

Flinders Ranges National Park Haywards Huts Hike Network



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Government
of South Australia



Haywards Huts Hike Network

Discover what remains of Frederick Hayward's pastoral run, including the Aroona homestead ruin and several shepherds' huts. Travel back in time, exploring one or more of the hikes that make up the Haywards Huts Hike Network. Follow in the footsteps of Hayward and his overseer, Douglas Bruce, who regularly travelled on horseback to the huts in the mid-1800s.

The hikes provide a literal cross-section of the unique Flinders Ranges geology. The Aroona to Youngoona Hike passes through the ABC Range, where cliffs in the creek show minor faulting. At the other end of the hike, the Trezona Range has evidence of early life on earth. In between are rolling hills of Brachina Formation siltstones. There are good hilltop viewpoints and the hobbushes in this area are most colourful in September.

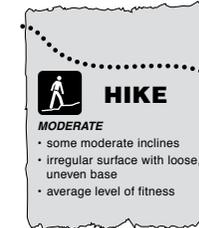
Access

There are three trailheads with car parks in the Flinders Ranges National Park from which walks can be started.

- Aroona Trailhead (Y1) is 7 km north of Brachina Gorge Road.
- Trezona Trailhead (T1) is 700 m from Brachina Gorge Road, at the eastern end of the Trezona Campground.
- Youngoona Trailhead (T3) is close to the Youngoona Hut ruin and is 600 m north from Brachina Gorge Road.

Choose your own adventure

The Haywards Huts Hike Network is made up of three hikes, allowing walkers to discover different flora and fauna, geological features and remnants of European history.



Yuluna Hike

8 km loop
***4 hours loop**

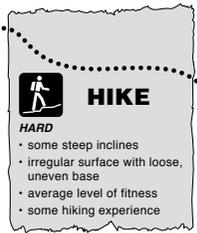
Start at the Aroona Trailhead (Y1), proceed via Checkpoints Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5 and return to Y1.

Setting off from the historic Aroona Homestead and its restored pug and pine hut, this hike leads through the landscape that inspired artist Hans Heysen on his numerous visits to the Flinders Ranges. The trail weaves through an impressive valley in the ABC Range.

Trezona Hike

8.2 km loop ***4 hours loop**

Start at Trezona Campground Trailhead (T1), proceed via T2, T3, T4, T5, T6 and return to T1. Discover fossils of some of the earliest lifeforms on earth in the Trezona formation. Located to the east of the ABC and Heysen ranges, the flat country abutting the Trezona Range was heavily grazed when the area was a pastoral property.



Aroona to Youngoona Hike (incorporating Haywards Hike)

15 km one-way
***7 hours one-way**

Comprises sections of the Yuluna Hike (Y1, Y5, Y4) (4.6 km), the Haywards Hike from Y4 to T2 via H1, H2 and H3 (9.2 km) and the Trezona Hike (T2 to T3) (1.2 km). Take this linear walk across the purple shale of the native pine-clad ABC Range to the limestone of the Trezona Range. Encounter caches of permanent water, relics of shepherds' huts and evidence of pioneers from the 19th century.

*Time is generously estimated from an average walking speed of 2 km per hour – allow extra time for resting and sightseeing.

Walk safely

Be prepared when bushwalking:

- Wear sturdy shoes, hat and sunscreen.
- Carry sufficient food and drinking water. Allow four litres of water per person per day.
- Do not rely on tanks or creeks in the park for drinking water.
- Keep to the defined walking trail and follow the trail markers.
- Inform a responsible person of your proposed route and expected time of return.
- Weather conditions can change quickly. Ensure you have appropriate wet-weather clothing.

Marked distances decrease as you approach your destination.

Seasons come and go: plants and animals mentioned in the notes may not always be present.

Yuluna Hike

8.0 Checkpoint Y1 - Aroona Trailhead car park (AMG 694 369)

At the old Aroona homestead on the hill behind you, a willow near the spring is all that remains of Frederick Hayward's garden, along with the foundations of his house and the stone borders of the garden beds.

Hayward occupied this area for only 11 years. When he arrived with his sheep in May 1851, he commented that there was very little grass and herbage here, but plenty of porcupine grass on the hills. There was no mention of the shrubs that his sheep evidently thrived upon, enabling him to return to England a wealthy man. The house was a ruin by the 1880s.

