

The Urrbrae Wetland

Christmas Bush

Bursaria spinosa

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

Description: This medium to large shrub varies in form, depending on the variety. Some varieties also have spines along the branches.

Bursaria spinosa is one of the few species that produces flowers over summer (hence the common name 'Christmas Bush'). The masses of creamy, perfumed flowers form at the end of each branch and develop into kidney shaped seeds that are capsulated in a purse shape seed pod. The capsules develop in autumn and stay on the plant for a number of months after.

Other Information: The flowers are insect pollinated and are one of the most important shrubs for attracting invertebrates including butterflies, spiders and beetles.

Aboriginal Uses: It is thought that the seeds were collected, roasted and ground into flour, while the wood of larger species was used for boomerangs.

The beautiful, perfumed flowers were also used for decoration or could be soaked in water to extract the nectar and make a sweet drink.



Distribution Map [1]



References

- [1] FloraBank, *Bursaria spinosa*, http://www.florabank.org.au/lucid/key/species%20navigator/media/html/Bursaria_spinosa.htm
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

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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.