

a Stylidium inundatum
b Stylidium calcaratum
c Stylidium petiolare
d Stylidium divaricatum
e Stylidium bulbiferum
f Stylidium roseo-alatum
g Drosera glanduligera
h Drosera heterophylla

Some of these plants are shown below.

- regrow each winter from bulbs or seeds stored in the soil.

- stop growing and drop most of their leaves in summer and autumn (this is called aestivating) growing new leaves with the winter rains.

seen in late summer and autumn as they:

Around half of the **Wetlands'** plants cannot be

flower at different times.

such a small area as many of the plants grow and

Flora

Over 307 different native plants have been recorded in the **Wetlands**. This is only possible in

Fauna

Mammals

The Quenda (Southern Brown Bandicoot) is an endangered species that favours dense wetland vegetation for shelter, food and nest material. The Quenda moves from the waterlogged areas in winter.



Birds

Over 40 birds have been recorded in the **Wetlands**, many are seasonal visitors such as waders and waterbirds. Most of the birds feed on insects and/or nectar.

Frogs

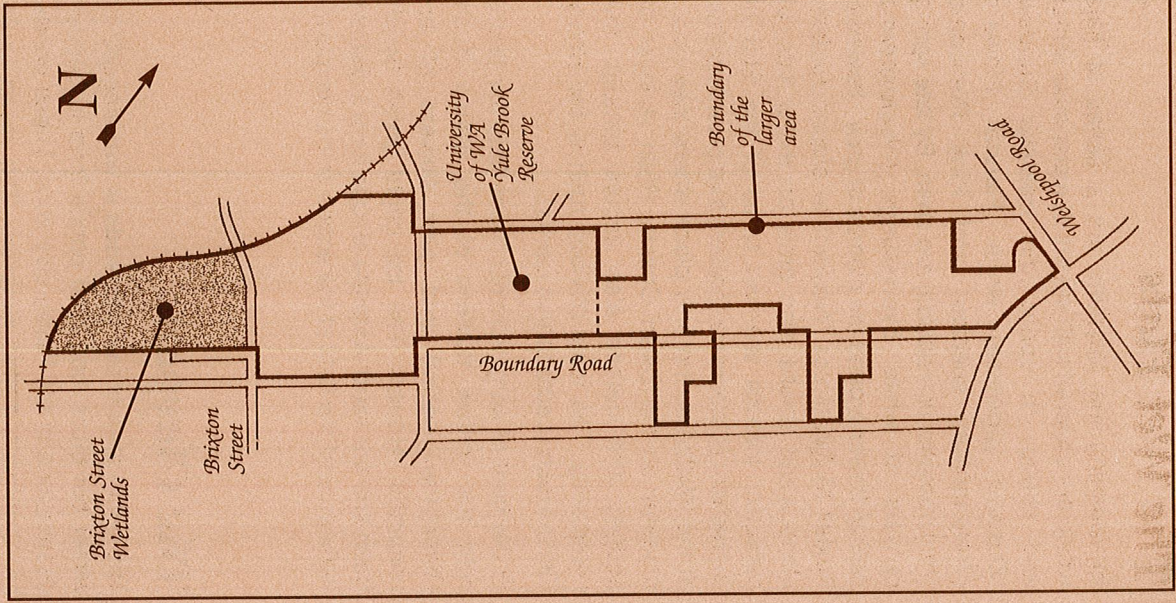
Five species of amphibian are common in the **Wetlands**. The Crawling, Banjo, Moaning and Quaking Frogs have common names that are very descriptive.

Reptiles

The Spiny-tailed Gecko, five species of Legless Lizards, two Dragons, eight Skinks, two Goannas and the Dugite are recorded from the **Wetlands**.

The Claypans have a large and diverse invertebrate fauna, including crustaceans and insects. These tiny water animals and the tadpoles eat the microscopic algae and diatoms that also live in the water in the Claypans.

Fire frequency is the most serious threat to fauna in the **Wetlands**.



The **Wetlands** are part of a larger area extending to the north east that has been progressively recognised as the best and largest area of bushland remaining on the Pinjarra Plain in the Perth area. This larger area has over 500 types of wildflowers.

Getting Involved

Looking after your local bushland is a great way to become involved in your local community.

The Friends of Brixton Street Wetlands was formed in 1993 to bring together members of the Waterbird Conservation Group, the Wildflower Society and concerned members of the community. The groups have been active in the **Wetlands** since 1989, lobbying the Environmental Protection Authority for assessment and recognition of the **Wetlands**.

