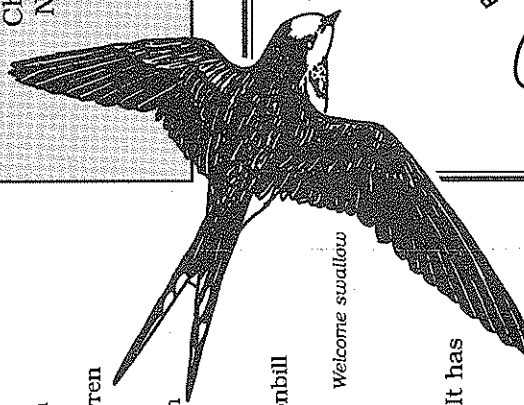


## COMMON BIRDS

Australian magpie  
 Australian pelican  
 Australian raven  
 Australian shelduck  
 Black swan  
 Brown treecreeper  
 Caspian tern  
 Crested pigeon  
 Darter  
 Galah  
 Great cormorant  
 Great egret  
 Grey teal  
 Laughing kookaburra  
 Little black cormorant  
 Little corella  
 Masked lapwing  
 Mistletoe bird  
 Noisy miner

Pacific black duck  
 Pied butcherbird  
 Purple swamphen  
 Red-rumped parrot  
 Reed warbler  
 Sacred ibis  
 Straw-necked ibis  
 Sulphur-crested cockatoo  
 Superb fairy wren  
 Tree martin  
 Variegated fairy wren  
 Welcome swallow  
 Whistling kite  
 White-faced heron  
 White-plumed honeyeater  
 Willy wagtail  
 Yellow-billed spoonbill  
 Yellow rosella



Welcome swallow

### 8

#### Unusual tree growth

This tree has fallen over, probably due to a combination of flooding and strong winds. It has sprouted new upright limbs giving the appearance of several trees growing in a line. The hollows in large river red gums, caused by internal decay, provide homes for parrots, cockatoos, kookaburras, possums, bats, lizards and other wildlife.

### 9

#### Fallen logs

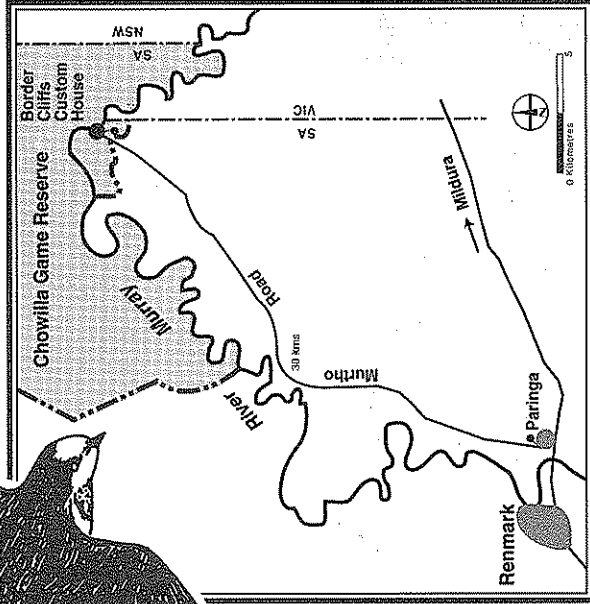
Sit and rest awhile on the fallen logs. Fallen trees provide homes for many small creatures and reptiles. Notice the lumpy growths on the trunks of the surrounding trees, which have been caused by insect damage. Some of the trees here have also been burnt in bushfires. From this point, there are more views of the lagoon and its abundant birdlife.

### 10 River cliffs

The cliffs in the distance were formed by the river cutting through soft sandstone. From here, there are panoramic views of the floodplain vegetation.