Nearer the creek, Eddie Pumpa's homestead of pine and pug was built in 1925, and partially restored in recent years. An outstation of the Oraparinna pastoral lease, Hans Heysen stayed here on some of his painting expeditions.

6.2 to 6.0 Cross Aroona Creek and pass the Koolaman Campground.

6.0 Checkpoint Y2 - junction of Aroona and Yuluna creeks (AMG 705 354)

5.8 to 5.6 Yuluna Creek (from the Aboriginal word *Yurla*, meaning kingfisher) cuts its way through the ABC Range. The blocky structure is characteristic of quartzite, and layers of sediments, ripple marks and joints in the rock are easily seen.

5.4 to 5.2 The cliff on the other side of the creek shows clear bedding, folding and a minor fault. Enter the creek to see it clearly.

5.0 to 4.8 Cross the creek between these two markers, from the northern to southern bank.

When the creek contains water in warmer months many tiny frogs and their tadpoles may be seen. This small frog (*Ranidella riparia*) is endemic to the Flinders Ranges and has four dark bands down its back and sides.

4.4 Checkpoint Y3 - track junction off Yuluna Creek up a small gully (AMG 717 357)

An old stone cairn may have marked a bridle way used by Hayward and his overseers. A short spur track of 200 m brings you to the ruin of Bendowta Hut, one of the shepherds huts, located at a vantage point above the creek.

3.6 to 3.4 A clear avenue through the trees is possibly part of a bridle track between Aroona and Monela Hut, referred to by Robert Bruce in *Reminiscences of an Old Squatter*. A blaze on a now-dead tree suggests this was a marked route on the way to Monela Hut (H3).

3.4 Checkpoint Y4 - top of bridleway and trail junction (AMG 721 365)

Bear left (north) and walk downhill to Yuluna Creek.

3.3 to 3.0 Cross the creek from south to north and continue walking through pine woodland to the Bulls Gap Track.

2.7 Checkpoint Y5 - junction with Bulls Gap Track (AMG 717 369)

Turn left (west).

1.6 to 0.6 As you pass through the ABC Range, the high north-facing slopes of quartzite on your left are clad with porcupine grass and scattered gum-barked coolibah, while the cooler south-facing slope on your right carries pine and silver wattle.

Take a detour to Heysen Lookout where the artist used to relax with a glass of beer in the evening while taking in the view of Aroona Valley.

0.2 A boom gate at the foot of the last slope takes the track across Aroona Creek and back to Aroona.

0.0 Checkpoint Y1 - Aroona Trailhead car park. End of Yuluna Hike.

Trezona Hike

8.2 Checkpoint T1 - Trezona Trailhead at eastern end of campground (AMG 744 311)

Walk along the trail parallel with Enorama Creek, crossing the road to follow markers across an open plain.

8.0 The flat open country from this point on would have been heavily used by the sheep tended by the shepherd at Youngoona Hut (Checkpoint T3) because stock could be easily seen and followed. The country still shows the effects of sheep and rabbits, with bare eroded areas.

7.7 At about this spot, a marker directs you down into the creek to find the Golden Spike, which marks a significant geological site, explained by the sign.

7.4 Cross the creek. The valley of Brachina Creek stretches away to the north, Trezona Range lies to the east, the ABC and Heysen ranges to the west.

6.4 Checkpoint T2 - trail junction (AMG 756 316)

Turn south for Youngoona Trailhead.

6.3 A hundred metres beyond Checkpoint T2 are some exposed stromatolites. These layered structures with a dome-shaped top about 10 - 30 cm across are formed by the trapping of sediments between mats of blue-green algae (cyanobacteria). They are evidence of some of the earliest life on earth. Blue-green algae were some of the first photosynthetic organisms, which were able to release the oxygen bound up in chemical molecules into the atmosphere. Up until then the earth's atmosphere contained no oxygen.

The well-worn trail here is undoubtedly part of the bridle way used by Hayward and his shepherds.

6.1 Cross Enorama Creek and walk up the streambed, keeping an eye open at about 5.9 km for more stromatolites in rocks at the side of the creek.

5.4 The creek filled with reeds marks the position of Enorama Waterhole. The reeds provide habitat for the Australian reed-warbler, a tiny songbird.