With recognition by government of the **Wetlands** as a conservation area, a management committee with representation from the Friends, Wildflower Society, CALM and the City of Gosnell's has been responsible for management of the **Wetlands**. Management activities have involved the erection and upgrading of a fence, erection of signs, rubbish removal, and weed control.

The Friends coordinate regular guided walks and working bees in the **Wetlands**. Displays on the **Wetlands** are regularly conducted in shopping centres, schools, libraries etc.

The Friends meet regularly to work in the **Wetlands**. If you would like to join the Friends contact Regina Drummond on 9459 2964. New members are always welcome

Other contacts are:

CALM Swan Region Office, Wanneroo 9405 0700
Wildflower Society of WA (Inc.) 9383 7979 (a summary of the values and the management guidelines for the Wetlands can be obtained from the Society).

City of Gosnell's 9391 3132

Illustrations by Margaret Pieroni

The Importance of the Brixton Street Wetlands

Visitors come from all over the state, Australia and the world to see the **Brixton Street Wetlands** in the heart of the City of Gosnell's.

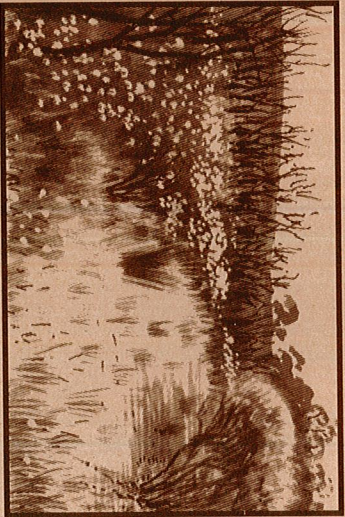
The **Wetlands** lie on a very flat waterlogged Pinjarra Plain that lies at the base of the Darling Range. Over 97% of the bushland on these waterlogged soils has been cleared for agriculture or housing.

While the **Wetlands** cover only 19 hectares they:

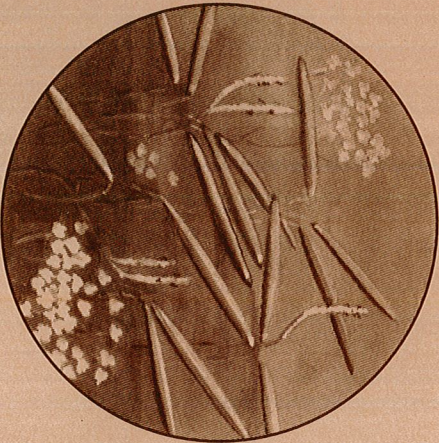
- contain many different vegetated wetlands with fringing vegetation in near to the original condition.
- support a very rich flora of over 300 different types of wildflowers, which is more than 20% of the flora of the Perth area in 0.005% of the area.
- contain plant communities that are rare and endangered and in need of special protection.
- support over 80 special wildflowers that are rare and endangered, have only recently been discovered by botanists, are uncommon on the Swan Coastal Plain and/or are uncommon in the Perth area.
- are habitat for the rare and endangered Quenda, waterbirds and many native terrestrial and aquatic animals.

The outstanding conservation values of the **Wetlands** have been recognised at the local, regional and national level. The area is on the register of wetlands of national significance and has been nominated for listing on the Register of the National Estate. The Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM), the Environmental Protection Authority, government and the community are acting to ensure that the area becomes a Nature Reserve.

Brixton Street Wetlands



The fascinating and diverse Brixton Street Wetlands lie in the heart of the City of Gosnell's. The Wetlands are home to hundreds of plants including two very rare water plants.

