

20th  
Edition

FREE  
Please  
take one

# THE MURRAY RIVER Guardian

Your guide to visiting and camping on the Murray River

2014 - 2015



## 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



Healthy Parks  
Healthy People®





# Welcome to the Murray River Guardian

WELCOME to the 20th edition of the Murray River Guardian, jointly produced by Parks Victoria and NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service.

This guide is filled with information on enjoying a variety of nature experiences along the Mighty Murray and in the unique River Red Gum parks. It also has stories on projects underway in the parks with our partner agencies.

Whether you're visiting for the first time or returning to your favourite camping spot, there's

always something new to uncover. Take a scenic drive through the world's largest River Red Gum forests or learn about Aboriginal life in the forest. Children will enjoy being involved in the Summer Discovery and Wilderquest programs.

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 may restrict access to some places. At the same time, other places are really dry, so please adhere to the local fire regulations that vary across the states.

Most importantly, have fun as you relax and unwind along Australia's iconic Murray River and its tributaries. See the centre pages for a list of places to visit and things to do in the region.

**Craig Stubbings**  
Regional Director, Northern Victoria  
Parks Victoria

**Ross McDonnell**  
Regional Manager, Western Rivers Region  
NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service



## 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)

## Traditional Owners

THE Murray River has supported 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 Traditional 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**

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# 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 family dog if you are visiting regional parks or reserves.



### Canoeing and kayaking

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 while the Ovens River offers fantastic still-water canoeing through a maze of channels and wetlands. Base yourself at the Edwards River Bridge Camping and Picnic Area and try the Edwards River Canoe Trail. Hire a canoe and set your own pace or book a tour with an experienced operator. The Mallee parks have some excellent canoeing when water levels are suitable.

### Cycling

Hop on your bike and explore the numerous trails along the banks of the Murray. Try 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 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

Fish for native species like the iconic Murray Cod. There are plenty of good fishing spots in the parks along the Murray and its tributaries. The campgrounds in the Murray Valley National and Regional Parks offer fantastic fishing opportunities in the Murray and Edwards Rivers and



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 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 Campground in Murray River Regional Park is an ideal location for the whole family - and it's even 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 from 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 at Lake Hattah Camping Area in Hattah-Kulkyne National Park. From 1 July 2014, a revised fee structure applies to camping in 197 of Victoria's 680 campsites in national, state and other parks and reserves. For further information or to book go to [www.parks.vic.gov.au/stay](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au/stay) or call 13 1963.

### 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

Spend a day by the Murray with family and friends. There are a large number of dedicated picnic spots throughout the Murray River parks. 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.



## 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](http://NATIONALPARKS.NSW.GOV.AU)  
OR CALL 1300 072 757





# Bird watching along the Murray River

Sally Nowlan - Parks Victoria

ROBINS, Rosellas, Babblers, Parrots, Wrens, Hens, Eagles, Coots, Grebes and many more; the list of the bird species to be found along the Murray River is very long and varied.

There are literally hundreds of different birds to see along the banks and waterways of the river. They range from those seen everywhere to those that are rarely seen, such as the Regent Parrot. These shy birds live mainly along the Murray and lower Darling Rivers, and nest in the hollows of old River Red Gums. They have bright yellow bodies, black-blue wings and deep red or pink beaks. Their very distinctive call can be heard long before they appear. The best places to see them are around Boundary Bend and nearby Yungera Island – about 60km south east of Robinvale, and also around Wemen – about 40km south west of Robinvale. Breeding is between August and December. Sometimes you will see parent parrots around the nest calling and trying to get their chicks to come out and test their wings.

Other brightly coloured birds to spot are Red-rumped Parrots, Yellow Rosellas, and if you're lucky, the endangered Superb Parrot that nests along the river in summer. The Murray Valley National Park, forests around Mathoura and Murray Valley Regional Park at Deniliquin

are ideal places to spot members of the Parrot family. The many lakes in Hattah-Kulkyne National Park and Yanga National Park and Millewa are great spots for a huge variety of water birds. Three kinds of Grebes can be seen here – the Australasian Grebe with its patterned cheeks, the larger Hoary-headed Grebe with a striped grey head and the biggest, the Great Crested Grebe with reddish neck feathers and a crest on top of its head. The



Black Swans

also have a huge variety of waterbird species, especially around the Barmah and Moira Lakes.

White-bellied Sea-eagles and Whistling Kites, Azure Kingfishers, Little Pied Cormorants, Nankeen Night Herons and Purple Swampheas can be found around here along the river and waterways like Budgee Creek, Gulpa Creek and Toopna Creek in Murray Valley National Park. Flame Robins can sometimes be seen during summer at Steamer Plain and Dharnya, and as a winter visitor on the sandhills near Mathoura.

The flowering trees and shrubs in the river reserves near the towns of Barmah, Mathoura and Picnic Point attract a wide variety of birds like Blue-faced Honeyeaters, Diamond Firetails, Brown Treecreepers, Rufous Whistlers, White-plumed Honeyeaters, Darters, Grey-crowned Babblers and Yellow-rumped or Striated Thornbills.

Lake Boga is an excellent location for spotting large numbers of native birds. There are 68 different species to be seen there, ranging from Black Swans to tiny Zebra Finches.

Piggery Wetlands in Yanga National Park are accessible only through guided tours, and offer a superb variety of water birds including Spoonbills, Black-fronted and Red-kneed Dotterels, Freckled Ducks, Pink-eared Ducks,



Flame Robin



Kingfisher (Photo: Tracey O'Keefe)

lakes are easily accessible and good spots to observe Regent Parrots during breeding season. Black-tail Native Hens can also be seen here. Bird identification booklets are available at the park's Information Centre with bird names and details.

Barmah National Park and Murray Valley National Park



Whistling Kite

## Hide with us in the Reed Beds

Photography: OEH/ Gavin Hansford

nationalparks.nsw.gov.au

### REED BEDS BIRD HIDE, MATHOURA 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 1300 072 757





White-bellied Sea-eagle

Australasian Shovelers, Australian Shell Ducks and Hardhead Ducks. Moira Lake, near Mathoura, is also a good location for these birds.

There are some great bird hides to visit. Kings Billabong near Mildura has a boardwalk winding through the wetlands and gives close-up insights into the world of the many waterbirds that live there. It's also a favourite spot for Fairy Wrens. Splendid, Variegated and Superb Wrens can also be spotted here. Listen to the Superb Wren call by turning the panels at the Reed Beds Bird Hide at Mathoura, and find out if birds really do "tweet" on the Gulpa Wetlands.

Quinn Island Wetland Sanctuary at Cobram is a forty hectare island formed by a bend in the Murray River. A trail winds through River Red Gums and Silver Wattles to a great bird hide overlooking a billabong full of birdlife.

East of Barooga, Boomanoomana Precinct, in Murray Valley National Park, has a stunning seasonal wetland



Purple Swamp Hen

surrounded by Yellowbox and Red Gum forests. Brolgas can be spotted here in the late Summer and early Autumn.

To the west of Mildura, local birdwatchers say that there are more birds to be seen along this part of the Murray because there are less boats and people here.

The dirt Old Mail Road follows the river from Merbein all the way to the SA border, with plenty of tracks leading to camping and picnic spots near the river. It's also one of the best Emu and kangaroo spotting routes. Along the way is Lake Cullulleraine, a renowned spot for beautiful Major Mitchell Cockatoos and Regent Parrots. Behind the lake on the river is Lock Nine which is open to the public and a waterbird hotspot.

Close to Wentworth, Theoga Lagoon is an excellent place to view many of the 100 listed bird species. Midway between Wentworth and Renmark, Lake Victoria bird watchers may find Regent Parrots, White-plumed Honeyeaters, Brown Treecreepers and Rufous Whistlers.

Neds Corner Station, now owned by Trust for Nature, also has over three kilometres of river frontage. Nearby Mulcra Island is a renowned local mecca for all birdlife, especially along Potterwalkagee Creek. Some of the birds found here are Grey Teals, Coots, White-faced Herons and Peaceful Doves, Crakes, White-backed Swallows and Red-kneed Dotterels.

Further west, Lindsay Island is another renowned bird watching location with the added bonus of its spectacular red river cliffs.



Superb Parrots (Photo: Gail Russell)



Nankeen Night Heron



Darter with chicks (Photo: Keith Ward)



# Ten-day Murray River adventure

Murray Regional Tourism

THE Murray is an adventure just waiting to happen. From leisurely pursuits like fishing or cruising, to adrenalin sports like water skiing or skydiving, there's a legendary river experience waiting for you – so leap into it!

The Murray excels in natural wonders, but it's the sheer diversity of landscapes and environments that will astound you. Just as the early explorers discovered, from High Country to semi-desert, it's a place of rivers, lakes, River Red Gum forests, national parks, native riverine bushland, and plentiful bird and animal life.

You could spend several weeks exploring all of the parks and attractions along the Murray, but you can easily tailor shorter trips to meet your time and budget. The following 10-day itinerary from Albury to Mildura covers the key natural wonders and great activities.

## Day 1 – 2

Albury-Wodonga is the first major stop as the Murray flows down from the mountains. Upstream, visit Mt Granya State Park, a nature lover's paradise with views of Lake Hume.

Mountain-bikers can try the trails at Nail Can Hill Reserve, while keen riders can tackle the 30km High Country Rail Trail around the shores of Lake Hume. The lake is great for fishing and water sports. Local operators hire canoes and can drop you one-way for paddles on the Upper Murray, including the popular 2-3 hour trip from Mungabareena Reserve to Noreuil Park or a paddle to the dam wall on Lake Hume.



Noreuil Park

From Albury-Wodonga you have two options – the north side of the Mighty Murray River or the south side. The north side journey takes you past the beautiful Wonga Wetlands to Howlong, a township dating back to 1836 when explorer Major Mitchell set up camp here.

Wonga Wetlands, about 7km west of Albury on the Murray floodplain, is a system of billabongs and lagoons providing a habitat for birdlife and a haven for birdwatchers and bushwalkers.

From Howlong it's onto Corowa, the birthplace of Australia's Federation. Check out the Federation Museum and the Corowa Whisky and Chocolate Factory before continuing onto Yarrawonga Mulwala.



Fishing for Murray Cod

The south side journey takes you along the Murray Valley Highway to Rutherglen, Australia's oldest wine region and wine tasting heaven!

Next stop is Yarrawonga-Mulwala, where you're spoiled for choice with watersports on Lake Mulwala. Go boating, canoeing, waterskiing and fishing for Murray cod, or just head to the foreshore where there's a waterslide, splash park and skate park. The MV Paradise Queen paddlesteamer cruises on the lake most days.



Paddlesteamer Emmylou – Echuca Moama

Head east to Cobram-Barooga and have a swim at Thompsons Beach, Australia's largest inland beach. Have a bite to eat at the Beach Cafe. Cobram-Barooga is the centre of a large stone-fruit growing industry and a good place to jump on the Farm Gate Trail, before continuing on to Echuca-Moama.

Midway along the river, historic Echuca is one of the Murray's most popular stops – equal parts history and adventure. In the port area, explore the newly opened Port of Echuca Discovery Centre, sneak underground at the Star Hotel, ride a horse-drawn carriage and cruise on a restored paddlesteamer – the steam whistle vies with the cockatoos for the most distinctive sound on the river. Also worth a visit in Echuca are the National Holden Museum and Great Aussie Beer Shed, paying homage to two Aussie icons.

Echuca Boat and Canoe Hire can set you up on 'campanoeing' trips, or saddle up with Billabong Ranch horseriding for short trail rides or overnight camping rides.



## DISTANCES:

Albury – Yarrawonga: 90km, 1 hour  
Yarrawonga – Echuca: 150km, 1 hour 40 minutes

## Day 3 – 4

First stop is Barmah National Park, a sublime forest and wetlands area straddling the Murray and forming the largest stand of River Red Gums in the world. The oldest River Red Gums are over 500 years old. The forest has been declared an internationally significant wetland. Arrive early for the excellent Kingfisher eco-cruises that run along a narrow stretch of the Murray most mornings at 10.30am. Worth a stop in Nathalia is a visit to the Barmah Forest Heritage and Education Centre, where you can learn about the environment and history of the nearby River Red Gum forests.



Paddling in the Barmah National Park wetlands

Drive north towards Deniliquin, crossing the Cadell Fault, a natural ridge created by earthquakes thousands of years ago. Stop off at Mathoura with easy access to Murray Valley National Park, a superb place for bushwalking and camping around the Murray and Edward Rivers. Plan an early morning or evening stop at the Reed Beds Bird Hide for an amazing view of the Gulpa Creek Wetlands. Visit the Edward River Bridge Picnic Area to photograph the forest sculpture before continuing up to Deniliquin to explore the Island Sanctuary, a natural island formed by the Edward River.



