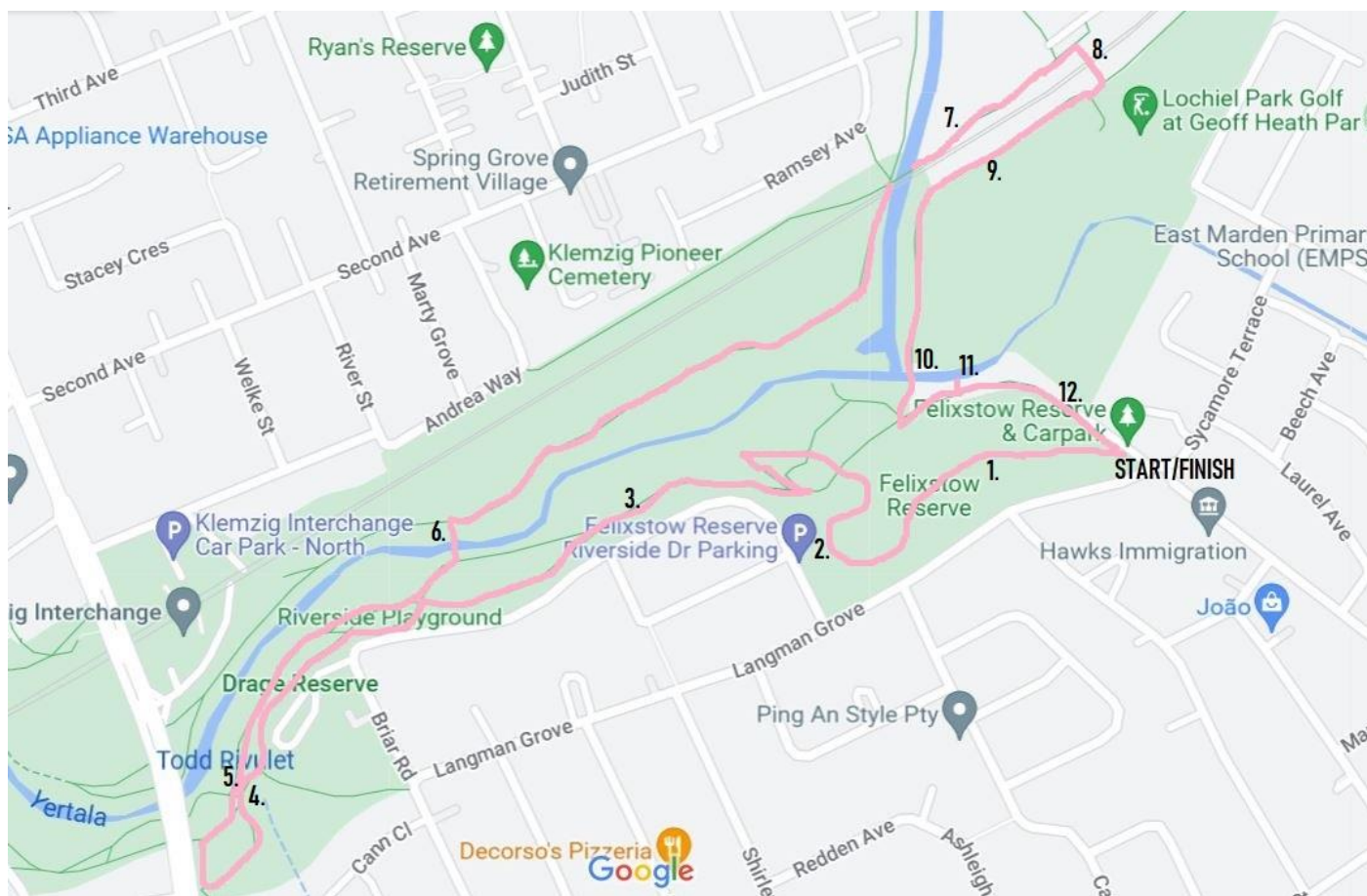# U3A Felixstow Wetlands Monday Stroll - directions and information
(4.1km)

Park in the Felixstow Reserve carpark (off Langman Grove, opp Wicks Ave.)