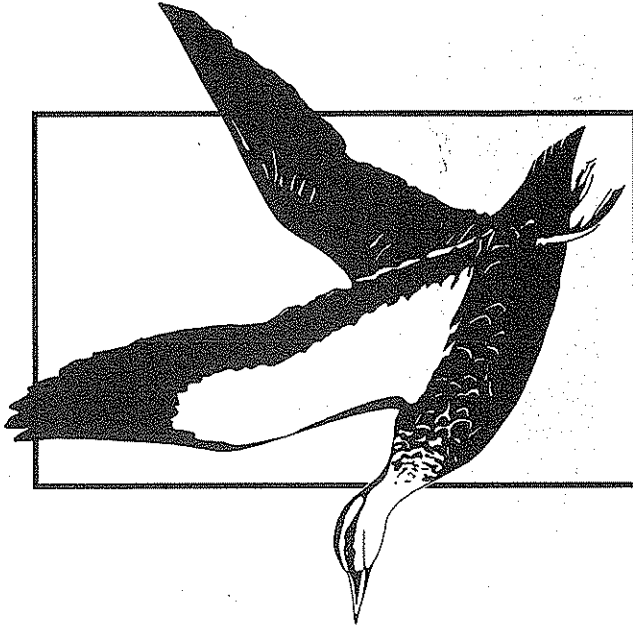
#### For information about

Chowilla Game Reserve contact:  
 National Parks and Wildlife SA  
 PO Box 231, Berri SA 5343  
 Telephone: 08 8595 2111  
 Facsimile: 08 8595 2110



# Chowilla Game Reserve

## Border Cliffs Customs House Wetland Walking Trail



'Keeping our future alive'

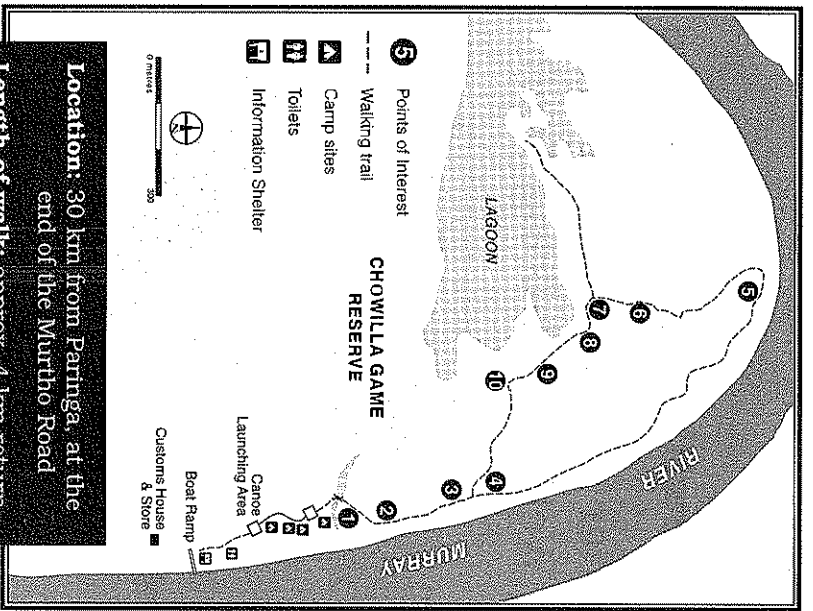


Government of South Australia



#### For information on other SA parks contact:

Department for Environment Heritage and  
 Aboriginal Affairs, Information Centre  
 77 Grenfell Street ADELAIDE SA 5000  
 Phone: 08 8204 1910, Fax: 08 8204 1919



**Location:** 30 km from Paringa, at the end of the Mburtho Road  
**Length of walk:** approx 4 km return  
**Suggested time:** 1 hour 30 minutes

### 3 Native plants of the area

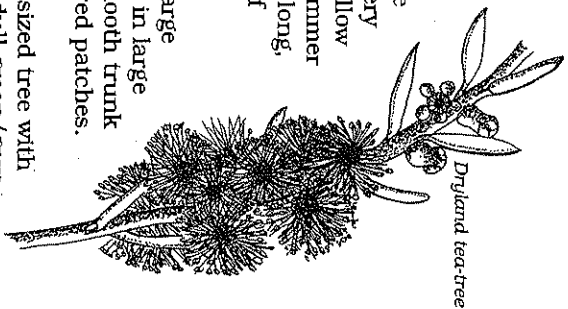
**River cooba** - small wattle tree with drooping branches and very long phyllodes (leaves). Pale yellow flowers appear mainly from summer to autumn. The seed pods are long, hard and lumpy like a string of beads.