5.2 Checkpoint T3 - Youngoona Trailhead at Youngoona Hut (AMG 765 311)

Robert Bruce and his brother visited this hut, where it is said one of Hayward's shepherds Robert Richardson was killed by Aborigines, as an act of reprisal. The pine posts of this hut have long since disappeared into campfires. The shepherd's hut is the smaller of the two structures.

Take the track south to cross a minor creek and walk around the footslopes of the Trezona Range noting the large, dark-coloured blocks on the upper slopes, which have fallen down from the top; these are weathered blocks of pinkish limestone.

4.4 Checkpoint T4 - junction of Brachina Gorge Road and Yanyanna Track (AMG 762 304)

4.0 Good view of the Heysen Range. The highest point is St Mary Peak; the Sawtooth Range and Mt Abrupt are ahead and around to the right is Haywards Bluff, South Mt Hayward and Mt Hayward.

2.0 Checkpoint T5 - Middlesight Water Hut (AMG 752 295)

A galvanised iron hut was built here in the 1930s as a musterer's camp; the present hut replaced the iron one and is used by walkers of the Heysen Trail. The track on which it lies is the old road to Blinman.

Go north from the hut.

1.8 to 1.6 The route crosses grassland on the limestone of the Trezona Formation. There is occasional elegant wattle, sandhill wattle and lobe-leaf hopbush.

0.9 Take a short deviation left along a gravelled track to have a look at a glacial tillite (deposited in the Elatina Formation during a period of glaciation) in the creek bed. Information on a board in the car park is part of the Corridor Through Time geological trail.

Return to the marked Trezona trail

0.8 Checkpoint T6 - Trezona Campground turn-off (AMG 745 304)

As you return to the trailhead across the plain, there is a small hill with a few pines to the west (left). The plain is made up of sediments much younger than those in the surrounding ranges. They are 100 000 years old and were deposited in a lake that once filled this valley. Large animals, now extinct, such as the Diprotodon and giant kangaroos are thought to have roamed its shores. The small hill was probably an island when the lake existed.

0.0 Checkpoint T1 - Trezona Trailhead. End of Trezona Hike



Monela Hut remains

Aroona to Youngoona Hike

Note that this hike is comprised of three sections (see map):

- Y1 (Aroona) to Y4 is described under Yuluna Hike
- Y4 to T2 is described below as Haywards Hike
- T2 to T3 (Youngoona) is described under Trezona Hike

9.2 Checkpoint Y4 - top of bridleway and trail junction (AMG 721 365)

Bear east (right) and continue uphill; distances are continuous from Aroona.

Brachina Formation siltstones occupy a broad band of country between the ABC and Trezona ranges and, being softer rock than either of these formations, have given rise to a landscape of low rolling hills.

9.0 to 7.8 A gradual climb through pine woodland with a variety of shrubs to a bare hill.

7.6 Checkpoint H1 - hilltop, Brachina Lookout (AMG 733 361)

This is a good vantage point to get to know some of the significant peaks (all bearings are magnetic).

Mt Carnarvon	22 km	117°	921 m
Mt Sunderland	14 km	158°	790 m
St Mary Peak	25 km	189°	1171 m
Heysen Hill	8 km	221°	510 m
Mt Burns	26 km	220°	303 m
Haywards Bluff	5.9 km	232°	810 m
South Mt Hayward	5.8 km	244°	854 m
Mt Hayward	6 km	255°	865 m

6.2 Around this marker are some shrubs of green emubush that have green flowers in August.

6.0 Checkpoint H2 - on vehicle track (Mawson Trail) (AMG 747 361)

Cross the track and follow the route to the north of a low hill.

5.4 to 5.2 The creek you descend into is the headwaters of Brachina Creek - a narrow sandy bed supporting sedges, lemon-scented grass and large river red gums. It is quite different from the broad gravelly flats of the creek in Brachina Gorge.

5.1 Leave the creek bed here and walk up to the ruins of Monela Hut. A windmill and tank nearby are maintained for firefighting.

5.0 Checkpoint H3 - Monela Hut (AMG 754 358)

The collapsed chimney of the 1851 cottage remains. The now rotten pine posts of the pug-and-pine walls lie on the ground where they fell, with one still standing. A second mound of stones connected to the hut by paving was probably a storehouse. Hayward and his overseer Bruce were regular visitors.

4.8 to 4.0 Cross some shaly ridges carpeted with Silvertails (in good seasons) before crossing Brachina Creek.

