

14

All the natural plants and animals in this reserve are intricately tied together by their life needs. If the common Heath *Epacris impressa* is flowering, you may see the tiny Eastern Spinebill feeding on the nectar of the pink or white flowers. It is our smallest honeyeater and this early winter food is essential for the Spinebills, while the plant is pollinated by the birds as they feed.

15

Another wonderful feeding event often takes place here amongst the Hakeas. Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos feed on the seeds of *Banksia marginata*, *Hakea carinata* and *Hakea rostrata*. These large parrots are the only ones with a beak tough enough to rip open the hard nuts, from which they delicately extract the pappy seeds with their tongues.

16

Use this viewing site to enjoy the lake vista. To stop unwelcome damage to the lakeside habitat, the denuded edges have been blocked off and are being revegetated. Please help this work by using the paths and the seats provided and keep your dogs on leads.

17

The Friends of Stirling Linear Park have put many volunteer hours into securing and looking after this reserve. The Friends work in close cooperation with Adelaide Hills Council and Onkaparinga Catchment Water Management Board and have been helped by Conservation Volunteers Australia, Green Corp teams and Trees for Life volunteers.

18

All the water collected from surrounding land by Woorabinda Lake eventually leaves by this constructed aqueduct and flows down the hill and into Aldgate Creek. The lake was originally formed to supply water to the railway engines by blocking off this natural exit of the waterway. Once this gully would have held a permanent bog filled with Ferns, Sedges, Rushes, Tea-tree, Gahnia, Swamp and Blackwood Wattles.

19

This view follows the passage of Aldgate Creek, downhill of course. Eventually Aldgate Creek winds its way down and into the Onkaparinga River at Mylor, you can see it running alongside the main road from Stirling to Aldgate, and then alongside Aldgate Valley Road.

20

Rehabilitation is well underway along this part of Aldgate Creek. Willow removal was finished in 1999 and the creekline is being replanted with natural, local, riparian plants. The Friends have made many exciting discoveries including finding some small native fish, a *Galaxias* species, living in the deep pools.

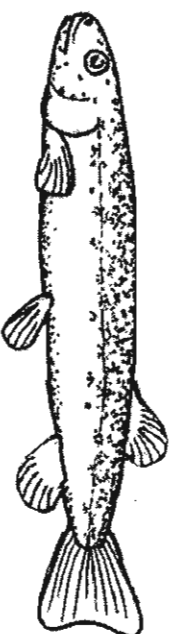
21

The top of this catchment was first owned by the Halliday's in the 1850's. The rich, fertile black soil of the gullies and the continual summer seepage that once supported Bog vegetation, made ideal growing conditions for their market garden. The tile drains they constructed as part of their farming, still drain parts of the gully. Ferns will not grow here again until the natural drainage is re-established.

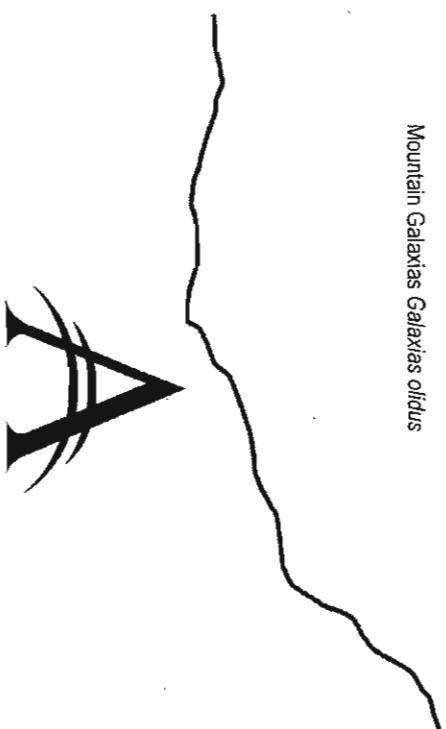
We hope you enjoyed your walk!