Head back down to the Murray on the back roads to Koondrook-Barham, a good base to explore Australia's largest inland island, Gunbower Island. You can access Gunbower National Park and its red gum forests by conventional vehicle from Koondrook, Cohuna or



Gunbower, or for those with more time and a 4WD, take the 354km River Red Gum Drive.

**DISTANCES:**  
Echuca – Barmah: 31km 25 minutes  
Barmah – Deniliquin: 77km, 56 minutes  
Deniliquin – Koondrook Barham: 103km, 1½ hours

**Day 5**  
Continue on to the Kerang Wetlands, an internationally recognised Ramsar wetlands area of lakes, lagoons and marshes with a huge population of waterbirds migratory birds and Victoria’s largest Ibis rookery – a bird watcher’s paradise! If you are more active, get on the water with a canoe or kayak and explore the area’s natural beauty.  
Swan Hill is a scenic, historic river town with some excellent food and wine options to choose from. One of the great Murray family attractions is the Pioneer Settlement, a faithful recreation of a 19th-century port town on the banks of the Marraboor (Little Murray) River. Join the period-costumed characters in a vintage car, horse drawn carriage or cruise on the paddlesteamer Pyap.

Excellent regional wineries include Andrew Peace, Dos Rios and Buller. Favourite dining experiences in Swan Hill include the Pan-Asian Java Spice and Spoons Riverside near the Pioneer Settlement.  
North of Swan Hill, call into Nyah-Vinifera Park, an enchanting little area of riverside Red Gum and Box forests.

**DISTANCES:**  
Koondrook – Kerang: 24km, 20 minutes  
Kerang – Swan Hill: 59km, 40 minutes



Langtree Avenue “Feast Street” – Mildura

**Day 6 –7**  
From Swan Hill, detour on the Mallee Highway to Balranald to access Yanga National Park. Visit the historic Yanga Homestead located on the lake among the riverine forests on the Murrumbidgee River.  
Continue on to Mildura, a sunny riverine oasis nudging the Australian outback and a fabulous spot for families, foodies and nature lovers, a gateway to the outback and a natural base for visiting remote national parks to



Mungo National Park north of Mildura

the north and south. Near Wentworth, Perry Sandhills comprise of 10 hectares of striking red dunes that were once part of the huge Willandra Lakes system and date back to an ice age 40,000 years ago. In Mildura, Kings Billabong is home to majestic River Red Gums, wetlands and a variety of bird life and great walking trails.  
Mildura also boasts some fine art deco architecture, highly regarded art galleries and paddleboat cruises from the historic Mildura Wharf.  
The renowned Chef-Hatted Stefano's and the Langtree Avenue 'Feast Street' – one of regional Victoria's finest dining strips – make Mildura a regional gourmet treat. Sample a brew at the art deco Mildura Brewery, visit Chateau Mildura (established by the Chaffey brothers) or take a paddleboat lunch cruise to Trentham Estate Winery or the award-winning Gol Gol Hotel – a great way to finish a food and wine tour of the Murray region.  
Golfers aren't forgotten here, with a choice of six 18-hole courses in the region, including a top-rated championship course at Mildura Golf and Country Club Resort.

**DISTANCES:**  
Swan Hill – Balranald: 100km, 70 minutes  
Balranald – Mildura: 162km, 1¾ hours

**Day 8 – 10**  
On the final days, for nature lovers, you can go north to the world famous Mungo National Park. You'll be awestruck by the ancient dunes known as the Great Walls of China and discover the park's incredible Indigenous heritage.  
Otherwise, head south to Hattah-Kulkyne National Park on the Murray floodplain, which attracts birds and wildlife superbly adapted to the conditions. To the west, remote Murray-Sunset National Park has an ethereal

beauty, vast open spaces and colourful spring wildflowers and is best visited with a 4WD in the cooler months.  
**DISTANCES:**  
Mildura – Mungo National Park: 180km  
  
To find out more about touring the Murray, or to book your next trip to the Murray and take advantage of some great deals visit [www.visitthemurray.com.au](http://www.visitthemurray.com.au).

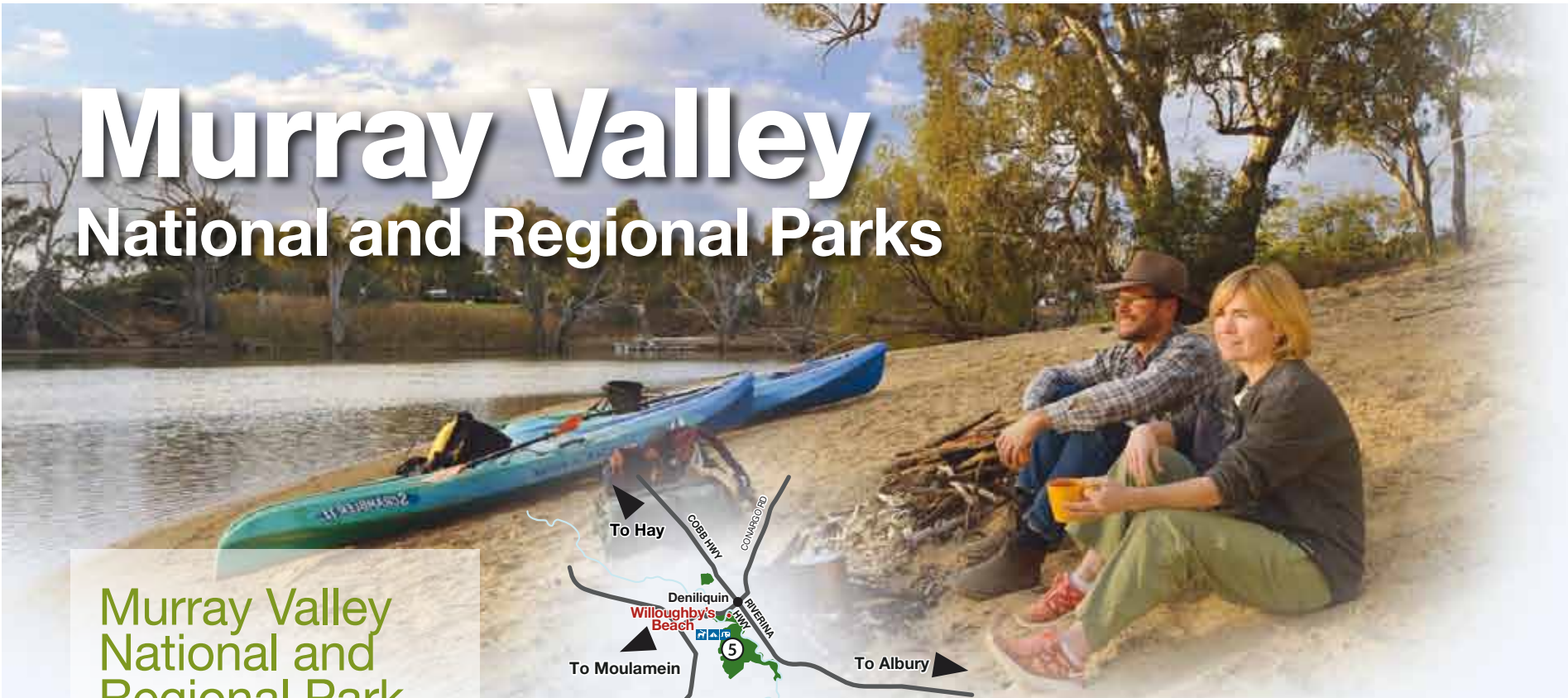


Fishing on the Murray River



Golfing along the Murray





# Murray Valley National and Regional Parks

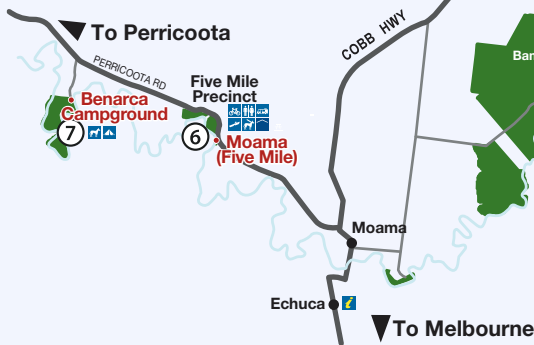
## Murray Valley National and Regional Park

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.

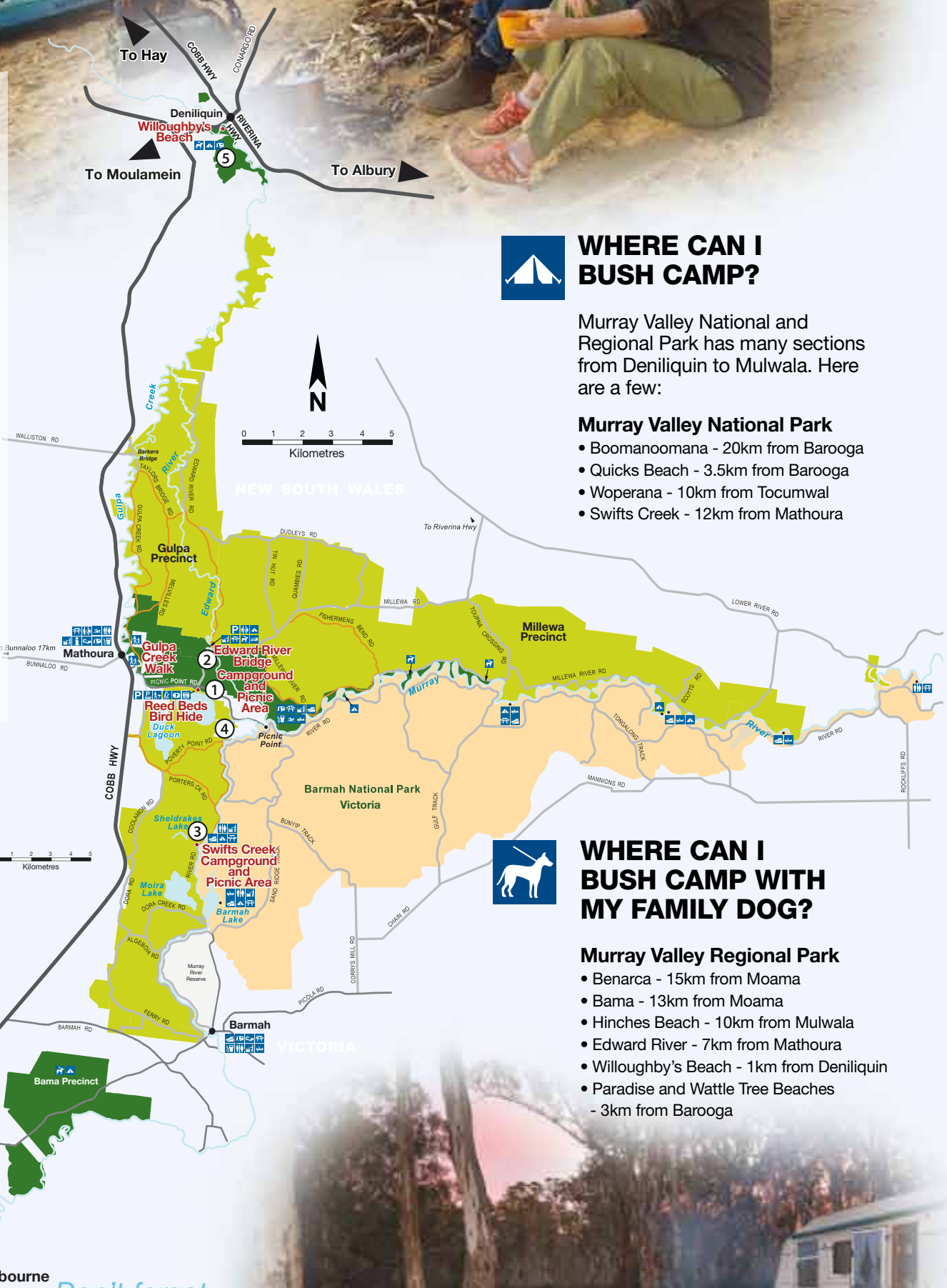
But they are more than just natural beauty, with nods to our recent history of forestry and grazing. The result is an outdoor history lesson you will not want to miss.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT  
[NATIONALPARKS.NSW.GOV.AU](http://NATIONALPARKS.NSW.GOV.AU)  
OR CALL 1300 072 757

