

Mt Gambier in the Footsteps of George French Angas (and Volcanoes)

9th November to 12th November 2023

A very interesting and comprehensive expedition which by all reports was well received and of immense interest with interesting activities and sites visited.

Presentations from scientists

Dr Philip Jones Senior Curator of Anthropology with the South Australian Museum gave interesting talks and explanations of how young George French Angas in 1844 travelled on horseback with the Governor's small group to Mt Gambier. We envisaged some of his painting sites being at Beachport, Blue and Valley Lakes, Mt Schank, Devil's Punchbowl and the little Blue Lake depicted as Arthur's Sheep Station with Volcanic Well in Dr Jones' book.

George French Angas is an important figure in the early settler history of South Australia. You can read more about him [here](#).

Dr Lucy McGee, earth scientist and volcanologist was able to explain the source and the likely course of volcanic events about 5000 years ago when Mt Gambier was commencing its volcanic activity. Inspecting volcanic ash, scoria, maars and basalt was explained "in the field" as a learning experience for the WHC members.

Sites visited:

- Rivoli Bay Beachport
- Tantanoola Caves
- Cave Gardens Mt Gambier
- Riddoch Centre - Volcano Movie
- Mt Schank
- Devil's Punchbowl
- Little Blue Lake
- Sisters Sinkhole
- Englebrecht Cave
- Umpherston's Cave
- Glencoe Woolshed
- Lake Leake (some to Lake Edward)
- Blue Lake and Valley Lake
- The Bird Room cancelled due to gastro problems