

# SOUTH AUSTRALIA

## MT REMARKABLE NP

Siggy and Heather | Travel Blog

### Coast to inland

We left Innes National Park and headed north. The day was cold and drizzly. The blustery wind at Corny Point lighthouse meant we only sampled the view from the car. Nice spot, but we decided not to visit other similar points nearby. A short stop in Moonta for food and then on to Wallaroo. The place had a newness about it - lots of recently built houses on newly opened residential estates. Even the caravan park was new - fairly soulless.

After leaving Port Pirie, where we stocked up on food, we started to see the mountains rise up beside us. They looked very dark against the golden harvest in the paddocks. They also appeared to be fairly thinly vegetated. We discovered later that a large bush fire had passed through here in February of this year. One result for us was that we could not get into an area in the southern region that we had hoped to investigate. It was getting hot - such changeable weather! We ended up by accident in Port Germein and checked out their 1.5 km long jetty. Then followed a few hours of driving through fairly uninspiring country trying to find a place to stay before we found Crystal Brook.



Southern Flinders Ranges

### Crystal Brook

The tourist literature devotes two pages of information to each of the towns in the Southern Flinders Ranges. Maybe its the dryness, maybe its because some of the physical attractions have been closed or maybe it is because we are not really interested in restaurants or cafe's, but we have been a little disappointed with the area. The gem in a barren landscape has been Crystal Brook. Despite being only a small place it has lots of character due to its wide streets and beautifully kept period houses. A free camp at nearby Bowman Park, with its resident peacock, provided a pleasant evening bonus.





Wallaroo fishing fleet

### Mt Remarkable

After leaving Bowman Park, we hoped to go to Alligator Gorge but discovered that we could not take our van in there. So we had to find a caravan park and go back for the walk later. Unlike the two scruffy unwashed looking options in Wilmington, the caravan park in Melrose was clean and greenish. We decided to stay for the day and do our walk the next morning. All around us were mountain bike tracks and on our short evening walk we went up to the war memorial, glowing white in the late evening light. This morning we drove to Mt Remarkable to walk Alligator Gorge. On the way we passed field after field of wheat. At one point we spied some emus but when we stopped to take photos they disappeared. Siggy jumped on to the back of the car and stood up high to take a better look. Suddenly about a dozen long necks popped up over the wheat. Emus everywhere like meercats! We laughed so much.

The winding road in gave great views of the surrounding country. It was a very steep walk down to the gorge floor via well constructed steps. The red rocks, the white gums and the solitude were well worth the effort. We walked through a point where the walls almost touched and imagined the river rushing through in the wet season.



Wheat fields everywhere

### Crystal Brook stately houses

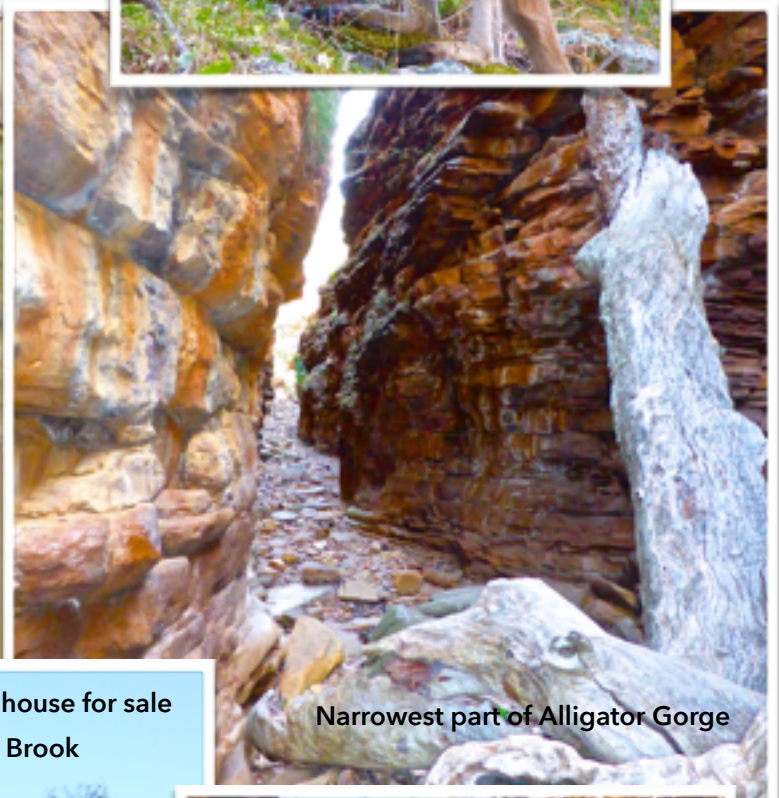




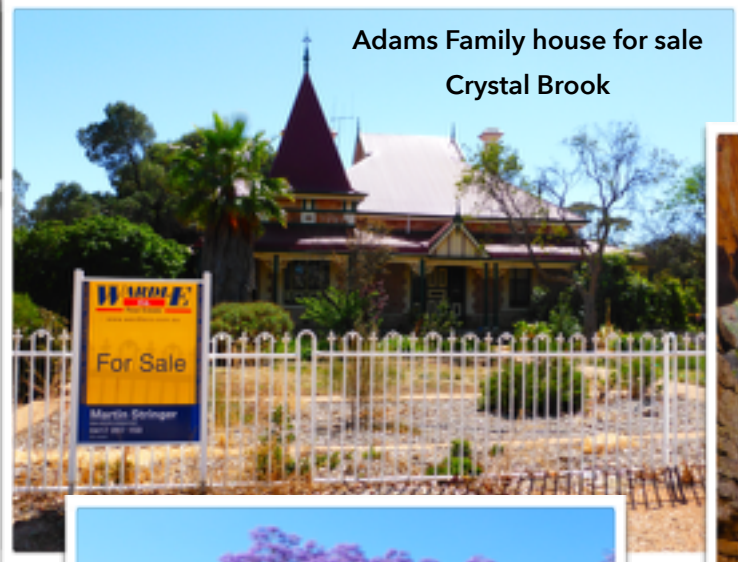
Wallaroo Jetty  
merman



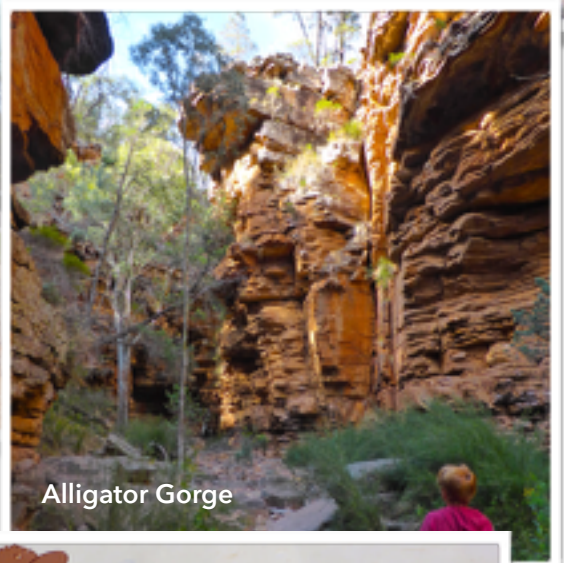
Mt Remarkable  
Euro Wallaby -  
huge ears



Narrowest part of Alligator Gorge



Adams Family house for sale  
Crystal Brook



Alligator Gorge



Crystal Brook

