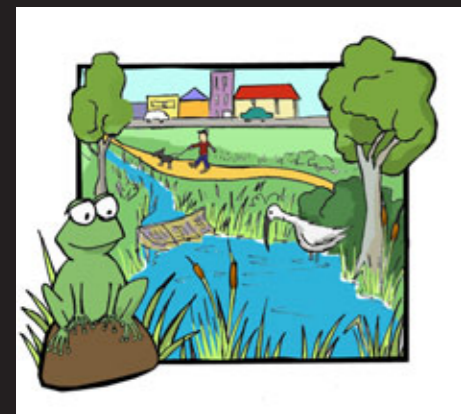


# Visiting The Wetlands



Access to the Warriparinga Wetland reserve is free to the public and includes the Tjirbruki Gateway, bike and walking tracks, boardwalks, seating and toilet facilities.

Interpretive signs and self-guided walking tour brochures are provided by the City of Marion, which manages the site. Contact: 8375 6600

For further information about the Aboriginal significance of the site, including the story of Tjirbruki, visit or contact the Living Kaurna Cultural Centre: 8357 5900.

# NRM Education

climate change biodiversity water food air waste transport energy



## Warriparinga Wetland

Gateway of the Tjirbruki Trail

## Fast Facts

- The Warriparinga Wetland stays full for most of the year with a total capacity of 23 million litres
- 45,000 cubic metres of soil was shifted to create the wetland, which covers an area of 1.8 hectares
- Construction costs: \$1.7 million
- The wetland filled with water for the first time in 1997
- Net Trash Racks, installed at the start of the wetland, capture the organic matter and litter entering the wetland during heavy rains
- The wetland removes around 100 tonnes of sediment annually
- Friends of Warriparinga and local schools help with tree planting and installing nesting boxes for the birds.



Below left: The trash racks being emptied

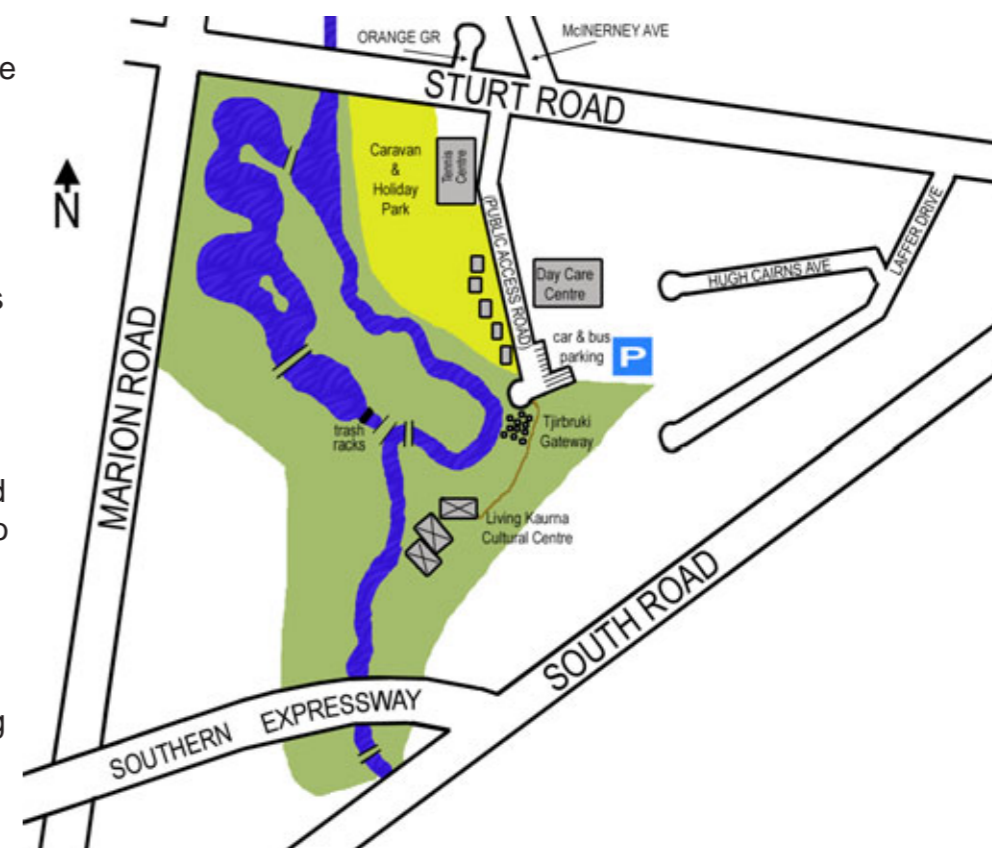
Below right: The reserve is a popular spot for lunchtime walks

Warriparinga Wetland is part of a 3.5 hectare reserve located on the corner of Sturt and Marion roads, also known as Laffer's Triangle.