Woorabinda Lake Self Guided Walk



Mountain Galaxias *Galaxias olifus*



ADELAIDE HILLS
COUNCIL

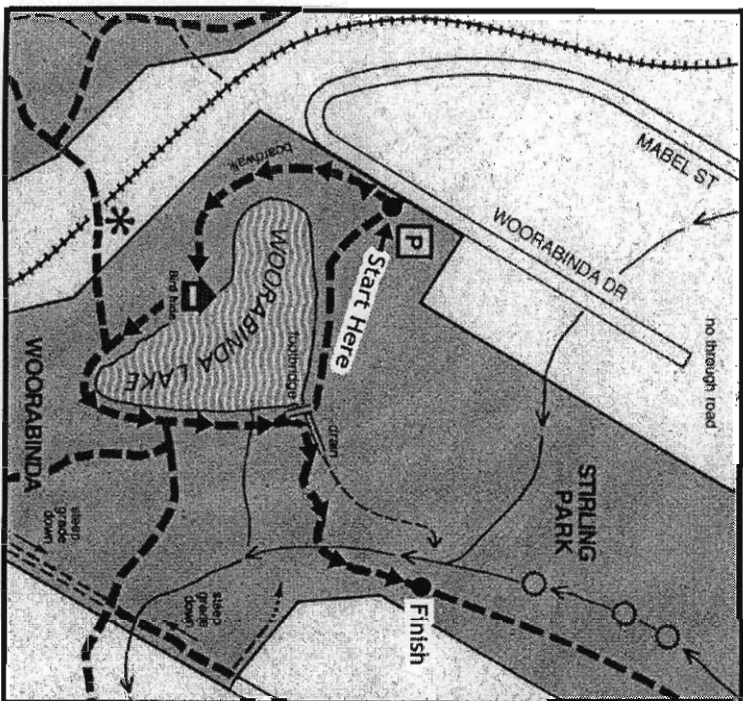
March 2005

Take yourself for a stroll.....

There are 21 points of interest on this walk that will take you around Wooraabinda Lake, through the Bird Hide, back to the footbridge and a little way up the creek in Stirling Park.

All you have to do to enjoy the sights, sounds, smell and feel of this wonderful area is find each numbered marker in order. Small pictures are mounted on posts at about knee-height, either on the left or the right of the path as marked on the map below.

Start at the boardwalk near the entry to the lake off Wooraabinda Drive. Enjoy!



1

These soft, hairy, Woolly Tea-trees have been planted into the edge of the lake because they are adapted to growing where the ground is wet and often flooded. Overhanging creeks and swamps, their dense foliage makes them a wonderful place for small birds to find insect food and shelter.

2

Like other tea-trees, Prickly Tea-trees have white Tea-tree flowers and woody capsules, but they have sharp, shiny leaves. Prickly Tea-trees prefer damp conditions. Red-browed Firetails site their untidy nests in these large, prickly bushes which also make great habitat for bandicoots.

3

The slopes to the right are undergoing rehabilitation after woody weeds were carefully cleared by volunteers. Only large trees and a few native shrubs were left. Many local, native shrubs have been replanted and native leaf litter is re-establishing. With ongoing weed control, natural regeneration will finish the work.

4

The Bulrushes, or *Typha*, mark where the water becomes over 1 metre deep. Lush and green most of the year, these rushes provide wonderful habitat for birds and aquatic animals while they act as a water filter on the lake edge. Each year, *Typha* turns brown as it shuts down for winter.

5

This Wattle is Prickly Moses or *Acacia verticillata*. This prickly, often sprawling, prickly bush was easily trampled by stock and has become rare in our district whereas once it was a normal part of the riparian flora. They area another favourites place for Firetails to nest.

6

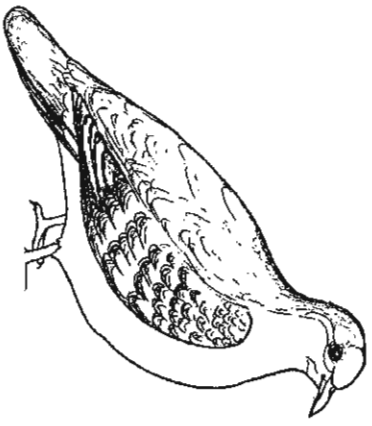
On the right of the boardwalk is a boggy area where water often lies in the wet part of the year. This water drains from the upper slopes, above and around the railway line. The drainage line that collects it together and eventually delivers it to the lake, is marked by the line of damp loving plants, Swamp Wattle, Red-fruited Saw-sedge and Hop Goodenia.

7

Before Bird Hide
Along this edge, Jointed Twig-rush grows, the joints on the stems visible through the bright-green, tall, round stems. The much smaller Square Twig-rush grows behind in the shallow water. It has thin stems with four corners and is now rated rare in the southern Mt. Lofty Ranges.



