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# The Murray River Guardian

Your guide to visiting and camping on the Murray River

2013 - 2014



## Inside this issue

- Lift-out guide to parks and other attractions
- Things to do
- Managing your rubbish
- Recreational fishing guidelines
- Boating safety
- Fire information
- Junior Ranger activities



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# Welcome to the Murray River Guardian

WELCOME to the Murray River Guardian, jointly produced by Parks Victoria and NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service. This guide is jam-packed with information on how everyone can enjoy a variety of nature experiences along the Mighty Murray. Try a spot of fishing, take an invigorating bush walk, kayak through tranquil wetlands or test your mountain bike skills at Moama Five Mile.

Whether visiting the region for the first time or returning to your favourite camping spot, there's always something new to uncover. Sign the kids up to a Summer Discovery program, take a scenic drive through the world's largest River Red Gum forests or step back in time and learn about early settler life. Think about the stories the towering trees might tell about Aboriginal life in the forest. Learn what joint management means for enabling the knowledge and culture of Traditional Owners to be integrated into the management of places like Barmah National Park. You will also notice that we've been working hard to provide many new and upgraded picnic areas, campsites and boat ramps along both sides of the river. Use your smart phone to learn more about some of the amazing sights you will see.



There's also plenty of advice on looking after the parks and enjoying the bush safely. Check our websites for the latest conditions before you travel. Flooding and high river levels have restricted access to some places. At the same time, other places are really dry, so please adhere to the local fire regulations which vary across the states. Most importantly, have fun as you relax and unwind along Australia's iconic Murray River and its tributaries. There's so much to see and do in the region.



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*Regional Director  
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*Regional Manager  
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NSW National Parks and  
Wildlife Service*

# Enjoying the parks along the Murray River

NOTHING restores your mind, body and soul like a good dose of nature. The beautiful parks along the Murray River provide a multitude of ways to experience their diverse environments and internationally recognised features. Get on your bike or launch a canoe, pitch a tent or take a nature drive. The Murray River parks have something for the whole family - even the furry ones if you are visiting regional parks or reserves. There are no park entry fees. Here is just a small taste of what you will discover:

## Canoeing and kayaking

Glide along the glassy waters and discover why the Murray River is known for some of the best canoeing experiences in the world. The Barmah-Millewa Lakes system abounds with the sights and sounds of wildlife and the Ovens River offers fantastic still-water canoeing through a maze of channels and wetlands. Base yourself at the Edwards River Bridge Picnic and Camping Area and try the Edwards River Canoe Trail. Hire a canoe and set your own pace or book a tour with an experienced operator and simply go with the flow.



## Cycling

Hop on your bike and explore the numerous trails suitable for cycling along the banks of the Murray. Pedal along the Hattah-Lakes Discovery Trail for a wonderful wetlands ride. Pioneer Drive, in Murray-Sunset National Park, will take you past the spectacular Pink Lakes. Try the pump and skills mountain bike tracks in Moama Five Mile, Murray Valley Regional Park.



## Bird watching

With over 200 recorded bird species, it's no wonder birdwatchers flock to Barmah National Park and the adjoining Millewa Forest. The Barmah-Millewa Wetlands are Ramsar listed and one of Victoria's largest water bird breeding areas. Look out for Brolgas, Night Herons, Azure Kingfishers and Sea Eagles. Gunbower Island and Murray Valley National Park are also popular spots for bird

watching. Reed Beds Bird Hide in Murray Valley National Park is a great place to see migratory birds. Turn over the bird panels as you stroll along the boardwalk to check out which birds are vegetarians and find out who honks like a goose but soars like an eagle.

## Fishing

Drop a line and forget your troubles as you fish for native species like the iconic Murray Cod. There is no shortage of good fishing spots in the parks along the Murray. The campgrounds in the Murray Valley National and Regional Parks offer fantastic fishing opportunities in the Murray and Edwards Rivers. Hattah-Kulkyne National Park and Warby-Ovens National Park also boast good fishing spots.

## Bushwalking

Step out among the towering River Red Gums and immerse yourself in the beauty of the parks and reserves lining the Murray River. An intricate network of walking trails will get you up close and personal with the living beauty of these stunning and diverse environments. Gulpa Creek Track in Murray Valley National Park is a tranquil 5km walk with an abundance of birdlife and wonderful views. The 4km Barmah Lakes Loop Track, in Barmah National Park, is busy with wildlife and passes a number of Aboriginal cultural sites.

## Camping

Edward River Bridge Picnic and Camping Area in Murray River Regional Park is an ideal location for the whole family – and it's dog-friendly. The site is free and packed with activities suitable for everyone including walking, cycling, and picturesque fishing spots. Walk, run or ride the riverside trails and experience the beauty of this forest setting. Swifts Creek, in Murray Valley National Park, is just a short drive to many of the park's attractions. Walk to Moira Lake and visit the Moitheriban bird hide. Return to the campground, have a barbecue and sit back for a night beneath the stars. Soak up the gorgeous sunshine and sunsets of the Mallee and camp at Lake Hattah in Hattah-Kulkyne National Park.

## Horse riding

Horses can be ridden in regional parks and reserves on formed vehicle tracks open for public use, but must not be taken on walking tracks. Horses are generally not permitted in national parks.

## Picnic areas

Take advantage of the large number of dedicated picnic spots dotted throughout the Murray River parks. They are a great way to spend a comfortable day by the Murray and a refreshing location for family gatherings. Ski Beach Picnic Area at Barooga in Murray Valley Regional Park is equipped with barbecues and tables. Ryan's Lookout in the peaceful Warby-Ovens National Park is another great picnic spot.



# Acknowledgement of Country

THE Murray River has supported many people for tens of thousands of years. It has been the traditional home for many Aboriginal groups who have lived along its banks and in the surrounding forests, forming a deep understanding and connection with the land and waterways. These people and their ancestors are recognised and acknowledged as the original inhabitants and owners of the land. Positive steps are being made in a number of parks and other public lands along the Murray River and its tributaries in Victoria and New South Wales to ensure Traditional Owners play a central role in the future management of these areas.

# Let us know...

*...what you think about the Murray River Guardian – what's useful or interesting and what other information you would like to see included.*

Send an e-mail to:  
**MurrayRiverGuardian@parks.vic.gov.au**

# Key contact numbers

Emergency	000 for fire, police and ambulance
Victorian Bushfire Information Line	1800 240 667 or TTY 1800 122 969
NSW Bushfire Information Line	1800 679 737
Wildlife Rescue	0419 356 433
Parks Victoria	13 1963
NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service	1300 361 967 or TTY 02 9211 4723
Department of Environment and Primary Industries	136 186 for general Victorian fishing information
Fisheries Information line	1300 550 474 for general NSW fishing information
Waste disposal and recycling	see page 35 for recycling and waste disposal locations along the Murray River
EPA litter hotline	1800 LITTER (1800 548 837)

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# Take to the water...

## Parks Victoria

If you're looking to get off the beaten track, take to the water for a truly exhilarating experience. The Murray River, with its majestic River Gums and large variety of wildlife, is the perfect place to jump into a canoe or kayak and start exploring. Meander through the backwaters of the river network into shady creeks and wetlands, or navigate some of the beautiful lakes that the river feeds. There are endless possibilities for enjoying the River Red Gum forest by kayak or canoe for beginners and experts alike. Here are just some of the great locations for getting out on the water.

### Lake Moodemere

Try your luck at canoe fishing to catch some Redfin on the calm waters of Lake Moodemere. The 14 hectare shallow lake is surrounded by River Red Gum forest and pasture. Enjoy a picnic on the banks or explore the forest along the 13km Lake Moodemere Trail. In the past, paddle steamer crews working the busy Port of Wahgunyah would challenge each other to rowing races, often with large wagers on the side. Today the picturesque lake hosts the longest running rowing regatta in the country. The Lake Moodemere Regatta is held annually in January each year, attracting hundreds of rowers for a two-day program of sprint and long course events. Lake Moodemere is located at Wahgunyah, about 7km west of Rutherglen.

### Warby-Ovens National Park

Pack your sense of adventure and explore the lower reaches of the Ovens River in Warby-Ovens National Park, about 10km west of Wangaratta. As the only unregulated tributary to the Murray River, the Ovens Heritage River offers some of the best still water canoeing in Victoria. Launch from McLaughlin's Bend, near Peechelba, where the river slows down. Navigate your way through a maze of channels and wetlands, lined by majestic River Red Gums. Listen to the calls of waterbirds or the splash of fish leaping out of the water. See Eastern Grey Kangaroos and Swamp Wallabies drinking at the water's edge. Alternatively, head downstream to Parolas Bend near Esmond where numerous small creeks run through Warby-Oven's Wildlife Reserve. Make your way to Bundalong where the Ovens River meets the Mighty Murray. Try family friendly camping at Wenhams Camp or Forest Camp. The more adventurous can pitch a tent along the banks of the Ovens River when water levels allow.

### Barmah National Park

Barmah Lakes is a popular day visitor and camping area in Barmah National Park with toilets, fireplaces and picnic tables. The low lying banks of the lakes provide many places to launch a canoe. The dense River Red Gum forest lining the shore provides some good examples of old, large trees and Aboriginal scar trees. Here, the complex ecology of the River Red Gum forest is closely linked to the Murray River and its flooding

regime, creating a diverse natural habitat for a variety of wildlife and waterbirds. Short, one to two- hour loops around the lower lakes take in Rice's Bridge, the campground and day visitor area and are suitable for families and beginners. A 500m paddle north of the campground will take you from the confines of the forest-fringed lake into the open shallows where reed beds define the edge of the lake. Canoeing and kayaking enthusiasts can make a classic 11km half-day trip from the day visitor area at Barmah Lakes down past the sandy beaches of Barmah Island and south to the Barmah township. Rice's Bridge, near the main entrance to the park provides an alternate canoe launch site when the Barmah Lakes Day Visitor Area and Campground are flooded.

### Murray Valley National and Regional Parks

Camp at Edward River Picnic and Camping Area, in Murray Valley Regional Park near Mathoura. Begin your paddling adventure down to the Barmah-Moira Lakes from nearby Picnic Point. This popular 18km day-trip through 'The Narrows' will take about four hours and is accessible

## Murray Marathon

As home to one of the longest flat-water canoe races in the world, it's no secret that the Mighty Murray River offers many opportunities for a paddle in a kayak or canoe. The five day, 404km challenge, known as the Murray Marathon, races along the river from Yarrowonga to Swan Hill from Boxing Day to New Years Eve each year. The great Australian iconic event now attracts more than 700 paddlers and 2000+ support crew and volunteers. Entrants can choose from a one, three or five day challenge, depending on their ability. Participants who take up the five day challenge pass through Tocumwal, Picnic Point, Echuca, Torrumbarry, Cohuna and Murrabit.

- Yarrowonga to Tocumwal - 94km
- Tocumwal to Picnic Point - 96km
- Picnic Point to Echuca - 76km
- Echuca to Torrumbarry - 63km
- Murrabit to Swan Hill - 75km

According to event organisers YMCA Victoria, the Murray Marathon aims to connect families, friends and community groups, and promote active engaged lifestyles through the sport of canoeing. Participants raise funds to support the social, environmental and economic sustainability of the Murray River region through the YMCA's annual 'Take the Challenge' grants scheme. Competitors, volunteers and support crew members stay at various campsites along the river including Cobram, Echuca and Swan Hill. Take up the challenge, sponsor a paddler, make a donation, volunteer your support, or line the river to cheer the race goes to the end. For more information visit [www.murraymarathon.ymca.org.au](http://www.murraymarathon.ymca.org.au).



Canoeing through The Narrows. Barmah National Park

throughout most of the year. New camping facilities and a launch pad at Swifts Point Campground on 'The Narrows' in Murray Valley National Park provide a great stop-off point for a picnic or overnight stay on the way through. Starting further north, a three-day paddle trip from the Gulf area of Barmah National Park down to the Barmah-Moira Lakes is a popular route for school and university outdoor education groups. The ten-day Edward River Canoe Trail winds its way from the Murray River at Picnic Point through magnificent River Red Gum forests and grasslands on its way back to the Murray near Kyalite in south western NSW. The slower pace of activity on the Edwards River makes canoeing and kayaking a breeze, and provides for a quieter environment than the nearby Murray.

### Gunbower Island

A self-guided canoe trail around Australia's largest inland island is an experience that should not be missed. Gunbower Island, comprising Gunbower National Park in Cohuna and Gunbower State Forest in Koondrook, is the perfect place to explore wetlands of international significance abundant with birds, native wildlife and amphibians. The five-kilometre canoe trail at Safes Lagoon in the State Forest is an easy two hour paddle suitable for beginners. Red triangle markers outline the trail and numbered signs correspond to a map and information available from the Department of Environment and Primary Industries. Discover facts about forestry and farming in the area, and forest and water as an important wildlife sanctuary. Find out about Aboriginal life and the use of Red Gum bark canoes. The canoe trail is located south of the Koondrook township and is well signed off the highway heading into town. Take time to enjoy the scenic Gunbower Forest Drive while you are there. The leisurely half-day drive starts at Cohuna and links a number of historical, cultural and ecological sites. There are plenty of camping and picnic spots along the Murray River and Gunbower Creek.

## Fact file

The Murray River originally flowed to the north around the Cadell Fault, creating the Edward River through which much of the Murray River's waters still flow. When the natural dam on the Goulburn River failed, the lake drained, and the Murray River broke away to the south and started to flow through the smaller Goulburn River channel, creating "The Barmah Choke" and "The Narrows" (where the river channel is unusually narrow), before entering into the proper Murray River channel again. The water flows rapidly through these narrow sections providing a good challenge for paddlers.

### And there's more

For more great locations to kayak or canoe along the Murray consider the sandy beaches at Cobram and Barooga, Lake Mulwala, Lake Hume, the lakes system at Hattah-Kulkyne National Park, Kings Billabong near Mildura and Mulcra Island in Murray-Sunset National Park. The possibilities are endless.

### Guided tours and equipment hire

A range of licensed tour operators run guided activities for all ages or will hire the equipment you need for a self-guided tour. Local operators have a good knowledge of their region for the best experience. Visit the nearest Visitor Information Centre to find out more.

## Safety tips

When planning a canoeing or kayaking river experience please ensure your personal safety:

- ✓ Always let someone know your trip plans
- ✓ Ensure your support vehicle is aware of your intended destination and how to get there
- ✓ Beware of vessels on shared waterways and of hazardous trees or snags in the water
- ✓ Look out for overhanging trees and falling branches that may drop at any time
- ✓ Ensure you take enough food and drinking water for the trip
- ✓ Always check weather conditions and river levels before you go
- ✓ Always wear a personal floatation device
- ✓ Wear appropriate clothing including foot and sun protection
- ✓ Carry a first aid kit, map, compass and GPS



# Murray Valley National and Regional Parks

Photography OEH/ Gavin Hansford

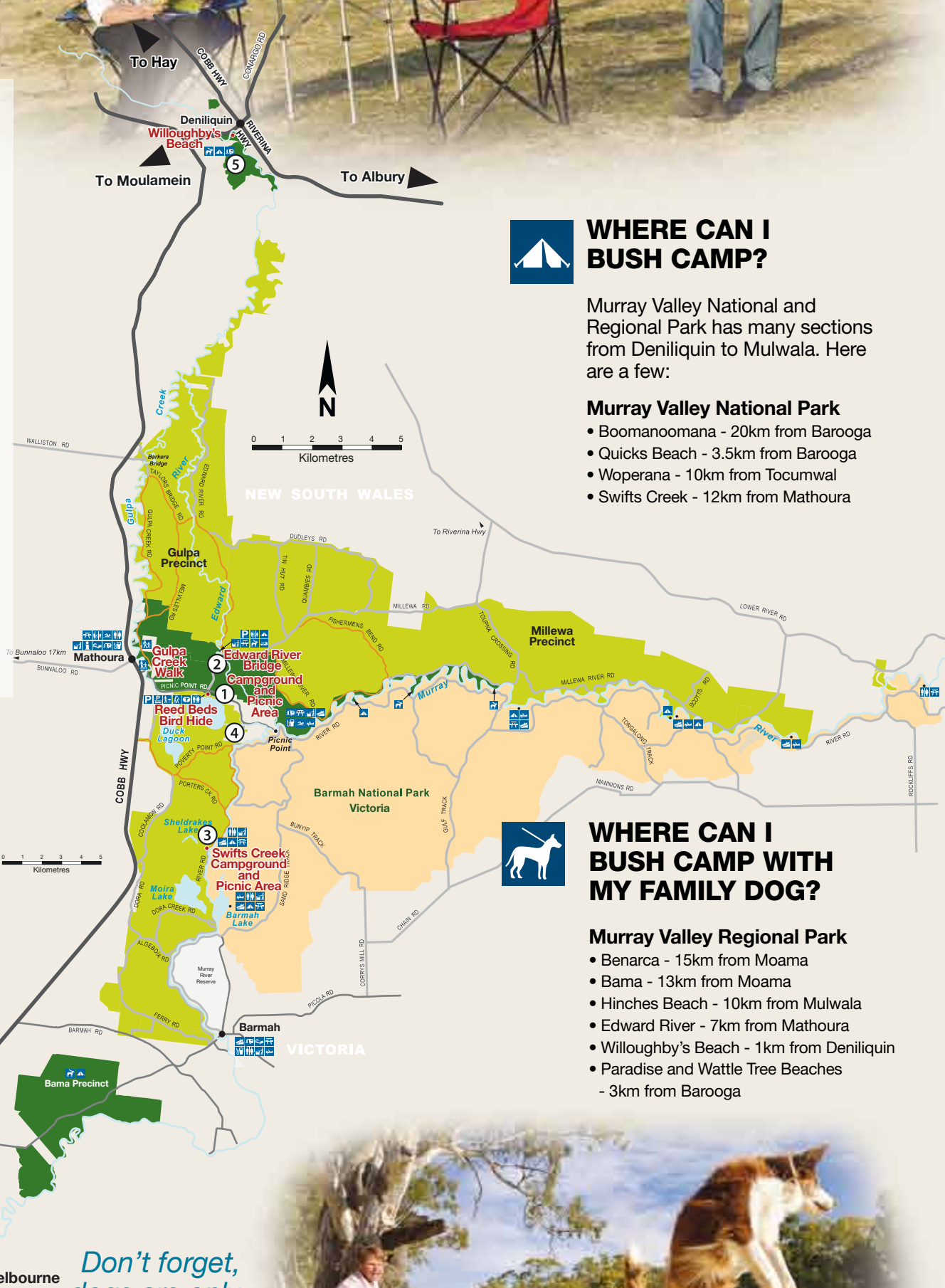
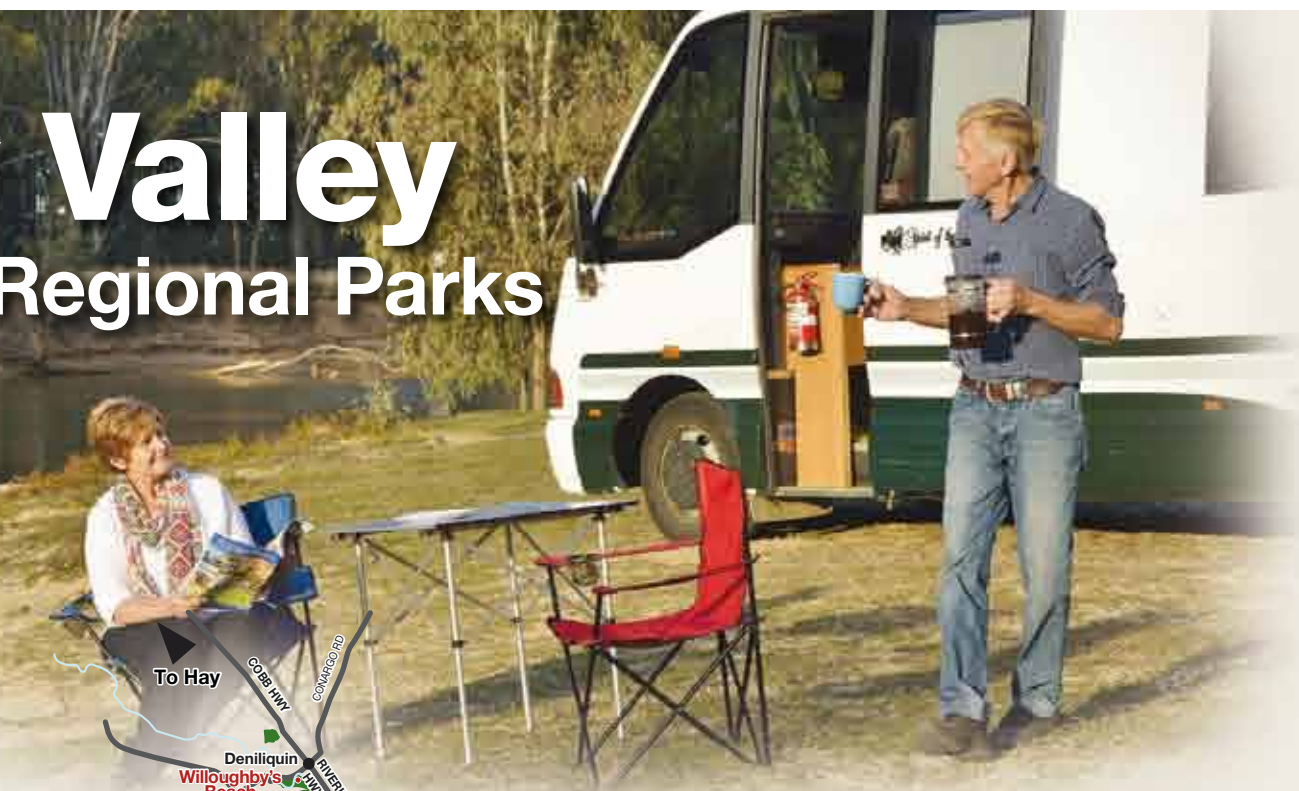
## Murray Valley National and Regional Park

Ancient forests of River Red Gums, waterways teeming with birdlife, and outdoor activities like kayaking, fishing and bird watching, these newer national and regionals parks serve up all you would expect from a park experience.

But they are more than just natural beauty, with nods to our recent history of forestry and grazing. The result is an outdoor history lesson you will not want to miss.

[www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au)

Murray Valley National and Regional Parks are in precincts along the Murray River, from Mulwala to Moama. The precincts near Mathoura are between Moama and Deniliquin, accessed from the Cobb Highway.



### WHERE CAN I BUSH CAMP?

Murray Valley National and Regional Park has many sections from Deniliquin to Mulwala. Here are a few:

#### Murray Valley National Park

- Boomanoomana - 20km from Barooga
- Quicks Beach - 3.5km from Barooga
- Woperana - 10km from Tocumwal
- Swifts Creek - 12km from Mathoura



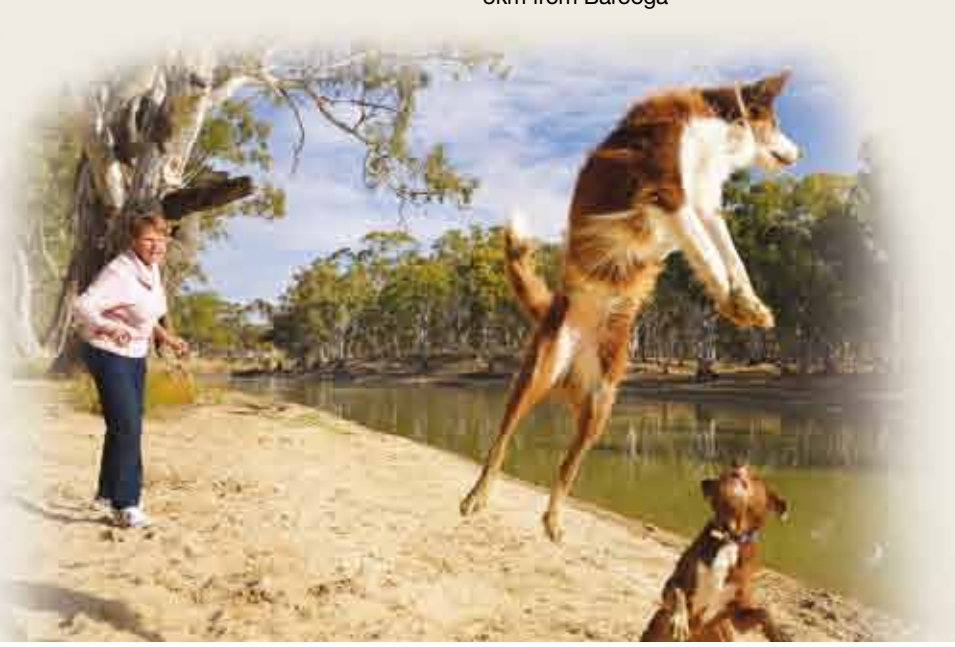
### WHERE CAN I BUSH CAMP WITH MY FAMILY DOG?

#### Murray Valley Regional Park

- Benarca - 15km from Moama
- Bama - 13km from Moama
- Hinchies Beach - 10km from Mulwala
- Edward River - 7km from Mathoura
- Willoughby's Beach - 1km from Deniliquin
- Paradise and Wattle Tree Beaches - 3km from Barooga

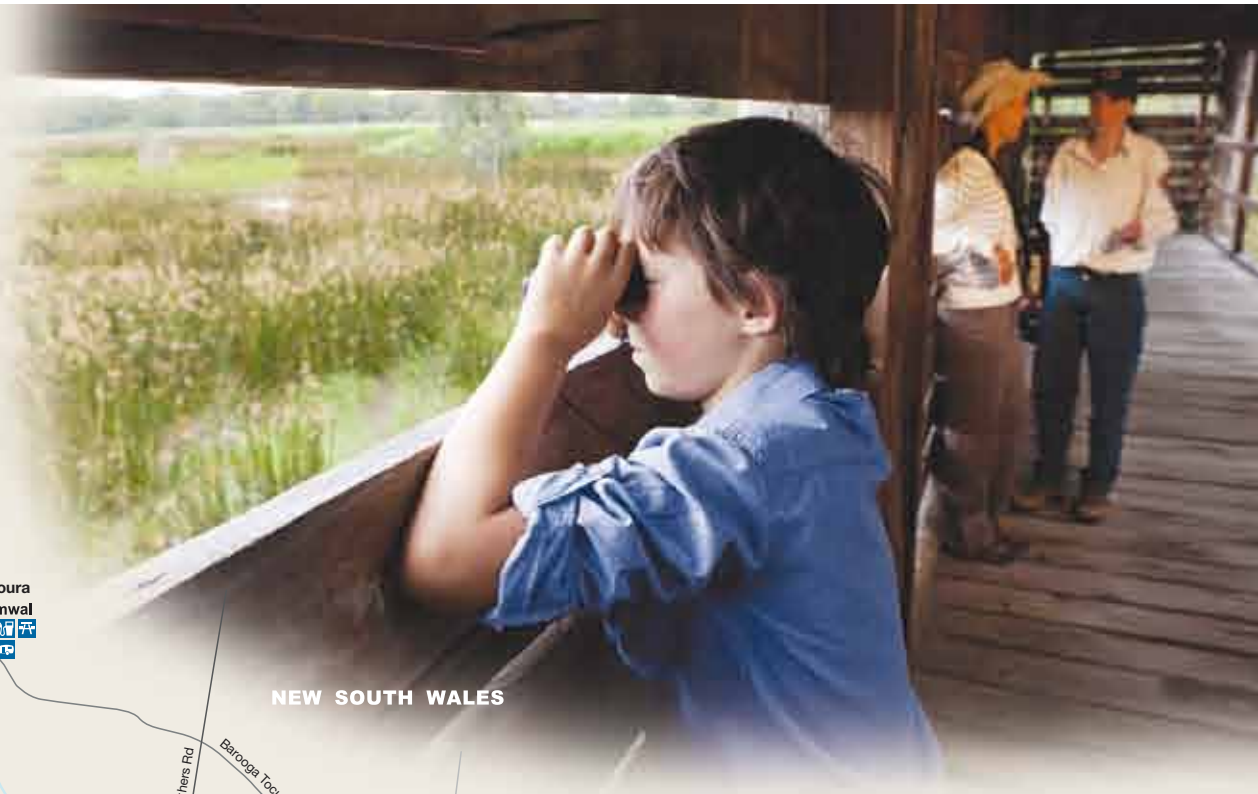
A solid fuel fire ban applies between 1 October and 31 March each year. Park management may vary if local conditions change.

