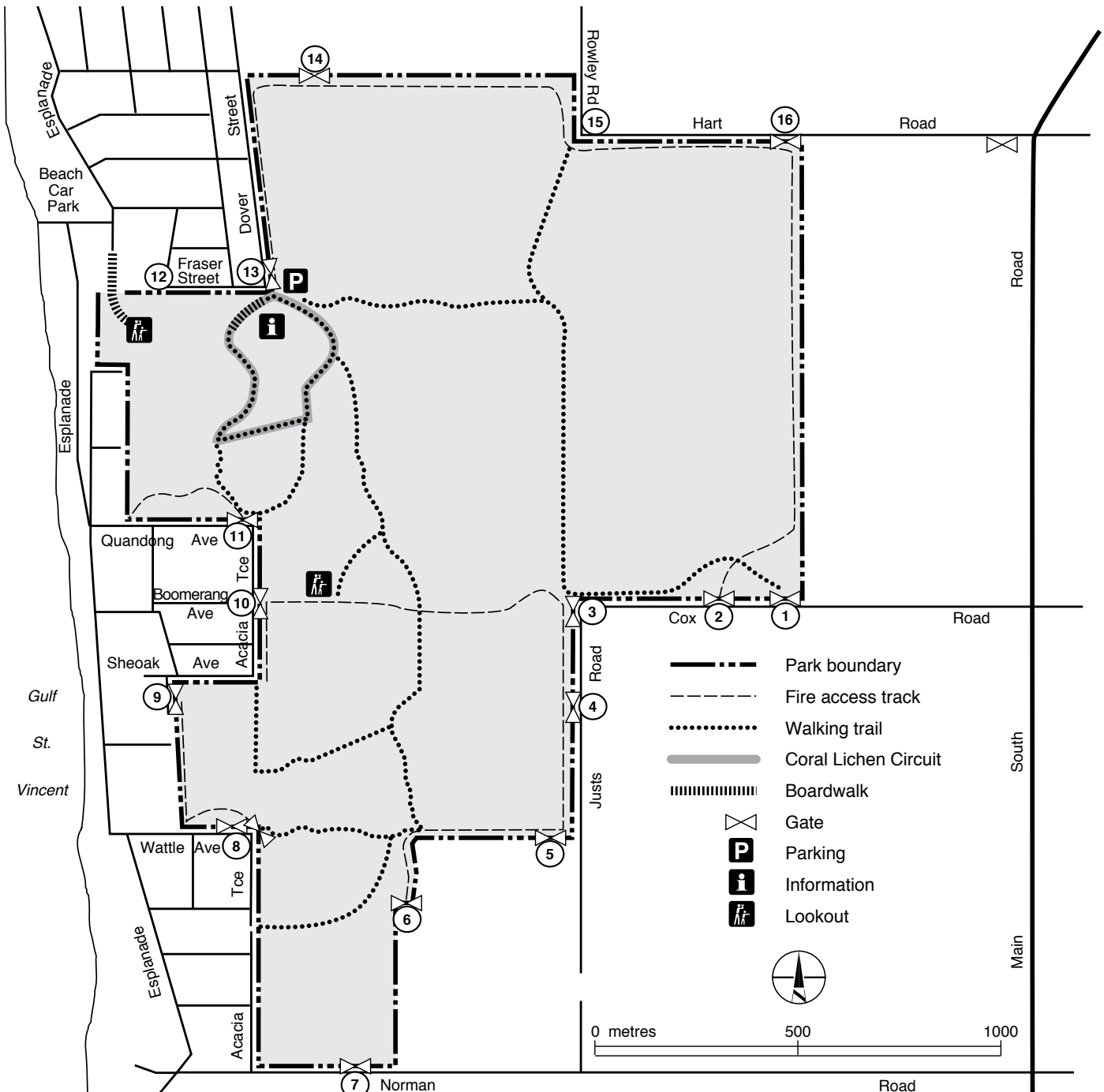
In the 1960s the Willunga Council became concerned that subdivision of the area would cause erosion. Between 1965 and 1982, 300 hectares were purchased at Aldinga to be managed by the State Planning Authority as an Open Space Reserve. In 1985 the reserve was declared Aldinga Scrub Conservation Park.

## Plants

Aldinga Scrub Conservation Park contains a diverse range of plant communities from sedgeland and closed heaths to pink gum woodlands and mallee scrub. These plants, adapted to the sandy soils, help stabilise the sand dunes and help prevent sand blows.

Low woodlands and heath communities cover most of Aldinga Scrub. In the north-east and far eastern sections of the scrub, a low woodland of mallee box trees grows on brown sandy loam soils. Sedgelands grow in areas where the watertable is close to the surface and the soil is semi-permanently waterlogged. Tall shrublands of drooping sheoak give way to low-growing coastal dune vegetation on the western side of the scrub.