*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.*



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



### 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

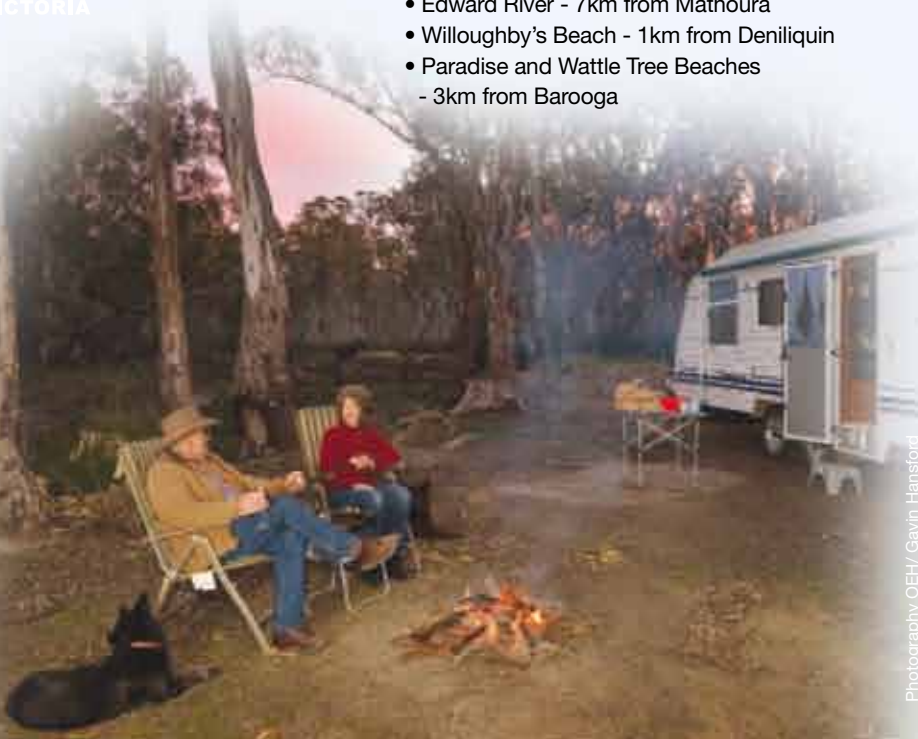


### WHERE CAN I BUSH CAMP WITH MY FAMILY DOG?

#### 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

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





Relive the history  
of the forest at  
Edward River  
Picnic Area &  
Campground,  
Mathoura



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.



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.

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.

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

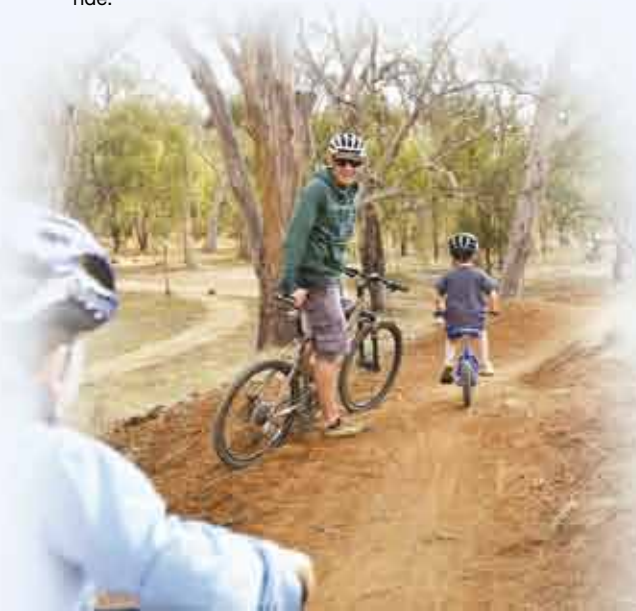


Swim in the iconic Murray River, enjoy a picnic in the shade of a River Red Gum or cook up a barbeque using the facilities provided. Watch their kayakers paddle by or join in the fun. While you're there, take a moment to marvel at this ancient waterway and the majestic trees that line its banks. Ski 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)



WHILE it might seem still and quiet in Gunbower Forest there's actually a lot of secret activity going on 'behind the scenes'.

Some of the most important activity going on in Gunbower Forest is less visible, and can only be seen by a specially trained eye – or with a microscope!

When exploring the forest you may notice areas of darker water – this is often referred to as blackwater.

Blackwater occurs when organic matter (leaves, bark and grasses) on the forest floor and in the wetlands is flooded and begins to decay. As it breaks down it releases carbon, nutrients and tannins into the water, turning it a dark colour.

The carbon that is released into the water is important as it provides a boost to the food web. The number of water bugs in the water increases, which in turn act as food sources for fish, waterbirds and other aquatic animals.

These events are natural but, when severe, can lead to a lack of oxygen in the water, an unfortunate part of the ecology of floodplain forests like Gunbower Forest.

Using environmental water to flood Gunbower Forest more often will help reduce the risk of these severe blackwater events as it means less leaf litter on the floodplain, and the forest gets a regular 'flush through.'



Did you know...

G

UNBOWER Forest is actually an island. In fact, it's Australia's largest inland island and is bordered by the Murray River and Gunbower Creek.

Another important fact about Gunbower Forest is that it relies on regular flooding to remain healthy.

Like nearly any other species on earth, the River Red Gums and wetland plants within the forest need a good drink every so often to survive. Without this drink, most of the plants and animals that grow and live within the forest would die.

Unfortunately, there's not always enough water around for the forest to be flooded naturally, so 'environmental water' is delivered into the forest to make sure it gets the drink it needs to remain healthy.

Adding water to the forest has an almost immediate and magical effect – much the same as when you water a thirsty plant. The forest comes alive with aquatic plants that germinate in response to the flood waters.

Frogs call and Duck, Cormorants, Ibis and Egrets can be seen in the forest wetlands. You might also spot green growth on the towering River Red Gums and, down on the ground, a green carpet of native grass starts to appear.

Flooding Gunbower Forest using environmental water also boosts fish numbers in Gunbower Creek and the Murray River, giving them greater access to habitat and food.

## The tale of the fox and the turtle

**A** FOX once captured a turtle, but it could not manage to break through the solid shell in order to eat it.

*"You should try by putting me in the water for a while to soften me up," suggested the shrewd turtle.*

*This sounded excellent advice to the fox, so he carried his prey to the stream. The turtle, who was a superb swimmer, slid out of the fox's paws and re-emerged in the mid-stream laughing, "There are animals that are even more cunning than you!"*

While this is a great fable, unfortunately, most turtles aren't as cunning as this.

The turtles of the Murray River are constantly under

threat from foxes that prey on their young and eat their precious eggs.

Gunbower Forest and its adjoining lagoons are key breeding and habitat areas for three of Australia's freshwater turtle species – the Murray River Turtle, the Broad-shelled Turtle and the Eastern or Common Long-necked Turtle.

While there are many threats facing these turtles, including human impacts such as illegal netting and road kill, the most serious threat is foxes.

Foxes attack female turtles as they lay their eggs or raid the nests buried in soil next to the creek and lagoons. They also eat the turtle eggs during incubation. A fox can destroy many nests in a single night, killing hundreds of turtles.

.....

## Out-cunning the foxes

The North Central Catchment Management Authority (CMA) has teamed up with the University of Western Sydney to research the impact of foxes on turtles within Gunbower Forest.

Turtles Australia, students from the University of Western Sydney and passionate members of the community have undertaken an intensive monitoring program, including using trigger sensor cameras to record fox populations in and around key nesting sites.

The North Central CMA has also partnered with private and public land managers to implement a fox baiting and monitoring program.



Baby turtle

## What can you do?

While you're in the area, you can get involved in turtle protection too through a new App, TurtleSAT via [www.turtlesat.org.au](http://www.turtlesat.org.au).

Download this easy to use App to record turtle sightings and map any nest sites you come across and, like the turtle in the story, let's outsmart those foxes together!



Turtle nest raided by foxes



# Discover Murray River War Trail

**T**OURISM award-winners, Discover Murray River, has embarked on a new visitor experience for people travelling our mighty Murray River region to connect with the stories of the communities that preserve and protect the legacy of Australian diggers for the future.

Discover Murray River has begun work on Australia's only Tri-State inland war trail following the Murray River through New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia.

The new tourism trail and experience has stemmed from their extensive knowledge and networks along the Murray River. There are many war memorials, RSL Clubs, museums, soldier settlements and internment camps in the region to discover. Promoting the Murray's war stories of the soldiers for an even more reflective generation of travelling Australians is valuable. This includes the growing RV travellers who enjoy the region's towns, heritage, food and wine and national parks.

The suggested trail itinerary can begin at the Australian War Museum in Canberra, travels through New South Wales,

Victoria and South Australia to end at Peake, the home of a cutting from Gallipoli's Lone Pine in the Mallee or the Indigenous War Memorial in Raaukan, South Australia, yet ultimately hugging much of the Murray River as you go.

Many stories such as the history of the Lake Boga Flying Boat Museum and war base feature along the Murray War Trail while more stories keep appearing. The goal is to continue build a legacy for the River and to honour the rich history of the region and its contribution to Australia's war efforts, both with soldiers serving and also food production for the country.

Robinvale also features predominantly on the Discover Murray River War Trail. Robinvale is sister town to Villers Bretonneux in France that was the key to halting the German's advances on the Western Front in World War 1. The town's founders were Herbert and Margaret Cuttle. Their son, Lieutenant George Robin Cuttle, was unfortunately killed in air combat. Having a sister town equivalent to

Gallipoli on the Murray River ensures we have a spiritual connection to Australia's war heritage.

The Discover Murray War Trail directly links to the long established Discover Murray River Trail and Murray River Apps. The Murray River website has been established since 1998 and is the go-to website for the Murray River region. Visitors can also pick up a Passport and Visitor's Guide to further discover the Murray River Trail. The Passport is a great starting point to creating a growing appreciation for the rich culture and diversity of Australia's Murray River region. It has information for travellers, an area to collect stamps from the visitor information centres in each listed town and vouchers to be enjoyed at restaurants, tourist attractions, pubs, clubs and more.

Google 'Murray River War Trail' for more information and links. To pick up your copy of the Discover Murray River Trail Passport, stop in at one of many visitor centres along the river in each State.



RAAF Aviation Memorial and Museum, Mildura, Victoria



Lake Boga Flying Boat Museum, Lake Boga, Victoria    Photos: Shane Strudwick/Discover Murray River

### A Guide to Australia's Murray River WAR TRAIL

**Discover Murray**  
MurrayRiver.com.au

**Discover MURRAY RIVER WAR TRAIL**

**www.MurrayRiver.com.au/Murray-River-War-Trail**

2nd Lt. George Cuttle  
Military Cross  
Born: Robinvale  
Sister town: Villers Bretonneux France

**Murray RV**  
Friendly Region

**Discover Murray River Trail PASSPORT & VISITOR GUIDE**

**Murray RV**  
Friendly Region



# Log revetment on the banks of the Murray River Hume Dam to Lake Mulwala

NSW Department of Primary Industries | Office of Water

**W**HAT is a revetment – read on to find out? The waters of Australia’s rivers are utilised to meet the demands of irrigation, human water needs and recreation. All of these activities cause some adverse impacts. Appropriate river works programs are critical to maintain and enhance the condition of our working rivers, such as the Murray, to ensure they continue to provide this vital nexus into our future.

The Hume Dam to Lake Mulwala River Murray Works Program is the largest erosion control program of its kind in Australia. To date, over \$21M has been invested in the project which includes 200km of Murray main channel and 160km of anabranches (720km of bank) downstream of Lake Hume. The program aims to mitigate the detrimental geomorphic impacts of regulation arising from Hume Dam and extends as far back as 1959.

One of the main sites rehabilitated in April 2014 is at Wahgunyah, Victoria, directly upstream from what was once a steam-powered flour mill built by John Foord in

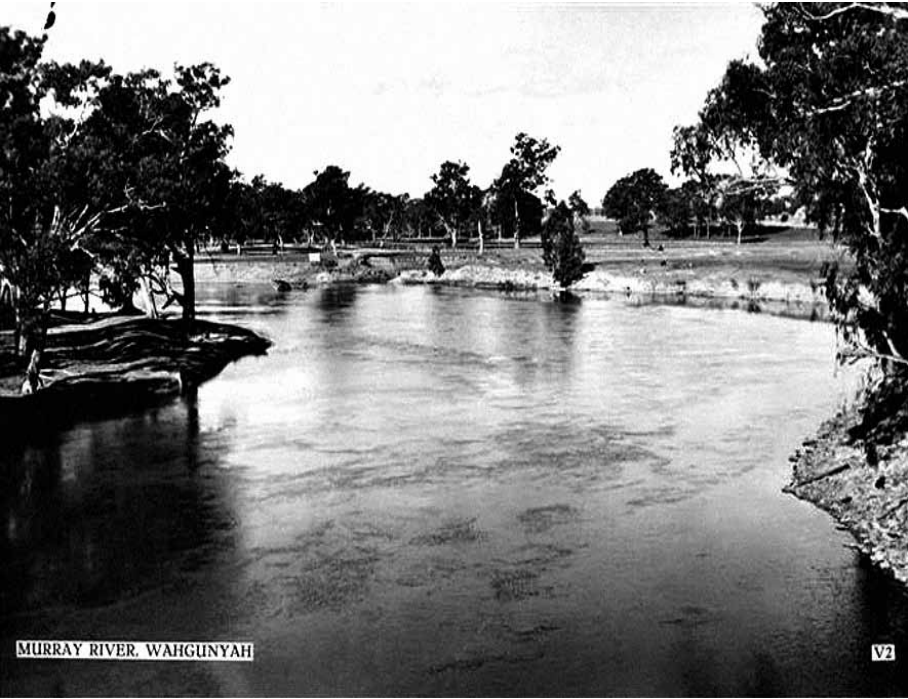
1859. The site has seen much activity over the past 150 years with paddleboats moored at the front of the mill and a large dairy. It is also interesting that the site had been mostly cleared of native vegetation in an image dated 1866.