Don't forget, dogs are only allowed in regional parks, so best to check before you bring Fido along for the ride!





The best viewing times at the Reed Beds Bird Hide are early morning or late afternoon.



SERIOUS ABOUT BIRD WATCHING?

While Philip and Patricia Maher of Australian Ornithological Services specialise in locating the harder to find and rarer species for serious birders, they also lead more general natural history tours for nature enthusiasts.

Contact Patricia and Philip at [www.philipmaher.com](http://www.philipmaher.com) if you would like to enquire about their specialist services.

1 REED BEDS BIRD HIDE



It's a haven for birds and bird-watchers alike! The Reed Beds Bird Hide, just off Picnic Point Road allows you to view the wetland without disturbing the local wildlife. Follow the interpretive boardwalk out onto the lake and soak up this spectacular site. The Eastern Great Egret and Cattle Egret are known to nest here while the wetland also provides important foraging and habitat opportunities for a range of fauna including the White-bellied Sea Eagle, Sacred Kingfisher and Royal Spoonbill.

2 EDWARD RIVER BRIDGE CAMPGROUND



This is the ideal place to set up camp, enjoy a barbeque and explore the forest around you. Bring your dog for a walk, take your bike or take it easy. The riverside campground is just a few kilometres from town and even closer to the Reed Beds Bird Hide. From the comfort of this well appointed site, your visit can be busy or relaxed as you choose.

3 SWIFTS CREEK



Walk, run or ride the riverside trails and experience the beauty of this forest setting. From the campground you can walk to the Moira Lake – a favourite fishing spot of local Aboriginal people and early European settlers. Visit the Moitheriban Bird Hide overlooking Moira Lake then return to the campground for an afternoon by the water. Make use of the gas barbeque facilities and sit back for a night beneath the stars. Swifts Creek is just a short drive to many of the park's attractions.

4 PEPE'S BRIDGE



See another side of the Reed Beds Swamp with a bike and hike tour of the wetland and nearby forest. For easy access, drive toward Picnic Point, turn right just before Gulpa Creek and follow the road to the car park. The bike and hike trail will take you along the northern bank of the Gulpa Creek Cutting through Reed Beds Swamp, or you can cross Pepe's Bridge and take a detour to Poverty Point.



5 WILLOUGHBY'S BEACH



Experience the natural beauty of Deniliquin's River Red Gum forests with the 'Beach to Beach' walk. Hugging the banks of the Edward River, the track takes you from Willoughby's Beach to McLean's Beach, right past the centre of town. You can even stop off at a local café before returning to the trail and completing this scenic tour. At Willoughby's Beach you can cycle or hike along the many forest tracks before setting up camp alongside the Edward River. This is the ideal location for a swim or a spot of fishing.

6 MOAMA FIVE MILE



Ideal for a picnic along the Murray River, Moama Five Mile has something for everyone, offering a striking setting to cast a line under the shade of River Red Gums. Home to seven kilometres of world class mountain bike tracks suitable for the whole family and easy boating access, Moama Five Mile is a great spot to enjoy all the mighty Murray has to offer. Don't forget this is a Regional Park so bring Fido along for the ride.



FAST FACTS

As beautiful as they are, River Red Gum trees are also habitat trees. They provide important tree hollows for a range of animals, including threatened species like the Suberb Parrot. Part of creating tree hollow habitat means that branches do fall.

7 BENARCA CAMPGROUND



Get away from it all with a visit to the Benarca Campground. Enjoy magnificent views as you wait for the fish to bite. You can swim from the sandy beach, stroll through the forest then settle in for a night under the stars. Pitch a tent, bring your campervan or caravan and remember this is a regional park so your dog is welcome too.

8 SKI BEACH PICNIC AREA



Swim in the iconic Murray River, enjoy a picnic in the shade of a River Red Gum or cook up a barbeque using the facilities provided. Watch their kayakers paddle by or join in the fun. While you're there, take a moment to marvel at this ancient waterway and the majestic trees that line its banks. Ski Beach has been a magnet for leisure-loving families for years. Now it's your turn!

9 QUICKS BEACH CAMPGROUND



Slow things down a little at Quicks Beach. Just 3.5 kilometres from Barooga, this picturesque campground boasts sandy beaches, shady forests and stunning Murray River frontage. From tents to caravans, there's a site to suit all visitors as well as day-trippers. Fishing, boating and swimming are all on the 'to-do' list or just settle back for a quiet afternoon by the river.

TOURING ROUTES/ DRIVES

- LONG PADDOCK TOURING ROUTE [thelongpaddock.com.au](http://thelongpaddock.com.au)
- BACKROADS TRAIL [backroadstrail.com.au](http://backroadstrail.com.au)





# It's all downhill from here

Photography OEH/ Gavin Hansford



[nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://nationalparks.nsw.gov.au)

## MOAMA FIVE MILE – MURRAY VALLEY REGIONAL PARK

Pump up your skills at Moama Five Mile, located on the Murray River only 8km from Moama, along the Perricoota Road. Whether you are a beginner or you've been clipped in for a while, the Moama Five

Mile Mountain Bike Track is a great place to ride among the River Red Gums. Take the challenge to ride the big wall!

**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT  
NATIONALPARKS.NSW.GOV.AU  
OR CALL 13000 PARKS (13000 72757)**

## Mildura 4WD Club – Custodians of Mopoke Hut Campground

### Parks Victoria

**P**ARKS Victoria and the Mildura 4WD Club have developed a strong partnership over the past few years. The club is now custodian of the Mopoke Hut Campground in Murray-Sunset National Park, assisting with Clean Up Australia Day events along the Murray River and the Camp Host Program.

The Club was recently successful in gaining a Parks Victoria Healthy Parks Healthy People grant to improve visitor facilities in Mopoke Hut Campground.

A working bee was held by club members and Parks Victoria's Brad Annand to install a rainwater tank at the toilet facility, plus

an interpretive sign to educate visitors about the history of Mopoke Hut. Members have replaced picnic tables and fireplaces and conducted site maintenance at the hut.

The Mildura 4WD Club Inc is a family orientated club catering for people with all levels of 4WD experience and vehicles. They offer a friendly atmosphere and the more experienced members are always happy to advise newcomers where required.

The club aims to have one day and one overnight trip per month, with extended trips on most long weekends to destinations further afield. Not all trips/events are 4WD based, with social activities an important part of the calendar.

Meetings are held at the Irymple Guide Hall, Henshillwood Oval, Irymple on the first Tuesday of every month starting at 7:30pm (8:00pm during daylight savings). All are welcome.

### Victoria's Iconic 4WD Adventures - Mallee Drive

Experience the timeless outback landscapes of Victoria's Mallee - from sand dunes to pink lakes, woodlands and rolling plains, abundant wildlife and fascinating remains of the pastoral era. The drive features many scenic highlights of Wyperfeld and Murray-Sunset National Parks. For more information on Victoria's Iconic 4WD Adventures visit [www.fwdvictoria.org.au/iconic4wd/mallee](http://www.fwdvictoria.org.au/iconic4wd/mallee).



Ready for rain, the new tank at Mopoke Hut Campground

## Could you lend a hand?

### Parks Victoria

**H**AVE you ever thought about the many people involved in protecting our environment and keeping our parks and reserves in ship-shape condition for us all to enjoy?

The answer may surprise you. As well as rangers and other Parks Victoria staff and environmental agencies, thousands of enthusiastic volunteers lend a hand every year. Volunteers help out with everything from revegetation to removing weeds and pest animals and installing new visitor facilities. And that's just to name a few of their varied jobs!

Volunteers help Parks Victoria get more done and the figures speak for themselves. Last financial year volunteers gave almost 30,000 days of their time across 180 parks and reserves.

If you would like to volunteer, there are many programs and groups that you can get involved in along the Murray River and in River Red Gum parks and reserves. Just a couple of examples of groups doing great work include Friends of Kings Billabong and Friends of Merbein Common.

Kings Billabong and Merbein Common are popular spots for bush walking, bird watching, fishing, boating and canoeing along the Murray River and these passionate groups of locals want to keep it that way.

The Friends of Kings Billabong and Friends of Merbein Common spend many hours in the reserves revegetating various areas in need of planting as well as building and maintaining walking and cycling tracks.

The things volunteers do achieve important environmental goals as well as making the Billabong and Common more enjoyable places to visit.

If you would like to find out more about getting involved in Victoria's parks and reserves go to [www.parks.vic.gov.au](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au) or call Parks Victoria on 13 1963.



## Beetling away to control weeds

### NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

**M**ANAGING weed in all landscapes is an ongoing battle. NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) is using biological control agents (the plants natural enemies) to manage three weed species within Murray Valley National Park.

NPWS Ranger, Amanda Lavender, is excited about the project to target Paterson's Curse, Horehound and Bridal Creeper that have been found in the Murray Valley National Park.

"The Sandhill Pine Woodland is an Endangered Ecological Community. Reducing weed populations in this area is a high priority," said Amanda.

"I've recently released some Rust and Leaf Hopper beetles to a Bridal Creeper population, and we should be able to see results of this release in only three months."

Not all of Amanda's work shows such quick results, with some beetles taking twelve months to produce just one generation. In 2012, with guidance from biological control specialists, Amanda introduced Flea Beetle to combat Paterson's Curse into twenty release sites. A year later the next generation was found in each release site, and Amanda hopes to use hatchlings to populate other sites in the future.

Techniques to deliver biological control vary. Amanda says that some applications are quite time consuming.

"Clear Wing Moth was introduced to another population of Horehound using 685 egg sticks. A clear wing moth egg was glued to toothpicks and one stick was placed in each plant. We also implanted one hundred Horehound roots containing Clear Wing Moth larvae."

Amanda said that the biological control of pest species complemented the sand ridge woodland biodiversity fund project that had also involved chemically treating non-native tree species including Peppercorns, Date Palms and Olives.



Bridal Creeper infested by Rust Leaf Hopper in Murray Valley National Park



# Just a day away from Mildura

## Parks Victoria

THE outback-edge oasis of Mildura is a fantastic holiday destination. There are plenty of ways to explore its natural beauty and discover the stories of its explorers and settlers in surrounding parks and reserves.

If you want to venture a little further afield try camping under the stars at the amazing Pink Lakes in Murray-Sunset National Park for a true outback experience. If you have a day or two to spare there are plenty of good drives you can do.

Check out the new parks display and interactive kiosk at the Mildura Information and Booking Centre for more ideas and how to get there.

### Fact file: Murray-Sunset National Park

Explore Victoria's very own outback by four-wheel drive, take a bushwalk, go camping or perhaps all three. The park - now Victoria's largest - includes part of the Murray River floodplain as well as extensive sand dunes further south. It is home to abundant wildlife and beautiful spring flowers and holds many reminders of the region's pastoral history.



Iron Clad Tank

### Trip # 1 - Murray-Sunset National Park

Step back in time and explore early European history and amazing naturescapes

Just over 50km down the Calder Highway south of Mildura you will find Nowingi and its Iron Clad Tank. It looks like a huge metal roof sitting on the ground. The Mallee sand and very hot summers made it difficult to catch and store water, so this clever system for collecting rain was built in 1927. Rain water drains down the sloping metal sheets into an underground water tank. The Nowingi Iron Clad Tank has been restored to preserve this great example of Mallee ingenuity by early settlers.

Head west along Nowingi Line Track into Murray-Sunset National Park, across the Raak Plain, and you may notice the dirt track sparkling in the sunlight. The reason for this soon emerges on the horizon - a giant metal hopper used for loading gypsum into railway cars. This huge structure looks more like something from Star Wars, and is all that's left of a major gypsum mining operation.

Continue on Nowingi Line Track west to Rocket Lake for a picnic overlooking the panoramic salt pan.



Gypsum Mine Hopper



The Crater



Long Plain Tank

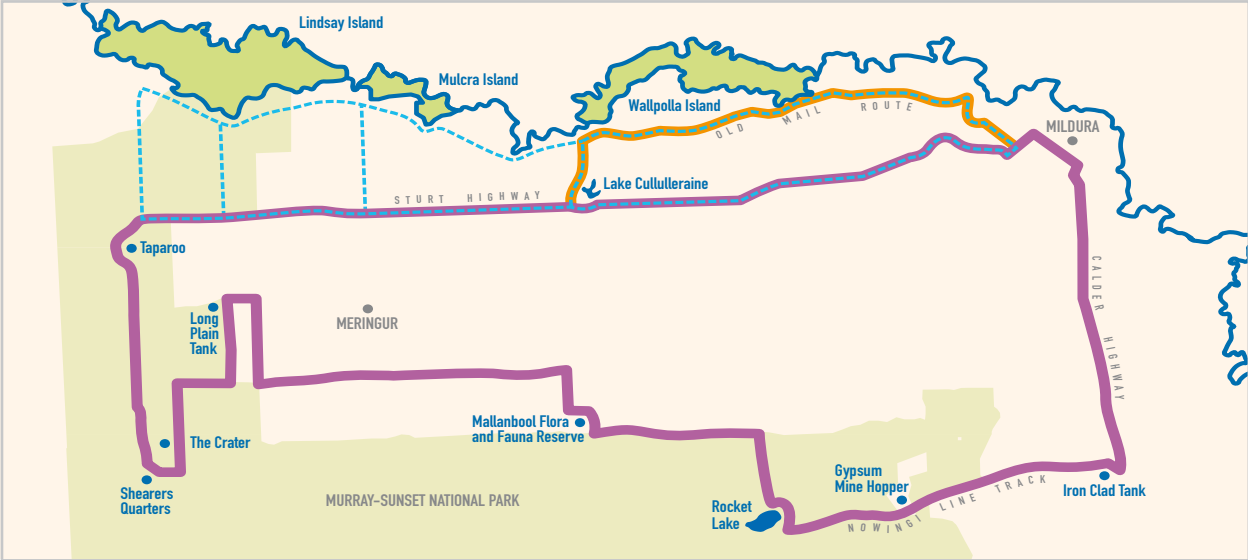
Mallanbool Flora and Fauna Reserve just north of the park, is a good spot to go for a stroll and see what the original Mallee country looked like.

Head west to Meringur and the Heritage Pioneer Village and wander around the historical handmade buildings, amazing old machinery and artefacts used by the early settlers. From here you can return to Red Cliffs through six small Mallee towns, or venture further for more amazing history.

Enter Murray-Sunset National Park again just west of Morkalla to see the amazing Long Plain Tank built around the 1870s. Two outer walls of pine logs filled with earth and a base paved with limestone kept the water in.

Head south along South Settlement Road to check out The Crater, a salt pan that looks like it was formed by a meteorite.

Drive on to the Shearers Quarters,



the corrugated iron former homestead of the Sunset Pastoral Company. Rest in the shade of the veranda and contemplate what life must have been like here in isolation in the 1940s.

Head back north up Taparoo Track and explore the ruins of Taparoo Homestead. There isn't much left of the house, but the bough stables, horse yards and chook shed show how local timber was used for all purposes.

The quickest route back to Mildura is via the Sturt Highway. For a more scenic trip and some Kangaroo and Emu spotting, turn north at Lake Cullulleraine and take the Old Mail Route back to town.

### Trip # 2 – Wallpolla, Mulcra and Lindsay Islands

Island hop for a taste of paradise

Wallpolla, Mulcra and Lindsay Islands, west of Mildura were all formed by the river taking a new course and separating off areas of land over time. The islands are intersected by small creeks that carry flood waters from the Murray River into the swamps, billabongs and flood plains making them perfect for fishing, photography and birdwatching when the conditions are right.

Wallpolla Island, on the Murray River near Merbein, is 9800 hectares of floodplain vegetation including River Red Gums, Saltbush plains, seasonal lakes and grasslands.

Mulcra Island is surrounded by the Murray River on one side and Potterwalkagee Creek on the other. The island was originally known as Mulka, meaning shield in Aboriginal language. Here you can immerse yourself in thousands of years of Aboriginal history, or enjoy the island's rich wetlands as they come to life after flooding.

Mulcra Island is fantastic for birdwatching with significant populations of dry and wetland species. The Black Box Woodland supports a diversity of bird species including ground foragers and hollow nesting species. Lookout for soaring Kites, White-plumed Honeyeaters and Pink Cockatoos on your visit.

Lindsay Island is the most western island, around two hours from Mildura, where you can spend a night or two camping under the endless sky.

Here, families of Red and Western Grey kangaroos can be seen all over the island.

The Kulkurna Cliffs on the North West corner are a spectacular sight with huge walls of bright red rocks lining the river, providing a great backdrop for a picnic or barbecue. If you look up you will see the remains of old phone lines on an old River Red Gum that once ran across the island to nearby Berribee Homestead.

Spend at night at The Caravan where you can enjoy the scenery of Mullaroo Creek, brilliant sunsets and impressive wildlife displays. Devil's Elbow and Sharps Point are also excellent spots for camping, fishing and boating.

On the way home take the slower Old Mail Route and enjoy spotting Kangaroos, Emus and native birds of these riverside saltbush plains.

Note - All tracks on Lindsay, Mulcra and Wallpolla Islands are dry weather only and may be impassable in wet weather or flood conditions.

When travelling in remote areas, be warned of high summer temperatures and the need to carry adequate water, food, GPS, compass and topographic maps. Always let somebody know before you go!



Above: Kulkurna Cliffs

Inset: White-plumed Honeyeater



# River Red Gum Drive

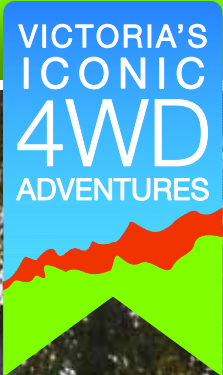


Photo courtesy: OEH/ D Finnegan



## You've never seen it like this before!



**Reconnect with family and friends on this relaxing and motivating journey through majestic Murray River floodplain landscapes. Experience the natural and cultural heritage of the Murray region along this scenic drive.**

This 4WD tour winds through the world's largest River Red Gum forests adjoining the Murray River. Backdrops of the Murray River, sandy beaches, lagoons, waterbirds, wildlife, aquatic plants, a wide range of camping and picnic grounds, and an extensive network of forest tracks make this natural area a wonderful place to visit.

Enjoy the 354-kilometre drive through the Murray River Reserve, Gunbower National Park, Gunbower State Forest, Koondrook State Forest, Perricoota

State Forest, Murray Valley Regional and National Parks, and Barmah National Park. Allow two-three days to fully appreciate the natural and cultural heritage of this area.

The complex ecology of the forests is closely linked to the Murray River and its flooding regime. These forests are home to many threatened native plants and animals. The wetlands are important breeding sites for native fish and water birds. These forests and wetlands have been internationally

recognised and protected under the Ramsar convention. On the Victorian side of the Murray River Ramsar sites include Gunbower Forest and Barmah forest. On the New South Wales side of the Murray River all the forests are included in the NSW Central Murray Forests Ramsar site.

The drive is classified as Easy difficulty in dry conditions, under Victoria's 4WD Recreational Track Classification System. For details, visit [www.iconic4wd.com.au](http://www.iconic4wd.com.au)



# Four Wheel Drive Victoria



Originally formed on 9th February 1975, Four Wheel Drive Victoria is the peak body representing four wheel drive interests in the State.

Adopting the mantra of “Driving in a sustainable environment” Four Wheel Drive Victoria has established itself in the modern four wheel drive environment having regard to the interest of protecting the land in which we tour, supporting the communities through which we travel and contributing to the State’s economic wealth to the extent of over \$100 million dollars annually.

The Association currently consists of seventy four 4WD clubs, which in turn provide a membership totaling some 15,000 subscribed members representing 4WD enthusiasts and their families. Each affiliated club is invited to have a say in how the Association operates through regular meetings, contact with the elected committee, or assisting on the various supporting sub committees.

### Our Programs and Activities include the following:

- Camp Host •Adopt a Track •Adopt a Hut •Victoria’s Iconic 4WD Adventures •Insurance •Access to MVO Tracks •Education & Training Services •Track Classification •Dob in a Hoon Program •Clean up the Bush •Track Clearing •Rural Response Group (Bush Fire & Flood Relief) •Shows •Mobile Land Care •OXFAM Christmas Tree Deliveries •Government Four Wheel Drive Advisory Committee

[www.fwdvictoria.org.au](http://www.fwdvictoria.org.au)



## Gannawarra Shire



Experience a region loaded with natural features, rivers, lakes, wetlands and forests.

Your perfect destination for relaxing on the riverbank, water-skiing with friends or just soaking up the aura of the majestic red gum forests. Be sure to visit the many towns across the region, all with their elements of appeal and hospitality.

[www.gannawarra.vic.gov.au](http://www.gannawarra.vic.gov.au)



Photo courtesy: OEH/ G Hansford



Photo courtesy: OEH/ D Finnegan



Photo courtesy: OEH/ G Hansford

### GATEWAY TO GANNAWARRA VISITOR CENTRE



Call in and see what the region has to offer!

Our friendly Gateway Visitor staff are available to assist you with all the information you need to make your visit a memorable one.

- ◆Tourism ◆Business
- ◆ Agriculture ◆ Lifestyle

Open daily from 9am to 5pm  
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Phone: 03 5456 2047  
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[www.murraylakesanddrivers.com.au](http://www.murraylakesanddrivers.com.au)

[www.iconic4wd.com.au](http://www.iconic4wd.com.au)



# Water brings new life to Murray islands

If you've spent some time on and around the Murray River islands of Lindsay, Mulcra, Wallpolla or Gunbower over the past few years, you may be noticing some changes. Just as a drink of water revives thirsty humans, these islands are being revived by big drinks of permanent water being put back into their creeks and waterways.

A system of regulators is being installed at river entry points to replenish and control water levels. Eight regulators will be in place by this summer. The regulators mimic the natural water flows of the Murray before it became regulated by dams and weirs. The moisture from these permanent waterways spreads through the soil subsurface, so large areas get a drink.

Having these regulators in place means the River Red Gums will no longer die during droughts, and there will be more shrubs, flowers, birds, reptiles, insects and wildlife. In other words they are making the islands even nicer places to visit and camp. The good news for fishing fans is that the oxygenated river water flowing into these waterways will provide a real boost to fish numbers from the extra breeding grounds. More water also means more opportunities to canoe and kayak through the creeks and waterways of the islands and to explore special places like the Red Gum forests along Little Gunbower Creek.



## \$13.5 million Gunbower Forest construction project

### North Central Catchment Management Authority

CONSTRUCTION is well underway on a \$13.5 million project to improve the long-term health of Gunbower Forest.

The Flooding for Life project involves the installation of engineering structures to enable efficient and effective delivery of large volumes of environmental water to the forest.

The North Central Catchment Management Authority (CMA) co-ordinates The Flooding for Life project in partnership with Goulburn-Murray Water (G-MW), the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA), the Victorian Department of Environment and Primary Industries and Parks Victoria.

According to Anna Chatfield, North Central CMA Project Manager, reduced frequency and duration of floods due to river regulation and climate change has impacted on the health of Gunbower Forest.

"Regular floods of various sizes are required to maintain healthy and functioning ecological communities in Gunbower Forest.



"The works being constructed will allow approximately 5,000 hectares of the forest to be flooded, including a third of the River Red Gum communities and most of the forest wetlands.

"They will also give us the flexibility to water smaller sections of the forest when less environmental water is available and to mimic the natural variability of flooding.

"The project is the culmination of ten years of work by the agencies involved, including intensive scientific investigations, hydraulic modelling and community consultation," Anna said.

#### Construction works include:

- A one kilometre channel along Hipwell Road to deliver environmental water from Gunbower Creek to Gunbower Forest
- A bridge where Island Road crosses the channel
- An off-take regulator and fish lock to control flows entering the channel
- A weir and fishway in Gunbower Creek to achieve maximum inflow rates of 1600 megalitres per day.

"The works, designed using the latest engineering technology, include features such as a fish passage to enable fish to move along Gunbower Creek and into and out of the forest unimpeded," Anna said.

The project complements smaller works carried out in the lower end of the forest in 2012, including the upgrade and refurbishment of existing regulators, that will be used in tandem with the Hipwell Road works.

The works are due to be completed by 2014.

Funding for construction is provided by the MDBA through The Living Murray program. The Living Murray is a joint initiative funded by the New South Wales, Victorian, South Australian, Australian Capital Territory and the Commonwealth governments, co-ordinated by the MDBA.

More information about the Flooding for Life project is available at [www.nccma.vic.gov.au](http://www.nccma.vic.gov.au)



## Hattah Lakes infrastructure breaks new ground

### Mallee Catchment Management Authority

One of Australia's largest environmental works projects has been completed at Hattah Lakes to secure a sustainable future for this iconic system of freshwater lakes. The \$32 million package of works included the construction of a permanent pump station, four regulators and three environmental levees that will be used to return a more natural and healthy pattern of flooding to the lakes.

"The beautiful Hattah Lakes system needs both wet and dry periods to be healthy, but river regulation and a changing climate have reduced the frequency and extent of natural floods and the environment has suffered as a result," Mallee Catchment Management Authority (CMA) Board Chairperson Sharyon Peart explained.

"By constructing these works, it is now possible to top up natural floods to increase water levels in the lakes system or, when river flows are not able to naturally reach the lakes, water can be pumped into the system to maintain watering regimes."

The Hattah Lakes system is part of the 48,000 hectare Hattah-Kulkyne National Park, 60 kilometres south of Mildura. The 18 kilometre Chalka Creek connects the lake system to the Murray River, with the lakes supporting populations of River Red Gums and Black Box communities, as well as many threatened and rare native plants and animals. These works will be able to deliver water to the twelve lakes that are Wetlands of International Importance under the Ramsar convention.

The Mallee CMA co-ordinated the environmental works construction project, on behalf of the Murray Darling Basin Authority and the Victorian Department of Environment and Primary Industries, and in partnership with Parks Victoria.

Funding was provided through The Living Murray program

- a joint initiative funded by the New South Wales, Victorian, South Australian, Australian Capital Territory and the Commonwealth governments, co-ordinated by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority. Construction works were undertaken by Goulburn-Murray Water.

