

## MY FAVOURITE WEEKEND WITH PERFORMER JASON CHASLAND



**1 THINGS I LOVE**  
I love the festivals. Fringe and The Cabaret Festival are among the most memorable in the world, Adelaide is really magical during those times. Also the food is delicious and I adore the old architecture.

**2 FAVOURITE SA GETAWAY**  
Barossa, it is unquestionably a wine-lover's paradise and mamma loves the grape. Also, I highly recommend taking the early morning hot air balloon for a breathtaking sunset view.

**3 DREAM SA EXPERIENCE**  
To go to Hahndorf. I love culture and the countryside and this diverse and gorgeous little township looks like a divine way to spend a long weekend.

## PARKS & GARDENS



**OPEN GARDENS SA**  
**John's Organic Garden**  
4 Brand Ave, Victor Harbor  
Tomorrow and Sunday,  
10am - 4.30pm  
Entry \$8, members and  
concession \$6, children no  
charge.

This Victor Harbor garden is the first in a series of productive gardens which will be on show throughout February.

The focus in this garden is on organic and sustainable methods by a grower not afraid to experiment.

Enter through a native, waterwise garden at the front of the house, planted with an eye to supporting wildlife habitat, which has encouraged regular visits from New England honeyeaters, blue wrens and crimson and Adelaide rosellas.

In the backyard, the owner is experimenting with dwarf

plants being raised in pots, including a dwarf buddleia.

The orchard contains numerous species, among them apples, peaches, pears, plums, figs and feijoa. There's even a thriving, cold tolerant banana, a red dacca. A number of the fruit trees are dwarf varieties or have been pruned to a space-saving shape, and to allow them to be easily netted.

A berry cage protects pots of Cape gooseberry, thornless blackberry, black currant and others. Then there are the seasonal vegetables, David Austin roses planted for scent, and salvias.

At 11am and 2pm on both days there will be brief talks on fruit selection based on climate and wicking pots.

*Are you planning a garden event you'd like to share? email [deborah.bogle@news.com.au](mailto:deborah.bogle@news.com.au)*

## NATURE WATCH

TODAY marks World Wetlands Day, celebrating the signing of the International Convention of Wetlands.

Darren Kennedy, Adelaide manager for Conservation Volunteers Australia, says the organisation has been focused on restoring wetlands, which are considered biodiversity hot spots.

"South Australia has a significant number of wetlands across the state, with some being seasonal and others permanent," he says.

At Patawalonga Creek Conservation Volunteers Australia, in partnership with Adelaide Airport, surveyed 39 species of birds.



This included the Black-shouldered kite, Nankeen night heron, Horsfield's bronze-cuckoo and Australian reed warbler.

Frogs found there included the spotted marsh frog, eastern banjo frog and common froglet.

"Patawalonga Creek has a unique habitat which contains a mixture of samphire plants, aquatic wetland plants, grasslands, shrubs, trees and

the heritage listed South Australian Swamp Paperbark trees," Mr Kennedy says.

He says at Warriparinga Wetlands, there is a "diversity of birds" with 30 species being observed such as cormorants, herons and grebes.

Different types of frogs, fish, lizards, snakes and possums can be found there.

Mr Kennedy says plants play a pivotal role in a wetland system. "A wide variety of

native plants complete this ecosystem such as specialised wetlands plants, shrubs, groundcovers and larger native eucalyptus trees," he says.

Some of the plants being planted at Warriparinga, including river club-rush, water ribbons, twig rush, and spiny flat-sedge, act as "filtering systems, removing sediment, nutrients and pollutants from water".