In recent years, the riverbanks in this area have been subject to severe erosion from increased recreational boating activity. Between 1 January 2014 and 28 February 2014 (59 days), the bank at this site retreated 320mm. This rapid erosion is not typical of erosion caused by regulated flow, but is more likely to be due to the impact of large boat waves. Recent monitoring has also shown that Murray River bank erosion levels around Corowa are the most severe and extensive within the entire project area.

Log revetment has been undertaken to rehabilitate the site at Wahgunyah, and help protect the river banks from further erosion. Revetments are structures placed on banks or cliffs to absorb the energy of incoming water. One hundred and fifty large red gum and box logs, transported from a property near Blighty, were



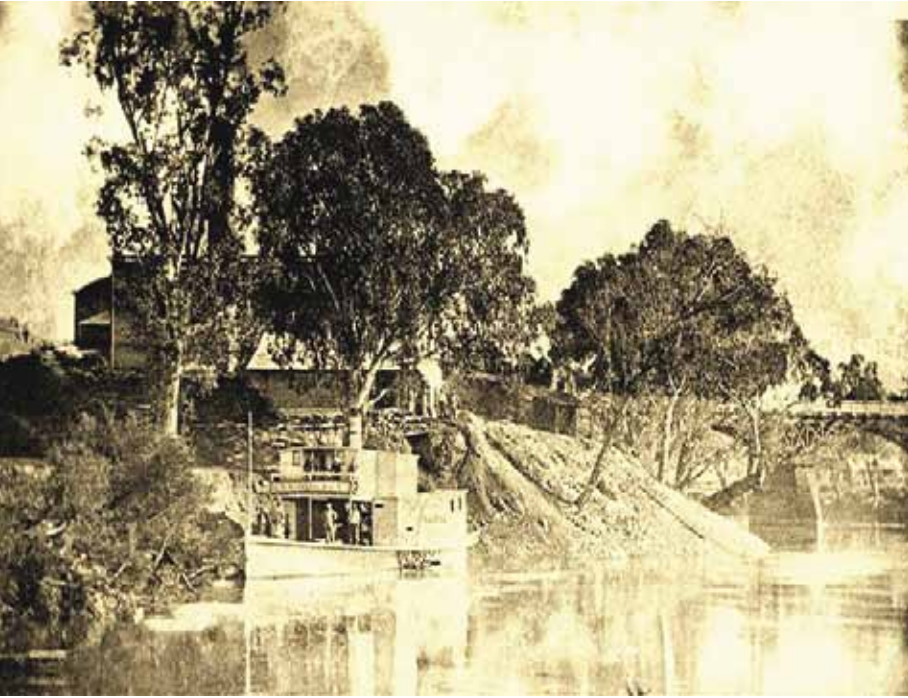
secured using 4m red gum pins driven into the river bed with a large excavator. Plant species such as River Bottlebrush and Common Reed have since been planted to help bind the site together.



Before log revetment undertaken (date unknown), old flour mill is located above the gravel to the right of the picture



Log revetment undertaken in April 2014



PS Wahgunyah at Wahgunyah flour mill, both owned by John Foord, 1867. Historical photos and information courtesy of the Wahgunyah Historical Society.



Typical Boat wash seen on the River Murray 2013



# Exploring with your dog

THERE are plenty of places where you can take your dog. The 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.

Dogs are not permitted in national parks and conservation reserves 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.



## Dog etiquette

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

- Your dog must be on-lead unless you're in 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 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
- Don't forget to bring along extra water for your dog
- Dogs are territorial and will protect their camps. Please consider when and where you bring your dogs on holidays

Always check ahead before you visit to confirm if dogs are allowed. 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)

# Your piece of the forest



Photography DEH Gavin Hansford



[nationalparks.nsw.gov.au](http://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 amenities (barbecues, picnic tables and toilets). 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 1300 072 757**



# Club Marine Southern 80

6-8 February 2015

THE 2015 Southern 80 event will see 50 years since we first started ski racing on the Murray River. Over the weeks till the race, we will be sharing some of the stories about the race over the years - follow us on Facebook to chat with past and current competitors and share the history that makes the Southern 80 the Biggest Ski Race in the World.

There is so much to see during this event, with 'Breakfast with the Stars' starting off the weekend on the 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.

On Saturday morning from 8.00am, the teams will prepare to hit the water for the first race of the weekend. Racing will take place 5 Mile Boat Ramp to Victoria Park boat ramp all day. While some teams are pitting their speed, skill and bodies against each other and the clock and at times the unforgiving Murray River 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.

Not all the excitement is limited to the race boats on the water. The finish line at Victoria Park has a festival atmosphere and offers 500 meters of river bank to enjoy all aspects of the event. As spectators watch the teams



finish, they can also find something to eat with a huge range of food available and heaps of entertainment for the kids including face painting, a jumping castle and air brush tattoo's. Adults will also find entertainment with trade sites covering everything from clothing, ski gear, power tools, boats, trailers and much more.

On Sunday there will be 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 remind 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, 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 Face Book or twitter or purchase the event app from iTunes or Google play, only \$1.99.



## Barrie Beehag Water Ski Race

November 2015

THE Moama Water Sports Club (MWSC) holds the Barrie Beehag Water Ski Race in November. 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. Presentations are held after racing on the lawn area at Deep Creek Marina Hotel. 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).



# Yanga National Park



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

### YANGA NATIONAL PARK - BALRANALD

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.

Call into the Yanga office and ask about our new, self guided audio tours. Choose a campsite on the Murrumbidgee River, or for a unique remote experience call to book at Woolpress Bend.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT  
[NATIONALPARKS.NSW.GOV.AU](http://NATIONALPARKS.NSW.GOV.AU)  
OR CALL 1300 072 757



# 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'll 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 a range of outdoor activities such as 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 bush walks. Pine Mountain is a gigantic rock monolith reputedly one and a half times as large as Uluru (Ayers Rock). Mt Burrowa (1,300m) is the highest peak in the park and is often snow covered in winter.

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

**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 passive recreational pursuits.

**Woomargama National Park**, 30km north-east of Albury, contains the largest remnant community of box woodlands on the South West Slopes. It's an important haven for a large number of threatened and endangered species such as the Regent Honeyeater, Superb parrot, Powerful owl, Booroolong frog and Carpet python. It's also home to the very rare wattle, Acacia phasmoides. Parts of the reserve are close to 1000m above sea level, providing stunning views over the Murray River, Riverina and South West Slopes.

Enjoy bush walking, bird watching, four wheel driving and motorcycling. Norths Lookout, on Tin Mine Trail, provides extensive views over the Riverina and the western slopes of the Great Dividing Range. The Tin Mines and Samuel Bollard picnic and camping areas (suitable for backpack and vehicle-based camping) are stopping points on the Hume and Hovell Walking Track.

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

*Regent Honeyeater – Dean Ingwersen  
Birds Australia*

## 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 a popular place 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 is used to irrigate 350ha of tree lots and pasture and in the second half it is 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.

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

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

**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 water sports like fishing, boating, 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 with camping areas well away from the main road. The reserve is subject to flooding, but at other times it is a very pleasant 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 bird life such as cockatoos, galahs, water birds, thornbills, white ibis, herons, pelicans and swans.

**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 – Tocumwal

Explore this area by bike, boat or 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 and Regional Parks** (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 Ski Beach and Quicks Beach 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 late 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 of Tocumwal, all surrounded by some of the most impressive River Red Gum Forests on the Murray.

**The 'Blowhole'**, situated on a granite outcrop approximately 11km north of Tocumwal, 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

## Deniliquin

**Mclean Beach**, or "Bondi of the Outback" as the locals call it, is one of Australia's finest inland beaches. Mclean Beach, on the Edward River, 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. 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 park at Deniliquin. With so many peaceful places you can bush camp beside the river, throw in a line, paddle your canoe or cycle with your family. Deniliquin Regional Park is dog friendly.

**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

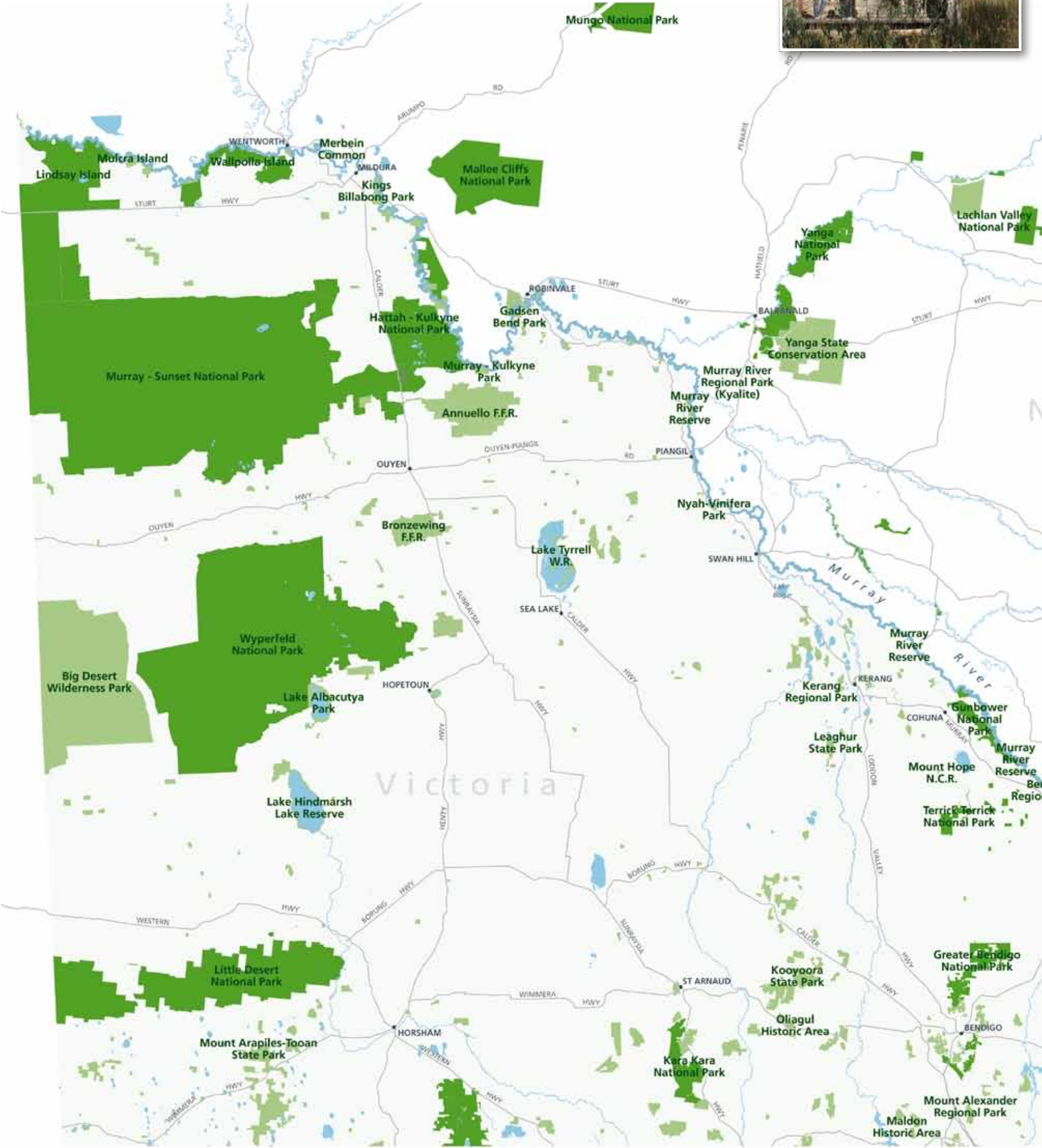
## Echuca–Moama

Echuca-Moama, just 2.5 hours from Melbourne, represents a bygone era of horse-drawn carriages, paddle steamers 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.