The works will deliver water and achieve environmental benefits that would be normally require a natural flood with river flows of nearly 100,000 megalitres a day over a number of months. The works will make it possible to achieve the environmental outcomes of a natural flood while the river is operating at normal flow levels (approx 5 to 10,000 ML/Day), without any impact on other river users.

Environmental water to be delivered to the lakes will come from a number of sources, including The Living Murray, the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder and the Victorian Environmental Water Holder.

"Using environmental water effectively and efficiently has always been the top priority at Hattah Lakes," Ms Peart said.

"The Hattah project is a good example of how environmental works and measures can offer a more accessible and effective way to deliver Basin Plan environmental outcomes in wetlands and floodplains along the Murray.

"Using water more efficiently means environmental outcomes can be achieved without further significant economic impact on Basin communities."

Watering events at Hattah Lakes will be informed by water availability and ecological requirements.

For more information on Hattah Lakes, visit [www.malleecma.vic.gov.au/aboutus/programs/rivers-and-wetlands/hattah-lakes.html](http://www.malleecma.vic.gov.au/aboutus/programs/rivers-and-wetlands/hattah-lakes.html).





# The Flats

THE FLATS, on the Goulburn River floodplain between Shepparton and Mooroopna in Shepparton Regional Park, is a great day trip for anyone visiting or staying in the region. This significant cultural area was home to many Aboriginal families after the Cummeragunja Walk Off at Barmah on 4 February 1939.

Interpretative signs are now in place leading visitors along the first 500m of an unsealed 4.3km walk through the area's River Red Gum forest.

These signs tell the story of the first ever mass strike of Aboriginal people. The Walk Off was in response to the increasingly restrictive controls on the movement and activities of the people, the poor rations and cruel treatment they received and the removal of children.

Jack Patten, with the help of William Cooper, encouraged the people of the mission to leave, resulting in the Walk Off to 'The Flats'. Both men were spokesmen for the dispersed Aboriginal communities of central Victoria and western New South Wales. Patten would later receive a gaol sentence for his part in enticing the Aboriginal families to leave the Cummeragunja Reserve.

The site at 'The Flats' was chosen as the Yorta Yorta people had a long traditional association with the environments close to rivers such as the Kaiela (Goulburn River). 'The Flats' was also already home to some Aboriginal families prior to the Walk Off.

The river provided abundant food including crayfish,

red fin, yellow belly, cod, turtle, swan, duck, crane and water fowl and their eggs. There were also plenty of possums and rabbits. Unlike today, the river water was clear, making fishing and collecting crayfish easier. The women would collect most of the fish, while the men would hunt for rabbits by smoking them out of their burrows and then hitting them with a boondie (club).

The river had a number of water springs that ran down the banks. The cold, crystal clear spring water was used for drinking and to keep food cool. The river was also used for bathing and washing clothes. Pulleys were used to haul water up the river's steep banks.

Flooding occurred most years with the water always rising quickly. In each event, the people of 'The Flats' vacated to Daishes Paddock, with many eventually choosing to remain on that site because of the regular floods. This site is now home to Kids Town Adventure Playground.

Housing on 'The Flats' consisted of tin or bag huts and tents. When newcomers arrived, they camped under the bridge while building their own dwellings. Though resources were limited, the entire community contributed by helping to sew hessian bags together for the walls and by collecting scraps of metal for the roof and chimney.

A September 1946 police report listed 130 people aged from eight days to 80 years living on 'The Flats', with a third of them less than 15 years of age. Lodgings consisted of 29 dwellings, 22 being assortments of tin or hessian bag huts and the rest tents. The dwellings housed extended families and the sense of community was strong. By the early 1950s, it was believed that the numbers had grown to approximately 300 people.

Cooking was done outdoors, mostly on individual fires, with the exception of those who had indoor facilities and a chimney. When the weather was bad, it was difficult to cook and to dry washing.

Despite this, most people who lived on 'The Flats' remember life as a hard, but happy, time.

Visitors to 'The Flats' can find out more about the area from the interpretive signs, while enjoying the

surroundings. Attractions such as cafes, KidsTown and shopping centres are all nearby making a trip to this remarkable site a 'must do'.

Further information can be found at [www.riverconnect.com.au](http://www.riverconnect.com.au) or phone the Greater Shepparton City Council Visitor Information Centre on 1800 808 839.

## 'The Flats'

### Gulpa Gaka Anganya

### Welcome Friend

Gaka yawal ngulla yenbena

Yorta Yorta woka

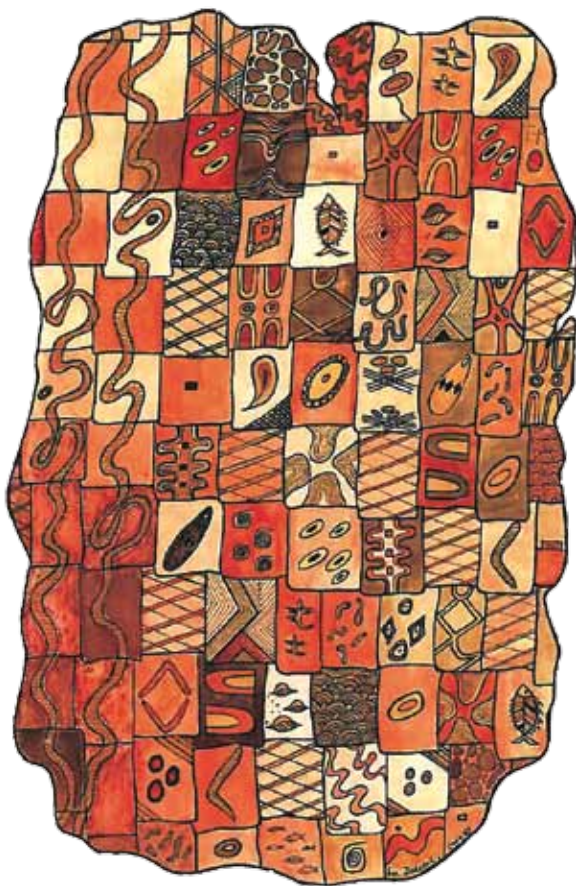
Come walk with us the people  
on Yorta Yorta Country

Muma bangarra bome ina ngalan woka

Take pleasure in our land

Galnyan Yakurrumdja wuta nhurra nhanha

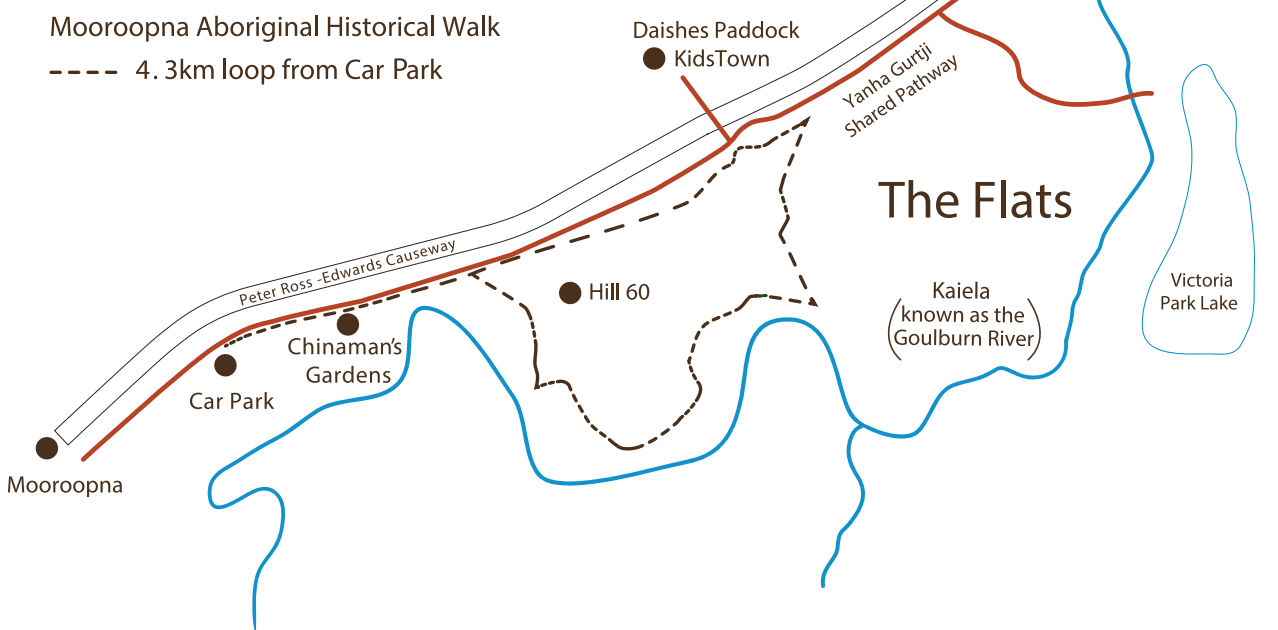
Respect all you see



Biganga Possum Skin Cloak Water Colour and Ink Painting  
© Artist Lee Darroch, Yorta Yorta 2007

Mooroopna Aboriginal Historical Walk

----- 4.3km loop from Car Park



## Search for the Murray Platypus

Australian Platypus Conservancy

THE platypus and the Murray River are two of Australia's greatest national treasures. Somewhat surprisingly, very little is known about how the amazing egg-laying mammal is faring along the river system.

Platypuses were once common along the length of the Murray, well into South Australia. Now the species appears to occur in extremely low numbers along the main channel downstream of Cobram, although a breeding population persists in the Gunbower lagoons. There are no recent reports from the Swan Hill area (where the platypus, or Matakupay, is one of the totem animals for the Wadi Wadi community, whose traditional country includes the River Red Gum Forest Nyah Vinifera). The platypus may have disappeared from around Mildura some decades ago.

However, we have no good information on the current status and distribution of this marvellous monotreme. Australian Platypus Conservancy biologist Geoff Williams said that there was no suitable technique for carrying out safe and effective live-trapping surveys in the deep water conditions of big rivers such as the Murray. Accordingly, all reports about the past and present occurrence of platypus in the Murray River and any of its tributaries or anabranches are of enormous value.

Platypus information can be submitted via the Conservancy website ([www.platypus.asn.au](http://www.platypus.asn.au)). Sightings reports can also be made using a special App (see attached QR code). All records are entered into a confidential database that is only used for genuine conservation purposes. Reports of sightings of the Australian water-rat (Rakali) are also welcome. So, if you see either of those species while fishing, boating or otherwise enjoying the Murray environment, please send in a report.



Australian Platypus Conservancy





# Living treasures tell a story at Barmah

Parks Victoria

THE towering River Red Gums (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) that dominate the landscape along the Murray River are living legends in their own right.

Barmah National Park, together with the adjoining Millewa forest, is home to the largest River Red Gum forest in the world.

Some of the mature River Red Gums in the forest reach about 45 metres in height and are up to 500 years old.

The trees in the forest also have many stories to tell about our local history from Aboriginal culture through to the tales of cattlemen and the memories of the timber cutters who relied on the forest for their livelihood during the logging era. Evidence of past timber extraction can be seen in stumps and ringbarked trees.



As you walk through Barmah National Park, you may notice markings (scars) on trees where bark was removed by Aboriginal ancestors for items such as canoes, shields, containers and shelter.

Scarred trees are distinctive features of River Red Gum parks that give clues as to where and how Aboriginal people lived. They provide a tangible link to the past, they contribute to creating a sense of place and are sacred to many Aboriginal people.

Sometimes trees were carved for decoration and a pattern of scarred holes may even signify a climbing route for hunting possums. The scars vary in size and orientation and generally have parallel sides and slightly pointed ends.

European settlers also removed bark from trees to build huts, fences and boundary markers although this type of scar is generally squarer and distinguishable.

## Special trees

Trees were used as markers by early navigators, and along the Murray River large gums provided a convenient point of reference. Early journals and diaries from explorers note these trees as recognisable landscape features. Special or named trees include those preserved by foresters or timber workers, marked for their particular height or size. These trees might be commonly named after the forester who marked it for protection. The National Trust has a Significant Tree Register.

Galloway's tree, near Punt Paddock Lagoon in the northern section of Barmah National Park, stands at 43.1 metres tall. It was named after Tom Galloway who built the herdsman's hut adjacent to the Barmah Muster Yards in the early 1950s.

Galloway's Tree joins Munro's Pile, Tingate's Pile, Dexter's Tree and Code's Pile as trees of significance in Barmah National Park, all over 40 metres high.

Other special trees include the Pile Tree at Barmah State Forest and the Eagle Tree at Gunbower Island. Seeds from the Pile Tree were sent to England and India, while trees like the Eagle Tree at Gunbower Island show evidence of 'timber cutter's steps'.



Locals call this the 'Magic Tree'



Scarred tree

Timber cutters steps can be seen throughout the River Red Gum parks, and appear as thin slots cut into and up the sides of large trees, of which only the stump now remains. Timber cutters cut slots into the side of large trees, and then inserted planks into these slots, allowing them to climb up the 'steps' to reach the narrower part of the tree, avoiding the wide base.

Next time you take a walk in the forest, take a closer look at the amazing trees around you and think about what story they might tell as a piece of living history.

# Hide in the Reed Beds with us





[nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://nationalparks.nsw.gov.au)

## REED BEDS BIRD HIDE – MURRAY VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

Discover the magnificent Reed Beds Bird Hide, located 5km from Mathoura along Picnic Point Road.

Turn around the bird panels as you stroll along the boardwalk, use your smart phone to learn more, or just relax with the bird symphony.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT  
[NATIONALPARKS.NSW.GOV.AU](http://NATIONALPARKS.NSW.GOV.AU)  
OR CALL 13000 PARKS (13000 72757)



# Life’s a beach at Cobram

*Parks Victoria*

EVERY year thousands of Australians retreat to the sandy shores of the Murray River to relax at some of Australia’s best river beaches. With more than 70 inland beaches between Yarrawonga and Tocumwal alone, there’s more than enough for everyone to enjoy.

According to Parks Victoria Ranger John Hutchison, Cobram is a great place to enjoy the tranquillity of the river as it twists and turns through River Red Gum forest.

“Most of the beaches on the river are ideal for boating, fishing, water skiing and swimming,” said John.

“You can still enjoy free, dispersed camping along the Murray River. With responsible campfires and dogs permitted in Cobram Regional Park and the Murray River Reserves on the Victorian side of the river, it’s no surprise the beaches are popular holiday destinations.

“At Cobram, the river tends to be shallower due to the natural sandbars so there is less boat traffic, which is great for the kids.”

### Thompson’s Beach

A great place to start your Cobram experience is at Thompson’s Beach, known as Australia’s largest inland beach.

“Although water levels are a little high at the moment, the sandy white beach usually stretches about 300m long and 100m deep to provide plenty of space for a paddle and a swim,” said John.

“It’s a perfect spot for the little ones to play in the sand, and there’s plenty of room for a game of cricket.”

The day visitor area includes barbecue and picnic facilities, a playground and toilets. Or take in the views and dine on locally grown produce at the licensed cafe and restaurant, about 20 metres from the shore.

Access to Thompsons Beach is via Rockarama Road, Cobram, just north of the bridge heading over the river to Barooga.

### Big Toms Beach

With an expansive 300m beach and plenty of flat, grassed areas, Big Toms Beach is the perfect place to pitch a tent. The low entry into the water here makes launching a rubber dingy or canoe really easy. There are basic pit toilets and the campground is an easy 15-20 minute walk into town.

“If you want to get out of the bush for a bit you can go and get a bite to eat and explore the town’s heritage buildings including several old pubs,” said John.

Access for Big Toms and neighbouring Little Toms Beach is via Wondah Street. Follow the track further west along the river to reach Dead End Beach campground.

### Scotts Beach

Just a few kilometres south-east of Cobram, off River Road, is the popular visitor area known as Scotts Beach. Relax in the dappled shade of the towering River Red Gums as you listen to the birds. Look across and see campers at Wattle Tree Beach on the Barooga side of the Murray River.

### Explore Quinn Island

Quinn Island Wetlands Sanctuary, on River Road, is a haven for water birds that nest in the area. Take the winding trail through the forest to the bird hide overlooking the billabong. Don’t forget your binoculars.

The 40 hectare island is formed from a bend in the Murray River that has been cut off by Scotts Creek on the south-west side. Access to the island is via the footbridge at the parking area on River Road. No camping or vehicle access.

### Horseshoe Beach

If you are after a true bush camping experience without toilet facilities enjoy the sandy beaches and boat ramp at Horseshoe Lagoon Beach, which lies beside Horseshoe Lagoon about 5-6 km south-east of Cobram. Access via Horseshoe Track, off River Road, Cobram or via Pye Road.

For more peace and quiet, try McKays Beach just a little further upstream to the east or Davies Beach off Racecourse Road.

“If you crave a more remote wilderness, venture about 16km south-east of Cobram to Cobrawonga Island.

“Here you will see native wildlife such as kangaroos, wallabies and koalas in virtually untouched River Red Gum forest.

“Kingfishers, Egrets and other water birds are abundant in the lagoons and billabongs of this nature haven.” Said John.

If you still don’t know which beach to park yourself on, why not choose one by name. How about Hungry Dog Point, Dead River Beach, Killars Beach, Twin Knobs Beach or Quick Beach?

### On the Barooga side

On the NSW side of the border, the Murray Valley National and Regional Parks host some fabulous riverside beaches in and around Barooga. Stay in the national park at Quicks Beach Campground, just 3.5km from Barooga. The picturesque campground features sandy beaches and shady forest on stunning Murray River frontage. Located off Quicks Road, the campground includes basic non-flush toilets and space for RV camping.

For another leisurely experience, Ski Beach Picnic Area is a great place for a barbecue with new facilities. Take a leisurely swim or try the 6km dog friendly loop walk through the forest.

Paradise Beach further upstream is also popular with the tourists and locals.

A solid fuel ban applies in NSW between 1 October and 31 March each year.

## Things to do

- ✓ Take to the water for a refreshing swim
- ✓ Drop a line to catch some Murray Cod
- ✓ Launch a kayak from the water’s edge
- ✓ Take a nature walk on Quinn Island
- ✓ Spot a koala and kangaroo in natural habitat
- ✓ Wake up to the sound of laughing kookaburras
- ✓ Relax on the sand with a good book
- ✓ Listen to the waves lapping at the shore

## Safety Tips

- Look out for boats and other vessels on the water - remember the waterway is shared
- Wear protective footwear on your feet in the water
- Beware of moving sandbars as water levels change in the river – currents may create dangerous holes in shallow waters, and deep water can rapidly become shallow
- Be aware of possible obstructions that may be hidden below the surface such as snags.
- Never swim near partly submerged logs as they may be moved by fast river currents at any time
- Never camp in low-lying areas as water may rise up and trap you
- Do not camp under River Red Gums - branches or trees may fall unpredictably at any time



# Your peace of the forest

Photography: OEHL Gavin Hansford

nationalparks.nsw.gov.au

## EDWARD RIVER BRIDGE PICNIC AREA AND CAMPGROUND – MURRAY VALLEY REGIONAL PARK

Located near Mathoura on the Tocumwal Road and set on the banks of the Edward River, dog friendly Edward River Bridge Picnic Area and Campground is bush camping at its best.

Families will enjoy the works (think toilets, picnic tables and barbecues). Fish for your dinner, paddle your kayak or visit the Reed Beds Bird Hide nearby.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT  
**NATIONALPARKS.NSW.GOV.AU**  
OR CALL 13000 PARKS (13000 72757)



# A traditional welcome to Barmah

VISITORS entering Barmah National Park will now be greeted by new signs highlighting the involvement of the Yorta Yorta people in managing the land. As the Traditional Owners of the land, the Yorta Yorta people are pleased to see several of the new signs bearing their turtle totem installed.

“The new welcome signs at Barmah National Park are a symbol of the cultural importance of the national park to the Yorta Yorta people and the long journey we have travelled to gain recognition of our strong history and connection to the land and waters,” said Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation Chief Executive Officer, Damian Morgan-Bulled.

Joint management between Traditional Owners and government is about much more than just symbolism. It’s

about working together to determine the best way to manage the park into the future.

“We see many opportunities ahead in working with the Victorian Government and Parks Victoria, including through the Yorta Yorta Traditional Owner Land Management Board, to care for our country,” said Mr Morgan-Bulled.

Yorta Yorta Nation’s Woka Wolla rangers joined Parks Victoria staff to install some of the signs. The Woka Wolla rangers also work on many other projects on Yorta Yorta Nation’s traditional lands. Just some of the things they do include pest management, revegetation and flora and fauna protection, as well as providing training for Yorta Yorta and other Aboriginal people on working and caring for Yorta Yorta lands, water and the environment.



# Ancient wisdom combines with western science

WHEN it comes to managing the environment, it is now recognised that combining the ancient knowledge of the Traditional Owners with western science can lead to better outcomes for nature and the community.

This means incorporating ways that Traditional Owners have used to understand and interpret their environment for thousands of years into land and water management.

This knowledge, wisdom and experience of nature has usually been gained from direct observations and transmitted from Elders in the community through story telling over generations.

One special place where this is happening now is

Barmah National Park.

A new joint management board was formed in July 2013 bringing together the Traditional Owners of the land, the Yorta Yorta people, and the Victorian Government to work together to jointly manage and care for the park.

The Yorta Yorta Traditional Owner Land Management Board is one of the first of its kind in Victoria and will enable the knowledge and culture of Traditional Owners to be recognised and integrated into the management of the national park.

The board is the first step in the process of delivering tangible outcomes for locals and allowing the Yorta Yorta people to have a say in how their country is managed.

The appointed Board members are:

Yorta Yorta (Traditional Owner) members - Robyne Nelson (Chairperson), Sonia Cooper, Peter Ferguson, Jade Miller, Des Morgan and Rob Walker.

General (non-Traditional Owner) members - Geoff Dobson, Chris Halpin (Deputy Chairperson), David McKenzie, Kevin Ritchie (DEPI Secretary’s Nominee) and Lizzy Skinner.

At the board’s first meeting in August they wasted no time in getting out to explore the beauty of the park and key management issues. Members are now preparing to focus on developing a joint management plan for Barmah National Park.

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WITH the Discover Murray River Passport in your pocket you’ll unlock the best experiences and secrets along the entire length of Australia’s great river.

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With maps, town information and lists of things to see and do along every part of the river, it’s the essential travelling companion for any Murray River holiday.

Kids both big and small will love getting their Passport stamped with a unique stamp at each visitor information centre in every main town. This provides a memorable holiday reminder and puts you into the draw for some fantastic prizes. For those who love social media, you can share your journey with #DiscoverMurray.

Getting your Passport stamped will also take you off the beaten track and into the local towns and of course you’ll criss-cross the mighty Murray River the whole time. With 25 main towns, 10 major national parks and a 1400 kilometre driving experience, you’ll discover our ‘one river, many lands’ as the river’s landscape changes and unfolds around you.

Experience the Discover Murray River Trail’s five different landscapes - From the Mountains, Steep Banks and River Gums, Mallee and Outback, Golden Limestone Cliffs and Plains, Lakes and Mouth - as part of a very popular great Australian river drive.

The Murray River Apps is part of the Passport and are like a handheld visitor centre taking you along the river from the Man from Snowy River country near Corryong and Mt Kosciuszko National Park to Storm Boy territory near Goolwa, Coorong National Park and the Murray Mouth in South Australia.

The comprehensive town facilities in the App features picnic spots, playgrounds, ATMs, boat ramps and much more, showing visitors the best of the each town’s beauty. It’s perfect for visitors who are new to the beautiful river region and love secret spots.

**This free App also includes:**

- Businesses on the river including houseboats, accommodation, attractions, clubs, cafes, and more
- Events along the river
- Main towns, history, weather and maps (both Google and static)
- Handy travel tips for visitors
- Locations of visitor information centres, RV dump points and public toilets
- Tri-State Fruit Fly information
- Lock and Weir information and contact phone numbers
- Live River Data links from the MDBA website
- “Near Me” recognises your location and shows nearby clubs and pubs.

Since 1998 the world’s largest Murray River website (www.murrayriver.com.au) has actively promoted house boating, cruises, tourism and travel experiences and now we’d love you to discover more of our great river.

So tick off the Discover Murray River Trail on your bucket list and let us take you on a special self-guided journey of Australia’s great river full of intrigue and adventure. Visit the Murray River website www.murrayriver.com.au for more information ... you’re now on river time!



# Celebrating the Barmah Forest

THE Barmah Forest Heritage and Education Centre portrays the pivotal role played by the Barmah Forest and its communities in the development of Australia over more than 170 years. It also celebrates the beauty and international importance of the forest's complex ecology.

The Victorian Government proclaimed the Barmah Forest the Barmah National Park in April 2010, as part of actions designed to protect and enhance the River Red Gum forests within Victoria. These forests are under increasing pressure from climate change, drought and reduced river flows.

Barmah National Park (28,521ha), together with the adjoining Millewa Forest in New South Wales, forms the largest River Red Gum forest in the world.

The park lies along the Murray River between Barmah and Strathmerton, about 225 kilometres from Melbourne. It is home to 220 species of birds, 35 species of mammals, 28 species of fish, 20 species of reptiles, 10 species of amphibians, an unconfirmed number of invertebrates such as insects and up to 550 species of plants. Its wetlands have been designated 'wetlands of international importance' under the Ramsar Convention (1971).

Protecting the environment relies on balancing economic and recreational activities with preserving the forest's natural beauty and values.

The Barmah Forest Heritage and Education Centre in Nathalia provides a wonderful experience for visitors and locals alike. The centre pays tribute to the rich history of the region. There are fascinating stories about timber cutters, charcoal burning, cattle mustering and forgotten industries such as leech gathering and feather collecting.

These stories are told in a relaxed style with interpretative storyboards, a jigsaw puzzle to illustrate the forest in flood, and an entertaining and informative video narrated by local bush poet and yarn spinner, Tammy Muir.

Aboriginal Elders and representatives from other historical, flora and fauna and national park groups are available to speak to your school or social group. Refreshments can be supplied for a nominal cost.

The centre is also an accredited Visitor Information Centre and stockist of souvenirs and locally made produce.

**Where:** 73 Blake Street Nathalia 3638  
**Open:** 9.00am to 5.00pm seven days a week  
**Cost:** Gold coin donation is appreciated  
**Contact:** 03 5866 2280 tourism@nathaliabarmah.com.au



## The Ramsar Convention

THE Barmah Forest wetlands came to world attention in 1982 when they achieved status as "wetlands of international importance" under the Ramsar Convention.

The Convention on Wetlands is a global treaty signed in 1971 at a meeting in the town of Ramsar, in Iran. Its aim is to halt the worldwide loss of wetlands, and to conserve those that remain. It is the only global treaty that deals with a particular ecosystem (wetlands).

The internationally accepted criteria met by the Barmah Forest were:

- **A particularly good representative example of a natural or near-natural wetland typical of the region**
- **Special value for maintaining biodiversity of flora and fauna**

This is due to the Barmah Forest's size, variety of ecological communities and its high productivity. It also has the most extensive areas of Moira grasslands in Victoria.

- **The forest regularly supports 20,000 waterbirds**

After floods, Barmah Forest is one of Victoria's largest waterfowl breeding areas, supporting ducks (particularly Black Duck and Grey Teal), Great Cormorants, Little Black Cormorants, Little Pied Cormorants, White-Faced Herons, Pacific Herons,

Rufous Night Herons, Yellow-billed Spoonbills, Royal Spoonbills, Australian White Ibis, Straw-necked Ibis, crakes and rails.