The name Warriparinga comes from the Kaurna Aboriginal words warri pirri, meaning 'windy place by the river'.

Some of the water from the Sturt River, fed upstream by Minno and Chambers Creeks, is diverted into the Warriparinga Wetland via a fallen log weir.

The water then travels through four wetland ponds before flowing back to the Sturt River drain and out to sea via the Patawalonga basin.



NRM Education proudly delivers the Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative - SA. We acknowledge the support of Local Government and, in particular, those Councils who are working in partnership with NRM Education and the AMLR NRM Board. KESAB environmental solutions is also a key partner and we recognise their ongoing support.



# Wetland History



In the past, natural wetlands were common features in parts of the Adelaide Plains. When travelling between the hills and the coast, Kurna people met at Warriparinga and camped along the Sturt River because it was a wonderful source of food and provided resources for tools, weapons, clothing and shelter. It was also a meeting place for celebration and ritual.

In the early 1800s, the land was used for sheep grazing and was leased to William Henry Trimmer in 1843, who planted vineyards and built Fairford House. Henry Laffer bought the land in 1876 and extended the farm to include orchards and cattle. Kurna people continued camping along the river at this time.

Agriculture, grazing, excavation of clay for brickmaking and the accumulation of rubbish undermined the natural banks of the Sturt River and, by the 1930s, there were drainage problems in the area.

Farmland was purchased by the State Government in the 1960s and the flood plains were reclaimed for housing. After severe flooding in 1963, it was decided to concrete-line the river, so between 1968 and 1972 the Sturt Drain was constructed. Planning for the construction of a wetland on the land began in 1996, with funding provided by the Patawalonga Catchment Water Management Board, City of Marion and the State Government. It was completed in 1998.

## What lives there?

### BIRDS

Over 30 types of birds have been identified at the wetland and an island in the second pond functions as a bird refuge. In addition, bird boxes have been installed to attract native birds back to the area. Birds found at the wetland include cormorants, herons, coots, dotterels, grebes, ducks, kookaburras and many species of parrot.



Silver Gull



Spotted Grass Frog

### OTHER ANIMALS

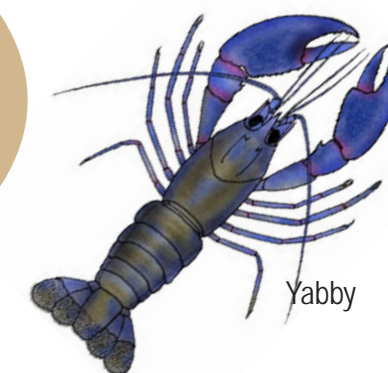
The wetland ponds are inhabited by a variety of aquatic macroinvertebrates, including non-biting midge larvae, freshwater yabbies and caddisfly larvae.

Black bream, big headed gudgeon and smallmouthed hardyhead are among native fish species that have been reintroduced into the wetland. However exotic fish, such as carp, gambusia and red fin, dominate.

Spotted grass frogs, common froglets, eastern banjo frogs and brown tree frogs can often be heard calling.

Small lizards and snakes live amongst the undergrowth.

Possums also live in the trees around the wetland.



Yabby

## WHERE IS THE STORMWATER FROM?

The catchment area covers approximately 73 square kilometres. Land use in the catchment includes the Sturt Gorge and Belair National Park, agriculture, open fields and urban developments, such as Flagstaff Hill, Coromandel Valley and Craighburn Estate.



Smallmouthed Hardyhead

### PLANTS

More than 8000 native trees and shrubs have been planted at Warriparinga. Species include river red gum, silky tea tree and golden wattle.

The majority of plants are indigenous species that have been propagated from local seed stock to preserve the genetic diversity of the Adelaide Plains.

There are over 20 varieties of aquatic plants in the ponds, including umbrella sedge, water ribbons and slender knotweed.



Golden Wattle

## Why were the wetlands constructed?

To provide educational opportunities

To provide habitat for plants, birds and other animals

Ecotourism

To improve the quality of water discharging into the Sturt Creek and eventually the Patawalonga Basin and the sea

Stormwater retention, pollution management and flood control