Several rare species of plants are found in the park. They include lacy coral lichen, nardoo, hairy sedge and several species of orchids.



## Animals

More than 166 different bird species can be seen and heard within Aldinga Scrub Conservation Park. Some are migratory and visit the area for only a few months each year. If you watch quietly you may spot mistletoe birds, rainbow bee-eaters, brown goshawks and golden whistlers.

The park's vegetation provides a variety of host plants for 18 species of butterflies and 540 species of other insects. Brushtail possums, short-beaked echidnas, bats, geckoes and skinks live in the park. Aldinga Scrub also provides a home for brown snakes and red-bellied black snakes.

## Friends of Aldinga Scrub

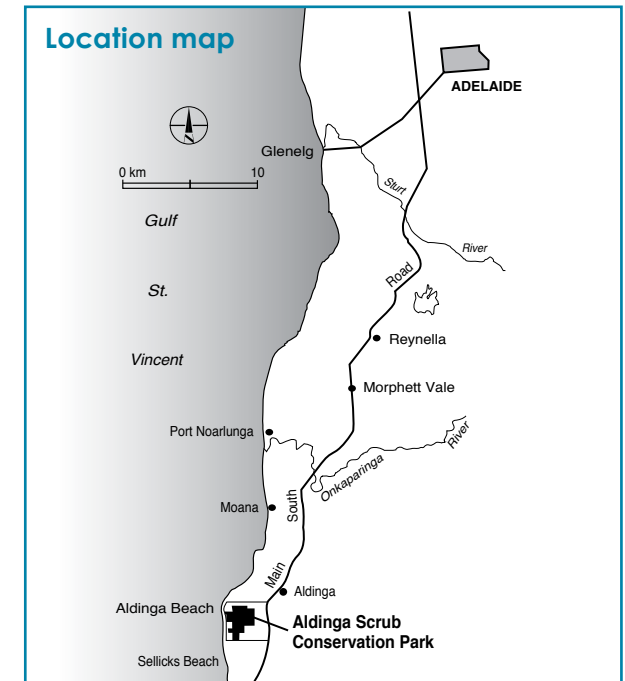
This is a local group of the statewide Friends of Parks. For further information about this group contact: Belair Office Phone (08) 8278 5477.

## The National Parks Code

Help protect your national parks by following these guidelines:

- Leave your pets at home.
- Take your rubbish with you.
- Observe fire restrictions usually 1 November to 30 April. Check CFS hotline 1300 362 361.
- All fires including gas barbeques are prohibited.
- Respect geological and heritage sites.
- Keep our wildlife wild. Do not feed or disturb animals, or remove native plants.
- Keep to defined vehicle tracks and walking trails.
- Be considerate of other park users.

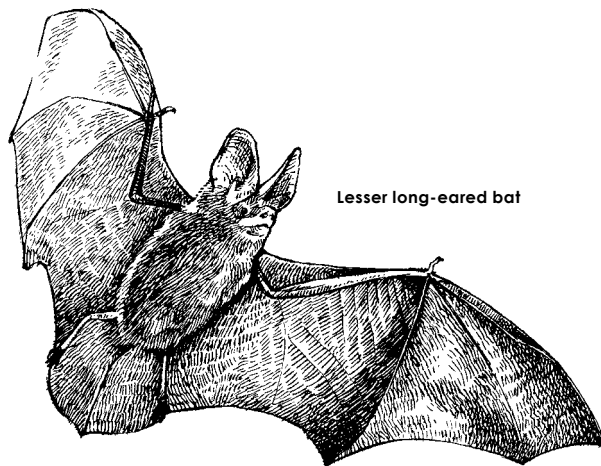
**Thank you for leaving the bush in its natural state for the enjoyment of others.**



## For further information contact:

Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
Southern Lofly District Office  
PO Box 783 Stirling SA 5162  
Phone (08) 8278 5477  
Fax (08) 8278 8587

Phone Information Line (08) 8204 1910  
Email [denrinformation@sa.gov.au](mailto:denrinformation@sa.gov.au)  
Website [www.environment.sa.gov.au/parks](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/parks)  
Emergency Officer Contact (24 Hr Service):  
Phone 1300 650 411 & quote pager number 46 52 83