- **Regularly supports substantial numbers of waterfowl from particular groups**

Barmah Forest is particularly important to breeding Ibis: up to 100,000 nested there during the 1973-75 floods. Five thousand to ten thousand nests have been found in many other flood years.

- **Regularly supports 1% of individuals of a population of one species or subspecies of waterbird**

During 1979-80, one thousand Sacred Ibis (3% of the state population) and 1700 Straw-necked Ibis (2.2% of the state population) nested in Barmah Forest. In 2005-6 and 2010-2011, Barmah Forest supported most of Victoria's breeding population of Great, Intermediate and Little Egret species.

The Barmah Forest is very important for migratory birds, particularly from Asia. Australia has formal agreements with several countries to look after 29 species of migratory birds.

The Barmah Forest is also the only place in Victoria where the Superb Parrot is known to still breed.

**Ramsar obligations for Australia**

The Australian Government is required to continuously protect the ecological character of

Ramsar sites. It should act to enhance ecosystem processes, habitats and species where appropriate. It must promote the wise use of all wetlands within Australia through national land use planning, research, conservation, training and management.

**Priorities for management**

The strategic management plan for the Barmah Forest Ramsar site provides for:

- Consultation with Yorta Yorta communities
- Continuing research and monitoring
- Maintaining or restoring a water regime for optimum health
- Protecting the site from damage
- Protecting and regenerating Moira grasslands
- Managing the habitat of threatened species
- Measures to ensure ease of fish movements
- Community education and involvement

The site is managed by Parks Victoria and the Victorian Department of Primary Industries and Environment.

Victoria's other Ramsar sites are: Corner Inlet, Gippsland Lakes, Gunbower Forest, Kerang Wetlands, Hattah-Kulkyne Lakes, Lake Albacutya, Port Phillip Bay (Western Shoreline) and Bellarine Peninsula, Western District Lakes, Westernport.





# Rock on with birds

LESS than half an hour's drive from Cohuna, just near Mitiamo, is something truly amazing - a huge rock about the size of the Opera House in the middle of nowhere. Well, actually, it's on the plains of Terrick Terrick National Park.

Climb to the top of the rock for fantastic views in all directions. It's an easy climb and its rounded slopes are covered in thick pale green lichen giving it a soft organic look and feel. It's the biggest of three huge rocks sitting on these wide open grasslands.

Mitiamo Rock, as it is known locally, has always been a special place to visit. Aboriginal groups used the area for hundreds of years. Evidence of this is in the rock wells on top of the rock and cave shelters found around the lower levels.

It's also a well known bird watchers paradise, attracting twitchers from all over the world with over two hundred bird species recorded in the park. Some of the most interesting to look out for are Gilbert Whistlers, Redcapped Robins, Jackie Winters, Mallee Ringneck Parrots, Southern Whitefaces, Spotter Harriers, Peregrine Falcons, Babblers or Cat Birds, Pardalotes, Wood Swallows, Rainbow Bee-eaters and Fairy Martins, plus all the common varieties. If you want to linger longer there are some great camping sites with picnic tables and good toilets at the site. For a really memorable experience, climb to the top of the rock and watch the sunrise.



Rainbow Bee-eater



Red-capped Robin



Check out the new parks display at the Mildura Visitor Information Centre. Find out more about the Murray-Mallee parks on the built-in touch screen.

## Supporting recycling in the north-west

### Parks Victoria

PARKS Victoria is using recycled products to upgrade visitor facilities in Murray-Sunset and Hattah-Kulkyne National Parks. Picnic tables, bollards, fence posts, sleepers for board walks and totems have all be made using recycled plastic.

A Mildura business, Integrated Recycling, was developed from a simple idea to use the plastic used to cover table grapes in the Sunraysia district of northern Victoria and turn it into plastic vine posts. The idea was to create an alternative to CCA treated wooden posts that wouldn't leach contaminants into the surrounding environment. From that idea grew a range of products with a variety of applications in agriculture, horticulture, aquaculture, landscaping, industry and a variety of everyday uses.

Waste plastics are reduced to a granular form and combined with organic fibre and turned into a unique composite material that is strong, durable, inert, non-leaching in detectable quantities and with minimal water absorption. It is from this material that Integrated Recycling makes its range of products.

A significant amount of waste plastic ends up in landfills, but using Integrated Recycling patented technology, less waste means less landfill. In fact not only will less waste go to landfill, but the products will lead to less destruction of forests. In many cases the products made by Integrated Recycling are more suited to the task for which they are designed than timber, steel or concrete.



Picnic table made from recycled plastic



Boardwalk made from recycled plastic

## A new leash on life in the bush

TAKING your dog for a walk in the bush or away camping is something that many of us love to do and getting out into nature can be great for our health. Better still, it's great for dog owners to be able to take their pets, who just love to get out of the back yard and explore new places.



There are plenty of dog-friendly places along the Murray River where visitors can experience the great outdoors without the stress of having to leave their pet behind.

While enjoying the great outdoors with your canine friend remember to be courteous to other visitors and keep a few simple rules in mind.

The number one rule is that national parks and conservation reserves are a no go zone. Dogs are not permitted in these special places because they are sanctuaries to protect Australia's native plants and animals.

The sound and scent of a dog, or its digging and scratching, can disturb wildlife. Dogs may also transmit disease and prey on native fauna – which is why these areas need to stay dog free. Exceptions include dogs assisting disabled people, dogs assisting in search and rescue or surveillance activities, or a dog that is in transit in a vehicle on a major bitumen road that passes through a national park.

The good news is there are many places where you can take your dog. Murray River Reserves, forests and regional parks including Murray-Kulkyne Park, Cobram Regional Park, Shepparton Regional Park and Murray Valley Regional Park all welcome dogs, although some exclusion areas may apply.

### Dog etiquette

When enjoying the bush with your dog, remember your dog must be on-lead unless you're in a designated off-lead area. Be sure to keep your dog under effective control at all times, either on a lead or through voice commands, so other visitors can enjoy their time too. It's a good idea for campers to bring a rope in addition to a lead to prevent the dog from roaming between tents. Make sure you have a pooper scooper handy to pick up any droppings and don't forget to bring along extra water for your dog.

Always check ahead before you visit to confirm if your dog is allowed to come along. Take extra care in areas where national park runs beside other parks and reserves like at Barmah.

For more information go to [www.parks.vic.gov.au](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au) or [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au)





# There’s so much to see and do in the Murray River parks

WITH parks across three states from the start of the Murray River near Corryong in the east all the way to Mildura and into South Australia in the west, there is plenty of space to explore. There are so many great parks to choose from and a range of activities to enjoy. Whether it’s fishing, camping, bushwalking, swimming, canoeing, four-wheel driving, bird watching, having a picnic or simply lazing by the river – you will find plenty for the whole family to do.

**Major Mitchell Trail** – Major Thomas Mitchell passed through central and western Victoria in 1836 on a landmark journey in Australian history. Shortly after his trip, the whole region was settled. Modern day motorists can retrace his 2,100km journey on the Major Mitchell Trail. The trail passes through towns including Mildura, Horsham, Ballarat, Bendigo and Wangaratta.

Call into your nearest Visitor Information Centre for more information and ideas.

## Corryong – Towong

**Corryong** is a popular destination for rock climbing, rafting, horse riding, bushwalks, four-wheel drive touring, cycling and fishing. It is also the final resting place of Jack Riley, the man from Snowy River, who is buried in the Corryong cemetery.

**Mount Lawson** – approximately 70km east of Albury-Wodonga has panoramic views of the surrounding mountains and valleys from the summit of Mount Lawson and spectacular wildflower displays in spring.

**Mount Granya State Park** – the summit of Mount Granya rises dramatically above Lake Hume and the surrounding valleys. See impressive views from the tower, seasonal waterfalls and Lyrebirds.

**Burrowa-Pine Mountain National Park** is a good spot for picnics, camping and bushwalks. Pine Mountain is a gigantic rock monolith reputedly one and a half times as large as Uluru. Mt Burrowa (1,300m), the highest peak in the park, is often snow covered in winter.

**Jarvis Creek and Mount Mittamatite Regional Parks** – Enjoy a picnic, walk or a pleasant forest drive.



Regent Honeyeater – Dean Inguersen Birds Australia

Enjoy bush walking, bird watching, four-wheel driving and motorcycling. The Tin Mines and Samuel Bollard picnic and camping areas (suitable for backpack and vehicle based camping) is a stopping point on the Hume and Hovell Walking Track.

**Murray River Reserves** - A number of reserves along the Murray River above Lake Hume provide opportunities for camping swimming, fishing, canoeing, bird watching and other activities.

**Corryong Visitor Information Centre**  
50 Hanson Street, Corryong VIC 3707  
Phone: (02) 6076 2277

## Albury-Wodonga

**Lake Hume** is more than four times the size of Sydney Harbour and is the main operating storage of the Murray River. Just 16km upstream of Albury, it is popular for catamarans, dinghies, windsurfers and powered crafts.

**Wonga Wetlands** are proof that a city’s treated waste water can be a valuable resource. Albury City’s Waterview Treatment Works transforms sewage into reclaimed water that is used all year round. For the first half of the year it’s used to irrigate 350ha of tree lots and pasture and in the second half it’s used to fill up the 80ha of Wonga Wetlands. The wetlands are ideal for bird watching and photography with five bird hides and walking trails.

**Gateway Visitor Information Centre**  
Lincoln Causeway, Wodonga, VIC 3690  
Phone: 1300 796 222  
www.alburywodongaaustralia.com.au

## Narrandera

**Murrumbidgee Valley National Park**, located along the Murrumbidgee River, includes great walking, fishing and camping spots. Koalas have thrived at Narrandera since they were released there in 1972. You will probably be able to spot them at the Narrandera Nature Reserve.



**Narrandera Visitor Information Centre**  
Newell Highway, Narrandera 2700  
Freecall: 1800 672 392  
www.narrandera.com.au

## Wangaratta

**Warby-Ovens National Park** – north of Wangaratta, provides a tranquil setting for a camping holiday. Soak in the sights and sounds of the River Red Gum forests, Ovens River and peaceful wetlands, or go for a bike ride along Friends Track.

**Lake Moodemere** – near Wangaratta, is a natural lake with a wide range of bird life. Explore the 4km interpretive walking trail. It’s also the venue for the Moodemere Masters Ski Tournament held near the end of January.

**Wangaratta Visitor Information Centre**  
100 Murphy St, Wangaratta VIC 3677  
Freecall: 1800 801 065  
www.visitwangaratta.com.au

**Corowa–Wahgunyah Visitor Information Centre**  
88 Sanger Street, Corowa NSW 2646  
Freecall: 1800 814 054

**Rutherglen Wine Experience and Visitor Information Centre**  
57 Main Street, Rutherglen VIC 3685  
Freecall: 1800 622 871  
www.rutherglencvic.com

## Yarrawonga - Mulwala

**Yarrawonga Regional Park**, also known as ‘The Common’, has pretty sandy beaches and is popular for camping, bush walking, bike riding and all sorts of water activities.

**Lake Mulwala** – near Yarrawonga, is a haven for birds and native fish. The lake is over 15km in length and used all year round for fishing, boating, water sports, sail boarding, water-skiing, swimming, canoeing, sailing and paddle boat cruises.



**Kyffins Reserve** – about 1km from Corowa on the banks of Lake Mulwala, has over 1km of shoreline and camping areas well away from the main road. The Reserve is subject to flooding but at other times it is a very pleasant, gum treed forest, with low grassy undergrowth.

**Byramine Homestead**, 15km west of Yarrawonga, has an unusual octagonal design with a central fortress room that was used for protection against bushrangers.

**Chinaman’s Island Walking track** at Yarrawonga-Mulwala is an easy 2km stroll for children, elderly or people confined to a wheelchair. The wide, smooth track is accessible in all weather conditions. The lake at Chinaman’s Island teems with a multitude of wondrous bird life such as Cockatoos, Galahs, Thornbills, White Ibis, Herons, Pelicans, Swans and other water birds.

**Murray Valley National and Regional Park (Cottadidda, Boomanoomana and Mulwala Precincts)** have some great spots for walking and cycling. You’ll find the locals at Hinchey’s Beach on summer days.

**Yarrawonga Mulwala Visitor Information Centre**  
Irvine Parade, Yarrawonga VIC 3730  
Freecall: 1800 062 260  
www.yarrawongamulwala.com.au

## Cobram – Barooga

Explore this area by bike, boat and canoe or simply stroll through the bush and drop in a fishing line. Expert guides can help with trail rides and river cruises. A visit to the region is not complete without visiting at least one of over 100 wide, golden, sandy beaches between Yarrawonga and Tocumwal. Thompson’s Beach, Old Toms Beach and Scotts Beach in **Cobram Regional Park** are just a few to visit.



**Murray Valley National Park (Barooga and Cottadidda Precincts)** Enjoy sandy beaches, towering 500 year old River Red Gums, native bushland, abundant birdlife and Australia’s unique wildlife all in their natural habitats at Barooga Day Use Area and Quicks Beaches at Barooga.

**Ulupna Island** is bounded by the Murray River and Ulupna Creek and can be accessed from the Murray Valley Highway on the western side of Strathmerton. The island has many sandy river beaches, making it an ideal location for swimming, camping and picnics. An early morning or later afternoon visit will ensure you see kangaroos and koalas.

**Cobram Barooga Visitor Information Centre**  
Corner Punt Road and Station Street, Cobram VIC 3643  
Freecall: 1800 607 607  
www.cobrambarooga.org.au

## Tocumwal

There are 24 magnificent sandy beaches within five minutes east and west of Tocumwal, all surrounded by some of the most impressive River Red Gum Forests on the Murray.

The “**Blowhole**” is situated on a granite outcrop approximately 11km north of Tocumwal. The Blowhole is said to be sacred to the Ulupna and Bangarang Aboriginal people. When the Murray River is low, the “Blowhole” flows and bubbles.

**The Farm Gate Trail** will take you exploring a wide variety of farm based businesses that are open to the public. From paddock to plate, paddock to vase, paddock to clothing or paddock to glass, the choices will tempt all your senses.

**Tocumwal Visitor Information Centre**  
41-43 Deniliquin Street, Tocumwal NSW 2714  
Freecall: 1800 677 271  
www.toconthemurray.com.au

## Shepparton

The Goulburn River forms the backbone and lifeblood of the Shepparton region, winding its way through native forests and fertile farmlands, bringing life to the rich agricultural landscape that has made the area renowned as Australia’s food bowl. Enjoy the tranquil waterways with popular pastimes like fishing, boating, walking and relaxing all here to be enjoyed.

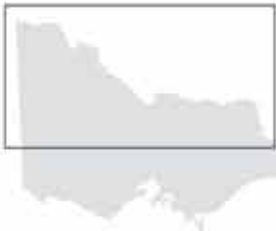
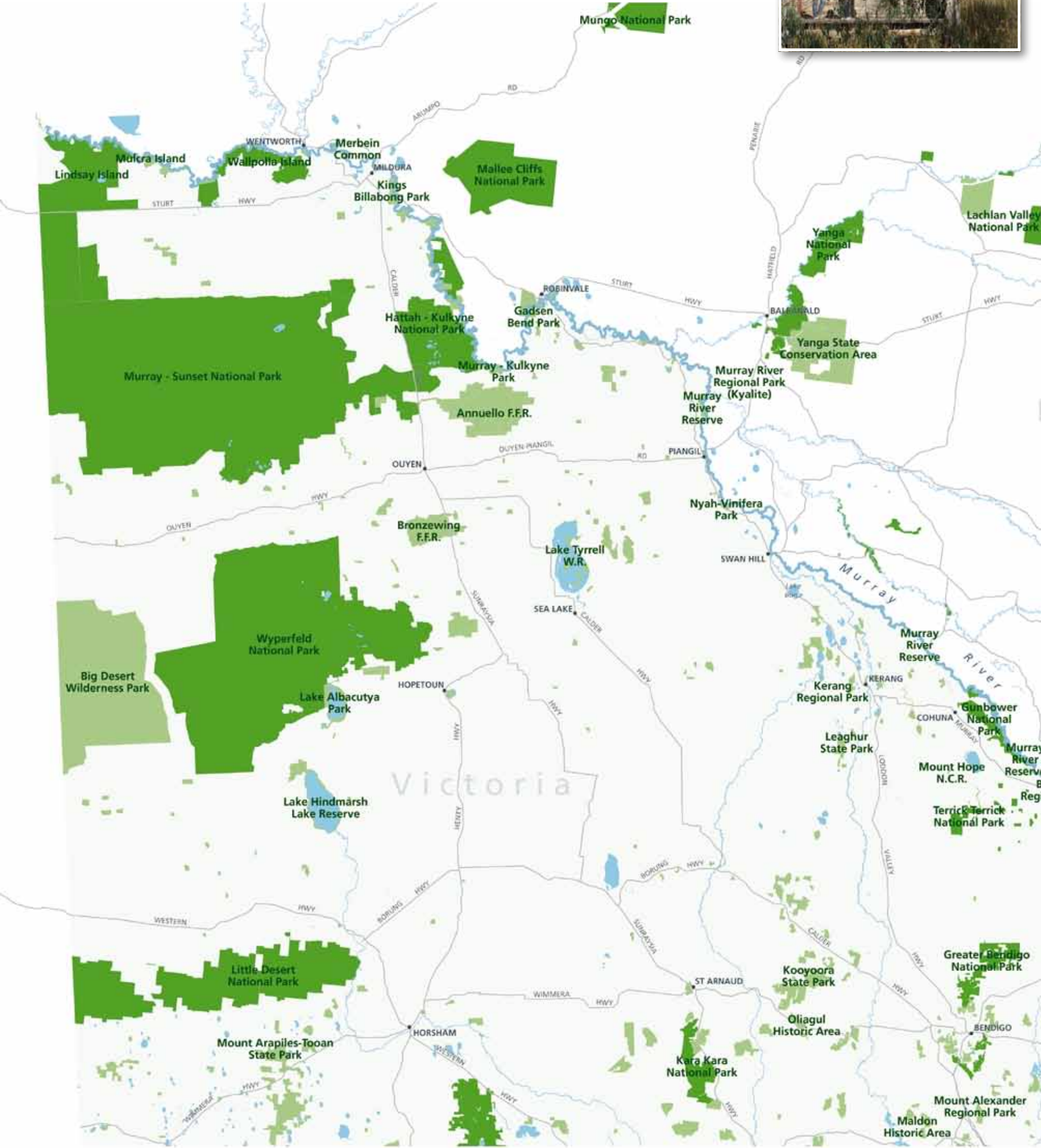


**Lower Goulburn National Park** – The forests along the lower reaches of the Goulburn River between Echuca and Shepparton form an important ‘bio-link’ to the Murray River. The park is ideal for camping, fishing and canoeing and you are likely to spot plenty of wildlife. **Shepparton Regional Park** is popular with locals and visitors alike. The park provides access to the Goulburn River – a good spot for fishing and water sports. It’s also a great park to take the dog for a walk or on a camping holiday.

**Shepparton Visitor Information Centre**  
534 Wyndham Street, Shepparton VIC 3630  
Freecall: 1800 808 839  
www.discovershepparton.com.au

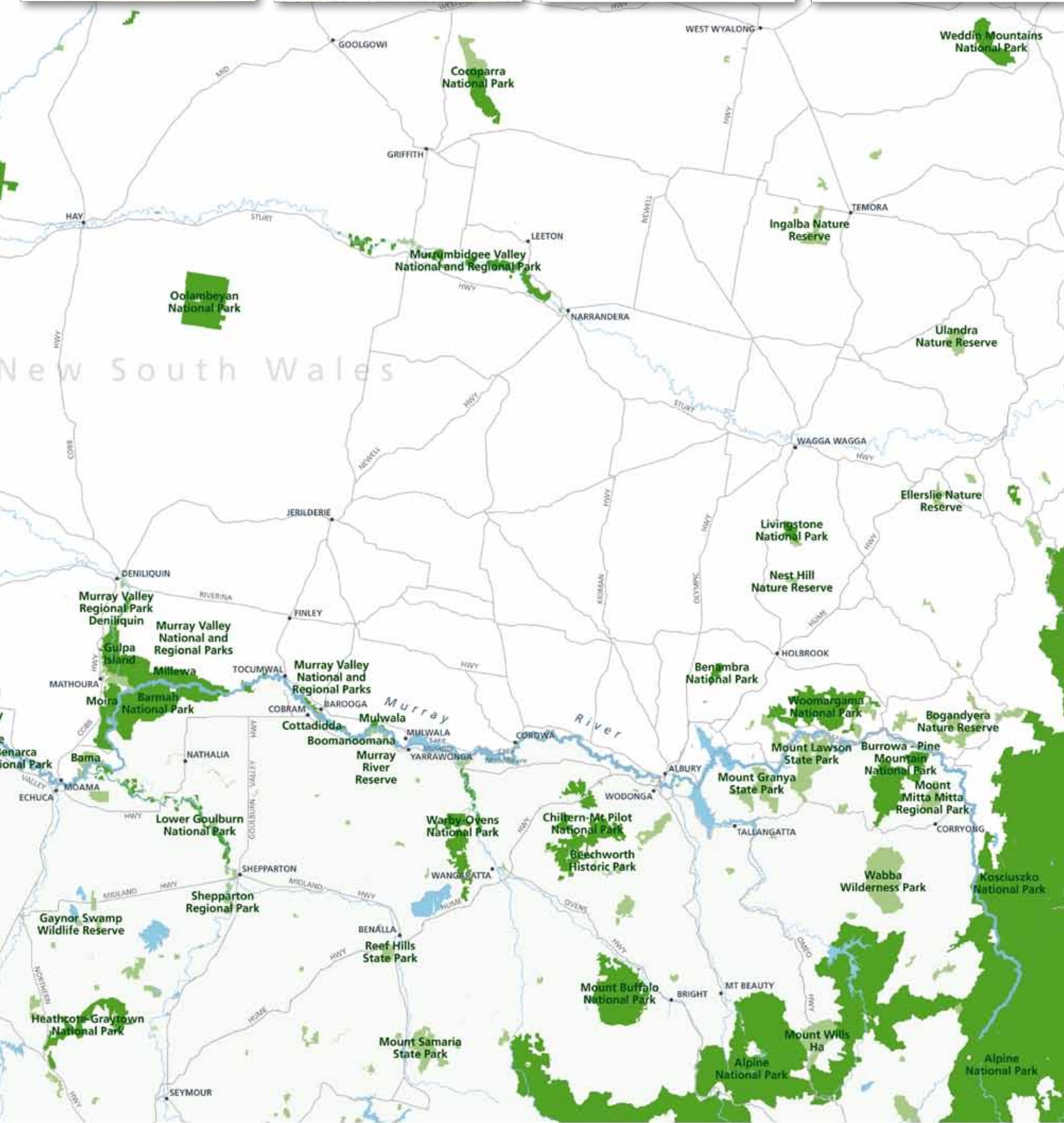


# Your guide to the Murray River Parks



- National Park
- Parks & other reserves
- Waterbody





This map provides an overview of the area. Refer to [www.parks.vic.gov.au](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au) or [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au) for more detailed maps of specific parks. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information provided is accurate. Parks Victoria and NSW Parks and Wildlife Service do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence that may arise from you relying on any information. Source: ©Land and Property Management Authority Panorama Avenue Bathurst NSW 2795 [www.lpma.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lpma.nsw.gov.au)



# Deniliquin

Home to one of Australia’s finest inland beaches, **McLean Beach**, or ‘Bondi of the Outback’ to the locals, is located on the Edwards River in Deniliquin. It is just a short stroll from the heart of Deniliquin and is frequented by residents and tourists alike. Many residents in the old days learnt to swim here at McLean and today you will find a sea of umbrellas, children building sand castles and various forms of ski boats plying the river.

**Murray Valley Regional Parks (Deniliquin Precinct)** – Come and visit the spectacular River Red Gum regional parks at Deniliquin.

**Deniliquin Visitor Information Centre and Peppin Heritage Centre**  
**George Street, Deniliquin NSW 2710**  
**Freecall: 1800 650 712**  
**www.denitourism.com.au**

# Nathalia

**Barmah National Park**, together with the neighbouring Murray Valley National and Regional Parks in New South Wales, forms the world’s largest River Red Gum forest. The park is popular for camping, fishing, horse riding, swimming and canoeing.

**Barmah Forest Heritage and Education Centre**  
**73 Blake Street, Nathalia VIC 3638**  
**Phone: 03 5866 2280**  
**www.nathaliabarmah.com.au**

# Echuca – Moama

Echuca-Moama represents a bygone era of horse-drawn carriages, paddlesteamers and blacksmiths, as well as providing all the conveniences of the modern era. Nestled at the point where the Murray, Campaspe and Goulburn rivers meet, Echuca-Moama is the closest point on the Murray to Melbourne, making it a natural choice for city-dwellers to holiday or country folks to get away.

**The Port of Echuca** was once the biggest inland port in Australia. Enjoy sightseeing, strolling around the historic precinct, visiting local crafts or try travelling down the Murray on a paddle steamer.

**Port Picnic Bikes in Echuca** - Jump on a vintage bike and cycle around the historic port and precincts at your own pace. Bikes can be collected at any of the participating local businesses including St Anne’s Cellar Store, Echuca Farmhouse Cheese and the Echuca-Moama Visitor Centre. Use the map to ride between local producers to collect a variety of wine, cheese and other products while taking the opportunity to stop off on the banks of the Murray River, just metres from the shops, for a picnic.



The quaint village of Womboota, north-west of Moama was originally an outstation of Perricoota Station. The Old School Winery and Meadery offers visitors the chance to taste grape wines and meads.

Visit [www.murray.nsw.gov.au](http://www.murray.nsw.gov.au) for information on great trails and walks around Moama including Dhungala Cultural Plant Trail at Horeshoe Lagoon, Moama’s wetland and floodplain reserve.

**Murray Valley Regional Park (including Moama, Benarca and Bama Precincts)** – close to Moama and Echuca, is dog friendly – perfect to visit if you are looking for somewhere to camp with your family dog, or enjoy a long walk.

**Echuca-Moama Visitor Information Centre**  
**2 Heygarth Street, Echuca VIC 3564**  
**Freecall: 1800 804 446**  
**www.echucamoama.com**

# Mathoura

Mathoura, north of Moama, began as a market garden and a pub on a drovers’ track in the mid-1800s, and built itself as a timber source for the developing young nation of Australia. Today, it is a mecca for lovers of a gentle country lifestyle and those seeking peaceful holidays amid forests, waterways and a beautiful natural environment. Mathoura’s wetlands are recognised as internationally significant.

**Murray Valley National and Regional Parks (Millewa, Gulpa Island, Moira, Bama and Barooga)** – A good season has awakened the wetlands to a symphony of life. You’ll probably hear the Banjo Frog, spot a flash of a Kingfisher or even see the threatened Superb Parrot.

**Reed Beds Bird Hide** – Discover the magnificent River Red Gum Reed Beds Bird Hide, just 6km from Mathoura, hidden



at the at the end of a wheelchair accessible boardwalk. The bird hide offers vast wetland scenery teeming with a rich diversity of species. Turn over the bird panels along the boardwalk to check out which birds are vegetarians and which prefer frogs and who honks like a goose but soars like an eagle.

