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[www.merbeincentenary.com.au](http://www.merbeincentenary.com.au)

## Take a walk on the wild side

**Merbein's floodplain will soon take centre stage as everyone's invited to experience the town's history, flora and fauna.**

As a part of the Merbein Centenary celebrations, the committee, in conjunction with the Friends of Merbein Common have put together a not to be missed walk on the flood plain.

The Merbein Common is located on the flood plain and has served as a recreational area for locals over many years. In 1911, the first horse race at the new track on the flood plain was held only two years after settlement.

The walk takes approximately five hours and will cover a distance of five kilometres. A light lunch will be provided. Walkers are encouraged to bring some drinking water, wear sturdy foot wear and a hat.

The Friends of the Common and the Merbein Centenary Committee have joined forces with various community groups to use their expertise to man the interpretative stations of the walk. Walkers will be able to hear firsthand the facts of the area.

Organisations and groups participating in the day include Friends of the Merbein Common, Yelta Landcare Group, Merbein District Historical Society, Sunraysia Bird Observers Club, Department of Sustainability and Environment, Mallee Catchment Management Authority and a didgeridoo player.

Topics covered will include:

- Rehabilitation of the flood plain
- Drainage of the flood plain
- History of old sporting facilities eg. Racing, Gun, Golf and Rowing Club and terrier coursing activities
- Walkers will also hear about the Merbein Common Association, the brickworks and other activities that have occurred in the area
- A talk about the habitat and birds of the area
- Cultural heritage of the area
- Blandowski's expedition and camp of 1857

To commemorate the walk, each group will end their walk by planting a tree.

Bookings for this walk can be made through the Merbein Centenary Office. The walk will take place on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> August. The first group will leave at 8.45am and continue every fifteen minutes until 10.00am.

The Merbein Common Walk is just one of the events listed in the ten days of celebrating Merbein's Centenary. The celebrations run from 14- 23 August 2009. For further information on this event, please see the following web site - [www.merbeincentenary.com.au](http://www.merbeincentenary.com.au)

**Further Enquires:**

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