Enter the Bird Hide for 8, 9 & 10 and enjoy the views

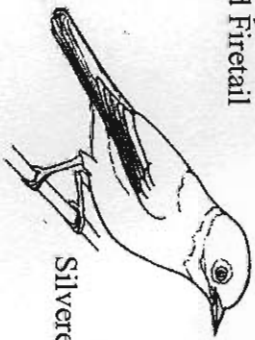


Common Bronzewing

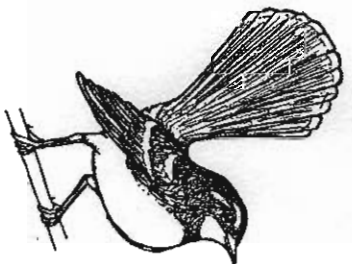
♂



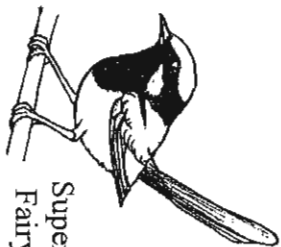
Red-browed Firetail



Silvereye

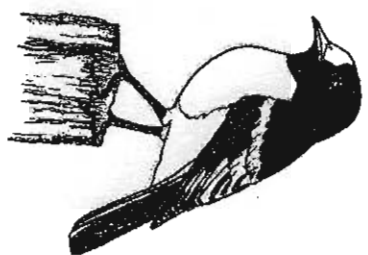


Grey Fantail



Superb Blue Fairy-wren

♂



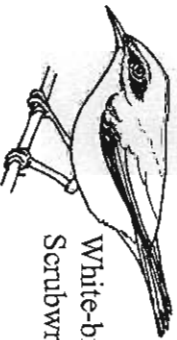
Scarlet Robin

♂

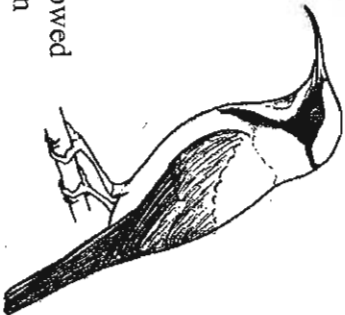
Bush Birds



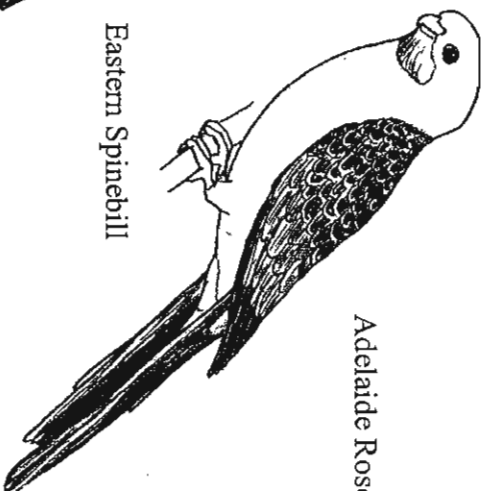
White-naped Honeyeater



White-browed Scrubwren



Eastern Spinebill



Adelaide Rosella



Pacific Black Duck



Australian Grey Teal



Hardhead
(White-eyed Duck)



Wood Duck



Mallard Duck (feral)



Australasian Grebe

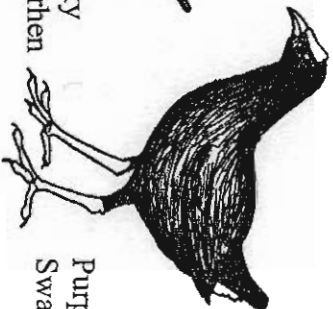
Water Birds



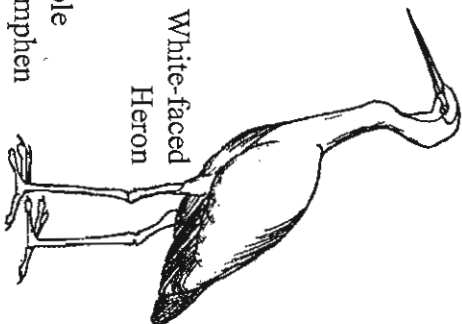
Eurasian Coot



Dusky
Moorhen



Purple
Swamphen



White-faced
Heron



Little-pied
Cormorant

11

After the Bird Hide

This is a good spot to get a glimpse of the enormous diversity of native plants in this Stringybark scrub. The range of different leaf shapes, belonging to *Acacia*, *Pultenaea*, *Platylobium*, *Epacris* and *Acrotiche* are matched in winter-spring by the profusion of flowers.

12

Look across to the old trees in this area. You may be lucky enough to see a Sacred

Kingfisher, Adelaide Rosella or Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo, entering or leaving its nesting hollow. Without old trees that have weathered over time and formed hollows, these birds could not survive in the hills. Natural recycling in the ground layer of dead wood is also a vital part of the living system.

13

Access through this area has been blocked to allow rehabilitation. Once full of weeds like

Watsonia, Gorse and Blackberry, it has now been replanted with species grown from local native seed. Now weed control is on a small scale using careful methods like cut & swap and Handpulling.