Discover wildlife of the creekside during easy walks of up to 5km along the tranquil Gulpa Creek. Canoe trees and Aboriginal oven mounds testify to the ancient occupation of these forests. Gulpa Creek Walk Trail maps are available from the Visitor Centre. Ride a bike or drive along any of the forest tracks to experience the beauty of the area. Walking and driving trail maps are available from the Visitor Centre.

**Mathoura Visitor Information Centre**  
**23 Moama Street (Cobb Hwy), Mathoura NSW 2710**  
**Phone: 03 5884 3730**  
**www.mathoura.com.au**

# Kerang – Cohuna – Barham – Koondkrook

**Gunbower National Park** – The wetlands and billabongs of the Gunbower forest are internationally recognised. The area is known for its spectacular birdlife. This is a great park for camping, fishing and relaxing on the bends of the Murray River.

**Terrick Terrick National Park** is home to many threatened species. The granite peaks of this park contrast with areas of remnant native grasslands. It is an ideal park for a scenic drive, bushwalk or picnic.

The wetlands of **Kerang Regional Park** provide important habitat for water birds, making bird watching a rewarding activity. The park is also popular for bushwalking and dog walking.

**Golden Rivers (Barham, Koondrook, Cohuna, Kerang)**  
**25 Murray Street, Barham, NSW 2732**  
**Phone: (03) 5453 3100**

# Swan Hill

**Swan Hill**, at the heart of the Murray, is an excellent holiday destination. Immerse yourself in a bygone era of Australian history with a visit to Swan Hill’s historic Pioneer Settlement on the banks of the Marraboor River.

**Nyah-Vinifera Park**, near Swan Hill, protects forests along the Murray River and smaller areas of woodland. It is popular for camping, fishing, four wheel driving and walking.

**Tyntynder Homestead**, 16km north of Swan Hill on the Murray Valley Highway, was built in 1846 and was the first brick veneer building in Australia. It contains a wonderful collection of Aboriginal artefacts and historical memorabilia.

**Swan Hill Information Centre**  
**Corner McCrae and Curlewis Streets, PO Box 488**  
**Swan Hill 3585**  
**Freecall: 1800 625 373**  
**www.swanhillonline.com**

# Robinvale – Euston – Balranald

**Yanga National Park and Yanga State Conservation Area** – A short drive from Balranald. Here you’ll discover chapters of history stretching back thousands of years – Aboriginal families, explorers and pioneers, shearers and rabbit trappers, fishermen and campers have visited here. Want to know more? Take part in the FREE daily guided Yanga Historic Homestead tour at 10.30am each day. Visit the Cooks Cottage interpretive visitor centre and learn more about the pastoral industry at the Yanga Woolshed.

This important part of the Lowbidgee floodplain includes 22,000 hectares of River Red Gum forest, wetlands, lakes and breeding sites for water birds. Catch a glimpse from the Yanga Lake Bird Hide or Lake Viewing Deck.

The Lachlan, Murrumbidgee, Murray, Edward and Wakool Rivers form the southern boundaries of the Balranald Shire, making popular waters for fishermen.

**Mungo National Park** is part of the Willandra Lakes World Heritage Area, a chain of dried-out lakes that were once strung between Willandra Creek and the main channel of the Lachlan River in Outback NSW.

Lake Mungo dried up around 14,000 years ago, and today a great crescent-shaped dune, called the Walls of China, stretches along the eastern shore of the lakebed.

Stone flake tools are scattered across the landscape, and peeking out of the mud are ancient wombat holes, fossilised chunks of Eucalyptus trees, and the bones of long-dead marsupials, including extinct buffalo-sized wombats and giant kangaroos.

**Robinvale Euston Information Centre**  
**Bromley Road, Robinvale Victoria 3549**  
**Phone: (03) 5026 1388**  
**www.robinvaleeuston.com.au**

**Balranald Visitor Information Centre**  
**Market Street, Balranald NSW 2715**  
**Freecall: 1800 444 043**  
**www.balranald.nsw.gov.au**

# Mildura – Wentworth

**Murray-Sunset National Park** – Explore Victoria’s very own outback by four-wheel drive, on foot or go camping. This is Victoria’s largest park and is home to abundant wildlife and beautiful spring wildflowers.

**Kings Billabong Park** – Once you have set up camp, the days can be spent canoeing, kayaking, fishing or bushwalking.

**Hattah-Kulkyne National Park** is home to the popular Hattah Lakes, diverse wildlife, majestic River Red Gums, Black Box woodlands and the distinctive mallee eucalypts. There’s a range of walks available in the park, from easy family walks to longer hikes.

**Murray-Kulkyne Regional Park** adjoins Hattah-Kulkyne National Park and has direct access to the Murray River. Popular activities in the park include camping, caravanning, fishing, boating, swimming and walking. Generators and dogs (under control) are allowed in this park.

**Gadsens Bend Park** is located on one of the picturesque bends of the Murray River near Robinvale. The large sandbars are perfect for relaxing by the river and doing a spot of fishing.

**Psyche Bend Pumphouse** at Mildura is the oldest intact irrigation station in Australia. It was designed by Canadian engineer George Chaffey in 1889. Huge pumps drew water from the Murray to Kings Billabong and from there it was distributed through a series of pumps and open channels. Today, visitors can experience the original pump house, reconstructed pumps, steam engine and boiler house.



**Red Cliffs Scenic Reserve**, located 5km east of the town of Red Cliffs, provides excellent photo opportunities of the majestic cliffs from the Red Gum Gully boardwalk and the viewing platform at Snake Gully car park.

**Wallpolla Island** is 9,800ha of floodplain vegetation with River Red Gum, saltbush plains, seasonal lakes and grasslands. Middens and hearths remain from Aboriginal occupation and the land has been used for grazing and forestry since European settlement. Enjoy fishing, boating and camping on the island. Access is 25km from Merbein.

**Lindsay Island** forms part of Murray Sunset National Park and is located 110km west of Mildura towards the South Australian border. The island has a number of small creeks carrying floodwaters from the Murray River into swamps, billabongs and flood plains. It is home to a rich variety of plants and animals including Wedge-tailed Eagles, Emus, Red and Western Grey Kangaroos. It’s a great spot to go camping, fishing, canoeing or for a scenic drive.

**Lake Cullulleraine** is a natural lake filled from Lock 9 on the Murray River and supplies water to nearby properties. Black Box and reed beds fringe the lake. A range of activities can be enjoyed including boating, swimming, picnicking, camping and caravanning (powered sites available).

**Mildura Visitor Information Centre**  
**The Alfred Deakin Centre, cnr Deakin Avenue and Twelfth Street, Mildura VIC 3500**  
**Freecall: 1800 039 043**  
**www.visitmildura.com.au**

**Wentworth Visitor Information Centre**  
**66 Darling Street, Wentworth NSW 2648**  
**Phone: (03) 5027 3624**

And... if you are heading further down the Murray through South Australia, call into the Visitor Information Centre at Renmark to find more fantastic things to see and do.

**Renmark Paringa Visitor Information Centre**  
**84 Murray Avenue, Renmark SA 5341**  
**Phone: (08) 8586 6704**





# Yanga National Park

*It's a wonderfully moody place to wander in the afternoon, where the setting sun beams in through the cracks in the wood as the place starts to warm up and you can imagine the heat and the chaos of teams of shearers working there.*

Paul Chai visited Yanga National Park to find out about the days when Yanga was one of the largest sheep stations in the districts around Balranald.

We arrive at the Yanga Woolshed to discover we are the only ones there, just us and the ghosts of shearers past. The first thing you see is the imposing building, the second is its amazing position right beside the river. It may have been put there for practical purposes but it is an enviable spot to live (if you're not shearing a few thousand sheep, I guess). Yanga was a working woolshed up until 2005 so there is still a strong smell of lanolin in the well-trodden floorboards and a nearby wool classing table still has wisps of wool clinging to its cracked table top.

Outside, the other buildings add to the story and, while the accommodation is not structurally sound, peeping through the doors you can get tantalising glimpses of life as it was: simple bedding, bare tables carrying old browned newspapers and old beer bottles resting next to lounge chairs pushed onto a porch to overlook the racing river. The nearby Woolshed Picnic Area is more modern and well worth a visit but the sun is getting away on us, so we head home for the night.

It's a wonderfully moody place to wander in the afternoon, where the setting sun beams in through the cracks in the wood as the place starts to warm up and you can try to imagine the heat and the chaos of teams of shearers working there.

The next morning we visit Yanga Homestead as part of a tour run

by National Parks. Going to the homestead is like receiving an intimate invite into a working pastoralist's home, so well preserved is the sprawling property, which was only sold to National Parks in 2005 under a deal that kept virtually all of the furnishings intact.

So, you walk around among antique table settings, vintage barometers, hand-wound gramophones – and supposedly the first private phone ever installed in Australia. But there are modern touches too – electricity cables, whiteboards and modern desks – because it was a working station right up until the sale.

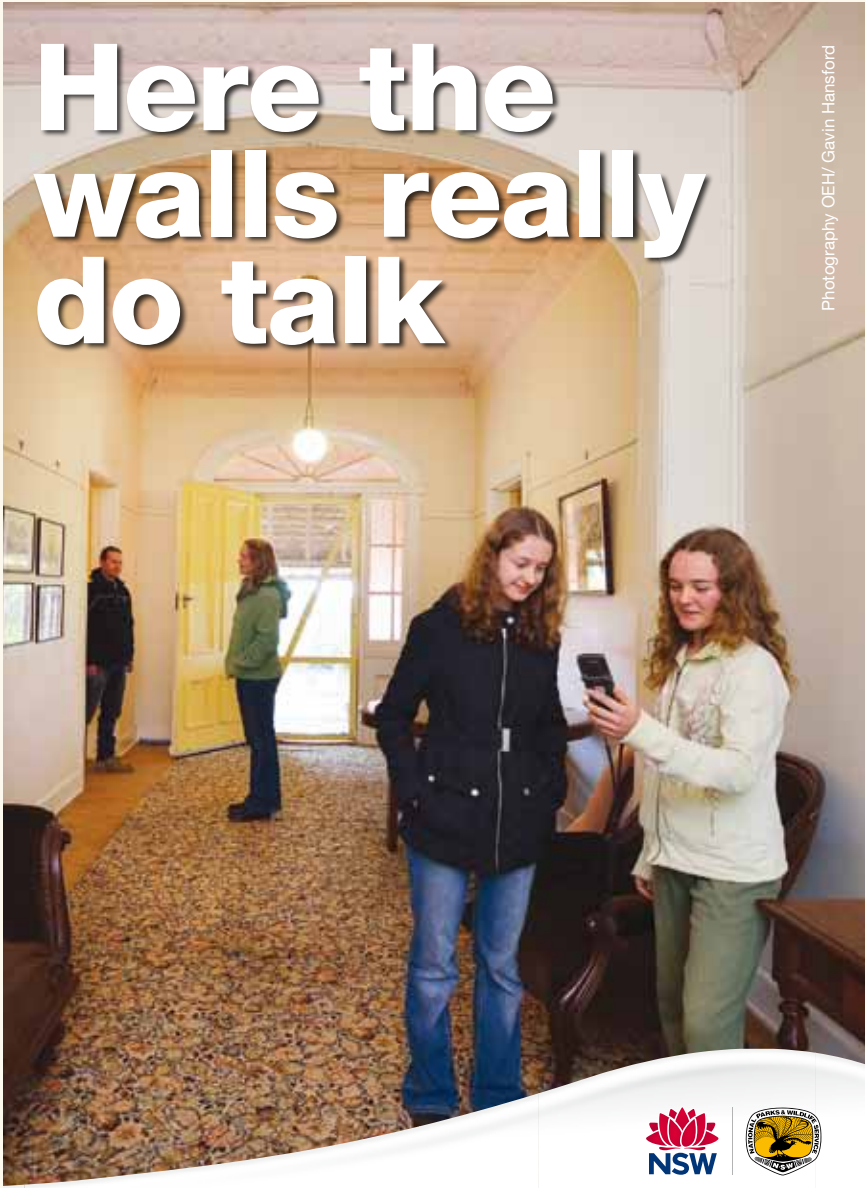
The original homestead is made from rough hewn Red Gum slabs with later additions of cypress and it has an enviable position on the banks of the sparkling Yanga Lake, making it one of the few inland homesteads to be surrounded on three sides by water. Preliminary archaeology on the lake has shown it is important to the local Aboriginal people and is as old as nearby Mungo National Park.

After a quick spot of lunch at a nearby picnic ground we are out on the road again, heading for Murray Valley National Park.

*Photograph OEHI/ Gavin Hansford*

## FAST FACTS

Yanga National Park (also known as Murrumbidgee Valley National Park) is 8km south east of Balranald. Turn off the Sturt Highway into the Yanga rest area and travel a further 2km to the Park office.



Photography OEHI/ Gavin Hansford

## Here the walls really do talk



### YANGA NATIONAL PARK HOMESTEAD TOUR

Explore the wonderful 1870s Yanga Homestead. Smell the restored rose gardens, and imagine life on Yanga lake. Learn what life was like on a flourishing station on a free guided tour – rangers conduct these most mornings at 10.30am. Missed the morning tour? Call into the Yanga office and ask about our new, self guided audio tours.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT [NATIONALPARKS.NSW.GOV.AU](http://NATIONALPARKS.NSW.GOV.AU) OR CALL 13000 PARKS (13000 72757)





Photography: OEH/ Gavin Hanford



[nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://nationalparks.nsw.gov.au)

**CHOOSE WHERE TO PITCH YOUR TENT AND ENJOY THE WARM GLOW OF THE CAMPFIRE DURING THE ULTIMATE BUSH CAMPING EXPERIENCE.**

Wake to the cackle of kookaburras and make a splash casting a line into the Murrumbidgee River, the lifeblood of the Riverina that flows through the Murrumbidgee Valley National and Regional Parks.

With few facilities and infrastructure, the Murrumbidgee Valley National and Regional Parks provide the freedom to be as secluded or as sociable as you like.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT  
[NATIONALPARKS.NSW.GOV.AU](http://NATIONALPARKS.NSW.GOV.AU)  
OR CALL 13000 PARKS (13000 72757)**

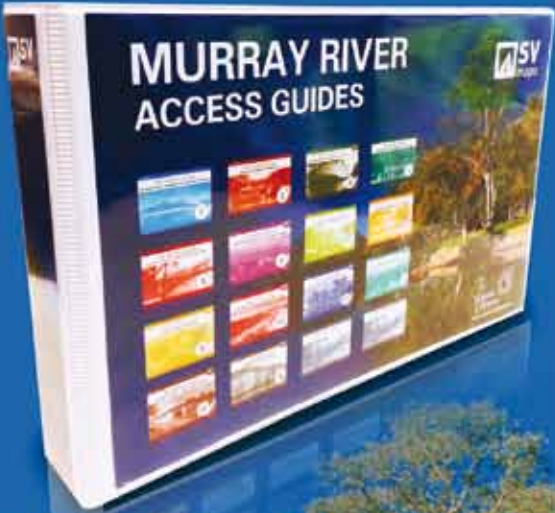
# Murray River Access Guides

These popular A4 size booklets show access tracks and facilities along both sides of the Murray River.

The series of 14 booklets is designed for visitors touring the regions along the majestic Muray River. Each booklet has information covering camping, boating, fishing, picnicking, public toilets and major walks.

**Each of the current 14 booklets includes maps and information for a section of the Murray between Indi Springs (the source) all the way to Blanchetown SA.**

Each booklet also includes emergency contacts and tourist information.



**Coming soon:**  
Blanchetown to the Goolwa (Murray Mouth)



**Only \$7.95 each**



[www.svmaps.com.au](http://www.svmaps.com.au) | Phone 03 9691 3000



# Barrie Beehag Ski Race

16 November 2013

THE Moama Water Sports Club (MWSC) will be holding the Barrie Beehag Water Ski Race on 16 November 2013. This event is a fabulous fun day for the whole family. Racing starts at 10.00am from Deep Creek Marina, Perricoota Road, Moama to Torrumbarry Weir and return. This is the best spot to view the race, with Murray Rivers Edge providing a beautiful grassed area to watch the boats start and finish. Bring your own rugs and chairs and enjoy the venue. Catering is supplied, along with entertainment for children. After racing, presentations will be held on the lawn area at Deep Creek Marina Hotel. Moama Water Sports Club (MWSC) presents this event in conjunction with Morley Auto Group and Deep Creek Marina Hotel. For more information go to [www.southern80.com.au](http://www.southern80.com.au).



Burnin - Winner of the 2012 Barrie Beehag Ski Race



## 2014 Club Marine Southern 80

7, 8 and 9 February 2014

THERE is so much to see during this event. Start the weekend with 'Breakfast with the Stars' on Friday morning at the Kerribee Soundshell in Moama between 7.00am and 9.30am. Get up close to all the amazing paintwork, gleaming chrome and massive horsepower, while enjoying breakfast. The boats will then be scrutineered for safety and teams will attend briefings. On Friday night, the event will be officially launched on the banks of the majestic Murray River. From 8.00am on Saturday morning, the teams prepare to hit the water for the first race of the weekend. Racing will take place along the full 80km course from Torrumbarry Weir to Victoria Park boat ramp until midday. Racing will move to the Five Mile boat ramp on the NSW side of the River for the shorter 20km course in the afternoon. While some teams are pitting their speed, skill and bodies against each other and the clock, and at times the unforgiving 80km course, other teams will have polished their chrome, wiped every speck of dust from their immaculate paint work and put their boats on display at the Static Display, allowing spectators a chance to get up close to these amazing pieces of machinery. The excitement is not limited to the water. The finish line at Victoria Park has a festival atmosphere with 500 metres of river bank to enjoy all aspects of the event. Here you can watch the teams finish, find something to eat with a huge range of food available and keep the kids entertained with face painting, a jumping castle and air brush tattoos. Adults can explore the trade sites covering everything from clothing, ski gear, power tools, boats, trailers and much more. On Sunday there is a full day of racing from 8.00am along the full 80km course finishing at the Victoria Park boat ramp.

MWSC would like to remind spectators that the river is closed to all vessels from when the Sweep boat passes with a red flag flying until they pass again with a green flag flying. MWSC also reminds all campers to be aware of fire restrictions as advised by the CFA each day. We also ask that campers are responsible for keeping campsites clean and tidy. A Carry In Carry Out policy applies for all items brought into park areas. We hope everyone has a great time while enjoying our, enjoys our fantastic events and all the region has to offer. For more information visit [www.southern80.com.au](http://www.southern80.com.au) or follow us on Facebook or Twitter or purchase the event App from iTunes or Google play, for only \$1.99.



Below: Hellrazor – Winner of the 2013 Southern 80

**SWIM ON SOUTHERN 80 RACE DAY!**

**NO WAY!**

Sponsored & Supported by:  
Moama Water Sports Club, NSW Maritime  
Vic & NSW Police, Murray Shire  
Shire of Campaspe



### WATER SKIING AT KERANG LAKES

Lake Charm and Kangaroo Lake are popular locations for recreational activities such as swimming, sailing, fishing and water skiing. Ski Racing Victoria , with the support of Gannawarra Shire Council, hosts water ski racing events at Lake Charm.

For further information, please visit [www.gannawarra.vic.gov.au](http://www.gannawarra.vic.gov.au) or [www.facebook.com/gannawarra](http://www.facebook.com/gannawarra) or call us on 03 5450 9333

**Gannawarra Shire Council**  
PO Box 287  
Kerang VIC 3579  
[council@gannawarra.vic.gov.au](mailto:council@gannawarra.vic.gov.au)



### Upcoming Events 2013/2014

- 7-8 December 2013 Ski Racing Victoria— Victorian State Titles Lake Charm
- 22-23 February 2014 Ski Racing Victoria— Point Score Lake Charm
- 5-6 April 2014 Ski Racing Victoria— Point Score Lake Charm



# Be a Junior Ranger

If you're looking for something fun and educational for your kids during the school holidays, why not give them a chance to explore Victoria's River Red Gum parks as a Junior Ranger.

Parks Victoria will be hosting its Summer Discovery Program this summer with a series of fun and interactive activities focusing on the bush.

The Summer Discovery Program is a great way to get kids in touch with nature through a series of activities that bring out their sense of adventure.

Children can discover who lives in the bush and along the local rivers, learn about Aboriginal culture and how to look after the parks.

Parks Victoria Ranger Neville Wells said kids are fascinated when they see and touch Aboriginal artefacts like boomerangs and killing sticks, or when they spot an ancient scar tree on a nature walk.

"They can even be a bush detective and identify animals that live in the forest by the evidence they leave behind," he said.

The Summer Discovery Program will run in various River Red Gum parks in early 2014.

The free sessions are suitable for primary school-aged children and their families. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Bookings are essential.

"The Summer Discovery program is great for families wanting a fun day outdoors and it's a healthy way to connect kids with the local parks," said Neville.

For more information and bookings visit [www.juniorrangers.com.au](http://www.juniorrangers.com.au) or call 13 1963.



Junior Rangers on the hunt for nature's treasure in Shepparton Regional Park

Things to do

- Play games like 'I spy', 'Mini-Beast Safari', 'Drains and Ladders' and 'Biodiversity Twister'
- Try Aboriginal painting techniques with ochre on leaves and trees
- See how changes in water quality from pollutants can lead to the death of Murray the Fish



GET SET FOR  
NATURAL ADVENTURES  
WITH YOUR WHOLE  
FAMILY

Find out more about the natural world with WilderQuest. The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) award winning iPad App, website and real-world games will help your family get the most out of your national parks experiences.

Guided by Ranger Sam and his friends, explore a host of interactive environments featuring native plants and animals. Take on challenges, collect points and learn about the natural wonders of our NSW National Parks.

Head to the NSW National Parks website to book a Discovery Tour – meet our Rangers in the park and benefit from their years of experience and knowledge first-hand!

[www.wilderquest.nsw.gov.au](http://www.wilderquest.nsw.gov.au)



Happy exploring!







# CAMPING FUN



JUNIOR RANGERS ARE BORN TO EXPLORE. IF YOU HAVE AN INTEREST IN NATURE, ANIMALS AND THE OUTDOORS THEN JUNIOR RANGERS IS FOR YOU.

Use the activity sheet below to get close to nature, have fun and discover Victoria’s wonderful parks.

For more information and activities visit [juniorrangers.com.au](http://juniorrangers.com.au) or call Parks Victoria on 13 1963.



## AUSTRALIAN ANIMAL QUIZ

The area around Murray-Sunset National Park plays a special role in protecting the animals and plants that live and grow there.

While it’s easy to see some of the bigger animals, including Western Grey and Red Kangaroos, the park is also home to some rare animals that you can’t always see. Keep an eye out for the Paucident Planigale – a small carnivorous mouse-size marsupial.



Test your knowledge on some Australian animals by taking the quiz below!

(answers at bottom of page)

1. Kangaroos are macropods. What does this mean?
2. Bandicoots are omnivores. Do they eat only plants, only animals, or both plants and animals?
3. What is the world’s largest marsupial?
4. How many ‘fingers’ does a kangaroo have – 3, 4 or 5?
5. What do Rosellas eat?
6. What name is given to all the feathers on a bird?
7. What colour are Parrot eggs – multi-coloured or white?

Parks Victoria uses these symbols to help people find their way and stay safe in the park. Do you know what these symbols mean?

Draw a line from the symbol to its description.



Walking track

Information

Playground

Drinking water

No dogs

Lookout

Toilets

No fires



## DID YOU KNOW?

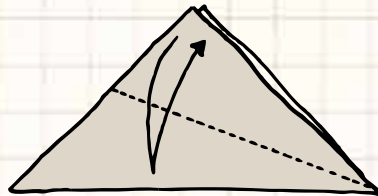
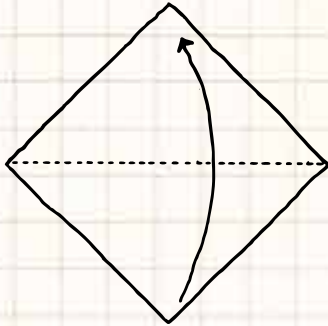


The Murray Cod can grow to an impressive 1.8 metres and up to 113 kilograms. It is Australia’s largest freshwater fish. On the whole the Murray Cod is pretty lazy. It likes hanging around among underwater snags like dead trees and logs. The Murray Cod has to eat a lot if it’s going to grow that big. Perhaps this explains why some cod have mouths big enough to swallow a basketball! Don’t worry though, the only thing on the Murray Cod’s menu is yabbies and shrimp.

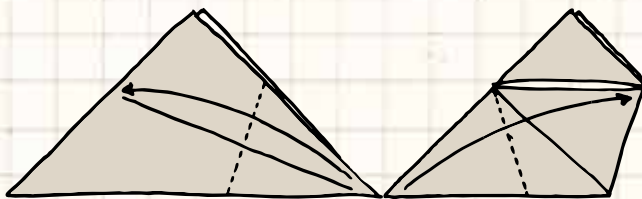
## ACTIVITY ORIGAMI PAPER CUP

Can you drink from a piece of paper? Sometimes you have to improvise when you’re out in the bush. This easy-to-learn survival skill may come in handy one day soon. Make sure you have access to some safe drinking water to try it out!

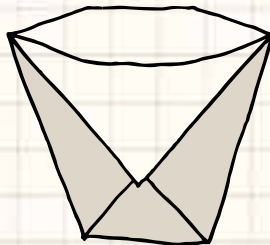
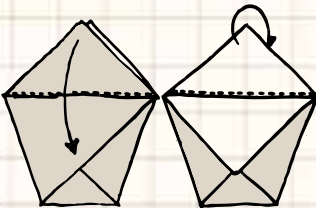
1. Using a square piece of paper, fold in half upwards to make a triangle.
2. Fold the top corner down so that the edges meet, and unfold after making a line.



3. Fold the corner up so its tip meets the edge of the paper at the line you made. Next, fold the other tip up so it meets the corner you just created.



4. Fold the top flap down toward you. Fold the other flap down to the back side of the figure.
5. Open the top and you have a cup ready to hold water!



WWW.JUNIORRANGERS.COM.AU

Answers to Quiz: 1. Large footed 2. Both plants and animals 3. A male Red Kangaroo 4. 5 fingers 5. Seeds and fruit 6. Plumage 7. White



# Stay fire safe this summer

## Know your fire weather district and daily Fire Danger Rating

**F**IRE Danger Ratings predict how a fire would behave if one started, including how difficult it would be to put out. The higher the rating, the more dangerous the conditions. Ratings are your trigger to act, so to stay safe you need to know the Fire Danger Rating in the district where you live or travel.

Fire Danger Ratings are forecast by the Bureau of Meteorology during the fire season. They are based on weather and other environmental conditions and forecast up to four days in advance.

Fire Danger Ratings will feature in weather forecasts and be broadcast on radio and TV and appear in some newspapers.

They can also be found on the CFA website [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au) or by calling the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667. Fire agencies provide clear advice on what to do for each Fire Danger Rating – see CFA's website for more information.

### Code Red Days

Days of Code Red fire risk have the worst conditions for a bush or grass fire. Homes are not designed or constructed to withstand fires in these conditions.

On a Code Red day the safest place to be is away from high risk bushfire areas.