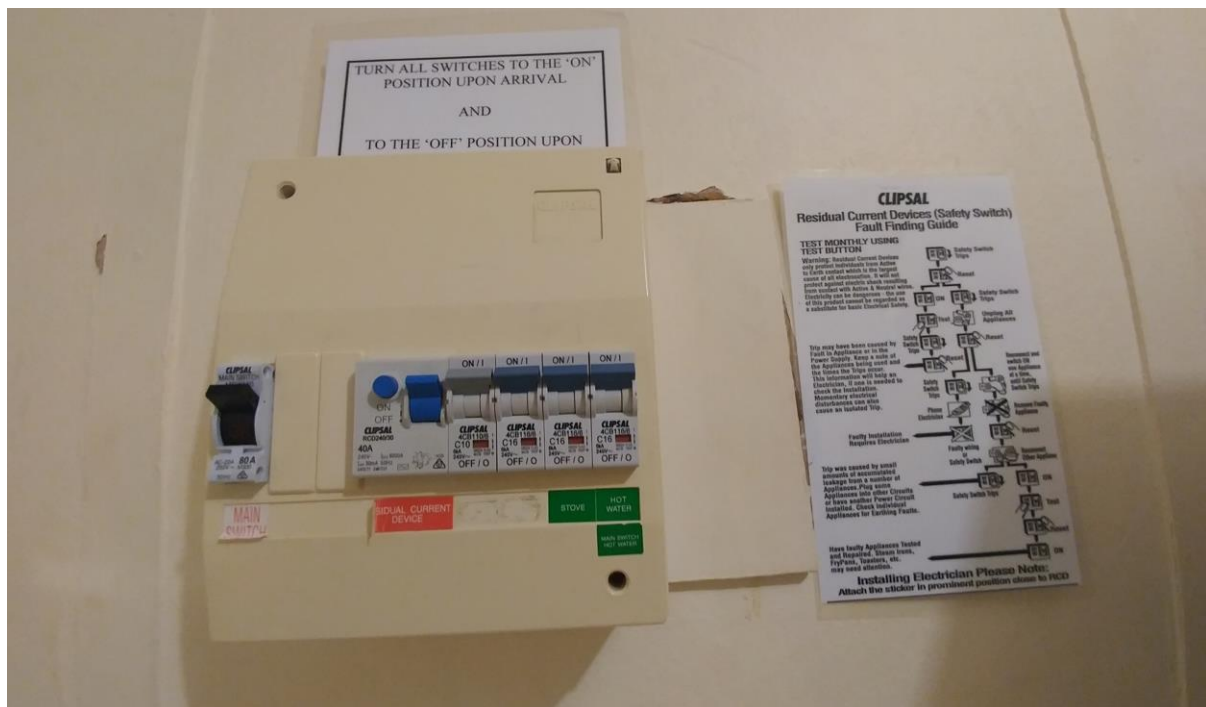
Lesser long-eared bat

## Turning on power at Cana

Upon arrival at Cana you'll normally need to head to the electricity meter box located inside your cottage (there's a separate one in each cottage), and flick all switches to 'on'. If there has been a tenant immediately before you, they may be asked to leave the power on, but you'll be informed if that's the case.

Unless instructed otherwise, please return all switches to 'off' afterwards. This helps us to reduce wasted electricity from the fridge and hot water service when the cottages are vacant.

The meter boxes are located close to the northern (Adelaide side) wall of each cottage, and look like this:



## **Cana Cottage rental tariffs 2025-26**

At the Cana Cottage Holiday Homes Incorporated Annual General Meeting in 2025 we reviewed tariffs. It was agreed that tariffs for the coming year would be as follows.

### **Tariffs per cottage:**

Off-peak (March-October) - \$90/night.

Peak rate (November-February + Long Weekends and Easter): \$100/night.

All bookings are for a minimum of two nights, except for long weekends (three nights) and Easter (four nights minimum).

Christmas school holidays (December 1 – January 31) – during the preceding October we ask for requests of full weeks (7 nights Sunday to Sunday). We try to accommodate all requests from families with school-aged children. After this, if any slots are available, we can take bookings for minimum three-night stays.

For new Cana renters we also require a \$200 cleaning bond (fully refundable, upon inspection in the week after).

### **Payments**

All bookings must be prepaid into the Cana account via EFT before key collection, please allow time to avoid disappointment.

The Cana Cottages bank account details are:

Account name: Cana Cottages Holiday Homes Association Incorporated  
Account BSB: 633-000 (Bendigo)  
Account #: 214 658 650

Please use your surname and rental start date (ddmmyy) as payment reference number, and let us know when payment has been made.

Key pickup details will be advised after payment.

### **Cancellation**

We are a non-profit organisation with a very tight budget. As such, we cannot afford cancellations and hence refunds cannot be given unless cancellation is due to government regulation (such as pandemic restrictions on movement). It is possible to reschedule your booking to an alternative off-peak period, with a booking fee being charged.

*Rates for comparison – In 2024, Port Willunga Caravan Park is offering a 1 bedroom glamping tent that sleeps 4 for \$98/night, without sea views.*