Day 4 - Fact Sheet 8
Tales of the Todd read all about it!

Hydrology

Hydrology, the circulation and distribution of water, is the driving force behind all wetlands (even 'wetlands' like the Todd River which only flow every now and then). Hydrology, particularly in conjunction with the landscape, determines the flow patterns and the duration of flooding. The shape of the landscape (topography) and the depth of underground water (water table) also link to the hydrology. The Todd River provides examples of many different kinds of 'wetlands'.

The river itself flows only after good rain when there is enough run-off from the catchment area.

Some areas along the edges of the river collect overflow water during flooding and this may remain for some time as a swamp after the river flow has stopped.

Some of the waterholes along the riverbed have an impermeable layer beneath the surface which allows water to collect after rain, where it will remain until it evaporates or get used up.

Sometimes the groundwater is at or near the soil surface and it will refill a waterhole from below.

Groundwater that is trapped in porous rocks either above or below ground may also seep into a depression in the river bed and create a waterhole (or spring).

The amount of water, and the rate at which it moves through a wetland influences:

- the habitat conditions eg soils and vegetation, which in turn determines wildlife diversity, and
- the cycling and availability of nutrients within the wetland, which determines its productivity.

Pics – diff types of wetland