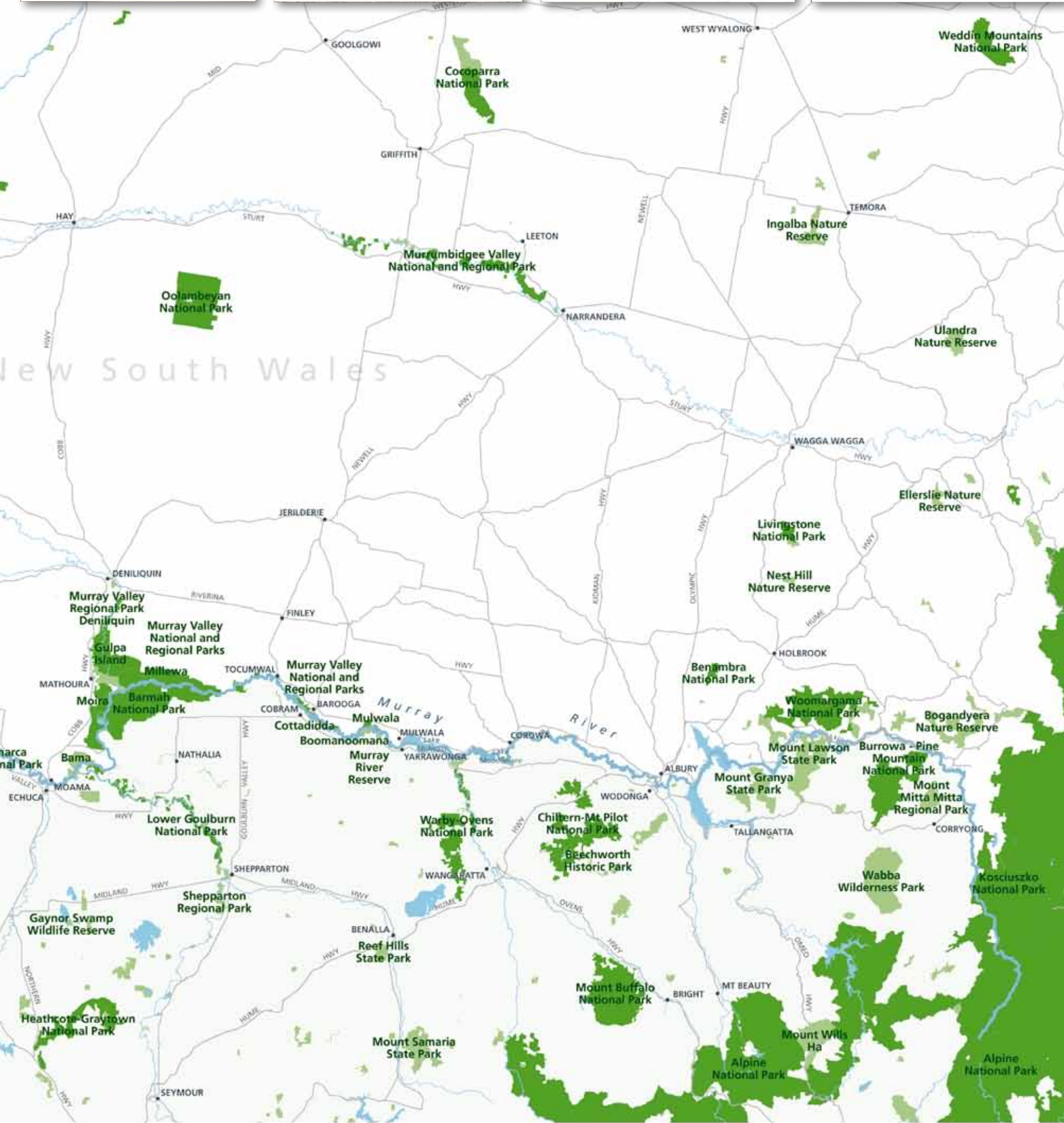


# Your guide to the Murray River Parks



- 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)



**Port Picnic Bikes in Echuca** – This free bike scheme links local businesses and promotes cycling as a sustainable and healthy mode of transport 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 also taking the opportunity to stop off on the banks of the legendary Murray River, just metres from the shops, for a picnic.



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 Horseshoe Lagoon, Moama's wetland and floodplain reserve.

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.

**The Murray River Reserves** protect natural and cultural attractions of the area along the river. Linked by the majestic beauty of the Murray River, the reserves feature towering River Red Gums, tranquil picnic sites, sandy beaches and wide expanses of water. Popular camping areas include Christies Beach, just 5km from Echuca, Torrumbarry and Wills Bend.

**Murray Valley Regional Park** (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. The seven kilometre mountain bike trail at Moama Five Mile is a fantastic ride.

**Echuca–Moama Visitor Information Centre**  
2 Heygarth Street, Echuca VIC 3564  
Freecall: 1800 804 446  
[www.echucamoama.com](http://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 a peaceful holiday 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) – The wetlands provide 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 along Picnic Point Road. Hidden 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 on 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. 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](http://www.mathoura.com.au)

**Kerang – Cohuna – Barham – Koondrook**

**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 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](http://www.swanhillonline.com)

**Robinvale – Euston – Balranald**

**Yanga National Park and Yanga State Conservation Area** – Just a short drive from Balranald, 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. See Cooks Cottage exhibition to 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 the area popular for fishing.

**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](http://www.robinvaleeuston.com.au)

**Balranald Visitor Information Centre**  
Market Street, Balranald NSW 2715  
Freecall: 1800 444 043  
[www.balranald.nsw.gov.au](http://www.balranald.nsw.gov.au)

**Mildura**

**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 is 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 a major recreation focus with 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 at Psyche Bend 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 see 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 carpark.

**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. 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 90km west of Mildura towards the South Australian border. A number of small creeks carry 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. Enjoy a range of activities 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](http://www.visitmildura.com.au)

**Wentworth**

**Confluence of Murray River and Darling River** – View the confluence of the two greatest rivers in Australia from the spiral staircase. If both rivers are flowing, notice the contrasting colours of the clay based Darling River and the sand based Murray River. Junction Island is the shoal of land between the Murray and Darling Rivers. Access to the Island is over a footbridge. Walk to the point of the confluence and along the trail view a canoe tree, flora, fauna, wildlife and birdlife.



Photo courtesy Nikki Bond

**Thegoa Lagoon and Reserve**, adjacent to the Murray River and Darling River confluence, is a non-permanent wetland that supports a diverse array of native flora and fauna. Self-guided tour brochures available. Learn about Aboriginal sites and view birds from the bird hides.

**The Perry Sandhills** originated 40,000 years ago due to wind erosion over thousands of years. Skeletal remains of giant mega-fauna have been found here. Replicas of the animals can be seen in the Wentworth Pioneer Museum. A 500 year old River Red Gum tree can be found over the first sandhill, with her trunk buried in the sand, allowing you to stand in the canopy of the tree.

**Lake Victoria**, 65kms from Wentworth, is an important cultural heritage site for the Aboriginal community, as well as being a vital water storage for South Australia. There is an information bay and memorial lookout at the Lake. Camping and fishing areas are available on the nearby Rufus and Murray Rivers.

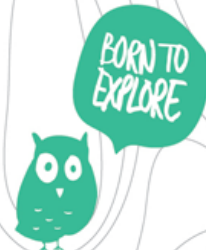
**Wentworth Visitor Information Centre**  
66 Darling Street, Wentworth NSW 2648  
Phone: (03) 5027 5080

And... if you are heading further down the Murray through South Australia, then 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



# JUNIOR RANGERS



## Caught on camera!

Take only photos, leave only footprints – that’s the Junior Ranger Way!

Photographing our beautiful parks is a fun way to explore without causing disruption to habitats or animals that live there.

Photography challenge: take a photo of each item and tick them off as you go!

- ☐ Natural object
- ☐ Something that doesn’t belong
- ☐ Un-natural object
- ☐ Take 5 obscure pictures of items in the park and challenge your friends and family to try guess what they are.
- ☐ Something you’ve never seen before

Tips for a pro photographer:

1. **Be creative:** crouch down, zoom in, lean over or stand on your tip-toes. Different viewpoints make for a more interesting set of photographs.
2. **Think about the background:** sometimes a photo’s background can be distracting. Check your backgrounds and frame your subject so it stands out (e.g. against a clear sky or solid colours)
3. **Take lots!** If you have a digital camera you can take heaps of photos and learn what works best by experimenting. Nothing is too crazy for a nature photographer.

Test your skills: try to include each of the essential aspects listed below

**Capture a landscape**  
foreground, mid ground and background objects

**Find your focus**  
One point of focus, simple background

**Quick critters**  
Moving animal in sharp focus



## Environmental colour match

When you look at the bush, what colours do you see? A healthy park is full of colour and has lots of different native plants and animals.

Explore your park and see how many colours you can match. Write each item below:

<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>

## I-SPY IN THE BUSH



While out in a park find an object for as many letters of the alphabet as you can.

A	N
B	O
C	P
D	Q
E	R
F	S
G	T
H	U
I	V
J	W
K	X
L	Y
M	Z

Draw a picture of the object you find starting with the first letter of your name.

For more fun things to do in the River Red Gum parks visit [www.juniorrangers.com.au](http://www.juniorrangers.com.au) and [www.wilderquest.nsw.gov.au](http://www.wilderquest.nsw.gov.au).





# Stay fire safe this summer

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

FIRE Danger Ratings tell you how dangerous a fire would be if one started, including how difficult it would be for emergency services to put out. The higher the rating, the more dangerous the conditions.

Fire Danger 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. You should check the Fire Danger Rating for your area daily.

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 [emergency.vic.gov.au](https://www.emergency.vic.gov.au) website or by calling the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667.

*During the fire season, it's up to you to stay informed.*

### Code Red Days

Code Red Days mean that the conditions for fire are extremely dangerous.

Code Red Days are 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 rated days, these days can also be very dangerous.

**For more information please visit [emergency.vic.gov.au](https://www.emergency.vic.gov.au) or phone the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667.**

### There are many ways to stay informed

- Visit the [emergency.vic.gov.au](https://www.emergency.vic.gov.au) website to stay updated on the fire risk in your area
- If you have an iPhone/iPad or Android device, download the FireReady app
- Join the CFA facebook page: [facebook.com/cfavic](https://facebook.com/cfavic)
- Follow CFA on Twitter: [twitter.com/cfa\\_updates](https://twitter.com/cfa_updates)
- Bookmark the VicEmergency Warnings and Incidents webpage [emergency.vic.gov.au](https://www.emergency.vic.gov.au)
- Call the Victorian Bushfire Information Line (VBIL) on 1800 240 667. VBIL provides up-to date information on what you can and cannot do during fire restrictions, Fire Danger Ratings and Total Fire Bans
- Callers who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech communication impairment can contact VBIL via the National Relay Service on 1800 555 677
- Check the latest traffic information and road closures before you drive by calling VicRoads Traffic Management Centre: 131 170
- Call Triple Zero (000) to report a fire or emergency

### Away from home checklist

- On hot, dry, windy days ensure you plan your 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
- Find out what bushfire safety plans are in place where you are camping, caravanning or renting accommodation
- In some high risk bushfire areas, a Neighbourhood Safer Place can be used as a last resort. Check the CFA website to find out if there is one near you or contact the Visitor Information Centre
- 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 emergency kit and have it accessible at all times. Contents should include drinking water, woollen blankets, protective clothing such as long-sleeved natural fibre tops, pants, sturdy shoes and hats
- Use your senses, watch for signs of fire such as seeing or smelling smoke or hearing sirens, don't expect an official warning

## KNOW YOUR DAILY FIRE DANGER RATING



**FIRE DANGER RATING**

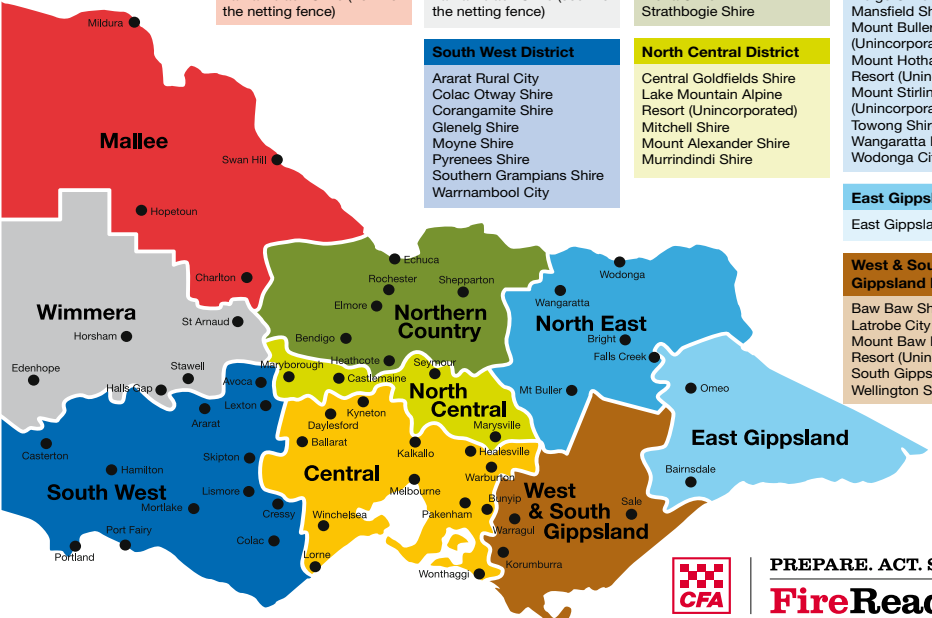
The Fire Danger Rating predicts fire behaviour (should a fire start) and how dangerous it would be to put out. The higher the rating, the more dangerous the conditions.

