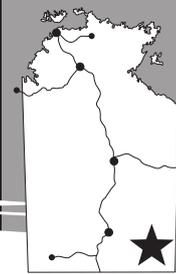


# Mac Clark (Acacia Peuce) Conservation Reserve



## Fact Sheet

*Acacia peuce*, or Waddywood is one of the most rare and striking trees of the Australian arid zone. It grows in this Reserve on a stony wind swept plain in one of the driest places in Australia. The average annual rainfall is only 150 mm and daily maximum temperatures average almost 40 degrees in January.

In such a harsh environment only a few shrubs and grasses manage to survive. *Acacia peuce* thrives, growing to heights of 17 metres and possibly living for 500 years. One key to the tree's survival is their small spiky needle-like leaves. A small surface area ensures little moisture is lost through the leaves.

*Acacia peuce* is only found in three places - near Boulia and Birdsville in Queensland, and 40 kilometres north of Old Andado Homestead, in the Mac Clark Conservation Reserve.

In the early 1900s many of the trees were cut down to build stockyards and shelters, despite the fact the wood is so hard it won't take nails. Mac Clark was a former Andado pastoralist whose interest in the trees led to the declaration of this Reserve which bears his name.

About 1,000 mature trees are protected within the Reserve. The major stands are fenced to protect them from stock. Prolonged drought, fires, and rabbits may threaten *Acacia peuce* seedlings.

The ecology of *Acacia peuce* is the subject of an ongoing study. There are a number of permanent

sites at the Reserve where seedling regeneration and growth rates of trees are measured on a regular basis. It is important not to interfere with stakes and tree bands.

Please keep vehicles outside the fenced off areas. Do not interfere with the trees and be careful not to trample seedlings.

### Access

From Alice Springs the Reserve is 294 km via the Old Andado Track and Binns Track. It can be reached via Santa Teresa or from Kulgera on the Stuart Highway. Access is by 4WD only and roads may become impassible after heavy rain.

### When to visit

The Reserve is generally accessible all year round. The cooler months (April to Sept) are the most pleasant times to visit. Summer visitors are strongly advised to travel in convoy with other vehicles.

### What to do

 **Walking** - It is possible to walk throughout the fenced areas and admire these rare desert giants.

Remember that you are driving through private landholder properties so please drive only on established roads, leaving gates as you find them and slow down around areas where cattle are grazing.

 **Camping** - Camping is not permitted, however camping is available at Old Andado Station.

### Safety and Comfort

- Observe park safety signs.
- Carry and drink plenty of water.
- Wear a shady hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, suitable clothing and footwear.
- Avoid strenuous activity during the heat of the day.
- Consider your health and fitness when choosing a walk.

### Please Remember

- Keep to designated roads and tracks.
- All historic, cultural items and wildlife are protected.
- Firewood collection is not permitted in the reserve.
- Fires are not permitted in the reserve.
- Bins are not provided, please take your rubbish with you.
- Pets are not permitted in the reserve.
- Leave all gates as you find them and do not disturb stock or tamper with bores, fences or other structures.



*Peuce* is a Greek word meaning pine

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