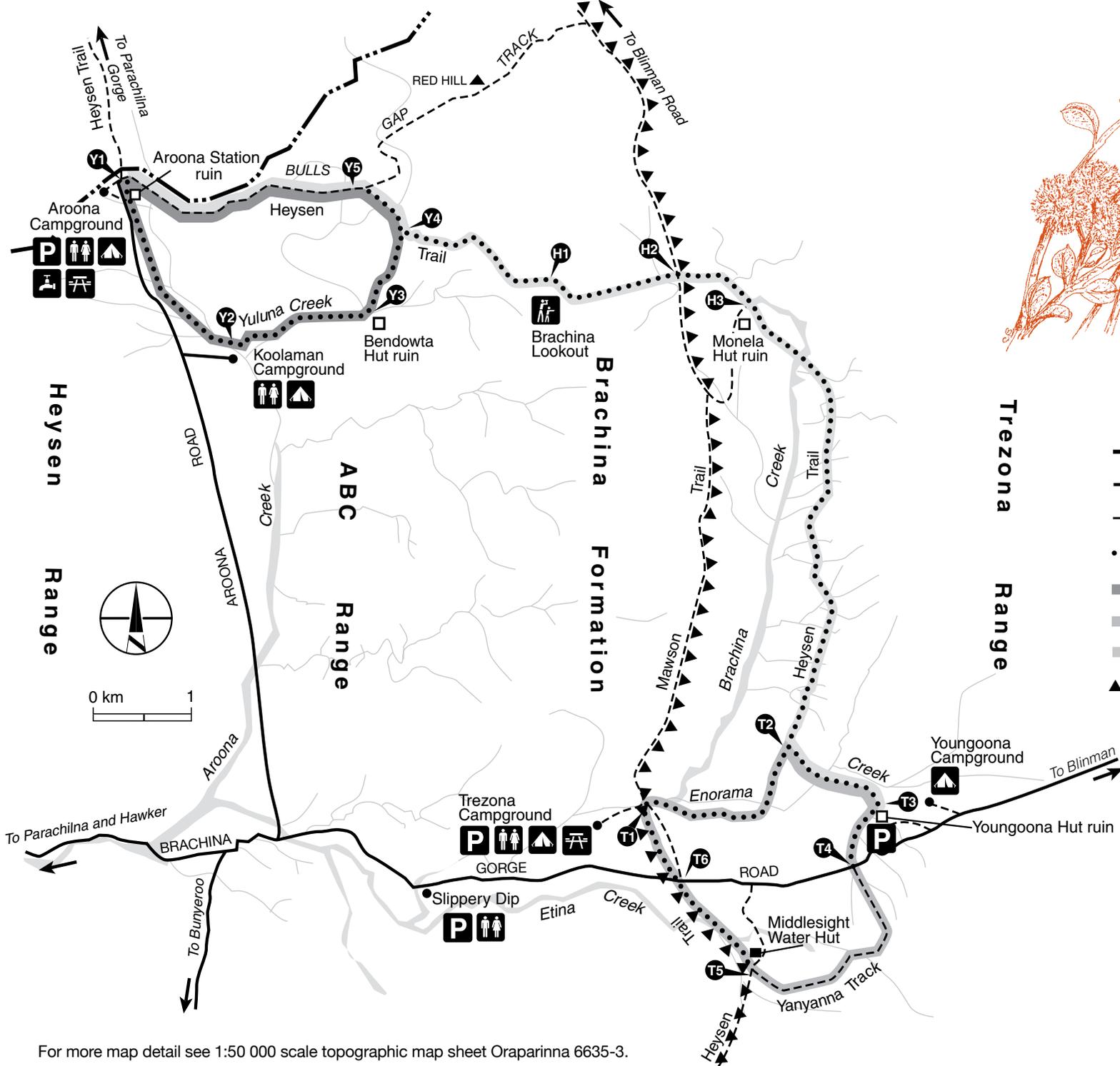
3.8 to 0.0 Checkpoint T2 - trail junction. End of Haywards Hike.

This broad valley with widely spaced pines was the most direct route for Hayward and his overseers between Monela and Youngoona huts: the ABC and Heysen ranges lie to the west, Trezona Range to the east.

Trail continues as Trezona Hike. Go right for Trezona Trailhead (Checkpoint T1) or continue on for Youngoona Trailhead (Checkpoint T3).