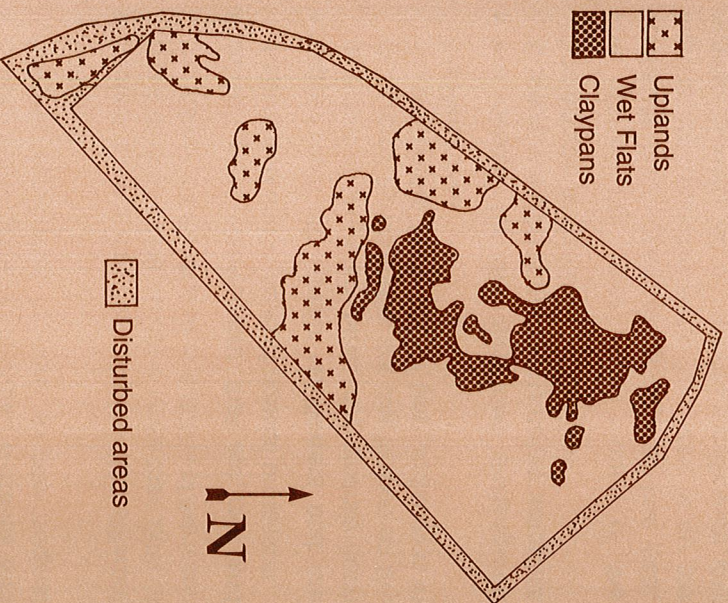


This brochure was made possible through a 1996 Community Conservation Grant from the Minister for the Environment.

Plant Communities of the Wetlands

Wetlands

The Wetland plants grow together in three main communities



The Wet Flats

Surrounding the claypans are a series of flats which are covered with sheets of water over winter and spring. In spring the tree-like Sundew (*Drosera gigantea*) white Flannel Flowers (*Tribonanthes* species) and Pink Petticoats (*Polypompholyx multifida*) are seen. By late spring carpets of white Everlastings (*Hyalosperra cotula*) flower around the clumps of grey-flowered Foxtail Mulga Grass (*Neurachne alopecuroides*). Many small shrubs also grow on these flats, of particular interest are two types of the Star of Bethlehem (*Calceatasia* species) that grow together at the Wetlands, the only place where they occur together on the Swan Coastal Plain. A layer of sedges and rushes also occurs through the community. The most obvious rush is the Hoary Twine Rush (*Leptocarpus canus*).

In the heat of early summer these flats are bright with the yellow flowers of the Swish Bush (*Viminaria juncea*) and pink flowers of an unnamed *Astartea*. The tall bright green Swish Bush and the lower *Astartea* shrubs form a distinct band around the flats at the edges of the claypans.

A recently recognised and unnamed form of Early Nancy (*Wurmbea dioica*) is the first winter flower in the Claypans. Bulbs of this species lie dormant in the soil over summer.

Other winter flowering plants are the rare Stalked Water Ribbons (*Aponogeton hexatelpalus*), the Brixton Blue Squill (an unnamed *Chamaescilla*), Flannel Flowers (*Tribonanthes* species) and the Brixton Blue Devil (soon to be named *Eryngium pinnatifidum* subspecies *palustre*).

By spring (September/October) clumps of Aquatic Pennywort (*Hydrocotyle lemnoides*) leaves float on the surface of the water in the Claypans. Groups of tiny 'carrot' flowers hide amongst the leaves. Aquatic Pennywort is a rare species and is only known to occur in six claypans in the south west of Western Australia.

Later in spring, bright green clumps of flowering Swamp Wallaby Grass (*Amphibromus neesii*) identify the Claypans surrounded by clumps of Hoary Twine-rush (*Leptocarpus canus*).

By late spring to early summer (November/December) the ponds have dried and many tiny plants such as the white Swan River Daisies (*Brachycome* species), Sundews (*Drosera* species) and pink Triggerplants (*Stylidium* species) form carpets of flowers in the almost dry Claypans.

In the heat of early summer the pink-white flowers of a new species of Native Gerbera (a *Trichocline*) and the brilliant red flowers of the Robin Red Breast Bush (*Melaleuca lateritia*) bring colour to the dry Claypans.

The flowers of the *Astartea* and Robin Red Breast Bush provide food for many insects, especially the brilliant coloured rare Jewel Beetles.

The Claypans

The entire area of the Wetlands is waterlogged in winter but more long-lived ponds form in deeper depressions in the heavy clay soils. These ponds are commonly called claypans. The claypans fill with the winter rains and soon after a series of native aquatic plants grow and flower in the water over winter, spring and early summer.

The Uplands

Marri (*Eucalyptus calophylla*) Woodland with an understory of shrubs, sedges and herbs are found on the slight rises around the wet flats. This is the only area of the Wetlands where trees naturally occur. In spring the Marri Woodlands are bright with flowering Red and Green Kangaroo Paws (*Anigozanthos manglesi*), yellow Buttercups (*Hibbertia hypericoides*) and cream Milkmaids (*Burchardia congesta*).

