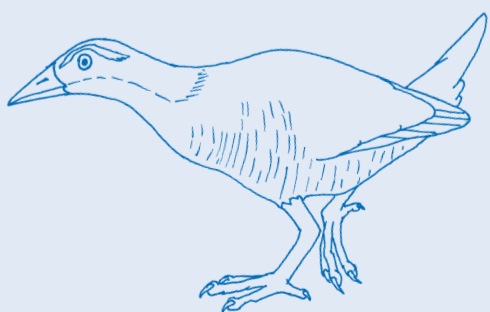




## Checklist

What can you see?

- butterfly
- native flowers
- colourful insect
- crab
- small bird
- long-necked bird
- large spider
- tree hollows
- heart-shaped leaf
- native fungi



## Wetlands quiz

- 1. Coastal wetlands:**
  - a) are where you can find tigers
  - b) are an important habitat for migratory shorebirds
  - c) are deserts.
- 2. Mangroves:**
  - a) are important nurseries where baby fish are safe and well-fed while they grow
  - b) don't have roots
  - c) are only found in Queensland.
- 3. Marine green zone areas:**
  - a) protect fish
  - b) protect dugongs
  - c) protect marine plants
  - d) all of the above.
- 4. Putting garden clippings in the wetlands:**
  - a) spreads weeds
  - b) covers native plants
  - c) makes wildlife sick
  - d) all of the above.
- 5. Littering in natural areas:**
  - a) doesn't matter because someone else will pick it up
  - b) can cause wildlife to become entangled, injured or choke on litter (i.e. plastics break down into microplastics which never go away and can look like food for marine life)
  - c) is ok because the rubbish breaks down quickly anyway.

Answers: 1(b), 2(a), 3(a), 4(c), 5(b)

# Boondall Wetlands

Hide 'n' Seek Children's Trail



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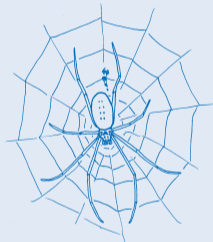
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Dedicated to a better Brisbane



## The Boondall Wetlands story



Boondall Wetlands is approximately 1150 hectares situated between Moreton Bay, Nudgee Beach, Boondall and Shorncliffe. The wetlands are a part of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway which is essential to the survival of migratory shorebird species and is listed under the Ramsar Convention as a wetland of international significance.

Many different plant communities are found in the reserve, including: melaleuca, eucalypt, ironbark and casuarina forests, salt marshes, hypersaline flats, mangroves and tidal mudflats. Several of the animals that live in Boondall Wetlands are nocturnal and can only be seen at night. Others are shy and will hide when they hear you coming.

Walking along the trail as quietly as possible - with all your senses alert - will give you the best chance of seeing local wildlife. As you walk along the circuit through the wetlands, stop at the points listed throughout this booklet to check out the many interesting plants and animals that can be found living here.

## Billai dhagun means 'place of casuarinas'

### 1 Two types of tree

Looking out over the wetlands, what can you see? Dominating the landscape are two different types of tree. The green-haired casuarina, which grows in salty ground and the melaleuca - which for its paperbark is renowned.

### 2 Ephemeral pond

Do you see a watery oasis teeming with life? Or is there a barren dustbowl, a wetland in strife? Ephemeral means temporary - not always here unless it rains, for during drought or long dry periods, nothing of it remains.

### 3 Old blue gum

This gnarled old blue gum with bark of pale grey, has stood watch over Boondall for a century and a day. Its hollows provide shelter for nesting parrots and possums, look for the bronzed glider that feeds on its blossoms.

### 4 Mistletoe

See the parasitic plant growing on the casuarina tree? That's mistletoe - stealing water and minerals for free. This one has berries which birds love to eat, these are then spread in the droppings that fall at their feet.

### 5 Totem - kangaroo

The kangaroo - or murri - once roamed these lands, but they are gone now and only this totem still stands, as a reminder of the past, an Aboriginal art story, that tells just a part of Boondall's cultural history.

### 6 Grey mangroves

Our marvellous mangroves grow where land meets the sea, and are where you can hear the gerygones' sweet melody. The roots are breathing straws poking up through the ground, so that during high tides, the grey mangroves won't drown.

### 7 Bird hide

Walk slowly and quietly up to the Boondall bird hide, the species you'll see change with season and tide. All year round there are cormorants and egrets on our shore, but in summer, the migratory wader birds are the main draw.

### 8 Tuckeroo and fig

Can you see two trees that look out of place? A tuckeroo and fig tree grow here in this space. The ground is much higher here and the soil is salt-free. They grew from fruit seeds dropped by bats in the gum tree.

### 9 Strangler fig and native bees

See the tall tree stump with a fig tree wrapped around tight? In decades to come, the trunk will be hidden from sight! The strangler fig over time swallows entire trees, but for now the stump stands strong and is home to native bees.

### 10 Erosion and new mangroves

Erosion from storms and boat wash, hit where the bank is weak. Undercutting the eucalypt which fell in the creek. But now young mangroves take root along the edge and pardalotes nest in the exposed soil of the ledge.

### 11 Rubbish in the mangroves

The plastic rubbish in this creek spills out of storm drains running from town. Turtles, birds and dolphins can get tangled up and drown. Much of the rubbish we don't bin ends up floating in the sea, where wildlife are the victims of our throw-away society.

### 12 Grey-headed flying fox

Can you see the bronzed flying fox in the tree? It looks lifelike to me. At night they fly at speeds, to pollinate and spread important seeds. But during the day they snooze in a group, where it's important for them to recoup.

### 13 Arboreal termites

See the mud nest high up off the ground? Our native termites built this great mound. If you see a large hole has been dug into its side, it means a bird now lives here inside.

### 14 Hypersaline flats

Ancient landscapes, where salt tolerance is a must, only primitive algae live here on the salty crust. Tidal seawater trapped in puddles is the cause of them you'll find, as the sun evaporates the water, leaving only the salt behind.

### 15 Monkey rope vines

What a funny name for this native vine! As no monkeys on it will you ever find. Many butterfly species its broad leaves do need, to lay their eggs on, for their caterpillars to feed.

### 16 Scarlett jezebel

Brilliant markings of white, yellow and red, an insect with a thorax, abdomen and head. Find the bronzed butterfly behind the sign, it'll be there rain, hail or shine.

### 17 Environment centre

Come into the environment centre, it's fun and free to enter. With a nature play passport to find more missions, it supports your adventurous expeditions.