Fire Danger Ratings feature in weather forecasts during the fire season.

To check your district's daily Fire Danger Rating, visit [emergency.vic.gov.au](https://www.emergency.vic.gov.au) or call **1800 240 667**.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?		WHAT SHOULD I DO?
CODE RED	> These are the worst conditions for a bush or grassfire.	> Leaving high-risk bushfire areas the night before or early in the day is your safest option – do not wait and see.
	> Homes are not designed or constructed to withstand fires in these conditions.	> Avoid forested areas, thick bush or long, dry grass.
EXTREME	> The safest place to be is away from high-risk bushfire areas.	> 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>
	> Expect extremely hot, dry and windy conditions.	> 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.
SEVERE	> 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.	> If you are not prepared to the highest level, leaving high-risk bushfire areas early in the day is your safest option.
	> Homes that are situated and constructed or modified to withstand a bushfire, that are well prepared and actively defended, may provide safety.	> Be aware of local conditions. Seek information by listening to ABC local radio, commercial and designated community radio stations, or watch Sky News TV, visit <a href="https://www.emergency.vic.gov.au">emergency.vic.gov.au</a> , call the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667 or via National Relay Service on 1800 555 677.
VERY HIGH	> You must be physically and mentally prepared to defend in these conditions.	> Well-prepared homes that are actively defended can provide safety – check your Bushfire Survival Plan.
	> Expect hot, dry and possibly windy conditions.	> If you are not prepared, leaving bushfire-prone areas early in the day is your safest option.
HIGH	> If a fire starts and takes hold, it may be uncontrollable.	> Be aware of local conditions. Seek information by listening to ABC local radio, commercial and designated community radio stations, or watch Sky News TV, visit <a href="https://www.emergency.vic.gov.au">emergency.vic.gov.au</a> , call the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667 or via National Relay Service on 1800 555 677.
	> Well-prepared homes that are actively defended can provide safety.	> Check your Bushfire Survival Plan.
LOW-MODERATE	> You must be physically and mentally prepared to defend in these conditions.	> Monitor conditions.
	> If a fire starts, it can most likely be controlled in these conditions.	> Action may be needed.
	> Be aware of how fires can start and minimise the risk.	> Leave if necessary.
	> Controlled burning off may occur in these conditions if it is safe – check to see if permits apply.	

## KNOW YOUR TOTAL FIRE BAN DISTRICT



**Mallee District**

- Buloke Shire
- Gannawarra Shire
- Mildura Rural City
- Swan Hill Rural City
- Yarriambiack Shire (north of the netting fence)

**Wimmera District**

- Hindmarsh Shire
- Horsham Rural City
- Northern Grampians Shire
- West Wimmera Shire
- Yarriambiack Shire (south of the netting fence)

**Northern Country District**

- Campaspe Shire
- Greater Bendigo City
- Greater Shepparton City
- Loddon Shire
- Moir Shire
- Strathbogie Shire

**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

**Central District**

- Ballarat City
- Banyule City
- Bass Coast Shire
- Bayside City
- Boroondara City
- Brimbank City
- Cardinia Shire
- Casey City
- Darebin City
- Frankston City
- French Island (Unincorporated)
- Glen Eira City
- Golden Plains Shire
- Greater Dandenong City
- Greater Geelong City
- Hepburn Shire
- Hobsons Bay City
- Hume City
- Kingston City
- Knox City
- Macedon Ranges Shire
- Manningham City
- Maribyrnong City
- Maroondah City
- Melbourne City
- Melton Shire
- Monash City
- Moonee Valley City
- Moorabool Shire
- Moreland City
- Mornington Peninsula Shire
- Nilumbik Shire
- Port Phillip City
- Queenscliffe Borough
- Stonnington City
- Surf Coast Shire
- Whitehorse City
- Whittlesea City
- Wyndham City
- Yarra City
- Yarra Ranges

**South West District**

- Ararat Rural City
- Colac Otway Shire
- Corangamite Shire
- Glenelg Shire
- Moyne Shire
- Pyrenees Shire
- Southern Grampians Shire
- Warrnambool City

**North Central District**

- Central Goldfields Shire
- Lake Mountain Alpine Resort (Unincorporated)
- Mitchell Shire
- Mount Alexander Shire
- Murrindindi Shire

**East Gippsland District**

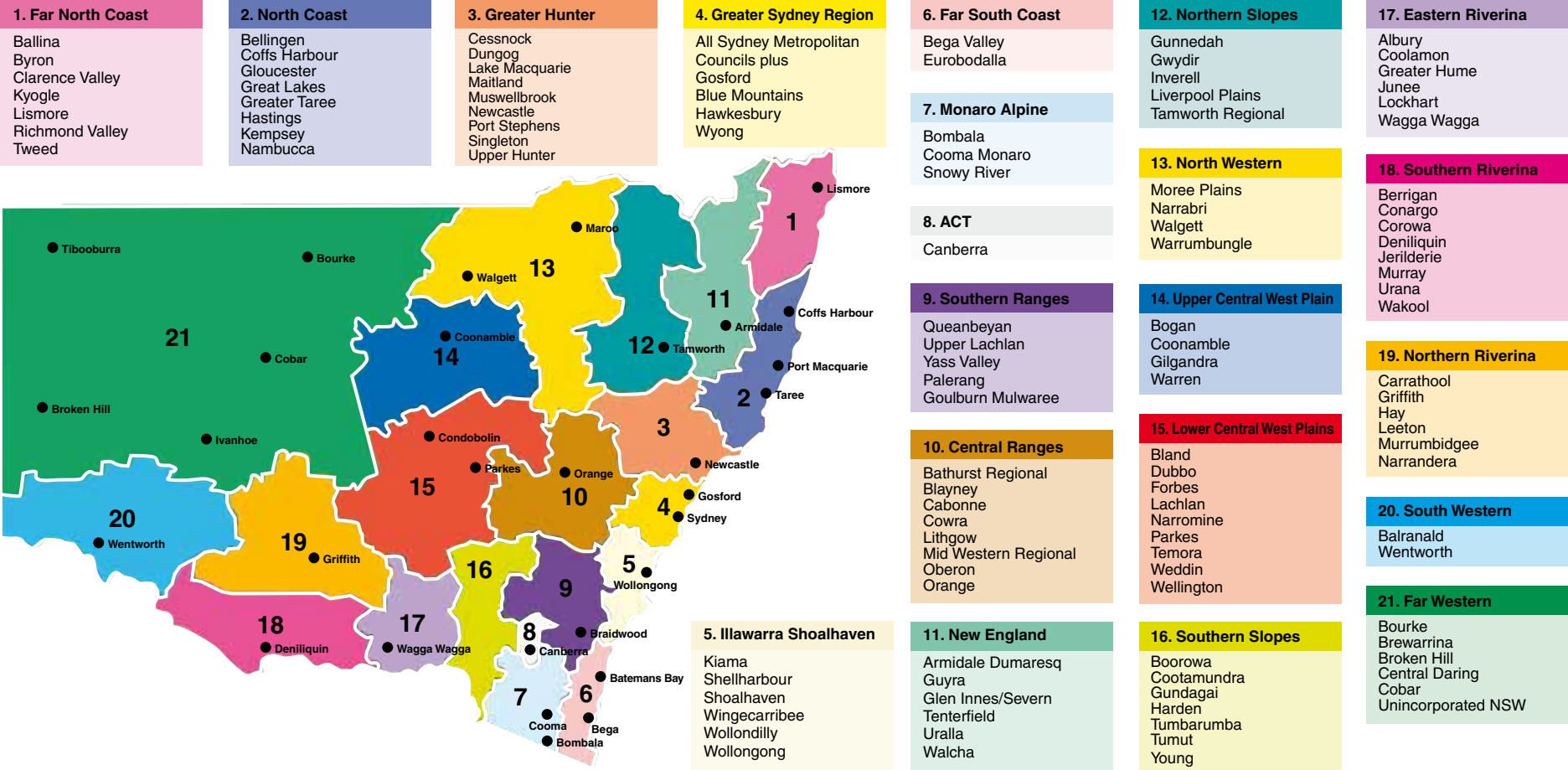
- East Gippsland Shire

**West & South Gippsland District**

- Baw Baw Shire
- Latrobe City
- Mount Baw Baw Alpine Resort (Unincorporated)
- South Gippsland Shire
- Wellington Shire



Know your total fire ban district



Total Fire Bans

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



YES

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

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 alight.

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

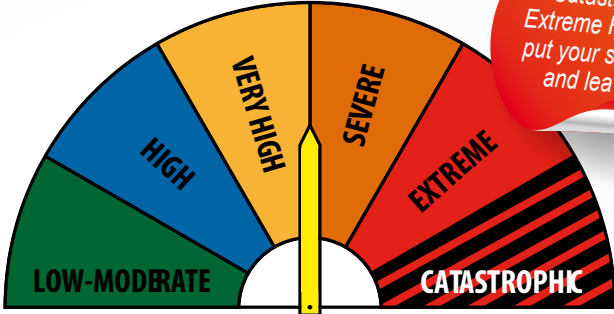
Report all Fires to "000"  
Prepare. Act. Survive

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?

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	

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)





# Protecting cultural heritage sites at Gunbower

Department of Environment  
and Primary Industries

THE Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI) has been working to protect significant cultural and natural sites on Gunbower Island.

DEPI Cultural Heritage Officer Russell Smith said that in 2014 more than 17 kilometres of fencing damaged by the 2011 floods was replaced and extended near Reedy Lagoon, Nursery Track and Butchers Sandhill.

"These sites are significant to the Barapa and Yorta Yorta people and this work helps protect the area from people taking vehicles illegally off-road, wandering stock and other animals," Mr Smith said.

"The fencing work was undertaken by Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation and TMC Enviro from Birchip.

"We've also undertaken weed and pest control works and installed new signage.

"This work doesn't change access to the public, so people can still enjoy the activities they always have at Gunbower.

"An important part of this project was indigenous cultural awareness training for the people doing the work so they understand the significance of the area and how to minimise impacts.

"DEPI consulted with the Barapa and Yorta Yorta Aboriginal community representatives in the planning phase and the work was monitored by a representative from these communities."

This project was undertaken using \$267,000 of state and federal government funding.



Reedy Swamp, Gunbower Island



(L-R) Scott Falconer - DEPI, Stephen Korp - DEPI, Dan McLoughlan - TMC Enviro, Michael Sherwen - DEPI, Tom McLoughlan - TMC Enviro, Russell Smith - DEPI, Donna Mitsch - DEPI and Kieran Kelly - Waratah Fencing



explore,  
experience  
and enjoy

Victoria's River Red Gum parks

There's nothing better for your wellbeing than getting out in nature.

The spectacular parks and reserves along the Murray River are home to majestic River Red Gums. Spot native birds as you walk in the ancient forest at Barmah National Park or launch a canoe to soak up the sights and sounds of tranquil wetlands at Gunbower. Drop a line, camp out under the stars or relax and unwind over a picnic on sandy beaches along the river.

For more information visit [www.parks.vic.gov.au](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au) or call 13 1963.



Healthy Parks  
Healthy People®





# Help for injured or orphaned wildlife

**H**ELP for Wildlife 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, 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.

For larger animals such as koalas, kangaroos or wombats – cover them with a blanket or opened sleeping bag and call immediately for assistance. Covering them will lessen the stress they are under and allow for easier handling. Be very cautious – it can be dangerous attempting to handle these animals.

