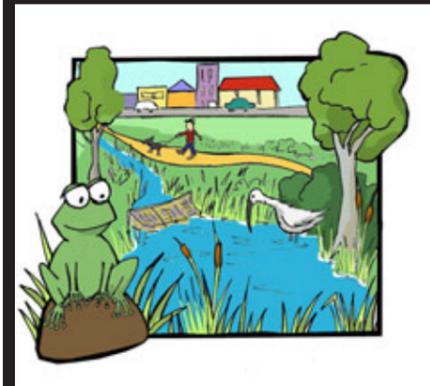


# Visiting The Wetlands



The Allan Scott Park - Morphettville Racecourse is located on the corner of Morphett Road and Anzac Highway, with the main entrance being off Morphett Road.

Although the wetland is within the racecourse, it is still easily accessible. For permission to visit the wetland, contact the South Australian Jockey Club (contact: Jason Paech 8295 0113).

# NRM Education

climate change biodiversity water food air waste transport energy



## Morphettville Racecourse Wetlands

*Stormwater treatment, storage and re-use*

The Allan Scott Park - Morphettville Racecourse Wetland was an initiative of the then Patawalonga Catchment Water Management Board and the South Australian Jockey Club. It was constructed by the Board and the Jockey Club during 2001/2002.

The wetland covers an area of 3.5 hectares, in the middle of the racecourse on the corner of Anzac Highway and Morphett Road. The catchment area for the wetland includes stormwater flow from two drains in Bray Street, south of the racecourse.

Water enters a sediment pond where floating litter is collected in a net and large materials settle out. The water is then piped into the wetland, where it travels through a series of deep and shallow marshes.

The water flowing out of the wetland is ideal for irrigation as it has very low salinity, so an aquifer storage and recovery system (ASR) has been constructed at the wetland.

During winter months, water is captured and pumped into a tertiary limestone aquifer below the racecourse. During the summer months, the water in the aquifer is recovered and used for irrigation. Up to 600 megalitres of water a year is recharged into the aquifer, which exceeds the amount required to irrigate the racecourse.



Photomap courtesy NearMap ([www.nearmap.com](http://www.nearmap.com))

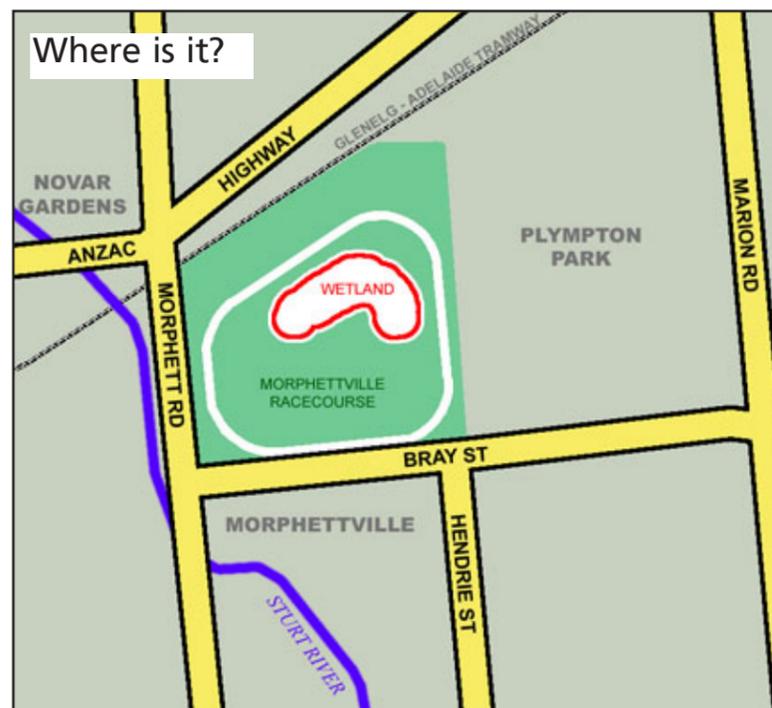
## Fast Facts

- The Allan Scott Park - Morphettville Racecourse Wetland cost a total of \$2.4 million to construct
- The soil excavated from the wetland was used to raise the level of the racecourse track
- 100,000 plants have been planted in and around the wetland
- Some bacteria carried in stormwater can be destroyed by exposure to sunlight while in wetland systems
- An interpretive centre has been constructed at the wetland



Above: Marion Probus Club visiting the wetlands

Below: The sedimentation pond



Where is it?

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

The area was once described as open savannah woodland, marked by impressive river red gums along the Sturt River. The area was rich with wildlife and there was a large variety of water birds in the area.

Some of the land adjacent to the Sturt River was used for farming and the Morphettville racecourse was built amongst this farming area in the mid 1800s.

The Lower Sturt Catchment was frequently flooded after heavy rains and floodwaters often extended to the racecourse.

As urban development increased, the flooding problems needed to be addressed.

Between 1968 and 1972, the Sturt River was cleared and lined with concrete from Sturt Road to Patawalonga Lake.



Australian Pelican

## What lives there?

### BIRDS

Many birds are attracted by the freshwater habitat at the wetland.

The wide variety of birds identified includes the pacific black duck, pelican, black swan, Australasian grebe, white faced heron, gull-billed tern, black-winged stilt, black-fronted dotteral and silver gull.



Painted Frog

## WHERE IS THE STORMWATER FROM?

The wetland is supplied with water from the Bray Street drains, which drain a catchment area of approximately 465 hectares. This catchment extends through Morphettville and Park Holme and east as far as Lower Mitcham. Land use in the area is predominantly residential with several reserves and sporting facilities. Water from the wetland is stored in the aquifer system during winter and used to irrigate the racecourse in summer. Any overflow enters the Sturt River at the western exit point.

## OTHER ANIMALS

The wetland has an abundance of macroinvertebrates in its waters but, as yet, there have been no fish sighted in the ponds. Frogs were released into the wetland during 2003. Species include the spotted grass frog, eastern banjo frog, painted frog, common froglet and brown tree frog.

## PLANTS

Revegetation has been an important part of Morphettville Racecourse Wetland.

Over 30 different species of native water plants were planted during 2001 and 2002. These include berry saltbush, lagoon saltbush, native bindweed, swamp crassula, ruby saltbush, slender knotweed and the narrow-leaf bulrush.



Slender Knotweed

## Why were the wetlands constructed?

To provide educational opportunities

To provide habitat for plants, birds and other animals

Water Re-use

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

