

Valleys of Stone is a substantial volume reporting on a study of the colonial history of the west-facing slopes of the Mount Lofty Ranges. Some twenty different archaeological sites are described and interpreted, with historical context provided from the written record and, in some cases, interviews with residents past and present.

The book is a companion to the Adelaide Hills Face Heritage GIS database which will eventually be available on the Flinders University Archaeology Department website.

The book itself contains a great deal which will be of interest to local history enthusiasts, and those with a family or other connections to a particular district of the hills face. However, without an index of names and places, readers may have difficulty finding their particular gem of information among the copious detail provided. Although there are many illustrations, location maps are not routinely provided, and often many words are used to describe a site when a simple diagram would be more effective. This book is the outcome of a huge amount of valuable research more fully reported elsewhere, but for a general readership it is twice as long as it needs to be, and, with some honourable exceptions, not well enough written.