Meet in the carpark by the row of giant eucalyptus trees

START

1. Take the path that is closest to (and parallel) to Langman Grove and it enters the **Felixstow Wetlands *1**. It passes a lake on your left. Continue keeping the open grassed space on your left. Take a short detour to a platform on a bigger lake (almost on the other side of the reserve) and then go around it towards Riverside Drive

2. Once on the street watch out on your right for a path that re-enters the vegetation and leads towards the river. Once on an asphalt path do a detour to the **sculptures garden *2** below the path.

3. Return to the main path and continue on the top path towards Riverside Playground. Pass the playground and walk with the Drage carpark on your left.

4. Cross Todd Rivulet and turn left to go around Payneham Lions Pioneer Park and look at the farming equipment. The **Klemzig Village *3** used to be here

5. Cross over the Rivulet on a different bridge and keep left on a narrow cement path which brings you back to the main track and past the playground again.

6. Keep left and take the bridge to cross the river. Once on the other side take the asphalt path on your right.

7. Continue under the O-Bahn and then along the O-Bahn

8. Take the caged "shaky" bridge over the O-Bahn. When the conditions are right you may feel the ground shake under your feet when buses pass under the bridge.
9. Turn right after the bridge. There will be a golf course on your left. Continue on the asphalt path with the O-bahn tracks on your right
10. The path will cross the river, on your left there will be a weir.
11. After crossing the bridge turn left and keep an eye to your left for an earthen path leading to a **canoe tree *4** and an information board.
12. Re-join the path which will take you back to your car along a "Wall of Giants" (tall eucalyptus trees)

Finish

Annotations

*1 Felixstow Wetlands

A dusty grey and brown slab of land was transformed into the award winning Felixstow Reserve. Insects chirrup, frogs ribbit and pobble-bonk noisily, while many birds whistle from the reeds, splash and quack across the water and squawk overhead. What was a desert of neglected and very literal open space is now full of life. Aside from being a community and ecological asset, the wetland ponds clean water that is then pumped to aquifer storage for reuse on over 40 open spaces and reserves throughout Adelaide's eastern suburbs.
The Felixstow Reserve project started in 2013 and was officially opened on Sunday 10 February 2019

*2 Sculptures

Felixstow Reserve contains five cultural markers developed by Paul Herzich, an ibis footprint trail and some evocative steel wathuwardi (branch huts) located on the lower river embankment in the nature play area, referencing Kaurna camps. The site is part of the story of Tjilbruke, an important Creation Ancestor in the lore of the Adelaide Plains. He lived as a mortal man, entrusted with the law. His journey mourning the death of his nephew creates the Dreaming Tracks and ends with his transformation into a glossy ibis bird, known in the Kaurna language as Tjilbruke.

*3 Klemzig village (Klepsk)

KLEMZIG PIONEER LUTHERAN CEMETERY

The early village of Klemzig was formed by some 200 Lutheran refugees from Brandenburg (now a part of Poland) whose voyage to Australia was financed by Gorge Fife Angus.
Many of the tombstones from the original cemetery have been removed to the Barossa Valley. In 1936 a monument marking the centenary year was erected, and in 1986 a series of monuments were unveiled, depicting the history of the Germans in the area.

The first groups of Old Lutheran emigrants arrived in Port Misery between October 1838 and January 1839. With the assistance of George Fife Angas, many attempted to integrate into the local community by becoming tradespeople and labourers. Due to the scarcity of work, the lack of English as their preferred language, and prejudice from the already established British farmers, many Old Lutherans found settlement increasingly hard.
In 1838, Klemzig was founded by these emigrants after George Fife Angas offered a section of land bordering the Torrens River, a few kilometres to the north-east of Adelaide.

Due to anti-German sentiment during World War I, the name of Klemzig was changed, as were many other German place names in Australia at the time. In 1917 Klemzig was renamed Gaza, commemorating the British victory in the Third Battle of Gaza, in which Australian troops had a major role. Klemzig was re-instated as the suburb name with the enactment of the South Australia Nomenclature Act of 1935 on 12 December 1935, but remnants of the name Gaza still exist with the local football club still bearing the name. During World War II, the residents of Klemzig petitioned the Government of South Australia on a number of occasions to have the name Gaza re-instated but these requests were denied.

*4 Canoe Tree

A key feature of the reserve is a rare canoe scar tree, retained and identified with explanatory signage by Paul Herzich as part of an interpretive trail. The long-dead tree was only discovered in 2011 when a storm caused it to fall across a creek line. Maintenance workers clearing away branches stopped short of chain sawing the scar and reported it to authorities.