If safe to do so, transport injured wildlife to the nearest vet. Do not put animals in the boot of your car. Vets do not charge for assisting injured wildlife.

Always wash your hands thoroughly after handling as some animals can transmit diseases to humans. **Do not handle flying foxes.**

## 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 or a vet. Do not try to stand joeys up or let children play with them. They cannot show their stress the same way as domestic animals.

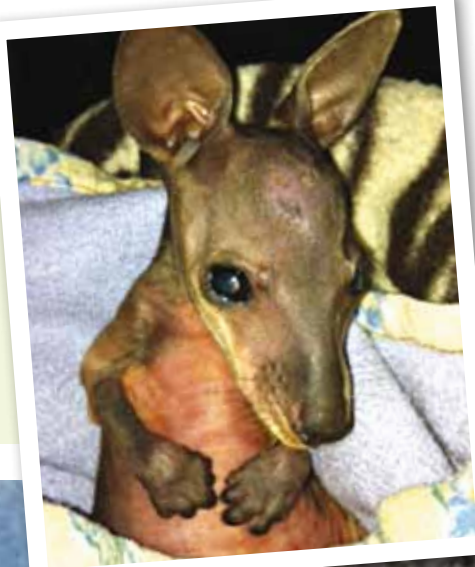
Take the orphaned animal to a wildlife shelter as soon as possible for urgent care.

*For advice and further information call Help for Wildlife on 0417 380 687 or WIRES on 1300 094 737. Help for Wildlife operators are available 24 hours a day and will be happy to assist you or to refer you to your closest Wildlife Carer or Veterinarian.*

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

## Did you know...

**M**ANY birds learn to fly AFTER they leave the nest. They come down to the ground and then learn to fly under the guidance of their parents. They are very vulnerable during this time, but need to build up muscles and grow flight feathers.



## Murray River Access Guides

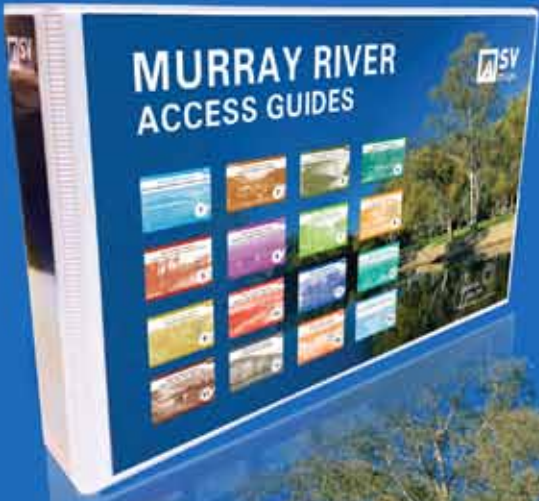
**From the source at Indi Springs in the high country to the mouth at Goolwa**

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

The series of 16 booklets is designed for visitors touring the regions along the majestic Murray River. Each booklet has information covering camping, boating, fishing, picnicking, public toilets and major walks.

**Each of the 16 booklets include maps and information for a section of the Murray between Indi Springs (the source) all the way to Goolwa (mouth).**

All booklets also include emergency contacts and tourist information.



Only **\$7.95** each

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







Department of  
Primary Industries

## CATCH ON TO THE CHANGES RECREATIONAL FISHING RULES MURRAY COD



**75cm+**  
MURRAY COD LARGER  
THAN 75 cm MUST  
BE RELEASED  
UNHARMED

**75** CM  
MAXIMUM  
SIZE LIMIT

**55** CM  
MINIMUM  
SIZE LIMIT

NEW RULES  
COMMENCE  
3 NOV. 2014

## NETS & TRAPS

ALL RECREATIONAL NETS & TRAPS MUST BE MARKED  
WITH THE NET/TRAP TYPE, FISHER'S INITIAL & SURNAME,  
YEAR OF BIRTH & POSTCODE

CHANGES MADE TO ADDRESS  
SECURITY CONCERNS

PREVIOUSLY...

A FISHER'S FULL NAME  
& HOME ADDRESS  
WAS REQUIRED

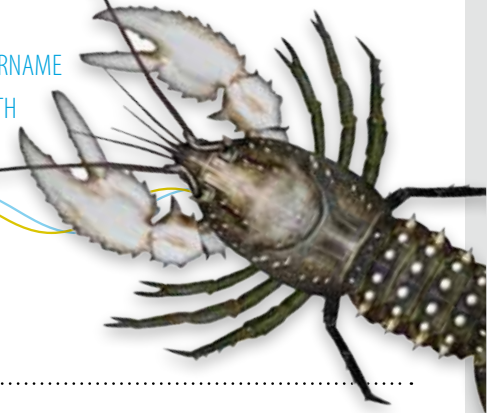
HN.....  
J SMITH.....  
1963.....  
2444.....

HOOP NET

INITIAL & SURNAME

YEAR OF BIRTH

POSTCODE



TROUT & SALMON  
IN GENERAL WATERS  
BAG LIMIT CHANGED  
FROM **10** TO **5** FISH

POSSESSION  
LIMIT REDUCED  
FROM **20** TO **10**



RAINBOW TROUT



BROWN TROUT



BROOK TROUT



ATLANTIC SALMON

## REEL IN YOUR NSW RECREATIONAL FISHING FEE

When fishing in NSW waters, both freshwater and saltwater, you are required to pay the NSW Recreational Fishing Fee have the receipt for payment of the current fee in your immediate possession. If not, you risk an on-the-spot fine.

All licence fees are spent on improving recreational fishing in NSW.

### 4 WAYS TO HOOK YOUR FISHING FEE

online at [www.licence.nsw.gov.au](http://www.licence.nsw.gov.au)

by phoning 1300 369 365 (Visa & Mastercard only)

from standard and gold fishing fee agents such as  
tackle outlets and service stations

from most Kmart stores in NSW

## FISHING FEES



3 DAYS: \$7

1 MONTH: \$14

1 YEAR: \$35

3 YEARS: \$85

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

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

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

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



# Recreational Fishing in Victoria

**A** VICTORIAN Recreational Fishing Licence (RFL) covers all forms of recreational fishing in all of Victoria's marine, estuarine and fresh waters. Victorian RFL's 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 spear fishing, 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 Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI) offices and more than 980 retail businesses throughout Victoria, including most retail fishing tackle stores. You can also purchase fishing licences online from [www.depi.vic.gov.au/fishing](http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/fishing).

It is important to know about closed seasons, bag limits, minimum sizes and permitted equipment in Victoria in order to fish sustainably and 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.

You can also download the free Victorian Recreational Fishing app from iTunes, which summarises catch limits and permitted equipment as outlined in the Guide.

For fishing and recreational licence information, call 136 186 or visit [www.depi.vic.gov.au/fishing](http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/fishing).

To report illegal fishing activities call 13 FISH (13 3474).



# Free app helps track native fish

*Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority*

**B**ROKEN Catchment Management Authority's free iSpyFish app is an easy to use and fun way for recreational fishers and others to help natural resource managers track populations of threatened native fish.

Goulburn Broken CMA Environmental Water Officer Jo Wood said the rivers and wetlands of the Goulburn Broken Catchment supported a number of threatened fish species such as Murray Cod, Macquarie perch, and Trout cod.

"A lot of work has been done by us and other government agencies over the years to improve and protect habitat and water quality for these threatened species," Jo said.

"This includes re-snagging, removing fish barriers, planning environmental flows and supporting landholders to fence off river frontages.

"This app is a fun way for anglers and others to help scientists and natural resource managers understand how these works have improved fish populations."

The iSpyFish app contains colour images, physical descriptions, ecological information and conservation status for 21 native, and eight alien, fish species.

Sightings are displayed on a centralised map on the Goulburn Broken CMA's website and include details such as location, weight and length.

"The data collected will be used to improve our

understanding of the distribution of fish populations across the catchment and help monitor the movement of threatened fish species such as the Macquarie perch," Jo said.

"We know that recreational fishers and other regular waterway users play an important role in waterway

resource management.

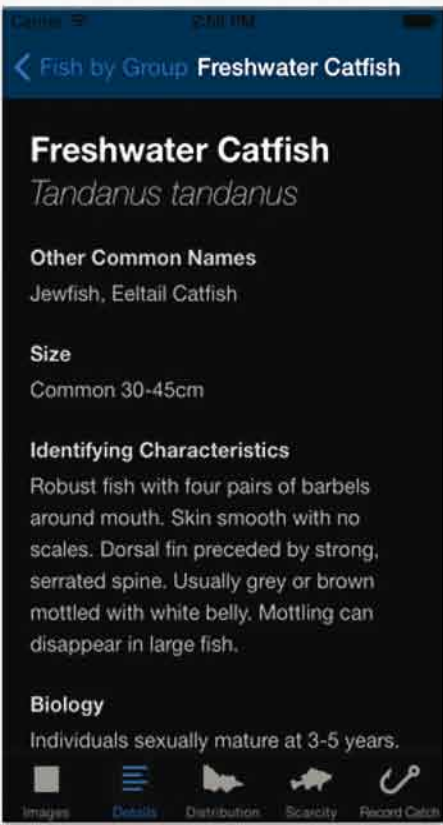
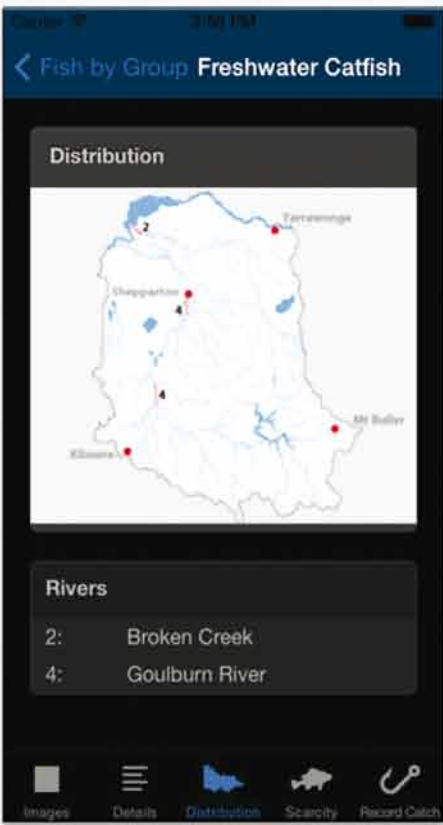
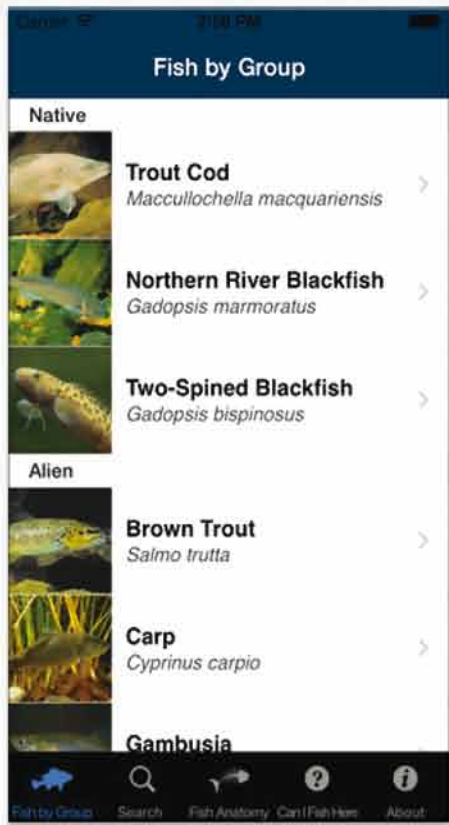
"With this app they will have the ability to photograph their fish and upload it to their personal Facebook page and the iSpyFish Facebook page.

"In doing so, they will be contributing to our understanding of the catchment's fish populations and helping to improve and protect habitat and water quality for these threatened species."

Development of the iSpyFish app was funded through the sale of environmental water. Photographs and information for the app were provided by Arthur Rylah Institute scientist Jarod Lyon and University of Canberra's Mark Lintermans.

The iSpyFish app can be downloaded for free from the Apple iTunes store and will be available shortly from the Android Marketplace.

For more information about the app, visit [www.gbcma.vic.gov.au](http://www.gbcma.vic.gov.au) or like the iSpyFish Facebook page.





# DON'T LET YOUR BOAT GO UP IN SMOKE

## BE FIRE SAFE

In recent times, TSV has observed an increase in fires, particularly on ski boats.

Many of these fires have occurred during or immediately after refuelling.

Petrol fumes will accumulate in enclosed spaces and can pool in sheltered locations within a boat. After refuelling it is critical to ventilate your tank and engine compartments and check for fuel fumes before attempting to start your engine.