**FLINDERS
RANGES
BUSH WALKS**

These notes were first published by the Royal Geographical Society of South Australia as part of a series.



Silvertails *Phylotus obovatus* var. *obovatus*

LEGEND

- Park boundary
- Unsealed road
- Service track
- Walking trail
- Yuluna Hike
- Trezona Hike
- Aroona to Youngoona Hike
- Mawson Trail
- Watercourse
- Checkpoint
- Ruin
- Parking
- Water
- Picnic area
- Toilets
- Bush camping
- Lookout

For more map detail see 1:50 000 scale topographic map sheet Oraparinna 6635-3.

Plant List for Haywards Hut Hikes

Elegant wattle *Acacia victoriae* - shrub with spiny stems, pale lemon-flowers in October

Green emubush *Eremophila serrulata* - green flowers in August

Gum-barked coolibah *Eucalyptus intertexta* - tree to 15 metres, with grey bark flaking toward the base, trunk often with a distinctly swollen base

***Horehound** *Marrubium vulgare* - grey-green herb, woolly leaves, spikes of small white flowers

Lemon-scented grass *Cymbopogon ambiguus* - grey-green leaves, lemon-scented when bruised

Lobe-leaf hopbush *Dodonaea lobulata* - red hops September and October

Mealy saltbush *Rhagodia parabolica* - grey bush, insignificant flowers, anytime

Narrow-leaved hopbush *Dodonaea viscosa* ssp. *angustissima* - bronze/purple hops in spring

Northern cypress-pine *Callitris glaucophylla* var. *obtusata* - cypress-like tree to 15 metres

Porcupine grass *Triodia irritans* - cushions of spiny leaves

River red gum *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* var. *obtusata* - large tree to 20 m, dappled white and grey bark

***Salvation Jane** *Echium plantagineum* - rough-hairy herb, blue flowers in spring

Sandhill wattle *Acacia rivalis* - yellow flowers, in winter and spring

Sedges *Cyperus*, mostly *C. gymnocaulos* - grass-like, to 0.5 m, star shaped flower heads

Silvertails *Ptilotus obovatus* var. *obovatus* - whitish leaved herb, with spherical pink fluffy flowerheads in spring

Silver wattle *Acacia ligulata* - rounded shrub to 3 m, yellow balls of flowers in late spring

* introduced species

The National Parks Code

Help protect your national parks by following these guidelines:

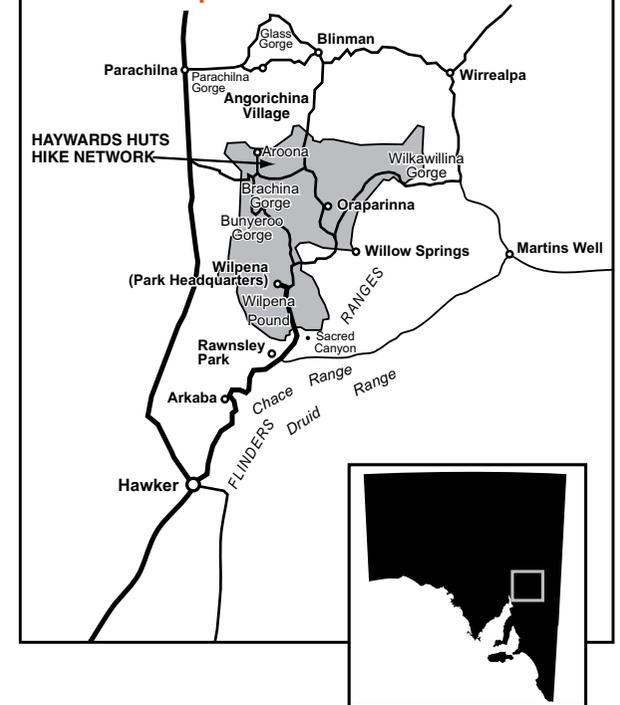
- Leaves your pets at home.
- Take your rubbish with you.
- Observe fire restrictions, usually 1 November to 30 April. Check CFS Hotline 1300 362 361.
- Conserve native habitat by using liquid fuel or gas stoves.
- Camp only in designated areas.
- Respect geological and heritage sites.
- Keep our wildlife 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.
- Firearms are not permitted.
- Bury toilet waste away from watercourses.

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



Elegant wattle
Acacia victoriae

Location Map



For further information contact:

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Cover: Youngoona Hut remains
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