

# Gracemere Lagoon Reserve

## Padygole

### Restoring the wetland

In 2007, Stanwell Corporation partnered with local organisations to conduct a project within the Reserve that covers one section of Gracemere Lagoon.

The project focused on improving habitat and environmental values at this wetland, whilst providing the opportunity to raise community awareness of how wetlands play an important role within the landscape.

Green Corps, the Australian Government youth development and training programme performed much of the work at the site including:

- Planting local tree species
- Developing walking tracks
- Erecting fencing
- Learning new skills such as weed control.

The project also included the development of a car park and signage and a community event to celebrate project achievements.

The Reserve is managed within Fitzroy Shire Council's reserve system. It is anticipated that the condition of the site will continue to improve over time, with it being a valuable natural asset that the community can enjoy.

### Experience the wetland

Explore the site at your leisure as you view information displays located along the walking track, check out the growing trees and spot the local wildlife.

Consider the following for your visit:

- Visit the Reserve during daylight hours only.
- Dogs must remain on a leash at all times.
- Camping or overnight stays are not permitted in the Reserve or carpark.
- Wear enclosed footwear, long pants and a hat.
- Please take your rubbish home with you.
- Leave boundary gates closed.
- Do not approach stock or enter neighbouring properties.
- There are no toilet facilities at the Reserve.
- Gracemere Homestead is not open to the public.

**Wetlands are snake habitat so take care when exploring. Dial 000 in an emergency.**

Brochure sponsored by



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Restoration project jointly supported by



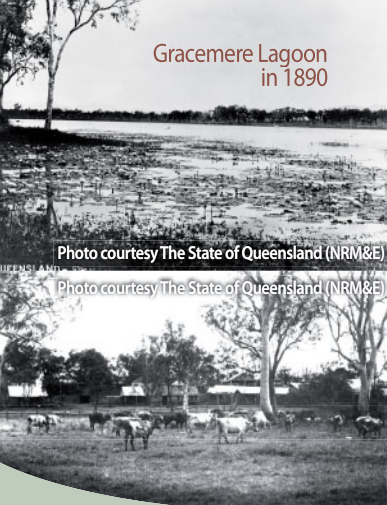
For further information about the project please contact Fitzroy River & Coastal Catchments Inc. Visit [www.frcc.org.au](http://www.frcc.org.au) or telephone 07 4921 0573.



## A wetland of environmental and historical significance

Gracemere Lagoon lies within the nationally important Fitzroy River Floodplain.





Gracemere Lagoon  
in 1890

Photo courtesy The State of Queensland (NRM&E)

Photo courtesy The State of Queensland (NRM&E)



Photo courtesy Allan Briggs

Photo courtesy John Augusteyn



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Photo courtesy John McCabe

## An important place for Aboriginal People

The wetland (known as Padygole) was a special place for the Warabura people (of the Darumbal language group). It was a popular hunting site with its large flocks of birds, fish and other wildlife. The area was also an important place for meetings and ceremonies.

## Pioneering History

Charles and William Archer discovered the wetland on 7 May 1853. The Archer family built Gracemere Homestead (now listed with the National Trust) on the banks of the Lagoon and stocked Gracemere Run with sheep and then cattle.

## It's all in the name

'Padygole' is an interpretation of a phrase used in the Darumbal language and is an alternative name for Gracemere Lagoon.

The Archer brothers, the first Europeans to set foot in this area, named the lagoon Farris after a lake in Norway. It was later renamed Grace, who was their sister-in-law, with the addition of the word 'mere' which means lagoon.

## Why is this Wetland so important?

Gracemere Lagoon is located on a non-tidal floodplain, at the bottom of one of the largest river systems in Queensland. The Lagoon fills when the Fitzroy River floods and water spreads across the entire floodplain. At other times the Lagoon is fed by flows from Gracemere Creek and Scrubby Creek. Water levels in the wetland rise and fall depending on seasonal conditions.





The wetland connects the landscape by providing a link between dry land and freshwater. It also supports a variety of plant and animal life.

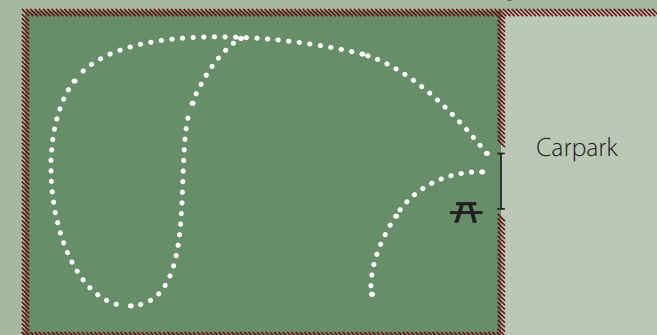
Trees, grasses, forbs and ferns that have adapted to water logged conditions are found in the Reserve along with species that tolerate salty conditions. The plants provide food, shelter and breeding sites for many different animals.

The Reserve is home to a variety of birds (over 44 species have been recorded in the area), turtles, frogs, snakes, fish, kangaroos and insects.

The wetland also acts as an important natural stormwater management system. Pollutants, collected in water that runs off nearby country, are filtered and settle in the wetland thereby reducing nutrients, sediments and chemicals and providing a trap for rubbish.

Over time, development has modified the floodplain and altered the vegetation. Too much pressure on the wetland will lessen its ability to function. We can all help look after Gracemere Lagoon and the health of our environment by adopting best practices in agriculture, industry and urban living.

**Site Map**    Fence    Picnic Table  
 Entrance Gate    Walking Track



Holland Street, Gracemere QLD - Off the Capricorn Highway  
Enter Holland Street with left turn off Capricorn Highway



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Photo courtesy Allan Briggs



Photo courtesy Craig Latta AFTCRA Inc



Photo courtesy Ken Rutherford



Photo courtesy Allan Briggs

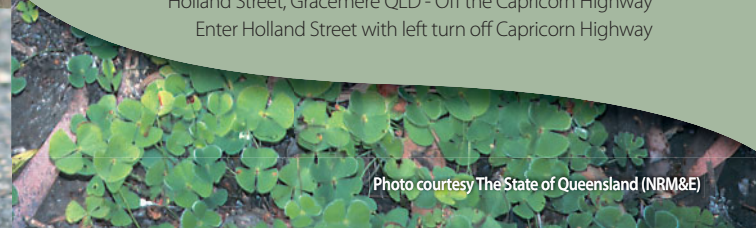


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