

# 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](http://www.urrbraewetlandlc.org)



# Golden Wattle

## Acacia pycnantha

**Description:** This species was one of the most common shrubs on the Adelaide Plain, prior to European Colonisation. Its appearance varies according to location, with individual plants at the Urrbrae Wetland, having black, coarse bark and growing up to 6m high.

Adult leaves (phyllodes) are large, leathery and sickle-shaped. In August it produces large, fragrant, ball shaped, yellow flowers which cluster at the end of the branch. The flowers develop into flat, narrow, papery pods 7 – 12cm long, that incase numerous hard, shiny black seeds that mature quickly in the summer months.

**Other Information:** Like most wattles this species is quick growing and relatively short lived (<15 years). It is a pioneer species, often establishing it's self after disturbance.

**Aboriginal Uses:** Wattles are common right throughout Australia and traditional use varies between species of wattle.

This particular species of wattle produces light coloured gum nodules on the trunk and lower branches, which are flavoured and were eaten, primarily during the summer months.

## Other Uses:

The bark of this acacia is high in tannin and tannin extraction was an early European Industry in the area.



Acacia pycnantha.

Distribution Map [1]

## References

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.

*The Kuarna Seasonal Trail Excursion* (1985) Aboriginal Community College Inc

[1] 'Floral Emblems of Australia' (2012) Australian National Herbarium,

<http://www.anbg.gov.au/emblems/aust.emblem.html>

Urrbrae Wetland does not guarantee, and accepts no legal liability arising from or connected to, the use of or reliance on any material contained on this fact sheet or on any linked site.

**Do not pick or eat native plants as some plants contain poisonous substances.** This trail and associated information has plants that may look similar to other species or may exhibit characteristics similar to species described but are totally different in their uses.

## Contact

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