

The Urrbrae Wetland

Indigenous Plant Trail

The Urrbrae wetland indigenous plant trail consists of a number of provenance plants that were used by Aboriginal People for food, medicine, fiber and tools.

Each of these plants is marked with a small sign, containing information about the traditional uses and cultural importance of the plant.

Kurana people have been consulted throughout this project, however the majority of information printed here and on the signs is from published resources.

Do NOT pick or remove any plant material.

Education @ the wetland

Groups are welcome to take a self-guided tour of the Indigenous Plant Trail. An activity booklet is provided, that encourages students observe, record and analyse the types of local plants that assisted the Aboriginal people to live successfully and sustainably for 1000'S of years.

To plan your visit, please contact the Wetland Manager or visit the Urrbrae Wetland Website www.urrbraewetlandlc.org



Ruby Saltbush

Enchylaena tomentosa

Description: Ruby Saltbush is a low shrub growing under a meter tall. Most varieties act as ground covers and can mat out and cover an area 1m wide.

It has small, fleshy, cylindrical leaves which represent a succulent. The leaves are mid-green to grey and covered in fine hairs.

It flowers on and off throughout the year, with the flowers being very small and quite insignificant. However these small flowers develop into succulent, berry like fruits.

The berries vary in colour from yellow, orange to red and even pink. Fruits are about 5mm in diameter and sunken in the middle.

Other Information: As this plant flowers and fruits on and off all year round, it is an important food source for many bush birds and invertebrates. Parrots, honeyeaters, wattlebirds and pigeons have all been known to eat the fruits, while ants have been seen carrying the fruit and seeds away.

Aboriginal Uses: The fruits are salty, sweet and often have a nutty flavour. They were collected and eaten by indigenous people.

Other Uses: Early colonists boiled the leaves and ate them as a substitute vegetable.

References

[1] Australian National Botanic Gardens (2009) 'Enchylaena tomentosa', Australian Government, <http://www.anbg.gov.au/gnp/gnp13/enchylaena-tomentosa.html>

Bagust, P & Tout-Smith, L (2010) 'The Native Plants of Adelaide: Returning the vanishing natural heritage of the Adelaide plains to your garden', Government of South Australia's Department for Environment and Heritage, South Australia.

Bonney, N (1994) 'What Seed is that?', Finsbury Press Pty. Ltd., Adelaide, South Australia. **Contact**

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Do not pick or eat native plants as removal of plant material as some plants contain poisonous



Distribution

Distribution Map [11]



Berry