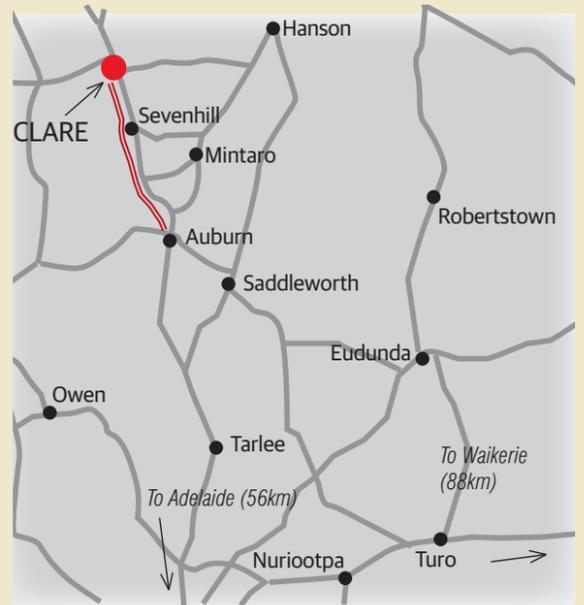
"Wetlands slow down water flows which helps to reduce erosion. When a wetland is healthy the soil and vegetation of a wetland captures, process and stores nutrients and contaminants," Mr Kennedy says.

Celebrate World Wetlands Day at Warriparinga Wetlands or Patawalonga Creek today from 9am. Free. 8352 4111.

- Tara Nash

## WEEKEND WALK

### Riesling Trail



**WHERE:** Clare, 133km north of Adelaide. Head for the carpark at the end of Young St – a right turn near Clare Valley TAFE, just before Clare Oval.

**WALK TIME:** 25km one way. Allow 7 hours. Split over two days if you want more time to enjoy the Clare Valley.

**RATING:** Easy. Walkers can join and leave the trail at several points.

**WHEN:** All year. Avoid days over 30C. Best April-October.

**FEES:** Free.

**MUST:** Take 2-3 litres of water, camera. Leave another car at Auburn.

**FACILITIES:** Clare has excellent facilities for tourists, as does Auburn at the other end.

**ACCOMMODATION:** Wide range in Clare Valley with a number of B&Bs along this trail; booklet, free, SA Shorts, SA Visitor & Travel Centre, 1300 588 140, [cityofadelaide.com.au](http://cityofadelaide.com.au)

**INFORMATION:** Clare Valley Wine, Food Tourism Centre, open 9am-5pm Mon-Sun, public holidays, except Christmas, 8842 2131 or freecall 1800 242 131, [clarevalley.com.au](http://clarevalley.com.au)

This Clare Valley trail, for walkers and cyclists, starts from the Old Clare railway station and runs 25km between Clare and Auburn.

From the carpark, the trail heads south and soon reaches Warena Rd. It crosses to the right in about 50m, passing through the outskirts of Clare, Brice Hill Country Lodge, Salt N Vines bar and bistro and Kirrihill Wines cellar door.

It soon heads towards Clare Showgrounds and crosses the top of Quarry Rd via a steel bridge. It then rises gently through gum and wattle woodlands on its way to Sevenhill.

At the College Rd intersection is an information panel on the Sevenhill Jesuits, who established vineyards in 1852, growing vines initially for altar wine.

The Sevenhill Cellars, the oldest in the valley, is reached from the Riesling Trail on the Way of the Cross Trail, which cuts to the left at College Rd. It's a short diversion of 300m and takes you to the historic St Aloysius Catholic Church.

Head back to the Riesling Trail and just across the College Rd intersection is an information panel on the nearby Polish Hill River winegrowing area.

Originally known as Hill River, it takes its name from the first Europeans to discover the area.

In about 10 minutes, the trail crosses a road, which winds to historic Mintaro. The trail continues straight on towards Penwortham.

From Penwortham, the trail sweeps under Main North Rd and runs between vineyards and farmlands to Watervale. It then passes close to the hamlet of Leasingham, which has a restaurant, caravan park and cabins. It is also the home of O'Leary Walker Wines and Tim Grant Wines.

Over the next 2km, the trail passes through open farmlands and into Auburn's main street. Opposite the Rising Sun Hotel it runs down Church St and crosses a bridge over the River Wakefield. There's a lawned picnic area and playground in Church St.

Cross the bitumen and continue along Church St until you reach the trail end at Mt Horrocks Wines. The cellar door, open 10am-5pm Saturday, Sunday and public holidays, is in the old Auburn railway station.

It's a great spot to celebrate your walk with fine wines and a meal featuring local produce.