**River red gum** - spectacular large gum tree which sheds its bark in large irregular sheets revealing a smooth trunk and limbs of grey, cream and red patches.

**River or black box** - medium sized tree with dark, rough bark and narrow, dull green/grey leaves. Cream coloured flowers appear in spring and summer.

**Dryland tea-tree** - bushy shrub or small tree with small, dull green pointed leaves. Flowers are white to cream in a bottle-brush shape and appear in summer.

**Long-leaf emubush** - large shrub or small tree with long, dull green leaves. Pink to red-brown flowers can appear at any time of the year.



Dryland tea-tree

### 4 Native pine

These trees do not normally grow on the floodplain. The seeds may have been transported here by wind or the river. Native pines were widely used by early settlers for building and fencing, because of their resistance to termites and straight trunks.

### 5 Slaney Creek

The mouth of the creek is on the opposite bank of the river, near the 397 mile marker. There is a weir on this creek which helps maintain a stable pool level in the main river by stopping water bypassing Lock 6. This creek links the river to a maze of backwaters and creeks.

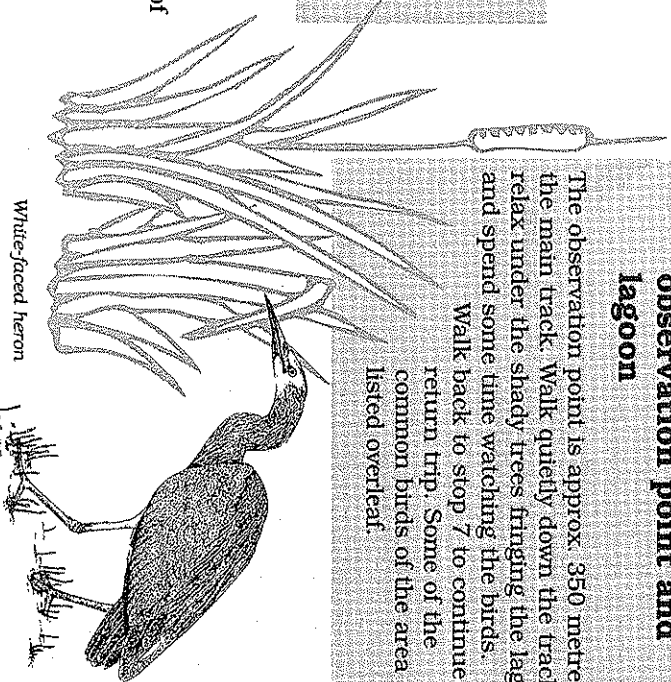
### 6 Natural regeneration

Over the summer we are regenerating in this area. The beds of standing water often appear rather deep, providing food and shelter for many wildlife species. The dense Hypochaeris shrub often creates a 'strong' species of birds. Large willow trees and iron stone willow trees are beginning to grow. The ground is very damp and the water level is at a particular 'ground' and 'feeding' spot for kangaroos.

Between here and the next stop, you will see bulrushes (cumbungi) with their large, brown seed heads. The seeds are dispersed as a creamy fluff, which is carried by wind or water. This lodges in other areas along the river or creeks, creating more cumbungi groves. If you listen carefully, you may hear the call of reed-warblers.

### 7 Turn off to the bird observation point and lagoon

The observation point is approx. 350 metres off the main track. Walk quietly down the track, relax under the shady trees fringing the lagoon, and spend some time watching the birds. Walk back to stop 7 to continue the return trip. Some of the common birds of the area are listed overleaf.



White-faced heron

### 1 Log Bridge

This creek, like all ephemeral creeks, only fills with water when the river is high. As the river level falls the water in the creek is landlocked and remains for sometime. An early settler, Scotsman 'Jock' Souther, constructed a log bridge to access his market gardens, which were in this area. The remains of the bridge are 50 metres up the creek.

### 2 The making of billabongs

These holes are pockets of erosion which enlarge during high water levels in the river. Eventually they form billabongs and become backwaters of the main river channel.