Leaving a high risk area the night before a Code Red day occurs, or early in the day, is the safest option.

Parks and forests in areas declared Code Red are closed for public safety. Code Red days are rare; when they are forecast they are very serious.

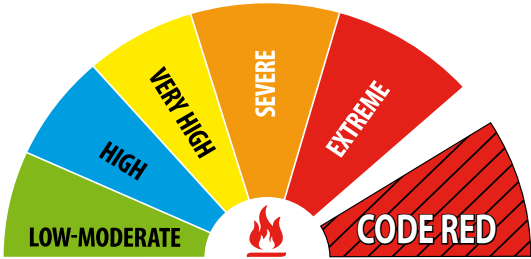
You should also have a plan for days of Extreme and Severe fire risk, these days can also be very dangerous. Only consider staying with your property on Extreme and Severe days if you are fully prepared – the safest option is to leave high risk bushfire areas early on these days.

### There are many ways to stay in touch

- Visit the CFA website on your computer or mobile device. If you have an iPhone/iPad or Android device, download the FireReady App
- Join the CFA Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/cfavic](http://www.facebook.com/cfavic)
- Follow CFA on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/cfa\\_updates](http://www.twitter.com/cfa_updates)
- Bookmark the CFA Warnings and Incidents webpage: [www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings)
- Call the Victorian Bushfire Information Line (VBIL) on 1800 240 667 (NRS 1800 555 677). VBIL provides up-to-date information on what you can and cannot do during fire restrictions, Fire Danger Ratings and Total Fire Bans. VBIL also provides important information during fires
- VicRoads Traffic Management Centre: 131 170
- Check the latest traffic information and road closures before you drive
- If there is a fire call 000 to report a fire or emergency

### Away from home checklist

- Monitor local weather conditions and on hot, dry windy days plan activities carefully. Contact Visitor Information Centres for safe tourist activities and locations
- Know the most up-to-date Fire Danger Rating and Total Fire Ban information in the area where you are staying for holiday or work by calling 1800 240 667 and/or tuning in to ABC Local Radio, commercial radio and SKY NEWS
- Look and listen for weather and fire information by tuning in to ABC Local Radio, commercial radio and SKY NEWS
- Find out what bushfire safety plans are in place where you are camping, caravanning or renting accommodation
- Find the nearest Neighbourhood Safer Place when you are staying in a high risk bushfire area. This and other local information can be found in a Community Information Guide which you can pick up from Visitor Information Centres
- Know alternative routes to leave your destination and pack a hard copy map - electronic devices may be affected during an emergency
- Pack your own travel relocation kit and have it accessible at all times. Contents should include protective clothing such as long-sleeved natural fibre tops, pants, sturdy shoes, hats, drinking water and woollen blankets
- Use your senses, watch for signs of fire such as smelling smoke or hearing sirens, don't expect an official warning



FIRE DANGER RATING

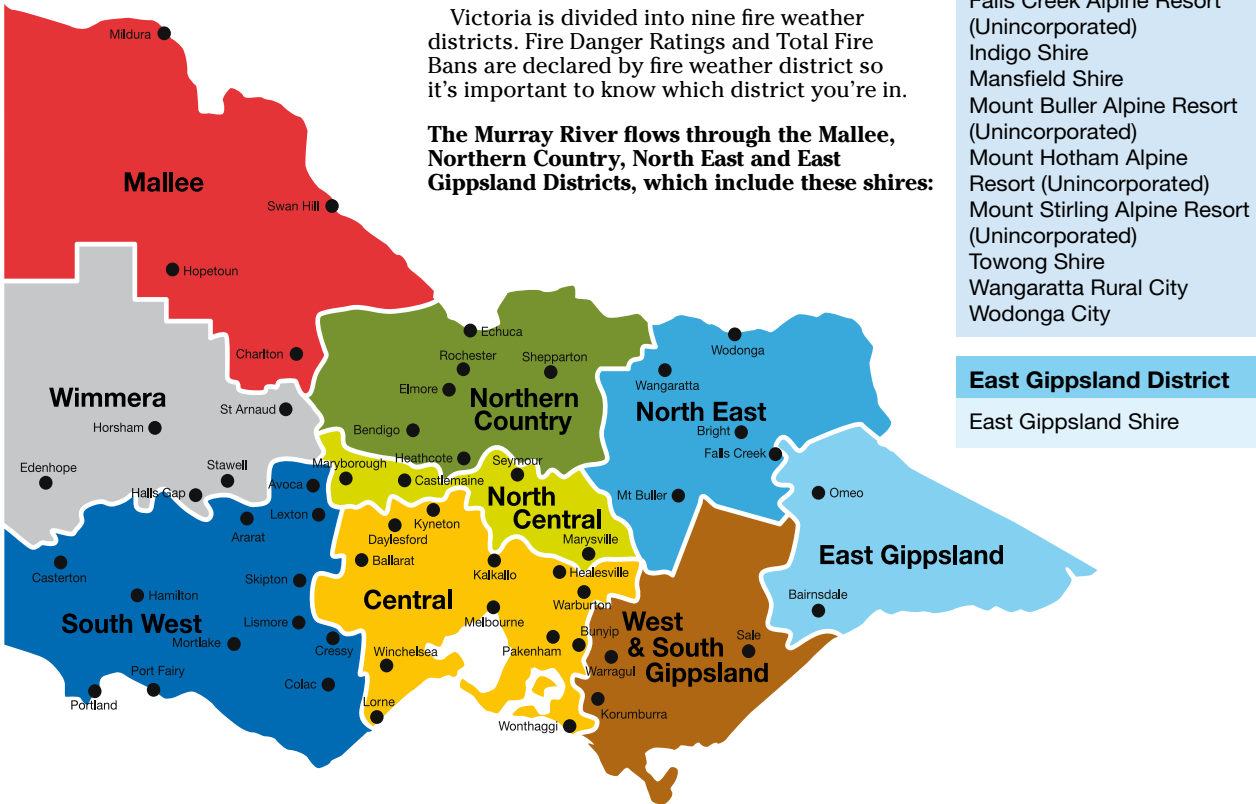
	WHAT DOES IT MEAN?	WHAT SHOULD I DO?
CODE RED	These are the worst conditions for a bush or grass fire. Homes are not designed or constructed to withstand fires in these conditions. The safest place to be is away from high risk bushfire areas.	Leaving high risk bushfire areas the night before or early in the day is your safest option – do not wait and see. Avoid forested areas, thick bush or long, dry grass. Know your trigger – make a decision about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– when you will leave</li><li>– where you will go</li><li>– how you will get there</li><li>– when you will return</li><li>– what you will do if you cannot leave</li></ul>
EXTREME	Expect extremely hot, dry and windy conditions. If a fire starts and takes hold, it will be uncontrollable, unpredictable and fast moving. Spot fires will start, move quickly and come from many directions. Homes that are situated and constructed or modified to withstand a bushfire, that are well prepared and actively defended, may provide safety. You must be physically and mentally prepared to defend in these conditions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Consider staying with your property only if you are prepared to the highest level. This means your home needs to be situated and constructed or modified to withstand a bushfire, you are well prepared and you can actively defend your home if a fire starts.</li><li>• If you are not prepared to the highest level, leaving high risk bushfire areas early in the day is your safest option.</li><li>• Be aware of local conditions and seek information by listening to ABC Local Radio, commercial radio stations or Sky News TV, go to <a href="http://cfa.vic.gov.au">cfa.vic.gov.au</a> or call the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667</li></ul>
SEVERE	Expect hot, dry and possibly windy conditions. If a fire starts and takes hold, it may be uncontrollable. Well prepared homes that are actively defended can provide safety. You must be physically and mentally prepared to defend in these conditions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Well prepared homes that are actively defended can provide safety – check your bushfire survival plan.</li><li>• If you are not prepared, leaving bushfire prone areas early in the day is your safest option.</li><li>• Be aware of local conditions and seek information by listening to ABC Local Radio, commercial radio stations or Sky News TV, go to <a href="http://cfa.vic.gov.au">cfa.vic.gov.au</a> or call the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667</li></ul>
VERY HIGH HIGH LOW-MODERATE	If a fire starts, it can most likely be controlled in these conditions and homes can provide safety. Be aware of how fires can start and minimise the risk. Controlled burning off may occur in these conditions if it is safe – check to see if permits apply.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Check your bushfire survival plan</li><li>• Monitor conditions</li><li>• Action may be needed</li><li>• Leave if necessary</li></ul>

Check you Total Fire Ban status and Fire Danger Rating by	Mallee District	Northern Country District
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Visiting CFA's website <a href="http://cfa.vic.gov.au">cfa.vic.gov.au</a></li><li>• Calling the Victorian Bushfire Information Line 1800 250 667</li></ul>	Buloke Shire Gannawarra Shire Mildura Rural City Swan Hill Rural City Yarriambiack Shire (north of the netting fence)	Campaspe Shire Greater Bendigo City Greater Shepparton City Loddon Shire Moirra Shire Strathbogrie Shire

### Victoria's fire weather districts

Victoria is divided into nine fire weather districts. Fire Danger Ratings and Total Fire Bans are declared by fire weather district so it's important to know which district you're in.

The Murray River flows through the Mallee, Northern Country, North East and East Gippsland Districts, which include these shires:



North East District
Alpine Shire Benalla Rural City Falls Creek Alpine Resort (Unincorporated) Indigo Shire Mansfield Shire Mount Buller Alpine Resort (Unincorporated) Mount Hotham Alpine Resort (Unincorporated) Mount Stirling Alpine Resort (Unincorporated) Towong Shire Wangaratta Rural City Wodonga City
East Gippsland District
East Gippsland Shire

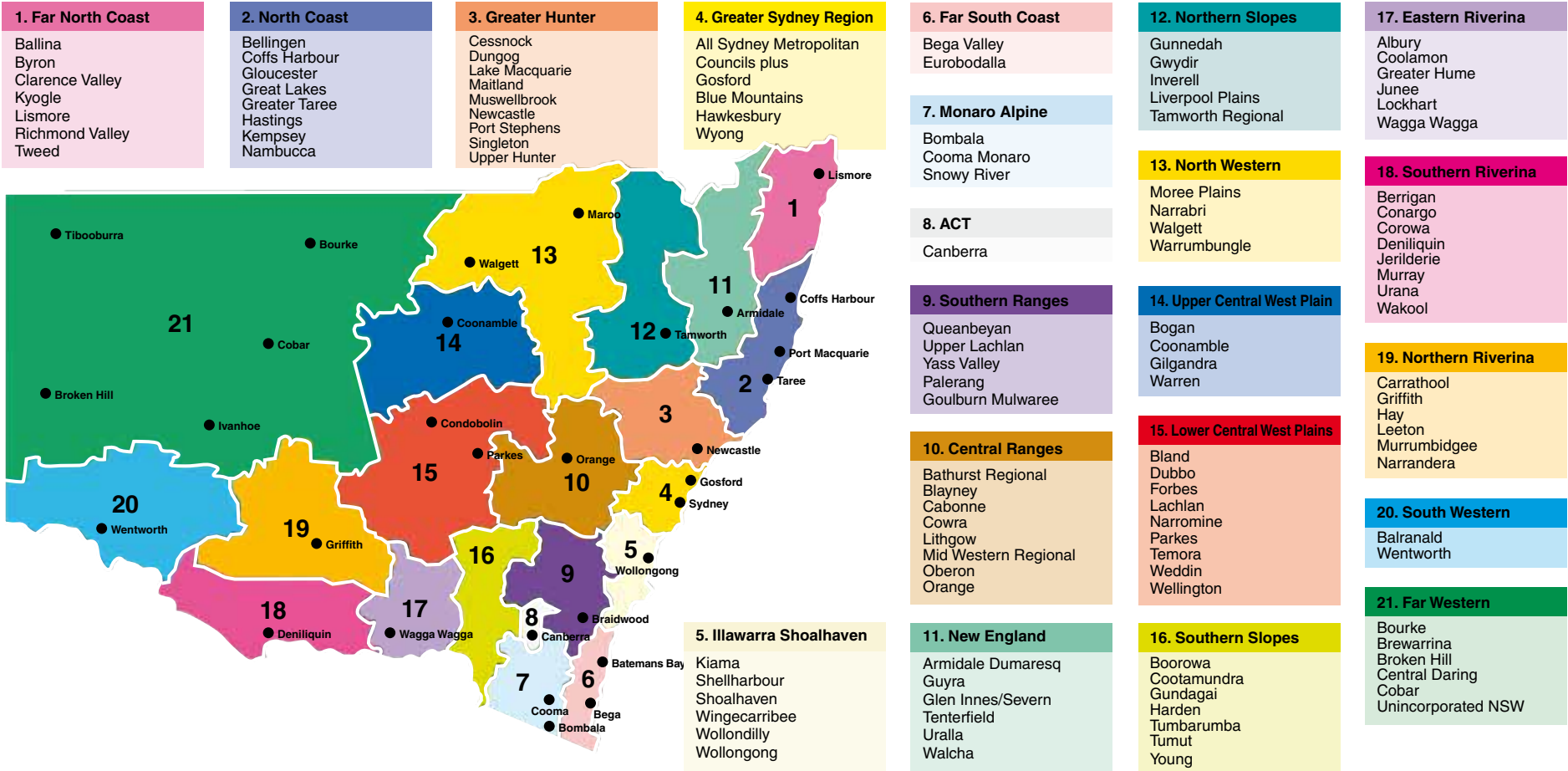
For more information please visit the CFA website at [cfa.vic.gov.au](http://cfa.vic.gov.au) or phone the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667.



PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.  
**FireReady**



Know your total fire ban district



The RFS may declare a Total Fire Ban for days of increased fire danger, based on advice from the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM). For more information go to [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au) or [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au). During a Total Fire Ban no fire may be lit in the open and all Fire Permits are immediately suspended. This includes the use of incinerators and solid fuel barbecues.

You can or you can't



Can I light a camp fire or have a gas barbecue in a National Park, Regional Park or NSW State Forest?



Bush Fire Danger Period

- NO

There is a "Solid Fuel Fire Ban" imposed in all National and Regional Parks and NSW State Forests in the Mid Murray Zone during the Bush Fire Danger Period, so no wood, heat beads or any other solid fuel can be lit
- YES

A gas BBQ is allowed providing you have cleared an area of at least "3 metres" around the BBQ, you have an adequate water supply and preferably a fire extinguisher (Dry Powder). A responsible person must be in attendance while the BBQ is light.

Total Fire Ban

- NO

Campfires, Fires for warmth or personal comfort, solid and gas or liquid fuel barbecues and ovens are banned on days of Total Fire Ban.



Listen to your Local Radio Stations for regular Fire Weather Warnings, Bushfire Updates and Community Advice and Warnings

Report all Fires to "000"

Prepare. Act. Survive

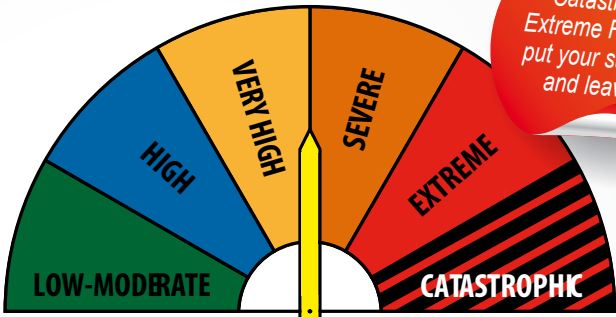
You will find further information on the NSW RFS website: [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au)

Fire Danger Ratings

WHAT DO THEY MEAN FOR YOU?

Knowing what they mean could save your life

- ☐ If you live or travel through an area where a bush fire can start you need to know what the Fire Danger Rating is and what it means so you can make the safest decision.
- ☐ The Fire Danger Rating is the indication of the consequences of a bush fire if a bush fire was to start.
- ☐ The higher the Fire Danger Rating the more dangerous the conditions and the more likely that people will be injured or die if a bush fire occurs.
- ☐ When the Fire Danger Rating is Extreme or Catastrophic for your area, any fires that start will be extremely hard for fire authorities to control. Even a well prepared, well constructed and actively defended home may not survive.
- ☐ If Catastrophic conditions are expected the best option is to leave early the day or hours before a fire threatens.
- ☐ Keep informed - check the Fire Danger Rating for your area at [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au)
- ☐ PREPARE your Bush Fire Survival Plan today. Know your trigger points and download a plan from [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au)



On days of Catastrophic or Extreme Fire Danger put your survival first and leave early.

FIRE DANGER RATING	WHAT YOU SHOULD DO
CATASTROPHIC	For your survival, leaving early is the only option. Leave bush fire prone areas the night before or early in the day – do not just wait and see what happens. Make a decision about when you will leave, where you will go, how you will get there and when you will return. Homes are not designed to withstand fires in catastrophic conditions so you should leave early.
EXTREME	Leaving early is the safest option for your survival. If you are not prepared to the highest level, leave early in the day. Only consider staying if you are prepared to the highest level – such as your home is specially designed, constructed or modified, and situated to withstand a fire, you are well prepared and can actively defend it if a fire starts.
SEVERE	Leaving early is the safest option for your survival. Well prepared homes that are actively defended can provide safety – but only stay if you are physically and mentally prepared to defend in these conditions. If you're not prepared, leave early in the day.
VERY HIGH	Review your Bush Fire Survival Plan with your family. Keep yourself informed and monitor conditions. Be ready to act if necessary.
HIGH	
LOW MODERATE	





# Koondrook Red Gum Forest Walk

Department of Environment and Primary Industries

EXPLORE the wonders of the Gunbower Forest by taking a stroll along the new Koondrook Red Gum Forest Walk.

Whether it's a meander along the 9km Eagle Loop or a ramble down the 13km Turtle Loop, visitors will experience the beauty and tranquillity of this wetland of international significance.

Discover wetland ecology and perhaps see some of the local wildlife including Kangaroos, Broad-shelled Turtles, Sea Eagles, Egrets, fish and Giant Banjo Frogs.

Gunbower Island is home to more than 210 plants species and 140 animal species. It is the second largest River Red Gum Forest in Northern Victoria and one of the six Living Murray Icon sites.

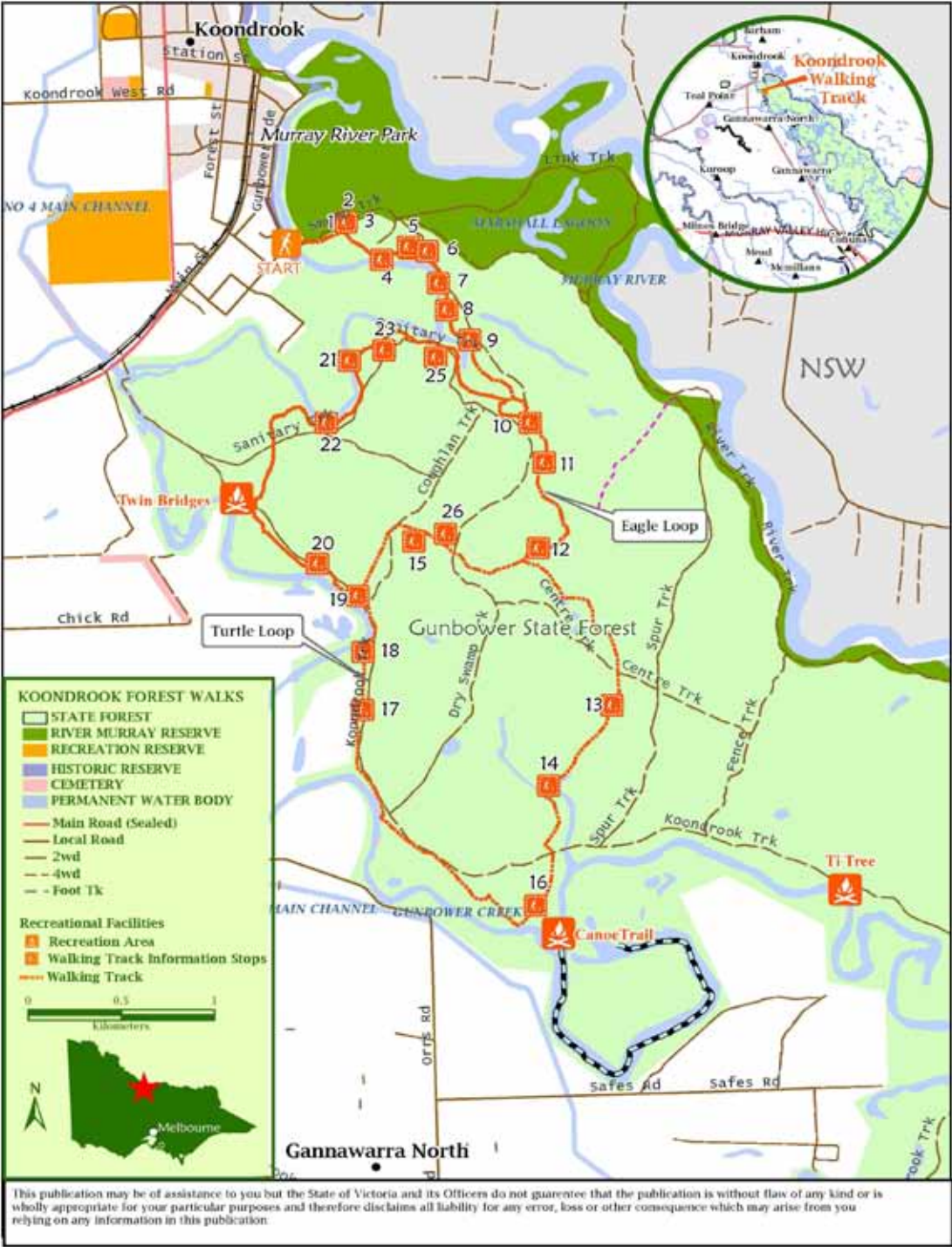
In mid-2013, the Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI), in partnership with the Koondrook Development Committee, Gannawarra Shire Council and local Barapa people upgraded the Forest Walk. New picnic tables and seats were installed along with information boards that explain the area's natural landscape as well as the Island's rich Indigenous and European histories.

The Walk begins at River Track, Koondrook near Condidorios Bridge. The track surface is suitable for most ages and fitness levels, though some bushwalking experience is recommended. The Walk follows a formed track that is clearly sign posted and has occasional steps. The longer Turtle Loop is a 13.2km walk through the forest and takes about 3.5 hours to complete. The shorter Eagle Loop is a 9.1 km walk that takes about 2.5 hours to complete.

Gunbower Island is also a great place to camp and fish as well as having a terrific canoe trail for canoeing enthusiasts.

Further information about the Koondrook Red Gum Forest Walk is available from:

- Gateway to Gannawarra Visitor Information Centre  
9 King George Street, Cohuna. Ph: 03 5456 2047
- DEPI Cohuna office at 11 Tisdall Road, Cohuna. Ph: 03 5456 6000
- [www.depi.vic.gov.au](http://www.depi.vic.gov.au)



## Making Victoria FireReady:

# Don't let your campfire go bush!

- Clear the ground and air space of flammable material (eg. leaves, twigs, tree stumps) within 3m of your campfire
- Campfires must be lit in a 30cm deep hole, and cannot exceed 1m<sup>2</sup> in size
- An adult must be present at all times
- Never leave your fire unattended
- Extinguish your campfire with water, not soil
- When it's cool to touch, it's safe to leave

**ON-THE-SPOT FINES APPLY FOR UNSAFE CAMPFIRES**

**PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.**

# FireReady

State Government Victoria



# Freshwater recreational fishing in New South Wales

## Rules and Regulations

BEFORE you go fishing in NSW, you should be familiar with the bag and size limits and other rules that apply to the area you are fishing in.

NSW Recreational Fishing Guides are available from many outlets throughout NSW and Victoria such as most fishing tackle shops, caravan parks, local shops, service stations, many Kmart stores, on the web or by phone.

The whole of the Murray River, from its source in the Snowy Mountains to the South Australian border, is NSW waters and is covered by NSW fishing laws, including the whole of the waters of Lake Mulwala. Lake Hume is managed under Victorian fishing rules (see below for further information).

Please note that a review of NSW recreational fishing regulations has commenced and extensive community consultation is occurring. This may result in future changes to current fishing laws. Check with your local NSW Fisheries Office before going fishing.

**A NSW fishing licence is required to fish in the Murray River, even if you are standing on the Victorian bank. NSW fishing rules apply in the Murray River and Lake Mulwala.**

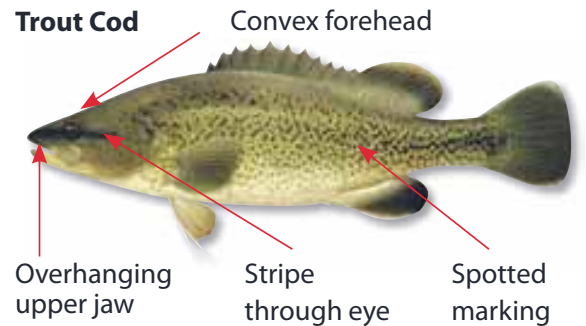
### Native fish bag and size limits

*Why have bag and size limits?*

- Bag limits exist to ensure the sustainability of fish stocks and equitable share of catch among anglers
- Minimum size limits mean fish can breed before they are caught
- Maximum size limits exist for species where large fish produce a greater proportion of eggs

### Identifying Trout Cod from Murray Cod

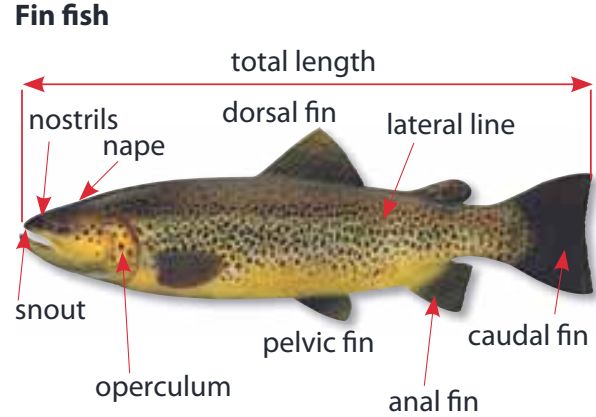
Trout Cod are an endangered species and cannot be taken. You can identify Trout Cod from Murray Cod by:



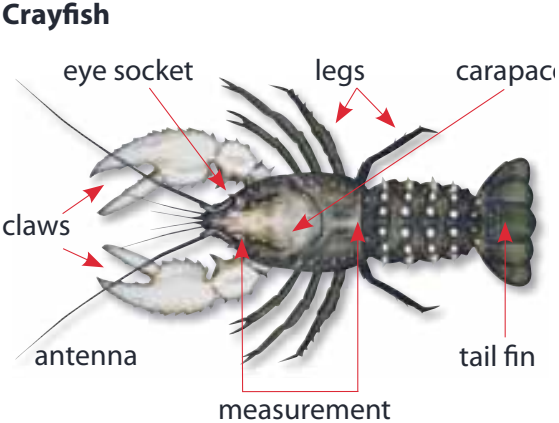
## Threatened and protected species

It is an offence to take, harm or be in possession of threatened species. Threatened or protected fish must be immediately returned to the water with care if accidentally caught. Threatened and protected species include Australian Grayling, Freshwater Catfish (other than in listed western dams, eastern dams and eastern rivers), Silver Perch (other than in listed stocked dams), River Blackfish, Eastern Cod, Macquarie Perch, Trout Cod.

