

**E**

EDUCATION

Council has developed school and community tours which include a guided tour of Laratinga Wetlands. These tours include topics such as history of the area, the water treatment processes, local vegetation, local habitat and wildlife.

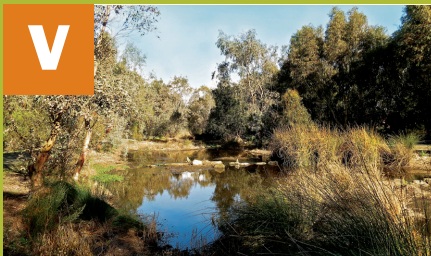
The recreation area features botanical signs, and various interpretive signage exist through out the wetland.

**R**

RECREATION

Vegetation has created a natural and peaceful setting and therefore Laratinga Reserve is popular for walking, dog-walking, running, cycling, picnics and bird watching.

Facilities include defined pathways, boardwalks made of recycled printer cartridges, seats, shelter area, toilets (utilising recycled water) and free BBQs.

**V**

VEGETATION

Council has undertaken substantial revegetation throughout Laratinga Wetlands. Drooping Sheoaks have been planted with an under-storey of Hakeas to form a food forest for Cockatoos.

Silver Banksias, along with Wattles, shrubby under-storey and native grasses were planted to provide a safe refuge for birdlife.

**AV**

AQUATIC VEGETATION

Wetland basins have been planted with Common Reed, which is widely known for its effectiveness at removing nutrients from the water.

Marsh club-rush, Water Ribbon, River club-rush and Juncus species filter the water and prevent erosion.

**AH**

ABORIGINAL HERITAGE

Laratinga Wetlands was named after the Peramangk meaning for Mount Barker Creek (Lartingga-parri). The site is a wide relatively flat flood plain at the foot of Mount Barker with permanent water (and at one time almost permanent camp sites).

The only time the place was not continuously occupied was during periods of heavy rain when it was prone to inundation.

**BIO**

BIODIVERSITY

Five frog species; the Common Froglet, Eastern Banjo Frog, Peron's Tree Frog, Spotted Grass Frog and the Brown Tree Frog are confirmed at Laratinga Reserve with an additional three species within 10km of the site.

The Common Long Neck tortoise is seen daily bathing on logs. The Water Rat, Common Brushtail Possum and Common Ringtail Possum are also regulars.

PRINTED ON 100% RECYCLED PAPER



Proudly supported by
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public transport to the wetlands
www.adelaidemetro.com.au



Laratinga Wetlands

A beautiful
man-made
oasis nestled
in the heart of
Mount Barker,
South Australia
(corner of Springs
& Bald Hills Rd)

Laratinga Wetlands



An oasis in the heart of the Adelaide Hills

**H**

HISTORY

In the late 1990s, the District Council of Mount Barker established Laratinga Wetlands as part of a natural wastewater treatment facility to cope sustainably with the growing population's wastewater.

The site was heavily infested with pasture plants and weeds with a general lack of native plants within the site, other than some existing remnant red gums (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*).

**WW**

WETLAND WATER

The overall design of the wetland is to filter water slowly through the basins, which is planted with species of water plants to remove residual phosphorus and nitrogen from the water.

The water levels at Laratinga Wetlands are managed with a suitable watering regime that has been developed based on the ecological units that inhabit the wetland, rainfall, irrigation requirements and as closely as possible mimics a natural system.

**C**

CONNECTIVITY

The area encourages active and healthy lifestyles by providing a continuous path through the Mount Barker central business district, Keith Stephenson Park, Mount Barker Creek Linear Park and various residential areas.

**RW**

RECYCLED WATER

After the removal of solids, residential waste water from Mount Barker, Littlehampton and Nairne is piped to the waste water treatment plant. Here it undergoes biological, clarification and filtration treatment prior to being released into the wetland.

Reclaimed water is also used for irrigation of council parks and reserves as well as horticultural and industrial uses.

**B**

BIRDS

Laratinga Wetland and Reserve has become an important habitat for a range of resident, migratory and nomadic bird species. Over 150 bird species have been recorded from the site with up to 61 species present at any one time, some with State, Regional and International significance (such as Latham's Snipe).

Migratory and nomadic species are only present at Laratinga at certain times of the year.

**AC**

ART & CULTURE

Four murals as part of the 'Batpiori' Airbrushing Project (meaning "scattered trees" in Peramangk Peoples language) have been installed in the recreation area of the wetland.

The aim of the project is to increase the participation and engagement of young Aboriginal artists to produce quality and valued artwork and a sense of place in the community.

