

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 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



River Red Gum

Eucalyptus camaldulensis

Description: This tree was once very common along many water courses including river and creek banks, flood plains and wetlands. Mature trees can be 30m tall and have multi-coloured, flaking bark.

Its narrow, lanceolate shaped leaves are greeny-grey and can be up to 15cm long and 2cm wide.

From November through to February the River Gum produces small, white flowers that usually occur in groups of about 12 individuals.

The very fine seeds are enclosed in a small gum nut (fruit) that has four, pointy, outward opening valves. The tree holds onto the fruit and seeds for about a year, before the valve opens and drops the seeds onto the ground.

Other Information: This species along with most other Eucalyptus trees provide nectar and pollen for many native animals including honeyeaters, bees, lorikeets, and possums. The Fruits are eaten by parrots and the hollows that form in mature trees and provide a home to many animals, such as those listed above. The leaves are eaten by insects and host lerps and galls.

Aboriginal Uses: The river red gum was like a one stop shop for indigenous people.

- Flowers were soaked in water for a drink and used for decoration;
- Sap and seeds were eaten.
- Gum was used to treat burns and diarrhoea;
- Leaves were used to cover wounds
- Bark was used for containers, shields and canoes;
- Wood was used for clubs and shields
- Termites and grubs that lived in the wood were eaten, while bees produced honey.
- Possums were hunted for meat and fur, while eggs could be collected from bird nests.
- Fallen branches could be used to construct shelter

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.

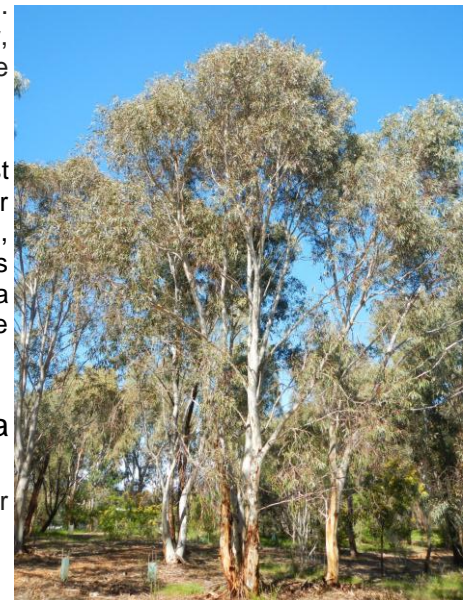
'The Kuarna Seasonal Trail Excursion' (1985) Aboriginal Community College Inc

Florabank, 'Eucalyptus camaldulensis'

www.florabank.org.au/lucid/key/species%20navigator/media/html/Eucalyptus_camaldulensis_subsp.camaldulensis.htm



Distribution Map



Contact

Wetland Manager

Ph/Fax: (08) 8272 6010

Mobile: 0403 447 064

Email: wetlands@urrbraehs.sa.edu.au

Website: www.urrbraewetlandlc.org

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