## Measuring a fish



To determine the legal length of a fish, the fish is measured from the point of the snout to the tip of the tail. This is known as the total length.



Crayfish are measured from the rear of the eye socket to the centre rear of the carapace,

## General freshwater fishing rules

**Lines:** Two attended lines are permitted in all non-tidal waters other than some notified trout waters. Attended lines must be within 50 metres, in your line of sight and have no more than two hooks per line or up to three treble hooks attached to any lure per line. Set lines are not permitted. Any spare lines should not be rigged (should not be capable of taking fish).

**Traps and Nets:** In some waters you may use up to five yabby traps, one shrimp trap and five hoop (lift) nets all tagged with the user's name and address and the letters YT, ST or HN (signifying YT - yabby trap, ST - shrimp trap, HN - hoop net). Persons must not set traps or nets for longer than 24 hours without lifting those traps or nets.

**Dams:** Areas below and above dams and weirs may be closed to fishing.

**Lakes Hume & Mulwala:** NSW fishing regulations apply to all of Lake Mulwala & Victorian regulations apply to all of Lake Hume.

Contact your local fisheries office or refer to the NSW Recreational Freshwater Fishing Guide or NSW Department of Primary Industries website at [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au) for more details.

Report illegal fishing to your local Fisheries Office or Fishers Watch 1800 043 536

Fisheries Officer Hume, Albury 0419 185 548  
Fisheries Officer Riverina, Deniliquin 0427 897 145  
Fisheries Officer Far West, Dareton 0427 429 579  
Fisheries Officer Monaro, Jindabyne 0427 460 226

**Fishing closure:** *To protect breeding Trout Cod, the Murray River is closed to all methods of fishing between Yarrawonga Weir and Tocumwal Road bridge from 1 September to 30 November inclusive.*

## Illegal Fishing Methods

- It is illegal to use setlines, spear guns, spears, bow and arrows, poison, explosives or firearms to take fish, to use a gaff to take fish, to jag or foul hook fish, to use frogs, live finfish (including carp), live birds or live animals as bait, any traps or nets not permitted for recreational use, or to sell your catch.
- Carrying, possessing or using more than the legal number of attended rigged lines, in on or adjacent to waters.
- It is illegal to keep prohibited size fish – they should be returned to the water immediately with as little harm as possible.
- You must not alter the length of a fish by filleting, or removing the head or tail when you are in, on or adjacent to any waters, unless for immediate consumption, for immediate use as bait or unless at a fish cleaning facility.
- It is illegal to remove heads, tails and claws from crayfish in, on or adjacent to the water or to keep crayfish with eggs or to remove those eggs.

## NSW Recreational Fishing Fee

TO fish in any water in NSW, you are required to pay the NSW Recreational Fishing Fee and have the receipt for payment of the current fee in your immediate possession. If not, you risk an on the spot fine.

You can pay the fishing fee:

- On the internet at [www.licence.nsw.gov.au](http://www.licence.nsw.gov.au)
- By calling 1300 369 365 (Visa and Mastercard only)
- From hundreds of standard and gold fishing fee agents, eg tackle outlets, service stations,
- From most Kmart stores in NSW

By law, all the licence fees are placed into special trusts overseen by angler committees and can only be spent on improving recreational fishing in NSW.

Fish Species	Legal Length	Daily Limit	Possession Limit	Open Fishing Season
Australian Bass Estuary Perch	-	2 (one or more species), only 1 over 35cm in rivers	4 (one or more species), only 1 over 35cm in rivers	September to May in rivers below freshwater impoundments. All year in freshwater impoundments and rivers above freshwater impoundments
Crayfish, Murray	Min 10cm Max 12cm	2	4	June to August in the following waters: (a) Murrumbidgee River and its tributaries excluding Old Mans Creek from the Hume Highway road bridge at Gundagai to a line 100m upstream of the weir face at Berembed Weir near Ganmain (b) Murray River and its tributaries from 130 below Hume Weir near Albury to the Newell Highway road bridge at Tocumwal. All other waters in NSW are closed to Murray crayfish fishing.
Crayfish, other spiny	9cm	5 (one or more species), only 1 over 12cm	10 (one or more species), only 1 over 12cm	All year
Eel, Southern Shortfin	30cm	10	10	All year
Eel, Longfin	58cm	10	10	All year
Freshwater Catfish (eel-tailed)	30cm in listed dams, eastern dams and eastern rivers	5 in listed dams and eastern dams, 2 in eastern rivers	10 in listed dams and eastern dams, 4 in eastern rivers	All year in eastern rivers, eastern dams and listed dams
Golden Perch	30cm	5	10	All year
Murray Cod	60cm	2	4 only 1 over 100cm	December to August each year
Silver Perch	30cm	5	10	All year in listed dams
Silver Perch	30cm	5	10	December to August each year
Trout and Salmon	25cm in general trout streams and dams 25cm in artificial fly and lure streams and dams 50 cm in trout spawning streams 25 cm in all other waters	5 (one or more species) in general trout streams and dams 2 (one or more species) in artificial fly and lure streams and dams 1 (one or more species) in trout spawning streams 10 (one or more species) in all other waters	10 (one or more species) in general trout streams and dams 4 (one or more species) in artificial fly and lure streams and dams 2 (one or more species) in trout spawning streams 20 (one or more species) in all other waters	From start of October long weekend to end of June long weekend in general trout streams. General trout dams are open to fishing all year From start of October long weekend to end of June long weekend in artificial fly and lure streams. Artificial fly and lure dams are open to fishing all year From 1 May to end of June long weekend. Rules for artificial fly and lure streams apply from start of October long weekend to 30 April. All year in all other waters
Yabbies, freshwater	-	200	200	All year
Other native fin fish species	-	10, one or more species, other than invertebrates	10, one or more species, other than invertebrates	All year
Non native fin fish species (excluding trout & salmon)	-	-	-	All year



# Murray River Fish Habitat – it’s precious and needs your care!

NSW Department of Primary Industries

THE Murray River and its associated creeks, lakes, lagoons and billabongs is considered to be “key fish habitat” since it is of critical importance for the survival of many species of native freshwater fish including Australia’s largest freshwater fish species, the Murray Cod.

The Murray River has been subjected to a host of impacts over the last 200 years, and its ability to support all the native fish and invertebrates (mussels, crayfish, yabbies, shrimps, snails etc) that were present at the time of European settlement has been significantly reduced. Species such as Macquarie Perch, Flat-headed Galaxias and Murray Hardihead have been eliminated from all but a few small areas and are now on the verge of extinction. By contrast, introduced species such as Carp, Goldfish, Redfin Perch and Mosquito Fish (Gambusia) have proliferated and invaded almost all areas.

Holiday makers and residents using the river can play an important role in helping to protect fish habitats during their visit by:

- Leaving snags (fallen limbs and other woody debris) on the bank or in creek beds as these provide shelter and spawning sites for fish and invertebrates when the river is flowing at a higher level



The tiny Murray Hardihead is close to extinction in the Murray River system (Photo by Iain Ellis).

- Avoiding driving over, trampling or cutting shrubs, reeds and bushes growing along the banks of the river as these help to hold the bank in place, provide shelter during higher flows and provide a source of food for fish and other fauna
- Managing boats and other watercraft to avoid excessive boat wake close to the shore line that can erode and undercut the bank and muddy the water
- Using designated boat ramps so that the riverbank and vegetation remain undisturbed
- Leaving only your footprints and taking litter with you or disposing of it appropriately. Plastics and fishing tackle in particular can be very damaging to aquatic fauna.

For more detailed information on:

The threatened fish species found within the Murray River - [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/species-protection/conservation](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/species-protection/conservation)

The rules and regulations, policy and guidelines for protecting fish habitats - [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/habitat/publications/policies-guidelines-and-manuals/fish-habitat-conservation](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/habitat/publications/policies-guidelines-and-manuals/fish-habitat-conservation)

What to do when living and working on a riverbank - [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/habitat/rehabilitating/living-and-working-on-a-riverbank](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/habitat/rehabilitating/living-and-working-on-a-riverbank)



Australia’s largest freshwater fish, the Murray Cod commonly shelters and spawns amongst woody debris in the river channel.



Healthy riverbank vegetation like this reach of the Murray River near Tocumwal provides great habitat for native freshwater fish



The banks of the river are fragile and can easily erode if snags and backside vegetation is removed.

## Recreational fishing in Victoria - where to find the information you need

A VICTORIAN Recreational Fishing Licence (RFL) covers all forms of recreational fishing in all of Victoria’s marine, estuarine and fresh waters. Victorian RFLs are not valid in other states or territories, so check if you need a licence when you intend to fish interstate.

### Who Needs a Licence?

Unless you are exempt, an RFL is required when:

- Taking, or attempting to take from public waters, any species of fish by any method, including line fishing, bait collection, gathering shellfish, yabby fishing, prawning and spearfishing, and/or
- Using or possessing recreational fishing equipment in, on or next to Victorian waters.

### Exemptions

You will not need an RFL to fish if you are:

- Under 18 years of age
- 70 years of age or over
- The holder of a Victorian Government Seniors Card or interstate equivalent
- The holder of a Veterans’ Affairs Pensioner Card
- The holder of a Veterans’ Affairs Repatriation Health Card, coded TPI, and/or
- The holder of a Commonwealth Pensioner Concession Card relating to age, disability or carer status, coded DSP, AGE, CAR.

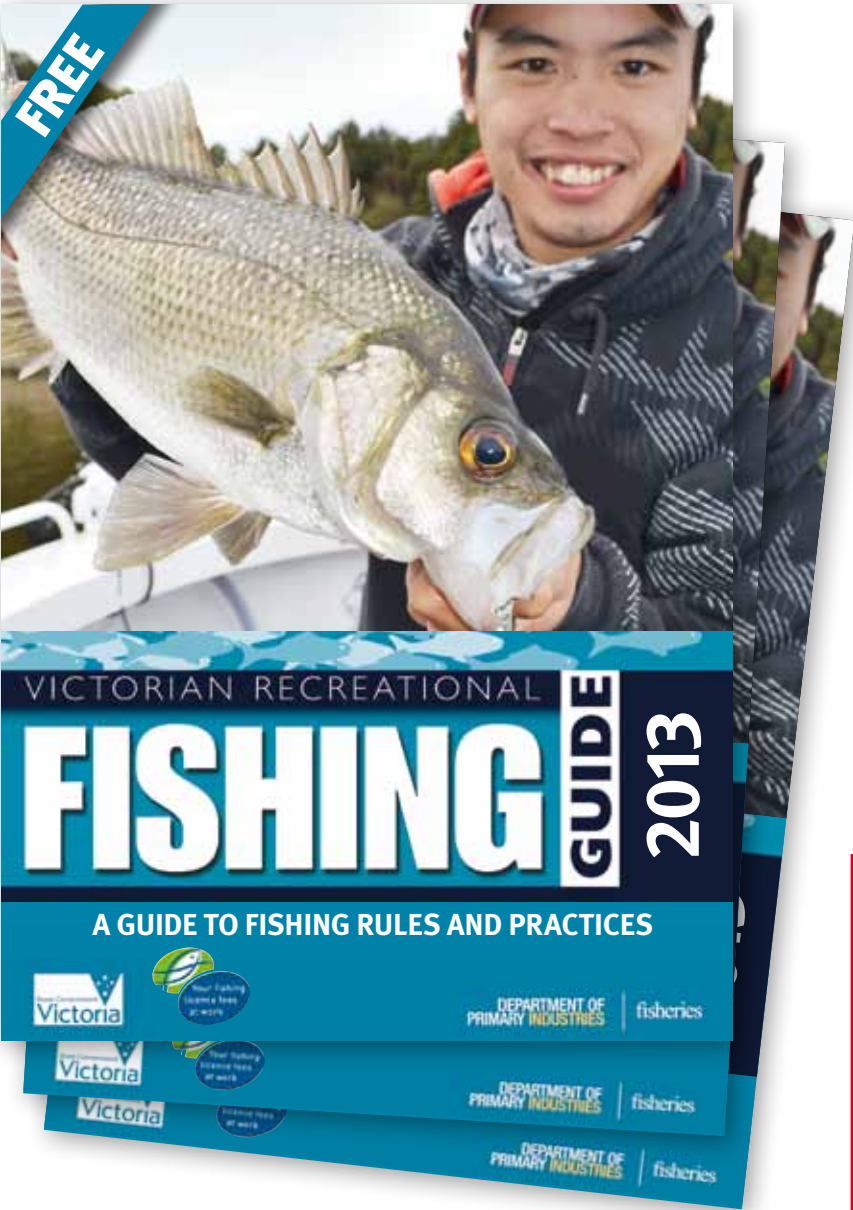
Victorian RFLs are available from many of the Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI) offices and more than 980 retail businesses throughout Victoria, including most retail fishing tackle stores.

Contact the DEPI Customer Service Centre on 136 186, or purchase online at [www.new.depi.vic.gov.au/fisheries/recreational-fishing/fishing-licence](http://www.new.depi.vic.gov.au/fisheries/recreational-fishing/fishing-licence).

It is important for fishers to know information about closed seasons, bag limits, minimum sizes and permitted equipment in Victoria in order to fish sustainably and to do the right thing.

The Victorian Recreational Fishing Guide contains all of this information and more.

View the Guide online at [www.depi.vic.gov.au/fishing](http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/fishing) or hard copies can be obtained (free of charge) from reputable fishing tackle shops, DEPI offices or by calling the DEPI Customer Service Centre on 136 186.



### Victoria

For general fishing and recreational licence information, call the DEPI Customer Service Line

**136 186**

or visit the website

**[www.depi.vic.gov.au](http://www.depi.vic.gov.au)**

To report illegal fishing activities

**call 13 FISH**

**13 34 74**



# When Lilies aren't so pretty

## North Central Catchment Management Authority

**H**AVE you noticed the bright yellow flowers and striking green foliage of the Pale Yellow Water Lily (*Nymphaea sp*) floating on the creeks, wetlands and lagoons around Gunbower and Cohuna?

This plant may look attractive but it is in fact an introduced species that affects the environmental values and impacts on the irrigation and recreational uses of the waterways. The species rapidly colonises in shallow, nutrient-rich waters resulting in dense infestations restricting water movement and impeding the movement of turtles, fish and platypus.

Project Manager Carl Gray said the North Central Catchment Management Authority (CMA) is targeting infestations in Gunbower Creek from the National Channel Off-take downstream to Cohuna Weir in an effort to control the plant.

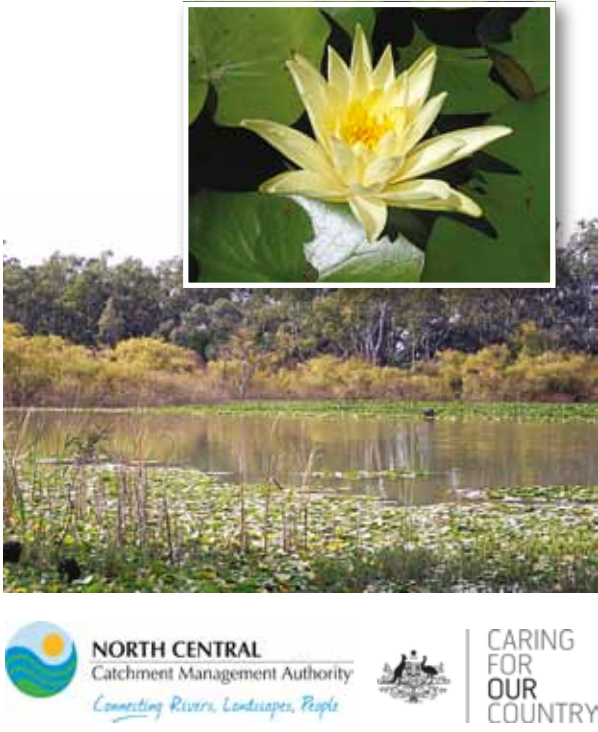
“The CMA is gradually treating strips from the centre of the creek towards the bank; approximately two metres wide on each side. In November 2012 we treated the area and revisited the site in May 2013 to retreat infestations with an approved aquatic herbicide. Throughout, herbicide application water quality is monitored by installing dissolved oxygen probes to assess the risk of a blackwater event.

“Residents and visitors to the area may have seen evidence of the weed control along the edges of the creek as the plant died and turned yellow.”

Carl said spraying with approved aquatic herbicide takes place during the plants most active growth period, from November to May. “We will continue to spray infestations, once at the start and again at the end of the active growth period. This approach will ensure maximum impact while minimising some of the associated risks. While this approach has been successful, it will require several years of repeated treatment to reduce the extent and minimise re-establishment of infestations. During this period the North Central CMA will work with Goulburn Murray Water to monitor and map progress.

“The North Central CMA has funding for the next five years to continue spraying twice a year including monitoring and evaluation until 2018. During this time we will continue to undertake detailed surveys and collect water quality data to measure the impacts of the extensive weed control program and the success of controlling Pale Yellow Water Lily in Gunbower” concluded Carl.

For further information visit [www.nccma.vic.gov.au](http://www.nccma.vic.gov.au) or contact the North Central CMA on (03) 5448 7124.



# Upgrades to visitor facilities

**V**ISITORS will notice upgraded facilities in Victoria's River Red Gum parks and reserves along the Murray River from Rutherglen right through to the South Australian border.

Extensive work has been undertaken over the last year to improve boat ramps and the trail network to create better access to popular visitor sites and riverside beaches.

The aim of the upgrades is to attract new visitors and encourage others to return to their favourite spot.

New toilets have been installed at various locations as well and include features to better protect the environment on the floodplain. In addition to meeting EPA certification standards, the vaulted toilets are more environmentally friendly as they incorporate a sealed unit to hold effluent and prevent overflow during flooding. The colour palette and materials used to build the toilets complement the natural bush setting and maximise the use of natural light.

New picnic tables and fire rings are popping up along the river in and around Mildura and Robinvale in the north-west. Campground and Day Visitor Area upgrades are also planned for Kings Billabong, Merbein Common, Hattah-Kulkyne National Park, Gunbower National Park and Barmah National Park.

The planned upgrades will maintain the natural character of the landscape with a focus on the river and provide for areas of structured camping to encourage tourism. Meanwhile most of the areas along the river will maintain self-select, dispersed camping to retain a sense of adventure and exploration.



Improved parking and river access at Higgins Cutting near the South Australian border

## New toilets

- Merbein Common, near Mildura
- Christies Beach, Echuca
- Racecourse Road, Cobram
- Yarrawonga Common, Yarrawonga
- Ulupna Island, near Strathmerton
- Kings Billabong, near Mildura
- Finley Beach, Tocumwal
- Forges Beach, Yarrawonga
- Lake Moodemere, Rutherglen



The Friends of Kings Billabong inspect the new toilets recently installed at Kings Billabong Park

# Making it easier to get the boat in

## Parks Victoria

**A**FTER listening to feedback from anglers and visitors to the Murray River, government agencies have been working together in the past year to make it easier for you to get your boat in the water.

Upgrades to 11 boat ramps as well as access roads, picnic facilities and parking along the Victorian side of the Murray River from Swan Hill to the South Australian border have been welcomed by locals and visitors alike.

The upgrades mean that people will be able to get their boats in and out of the water more easily all year round. Before these improvements, fluctuating water levels meant that some ramps were completely submerged when water levels were high, making it difficult or impossible for people to get their boats in safely at some locations.

“The benefits of these upgrades are many,” said Parks Victoria Ranger in Charge Kym Schramm.

“By making the boat ramps concrete and increasing their length by between 10 to 30 metres, it means that people will have safe access to get their boats in no matter what the water levels are,” Kym said.

“The ramps, along with better trailer entry access and

parking, mean that anglers and boaties are less likely to damage their equipment. The riverbank environment will also be better protected, with less erosion and damage to vegetation and sensitive cultural sites.”

“We are now strongly encouraging all visitors to use these boat ramps rather than the informal entries that may exist in other locations.”

One person who won't need any convincing is local angler Tony Feist from Merbein, who is thrilled about the new ramp upgrades.

“The new boat ramp at Abbotsford Bridge is great! I've been using it regularly and have no troubles getting my boat in and out of the water using a 2WD. I'm also pleased that the boat ramps are likely to help with congestion along the River as there are now many more places where people can get their boat in and out regardless of the weather or water levels,” said Tony.

The upgraded boat ramps are at: Higgins Cutting, Berribee, Lake Cullulleraine, Abbotsford Bridge, Fireman's Bend, Higgins Road, Walsh Bend, Spencers Bend.

And for those who are not into fishing or boating, the picnic areas at the launching points have also been improved by Parks Victoria making these riverside places more enjoyable for everyone.

The upgraded boat ramps were funded by the Victorian Government's \$16 million Recreational Fishing Initiative. Upgrades to parking and picnic areas are part of a broader plan to improve visitor facilities in River Red Gum parks throughout Victoria so these parks can be better enjoyed by everyone.



*Whether you're chasing Murray Cod, Golden Perch, Yabbies, Redfin or even European Carp – just pick a pleasant spot to drop a line in and try your luck.*



# Your guide to boating safety

Boating is regulated by State Governments so different laws apply in different states. When it comes to the Murray River, which borders Victoria and New South Wales, the laws of NSW apply.

This guide outlines some of the differences between the laws of Victoria and NSW. Make sure you check out all of the regulations before you head out on the water.

## Lifejackets

### NSW

It is compulsory to wear lifejackets on recreational vessels in certain situations as outlined in the table below:

Boating activity/Vessel type	Situation	Lifejacket options
Children under 12 years of age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>At all times in a vessel under 4.8 m</li><li>When in an open area of a vessel 4.8m to 8m that is underway<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>On enclosed waters</li><li>On open (ocean) waters</li><li>On alpine waters</li></ul></li></ul>	Type 1, 2 or 3 Type 1 Type 1, 2 or 3
On all boats less than 4.8m (unless specified below)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>All occupants on enclosed waters when:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Boating at night</li><li>Boating alone*</li></ul></li><li>At all times on open waters</li><li>At all times on alpine waters</li></ul> In addition to the above: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>At all times if the vessel is being used more than 200m from the shore to transport persons or goods between the shore and a vessel, or between vessels.</li></ul>	Type 1, 2 or 3 Type 1, 2 or 3 Type 1 Type 1, 2 or 3  Type 1, 2 or 3
All towing	Anyone being towed at all times on all waters	Type 1, 2 or 3
Canoes and kayaks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>On enclosed waters more than 100m from shore</li><li>On open waters at all times</li><li>On alpine waters at all times</li></ul>	Type 1, 2 or 3 Type 1, 2 or 3 Type 1, 2 or 3
Off the beach sailing vessel (e.g. catamaran & centreboard boats)	All occupants on open and alpine waters at all times	Type 1 or 2
Sailboarding	When more than 400m from shore: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>On enclosed waters</li><li>On open and alpine waters</li></ul>	Type 1, 2 or 3 Type 1, 2 or 3
Kiteboarding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>On open waters when more than 400m from shore &amp; kiting alone</li><li>On alpine waters when more than 400m from shore &amp; kiting alone</li></ul>	Type 1, 2 or 3 Type 1, 2 or 3
PWC (jetski)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>On enclosed waters at all times</li><li>On open and alpine waters at all times</li><li>Tow-in-surfer on open waters</li></ul>	Type 1, 2 or 3 Type 1, 2 or 3 Type 1, 2 or 3
Crossing coastal bars	All vessels, everyone on board	Type 1**
Skipper's responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>When the skipper considers a "heightened risk" situation exists:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>On enclosed waters</li><li>On open and alpine waters</li></ul></li></ul>	Type 1, 2 or 3 Type 1 or 2

\* 'Alone' means:  
I) solo  
II) with one or more people aged under 18 who are not the holder of a boat licence  
III) the person's vessel is not near other vessel(s) that are not able to render immediate practical assistance in an emergency.  
\*\* Unless specified elsewhere in this table.

For further information on NSW regulations contact Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) or visit [www.rms.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au)

### Victoria

Victoria also requires lifejackets to be worn in certain situations. For information about lifejacket regulations in Victoria visit [www.transportsafety.vic.gov.au](http://www.transportsafety.vic.gov.au)

Both states recognise Australian and international lifejacket standards.

## General navigation

Both States follow international regulations that require vessel operators to:

- Travel at a safe speed (appropriate to conditions, visibility, vessel traffic and other environmental factors)
- Keep a proper lookout
- Stay to the right in rivers and channels.

On lakes, the direction of travel is anti-clockwise unless otherwise stated. If in doubt, consult the relevant waterway manager and follow authorised signage.

## Towed water sports (waterskiing and wakeboarding)

### NSW:

Observers must be at least 16 years of age (or hold a Young Adult Licence).

You must keep a distance of at least 60 metres from people and non-powered vessels and 30 metres from powered vessels and fixed objects.

### Victoria:

Observers must be at least 12 years of age.

At speeds of greater than five knots you must keep at least 50 metres from a person in the water, another vessel or a fixed or floating structure.

**Please note:** Both States require any person being towed to wear an appropriate lifejacket.

## Personal watercraft (PWC) operation

In both States you require a PWC licence to operate a PWC.

### NSW:

At speeds of 10 knots or more, you must keep a distance of at least 60 metres from people and non-powered vessels, and 30 metres from powered vessels and fixed objects.

### Victoria:

At speeds greater than five knots you must keep at least 50 metres from a person in the water, another vessel or a fixed or floating structure.

**Please note:** Both States require any person on a PWC to wear an appropriate lifejacket.

## Vessel Capacity

Overloading a vessel is extremely dangerous. Both states require most vessels to display an Australian Builders Plate in an obvious location. This plate details the maximum carrying capacity of the boat (passengers and load), the maximum engine capacity, and (for vessels under six metres in length) the vessel's buoyancy characteristics. Contact Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) or Transport Safety Victoria for information about which recreational vessels must have a plate affixed in each state.

NSW also requires powered vessels to display a 'safety label' where it is visible from the driving position. This label shows the maximum number of people that can be carried and carries other safety information. A separate 'PWC behaviour label' is required for PWCs. These labels may be obtained from RMS or from many boat retailers.

## Incident reporting

### NSW:

Where an incident has resulted in death, injury or damage to property in excess of \$5,000, a written report must be forwarded to RMS within 24 hours, setting out the particulars, unless these have already been given to an RMS Maritime Officer.

Vessel incident report forms are available from RMS, Police, Marine Rescue NSW or by visiting [www.rms.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au)

### Victoria:

All incidents must be reported to Victoria Police on 1800 135 729 where there is death, injury, or damage to property and the property owner or their representative is not present.

Marine incident reporting forms are available at [www.transportsafety.vic.gov.au](http://www.transportsafety.vic.gov.au)

In an emergency call 000.

## Further information

Roads and Maritime Services: [www.rms.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au) or 13 12 56

Transport Safety Victoria: [www.transportsafety.vic.gov.au](http://www.transportsafety.vic.gov.au) or 1800 223 022





# Get involved in wild and wonderful research

WHILE you are enjoying the magnificent beauty of the River Red Gum parks along the Murray River and its tributaries you can get involved in research to help protect habitat and breeding grounds for some of the amazing creatures that live here.

If you see a White-bellied Sea-eagle nesting in the trees or soaring in the sky above, you can help track this threatened species.

Research presented at the Barmah-Millewa Research Conference in May this year highlighted the value of full water bodies and environmental watering programs to breeding.

In the Barmah-Millewa forest these territorial birds that pair for life prefer to build nests near the water in the River Red Gum trees that characterise the forest.

The nests, constructed of sticks and lined with leaves, often grow to an enormous size with age as material is added over many years.

Monitoring of the birds and their breeding habits shows a number of territories at Barmah National Park, Murray Valley National Park and the surrounding areas.

Nature-based tourism in the region is growing and has an important role to play in wildlife research.

In fact, one of the local tourism operators has reported the highest number of sightings.

Kingfisher Cruises runs ecotours through the world heritage listed Barmah wetlands aboard the MV Kingfisher.



Juveniles are patchy in colour and can be easily confused with the Wedge Tailed Eagle Courtesy Roy Peachey



A pair of White-bellied Sea-eagles soar overhead Courtesy of David Kleinert

### Fast facts

- White-bellied Sea-eagles are rare in Victoria, with only 100 breeding pairs thought to survive
- Loss of nesting sites is suspected to be the main cause of decline
- These raptors are sensitive to disturbance and may abandon nests if disturbed
- They like to eat aquatic animals such as fish and turtles but will also prey on birds (including eggs) and mammals
- They have been known to live up to 26 years of age in the wild

The Kingfisher travels the narrowest section of the Murray River, between Albury and the ocean called the 'Barmah Choke' where the river travels at almost twice its normal speed.

The cruise stops by a White-bellied Sea-eagle nesting site.

### What do they look like?

Adults are distinctive in appearance. They have a white head, breast, legs and a short wedge-shaped tail. The upper body and wings are grey. Their under-wing flight feathers are dark grey to black.

Young birds are brown in colour and slowly change to resemble adults in a patchwork manner. Their adult plumage is complete by the time they are four. Unlike their parents, they may often be confused with Wedge-tailed Eagles.

### Get involved

Help protect the White-bellied Sea-eagle habitat and breeding sites by forwarding details of any sightings such as date, location, age class (adult or juvenile), unique landmarks, forest conditions and a description of what the birds are doing to Bruce Wehner, Project Officer, Parks Victoria, via [info@parks.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@parks.vic.gov.au)



The mature White-bellied Sea-eagle can be easily identified Courtesy Paul O'Connor, Department of Environment and Primary Industries



Nests often grow to an enormous size as material is added over many years

## River Red Gums drop branches *Be safe, not sorry. Don't let this happen to you!*

TREES, especially the iconic River Red Gums, can drop branches, or entire trees can fall unpredictably, without warning. There is no way to determine when a tree might fall or drop a branch.

Trees may be particularly prone to dropping a branch or falling when they are under stress, including:

- High wind
- Extreme temperatures
- Sudden changes in temperature



- Drought
  - Fire
  - Compaction
  - Flood
- Recent flooding may have potentially increased the likelihood of trees falling or dropping branches, especially those with roots that may have been loosened as a result of river bank erosion and destabilisation.
- There is no way to predict which way a tree might fall so

it is important to stay clear of trees. Branches falling from trees rarely fall straight down. They may bounce against other branches and swing out well beyond the edge of the canopy of the tree.

Follow the guide to minimise the risks to you and others. For more information or advice on safe camping go to [www.parks.vic.gov.au](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au), call Parks Victoria on **13 1963** or speak to a ranger on patrol.

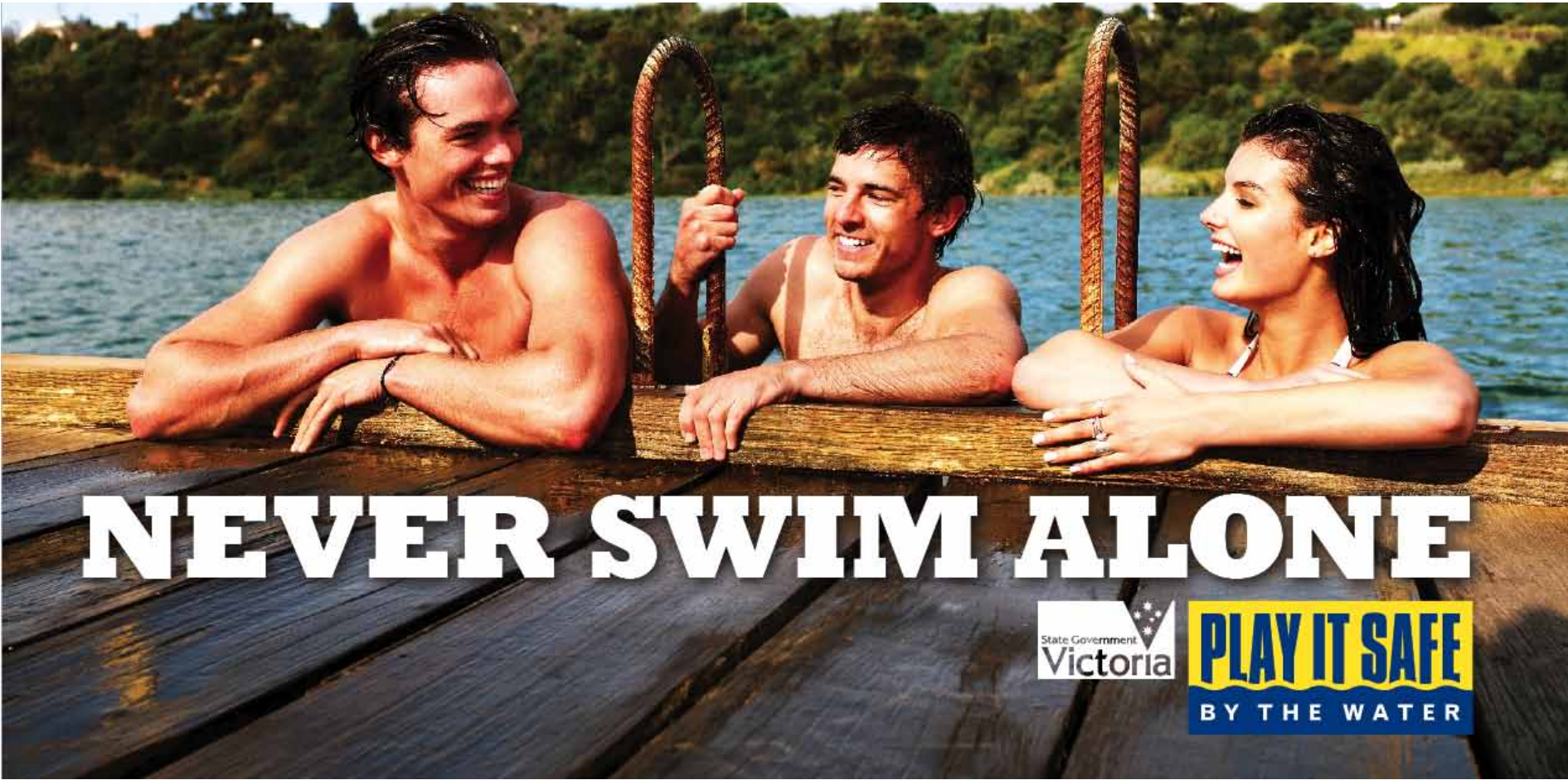
## DO

- ✓ Set up camp, park your car and picnic well away from trees as branches can swing out beyond the edge of the canopy of a tree
- ✓ Take extra care in very hot or windy weather as these can be particularly dangerous
- ✓ Observe all warning signage
- ✓ Stay well away from trees that appear to be dead or have dead branches

## DON'T

- ✗ Camp, park or picnic under or near trees, even if it is a hot day and you are seeking shade
- ✗ Damage trees in any way, including cutting or marking them
- ✗ Climb trees or attach rope swings to trees





## Alcohol and water activities - a fatal mix

VISITORS to the Murray region are reminded alcohol and water activities don't mix after last year's drowning report revealed that almost thirty per cent (10) of drowning deaths involved alcohol.

People love spending time at the river with friends and family for barbecues, boating, fishing and camping during the warmer weather. However, Life Saving Victoria Manager of Research and Injury Prevention, Dr Bernadette Matthews, urges people to play it safe by the water this summer.

"Drowning deaths affect so many people, including extended family and friends, and the sad thing is that most drowning deaths can be prevented. We don't want to see your summer holiday turn into a tragedy," she said.

"Alcohol and water related activities can be a fatal mix. Alcohol can severely impede your swimming ability, affect

your judgement of situations and your ability to respond in the water should you fall in."

Dr Matthews said males, in particular, have tended to be involved in this type of risky behaviour and were over represented in the latest drowning figures.

"Males remain four times more likely to drown, with 29 males drowning in 2011-12, compared to eight females," she said.

"Watch out for your mates and don't let them go in the water if they have been drinking."

Dr Matthews reminds people that water safety is vital and it should always be in the forefront of people's minds.

"Never swim alone, make sure someone is always watching out for you in the water," said Dr Matthews.

"Young children are particularly vulnerable around the water, so make sure they are always within your arm's reach.

"Parents and guardians are urged to actively supervise children around water – this means watching closely, not just the occasional glance.

"Children under five should always be in arm's reach, and children under 10 should always be in sight."

For more water safety information, visit [www.watersafety.vic.gov.au](http://www.watersafety.vic.gov.au) or download the free Victorian Water Safety Guide App from the App Store or Google Play.

- Water safety tips:**
- Water and alcohol don't mix
  - Never swim alone
  - Look before you leap
  - Actively supervise children



## Take care near flood waters

THE Murray River and waterways that flow through the River Red Gum parks are a key attraction for visitors who love to go fishing, swimming, boating, paddling or just enjoy the views.

Yet conditions in parks and reserves along the rivers and creeks can change rapidly after rainfall events in the catchments or the release of water from local weirs.

Parks Victoria's Mathew Sobey has the following advice for visitors.

"Always check the latest conditions before you travel, particularly after storms and heavy rains.

"During flood events and environmental watering, some parks and reserves will be closed to the public for safety and to minimise damage to roads and tracks.

"Please read any warning signs and adhere to road closures.

"Rangers will regularly monitor conditions and permit access as areas dry out when it is safe and sustainable to do so."

**When visiting the parks at times of flood remember the following safety tips:**

- Avoid camping close to waterways as waters may rise quickly and trap you
- Do not walk, ride or drive through flooded areas
- Drive carefully and stay on formed roads and tracks
- Don't seek shelter, camp or park under large trees - they may fall unpredictably after strong winds or heavy rains

Some low lying areas in places like Barmah National Park may remain closed to visitors for some time but that's no reason to cancel your trip.

"There are usually places to visit or camp on higher ground in the area and plenty of opportunities to see the abundant bird and aquatic life in the river, creeks and wetlands."

"Visitors can experience the park by boat or canoe. Licensed boat tours enable visitors to enjoy the sights safely while the park is flourishing," said Mathew.



## How to help injured or orphaned wildlife

WILDLIFE Rescue and Information Network Inc (WRIN) in Victoria and Wildlife Information, Rescue and Education Service (WIRES) in NSW are volunteer run organisations dedicated to rescuing and rehabilitating native fauna found injured, sick or orphaned. These organisations are endorsed by the Department of Environment and Primary Industries and the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service respectively.

### What to do with injured wildlife

If you find an injured animal or bird, it is important not to handle it any more than necessary. They are wild animals, not pets, so care must be taken. They will be very frightened at being approached and handled, and may try to defend themselves by biting or scratching.

Shock is the biggest killer, so warmth, darkness and quiet are very important. Place a blanket or jumper over the injured animal or bird to reduce stress and keep it warm. Remove injured wildlife from roads by picking them up firmly from behind. Be firm and keep away from teeth and claws. Always wash your hands thoroughly after handling as some animals can transmit diseases to humans.

### What to do if you find orphaned wildlife

Many native animals are killed on the road, leaving orphaned pouched young still alive. If you find a dead adult marsupial, carefully remove it from the road and check its pouch for young. It is important to keep pouched young warm by wrapping them in a blanket or jumper, as they are unable to generate their own body heat. Do not try to feed any pouch young as they need a special diet and feeding the wrong milk could kill the baby. A warm - not hot - hot water bottle and a woollen jumper will keep the baby warm until it is taken to a shelter. Do not try to stand joeys up or let children play with them. They cannot show their stress the same way as domestic animals.

Take the orphaned animal to a wildlife shelter as soon as possible for urgent care.

For further information call WRIN on 0419 356 433 or WIRES on 1300 094 737.

Visit the web to find more information about these volunteer organisations - [www.wrin.asn.au](http://www.wrin.asn.au) or [www.wires.org.au](http://www.wires.org.au)





# Recycling and waste disposal locations along the Murray River

## Moira Shire

Ph: 03 5871 9222

**Barmah** – Cnr Moira Lakes Rd & Racecourse Rd  
*Extended hours from Boxing Day 26 December 2013 to 26 January 2014*  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8.00am - 12.00noon  
Saturday and Sunday 9.00am - 3.00pm

**Cobram Landfill** – Pye Rd – north of Murray Valley Hwy  
Monday to Friday 9.00am - 4.00pm  
Saturday and Sunday 10.00am - 3.00pm

**Nathalia** – Cnr Shepparton/Barmah Rd & Balls Rd  
Thursday 8.30am - 12.30pm  
Saturday 12.30pm - 4.30pm

**Numurkah** – Naring Rd between Hendys Rd & Lorenzs Rd  
Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday 10.00am - 5.00pm

**Strathmerton** – Murray Valley Hwy between Ruttles Rd & Stokes Rd  
Wednesday and Sunday 9.00am - 12.00noon

**St James** – Kellys Rd, south of St James Rd  
Saturday 9.00am - 12.00pm

**Tungamah** – Tungamah Rd between Chinaman’s Lane & Cemetery Rd  
Saturday 1.00am - 4.00pm

**Yabba** – Yabba South Rd between Katandra Rd & Jeffreys Rd  
Sunday 9.00am - 12noon

**Yarrawonga** – Channel Rd east of Benalla-Yarrawonga Rd  
Everyday 10.00am - 5.00pm

## Campaspe Shire

Ph: 03 5481 2200

*Where recyclables and waste are separated, waste disposal is free at Campaspe Shire transfer stations. Waste should be securely contained in a bag. Skip bins will be available at Torrumbarry Roadhouse, Gunbower Recreation Reserve, Victoria Park and Echuca East Boat Ramp to collect waste during peak tourist periods - January, Southern 80 weekend and Easter.*

**Gunbower** – Murray Valley Highway (2km east of town)  
Monday 1.00pm - 4.00pm  
Sunday 9.00am - 12.00pm

**Echuca Environment Centre** – McKenzie Rd  
Monday to Saturday 8.00am - 4.45pm  
Sunday 10.00am - 3.45pm

**Rochester** – High Street  
Tuesday 1.00pm - 4.00pm  
Thursday and Sunday 9.00am - 12.00pm

**Torrumbarry Roadhouse – 5487 7260**  
– Murray Valley Hwy, Torrumbarry  
*Open 7 days per week – Sorted recycling free.*  
\$3 per bag for general rubbish

## City of Wodonga

Ph: 02 6022 9300

**Wodonga** – Kane Rd  
Monday to Friday 9.00am - 5.00pm  
Saturday and Sunday 10.00am - 4.00pm

## Albury Shire Council

Ph: 02 6043 5860

**Albury Waste Management Centre** – Centaur Rd, Lavington  
Monday to Friday 7.30am - 5.00pm  
Saturday and Sunday 9.00am - 4.00pm

## Gannawarra Shire

Ph: 03 5450 9333

**Kerang** – Kerang-Murrabit Rd  
Tuesday and Friday 10.00am - 2.00pm  
Sunday 1.00pm - 5.00pm

**Cohuna** – cnr Chuggs and Cohuna-Leitchville Rds  
Tuesday and Friday 10.00am - 2.00pm  
Sunday 1.00pm - 5.00pm

## Swan Hill Rural City Council

Ph: 03 5036 2333

**Swan Hill Sea Lake** – Swan Hill Rd – 4km West of Swan Hill  
Sunday to Friday 9.00am - 4.00pm  
Saturday 9.00am - 2.00pm

**Piangil** – 3km South of the township on Hayward Rd adjacent to railway line  
Wednesday 9.00am - 3.00pm  
Sunday 1.00pm - 4.00pm

**Boundary Bend** – Kooloonong Rd 5km south of the township  
Tuesday, Thursday & Sunday 9.00am - 12.00pm

**Robinvale** – Sea Lake-Swan Hill Rd, 10km south-east of Robinvale  
Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 9.00am - 3.00pm

**Ultima Sea Lake** – Swan Hill Rd – 1km East of Ultima  
Sunday and Wednesday 9.00am - 1.00pm

## Wakool, NSW

Ph: 03 5887 5007

**Barham** – East Barham Rd  
Tuesday, Thursday, Sunday 12.00pm - 5.00pm

**Goodnight** – Goodnight Rd  
Wednesday 2.00pm - 5.00pm  
Sunday 1.00pm - 5.00pm

**Koraleigh** – Koraleigh Rd  
Wednesday 9.30am - 12.30pm  
Saturday 1.00pm - 5.00pm

## Indigo Shire

Ph: 03 5728 8000

**Beechworth** – Diffey Rd  
Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday 1.00pm - 5.00pm  
**Rutherglen** – Cornishtown Rd  
Friday, Saturday, Sunday 1.00pm - 5.00pm

## Towong Shire

Ph: 02 6071 5100

**Corryong Landfill** – Sugarloaf Rd  
Tuesday and Thursday 4.00pm - 6.00pm *Summer*  
Saturday 8.00am - 12.00pm  
Sunday 12.00pm - 4.00pm

**Tallangatta Transfer Station** – Murray Valley Highway  
Tuesday and Thursday 10.00am - 12.00pm  
Saturday 8.00am - 12.00pm  
Sunday 12.00pm - 4.00pm

## Corowa Shire

Ph: 02 6033 8999

**Corowa** – Albury Rd  
Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8.00am - 1.00pm  
Tuesday and Thursday 12.00pm- 5.00pm  
Saturday and Sunday 8.00am - 5.00pm

**Mulwala** – Mulwala-Savenake Rd  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday 9.00am – 1.00pm

**Howlong**  
Tuesday and Friday 2.00pm - 5.30pm  
Wednesday 7.30am - 11.30am  
Saturday and Sunday 10.00am - 5.30pm

## Berrigan Shire

Ph: 03 5888 5100

**Tocumwal** – Newell Highway, Tocumwal  
Sunday, Wednesday, Friday 1.30pm - 4.00pm

**Finley Recycling Centre** – Killeens Road, Finley  
Sunday 8.30am - 12.00pm

**Berrigan** – Greenhills Road, Berrigan  
Sunday 12.30pm - 4.00pm  
Tuesday, Thursday 1.30pm - 4.00pm

## Murray Shire

Ph: 03 5884 3302

**Moama Waste Disposal Depot** – Centre Road, Off Cobb Highway – Phone (03) 5480 0414  
Monday to Friday 11.00am - 4.00pm  
Saturday and Sunday 9.00am - 4.00pm

**Mathoura Transfer Station** – Clifton Street  
– Phone (03) 5884 3694  
Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday 8.00am - 4.00pm

## Deniliquin Council

Ph: 03 5898 3155

**Deniliquin Waste Disposal Depot** – Hay Road (Cobb Highway) about 4km from the North Deniliquin roundabout  
Open every day 8.30am - 4.00pm

## Mildura Rural City Council

Ph: 03 5018 8100

**Mildura Landfill** – Scherger Dve, off Ontario Ave  
Monday to Friday 7.00am - 4.45pm  
Saturday, Sunday and Public Holidays 8.00am - 3.45pm

**Nangiloc Transfer Station** – Castle Crossing Rd  
Tuesday and Thursday 1.00pm - 6.00pm  
Sunday 3.00pm - 6.00pm

**Lake Cullulleraine Transfer Station** – Sturt Hwy  
Wednesday 1.30pm - 5.00pm  
Sunday 9.00am - 12.30pm

**Werrimull Waste Facility** – King St  
Wednesday 9.00am - 12.30pm  
Sunday 1.30pm - 5.00pm

**Sewage Dump Point**  
Cnr Benetook Ave and Adams St, Mildura

## Wentworth Shire Council

Ph: 03 5027 5027

**Wentworth Transfer Station** – Pooncarie Road  
Sunday and Wednesday 8.0am - 4.45pm  
Friday 12.30pm - 4.45pm

**Dareton Transfer Station** – Dunya Road  
Tuesday and Saturday 8.00am - 4.00pm  
Friday 12.30pm - 4.45pm

**Pomona Transfer Station** – Neilpo Road  
Friday 8.00am - 12.00pm

**Buronga Landfill** – Arumpo Road, 2.5km from the Silver City Highway turnoff  
Monday – Friday 8.00am - 4.45pm  
Saturday, Sunday 9.00am - 4.45pm

## Balranald Shire Council

Ph: 03 5020 1300

**Balranald** – Sturt Highway  
Tuesday, Thursday 5.00pm - 7.00pm  
Saturday  
Sunday 10.00am - 1.00pm  
10.00am – 3.00pm

**Euston** – Sturt Highway  
Tuesday, Thursday 5.00pm - 7.00pm  
Saturday 10.00am - 1.00pm  
Sunday 10.00am - 3.00pm

## Tumbarumba Shire Council

Ph: 02 6948 9100

**Tumbarumba Waste Transfer Station** – Saleyards Rd, Tumbarumba, off Mason’s Hill Rd  
Sunday 1.00pm - 6.00pm  
Wednesday 8.00am - 2.00pm  
Friday 1.00am - 5.00pm  
Saturday 9.00am - 2.00pm  
**Khancoban Landfill** – Alpine Way, Khancoban  
Tuesday, Friday, Sunday 1.00pm - 6.00pm

**Note:** All landfills are closed on Christmas Day, Anzac Day and Good Friday.  
*Sewage Dump Points – Some shires and some caravan parks have Sewage Dump Points for emptying portable toilets and caravan sullage.*



# Safe and sustainable camping guidelines



## Campfires

*If in doubt – Leave it out!*

Small campfires are permitted for cooking or warmth. Portable gas or electric barbecues may be used on a day of Total Fire Ban. The following rules apply:

- No solid fuel fires may be lit on a day of Total Fire Ban
- All flammable material within a distance of 3 metres is removed around a campfire or BBQ
- The fire is in a properly constructed fireplace or a 30cm deep trench. Trenches must be backfilled before leaving
- The fire is no larger than one (1) square metre
- The fire is attended by an adult at all times and is completely extinguished with water before leaving. The person in charge of the fire must be in the line of sight and within 50 metres
- In NSW, solid fuel fires (including wood and heat bead barbecues and cookers) are not permitted during the **‘Solid Fuel Fire Ban Period’** from 1 October to 31 March. Call the NSW National Parks office for more information 03 5483 9100



## Danger

*For your safety*

- Do not camp or park under or near trees as they can drop branches without warning, and may fall some distance from the tree
- Take care when swimming – fast currents, underwater objects and holes can be hazardous
- Do not venture into deep water without a life jacket
- Do not dive or jump into the river or use any kind of swing
- Beware of rising water. Access tracks can be flooded when the river level rises
- Be alert to other dangers – safety is your responsibility



## Rubbish

*Carry In Carry Out*

*Bottles and cans do not burn – please recycle them*

In Victoria:

- No bins are provided on the Victorian side of the Murray River
- Take all rubbish home for recycling or to a local waste disposal location
- Avoid bringing glass bottles and containers into the park
- Do not spray paint or attach signs to trees or objects
- Keep campsites free of litter at all times
- Do not place litter in campfires

In NSW:

- Rubbish collection points are provided at the entrances to most NSW reserves



## Firewood

*Do the bush a favour – use a gas stove instead*

- Cutting down any tree dead or alive is an offence – it can also be very dangerous
- Collect only a small amount of firewood from the ground – less than one cubic metre
- Do not burn hollow logs
- Do not drag or snig logs
- Do not place logs larger than 1 metre on the fire
- Firewood can now be collected at certain times without a permit from designated areas of State Forests and those parks where firewood collection is permitted. For further information on where you can collect wood go to [www.depi.vic.gov.au](http://www.depi.vic.gov.au)



## Campsites

*The best campsites are found, not made*

- All camps must be at least 20 metres from any waterway
- Permanent structures or camps are not permitted. Campsites must be vacated when directed by a parks employee
- Digging steps into river banks is illegal and can cause erosion and landslides
- Camping is not permitted in day visitor areas or on licensed water frontages adjacent to private property
- Unattended caravans and tents are deemed to be in permanent occupation and will be subject to legal proceedings if not moved when requested to do so by a parks employee



## Toilets

*Please use toilets where provided*

- Chemical toilets are recommended
- Earth pit toilets are acceptable, and must be at least 100 metres from any waterway
- Bury all toilet waste, including toilet paper
- Do not empty chemical toilets into onsite toilet facilities



## 4WD and motorbikes

*Don't take vehicles or motorbikes off road*

- Off road use of any vehicle (4WD, motorbikes and cars) is strictly prohibited and fines apply
- Drivers and riders must be licensed and vehicles registered and roadworthy. Motorcycle parks provide a safe place for children and recreational riding
- Victorian Recreational Registration for motorbikes is not recognised as legal in NSW
- Helmets must be worn
- Normal traffic laws apply
- Take care as drivers, walkers, bike riders and horse riders can all share the same tracks in some parks
- Boats and jet skis must only be launched at boat ramps. Vehicles must not be driven onto sand beaches or below the normal water mark (normally defined by the grassy edge)



## Dogs and other pets

*Ensure that you and your pets enjoy your holiday*

- Check whether dogs and other pets are permitted in the area before leaving home
- Where permitted, dogs must be on a lead or under effective control at all times
- It is an offence to allow your dog to chase native wildlife
- Dogs are territorial and will protect their camps. Please consider when and where you bring your dogs on holidays



## Generator use

*Use a commonsense approach. Minimise generator use and consider other visitors and campers.*

- In Victoria, generators are not permitted in national parks
- Always use a commonsense approach. Minimise generator use and consider other visitors and campers. As a general rule, non-natural sound is more acceptable in highly developed camping areas rather than remote camping areas where there are few facilities and sound travels greater distances
- To reduce the risk of starting a bushfire from your generator, always ensure:
  - the generator is located in an area clear of fuels, dry grass or other combustible objects
  - extension cords do not cross access tracks and are rated for external use
  - the generator is only refuelled when the engine is cold
  - avoid using generators on days of Total Fire Ban



## Fireworks

- It is illegal to obtain, possess or discharge fireworks unless you hold a Pyrotechnicians Licence or Fireworks (Single Use) Licence from WorkCover
- No fireworks are allowed in Murray River forests, parks and reserves
- Permits and/or licences will not under any circumstances be issued for bushfire prone areas including the Murray River parks and reserves
- People buying and using fireworks without a WorkCover permit risk a penalty notice with on the spot fines from police and WorkCover inspectors. The courts can impose substantial penalties for handling fireworks without a licence
- Fireworks are likely to cause bushfires. Anyone found guilty of causing a fire through the use of fireworks is liable to significant penalties. This also applies to inappropriate use of Marine Safety Flares
- To report the illegal use or sale of fireworks contact your local police

**IN EMERGENCY CALL 000**

**FIRE • POLICE • AMBULANCE**