Poorly maintained electrical equipment such as starter motors, alternators and distributors are capable of generating sparks. Electrical components need to be marine-dedicated units fitted with flame arrestors to prevent sparks. Electrical equipment needs to be inspected regularly by a qualified and reputable person.

It is illegal to have passengers on board when refuelling vessels because of the associated risks.

To find out more about how you can reduce the risk of fire on your boat, visit [transportsafety.vic.gov.au/fire-safety](https://transportsafety.vic.gov.au/fire-safety)

### Refuelling tips

- No passengers permitted on board during refuelling or restarting
- Turn off engine and electrical equipment before refuelling
- Do not over-fill fuel tank and clean up spills immediately
- Ventilate tank and engine compartments after refuelling because fuel vapour can accumulate in sheltered and enclosed spaces
- Don't start the engine if you can smell petrol fumes

## MARITIME SAFETY



TRANSPORT  
SAFETY  
VICTORIA





# Lifejacket wearing requirements in NSW

- Children under 12 years are now required to wear a lifejacket at all times in a **vessel under 4.8m**, and when in an open area of a vessel **4.8m to 8m** that is underway on enclosed waters.
- On all boats **less than 4.8m** all occupants on enclosed waters are required to wear a lifejacket when boating at night or when boating alone.
- Also remember that inflatable lifejackets need to be serviced in accordance with manufacturers' recommendations or at a minimum of 12 monthly intervals.

These are only some examples of the lifejacket wearing requirements in NSW and it is recommended to check the website [www.rms.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au) or pick up a handbook, free from Roads and Maritime registries, Service NSW Centres, and marine outlets.



## When towing you must have an observer

- The observer must have the prime responsibility of observing the towed people and reporting all matters affecting them to the master, and telling the driver about other vessels approaching from behind.
- The observer must be 16 years of age or older, or the holder of a Young Adult Licence. They must not suffer hearing, sight, or other disabilities that could affect the performance of observation duties, and must not be under the influence of alcohol or a drug.
- The observer should be familiar with the standard hand signals.



## Alcohol and drug offences

Breath testing, including random breath testing (RBT), can be conducted on the operator of a vessel while it is underway (including drifting). A designated driver (skipper) should remain under the legal limit when out on the water. Permissible concentration of alcohol limits are as follows:

**0.00** for recreational vessel operators aged under 18 years

**less than 0.02** for commercial vessel operators

**less than 0.05** for recreational vessel operators over 18 years

The operator of a vessel includes anyone steering or exercising control over the course or direction of a vessel, and includes the observer in a ski boat or PWC and any person being towed.



## Overloading of houseboats

When you hire a houseboat you will be advised of the number of persons legally allowed on the vessel at any one time. The maximum number of person allowed is 12, however this number could be reduced depending on the size of the vessel.

This number applies while the vessel is underway and when it is moored. If you increase the number of persons you may affect the buoyancy of the vessel and cause it to capsize. There are also penalties if you do not comply.



Info line: 13 12 56  
[www.rms.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au)



Transport  
Roads & Maritime  
Services



# Murray River - number one river drowning black spot

**H**OLIDAYMAKERS are urged to take extra care on the Murray River this summer, after it has been identified as the number one river drowning black spot in the country.

In 2013-14, 105 people drowned in inland waterways across Australia, representing a staggering 39 per cent of all drowning deaths.

Key factors in many inland waterway drowning incidents include alcohol, people boating and not wearing lifejackets and unintentional water entry, including slips, trips and falls.

Men are also over represented in inland waterway drowning deaths, tending to take more risks around water.

Boating and watercraft incidents were in the top three activities for drowning, accounting for 16 per cent of deaths.

Alcohol is also clearly a major factor in drowning deaths, with nearly one in five of all drowning deaths involving alcohol.

In almost half of these drowning deaths the actual blood alcohol reading was four times the legal limit or higher.

Life Saving Victoria General Manager, Paul Shannon, says water safety agencies don't want to stop anyone from having fun, but want holidaymakers to make it home safely at the end of the day.

Too often in boating-related drowning deaths, people

have drowned because they weren't wearing a lifejacket, or the lifejacket was not well fitted.

We are seeing too many boaters who are not carrying lifejackets when they should, or the lifejackets are the wrong type, in poor condition or are not serviced.

You may not have time in an emergency to put a lifejacket on, so we recommend you wear one at all times.

Alcohol and water related activities can also 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."

Slips, trips and falls also accounted for more than 20 per cent of drowning deaths last year, highlighting the importance of knowing how to swim and being equipped with water safety knowledge to help aid survival in the case of a fall into water.

These skills apply to everyone, across a range of activities including not only swimming and wading but also boating, fishing and even camping near waterways.

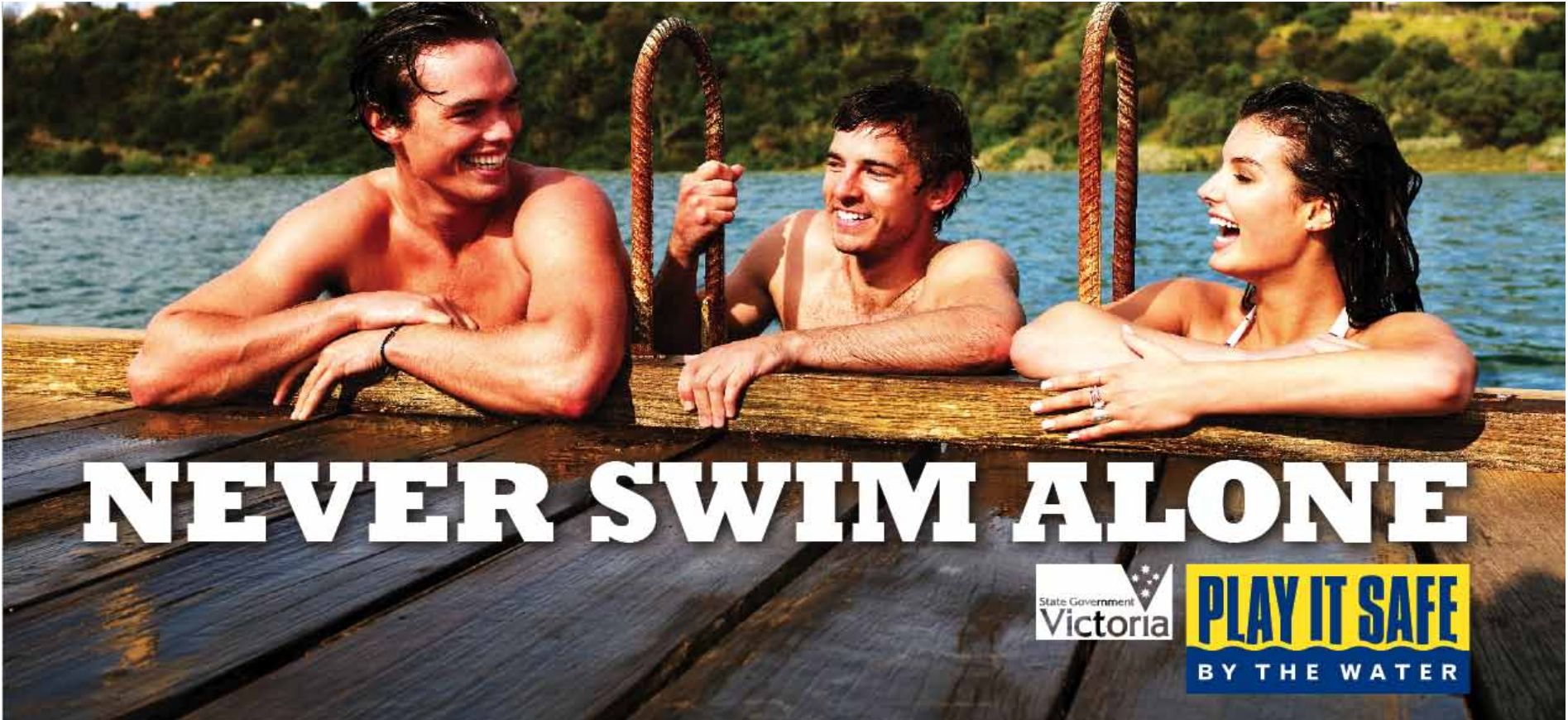
It is also important not to swim or recreate around water alone, so that someone is nearby and can assist if an unexpected fall into water does occur.

Drowning deaths affect so many people, including extended family and friends, and the sad fact is that most drowning deaths can be prevented.

We don't want to see your summer holiday turn into a tragedy.

## Water safety tips:

- Be aware and prepare before entering the water – check safety signs for information about risks and hazards
- Alcohol and water activities are a fatal mix – even a small amount of alcohol can increase your risk of drowning
- Always wear a well fitted lifejacket when boating – you may not have time to put it on in an emergency
- Never swim or recreate around water alone
- Watch children closely around water – ensure under 5s are always within arm's reach and under 10s are always in sight
- Ensure you know CPR particularly for those recreating in isolated locations

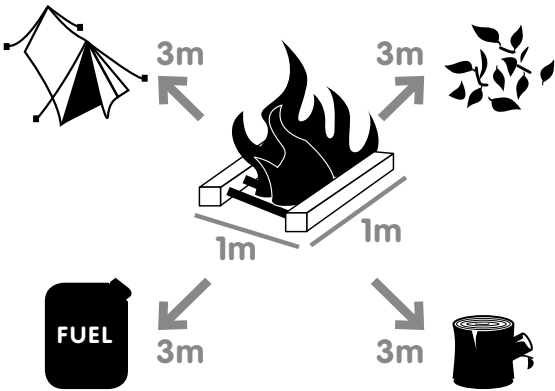


## Making Victoria FireReady:

# 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** 

**Victorian BushfireInformation Line: 1800 240 667**

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



# River Red Gums drop branches - Please take care when camping



TREES, especially the iconic River Red Gums, can drop branches, or entire trees can fall, 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 or sudden changes in temperature
  - Drought
  - Fire
  - Compaction
  - Flood

Floods and extended drought periods increase 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 in all directions. 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.

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

*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.*

## Take care near flood waters



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

“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.

Why not explore the park by boat or canoe. Licensed boat tours enable visitors to enjoy the sights safely while the park is flourishing.



# Stop litter where it starts

EPA Victoria has made it easier than ever for Victorians to report litter thrown from motor vehicles. You can now report litter via EPA's website, on your smartphone, over the phone and by mail. The campaign – 'A cleaner Victoria is in your hands' – aims to educate and inform all Victorians about the impact of litter on water and land and to encourage everyone to report incidents of litter. You can play a major part in this effort – stop litter where it starts – by reporting litter thrown from a motor vehicle to EPA. EPA can then issue an infringement notice, with fines ranging from \$288.72 for an unlit cigarette or small piece of rubbish to \$577.44 for a lit cigarette. The effects of litter on our environment are widespread. Around 14,560 tonnes of litter are generated by Victorians each year, costing the community around \$80 million in cleanup costs. Every person can make a difference.



# Looking for bins?

Keep the area clean and safe...  
Help reduce scavenging behaviour and the spread of litter by native animals.  
Take your rubbish home for disposal.



No bins here...  
This allows you to sort recyclable items for disposal at home and also frees up park staff to better provide other services or facilities in the area.



our environment *it's a living thing*



# A CLEANER MURRAY IS IN YOUR HANDS

## STOP LITTER WHERE IT STARTS

REPORT LITTERERS.

Visit [epa.vic.gov.au/reportlitter](http://epa.vic.gov.au/reportlitter) or call 1300 EPA VIC





# Recycling and waste disposal locations along the Murray River

## Moira Shire – 03 5871 9222

**Barmah** – Cnr Moira Lakes Rd and Racecourse Rd  
Thursday and Sunday 1.00pm – 4.00pm

**Cobram Transfer Station and Landfill**  
Pye Rd, North of Murray Valley Hwy  
Monday to Friday 9.00am – 4.00pm  
Saturday and Sunday 10.00am – 3.00pm

**Nathalia** – Cnr Nathalia/Barmah Rd and Balls Rd  
Tuesday and Thursday 8.30am – 12.30pm  
Saturday 12.30pm – 4.00pm

**Numurkah** – Naring Rd between Hendys Rd and Lorenzs Rd  
Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday 9.00am – 4.00pm

**Strathmerton**  
Murray Valley Hwy, between Ruttles Rd and Stokes Rd  
Wednesday and Sunday 9.00am – 12noon

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

**Tungamah**  
Tungamah Rd between Chinaman's Lane and Cemetery Rd  
Sunday 1.00am – 4.00pm

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

**Yarrawonga** – Channel Rd east of Benalla-Yarrawonga Rd  
Everyday 9.00am – 4.00pm

## Campaspe Shire – 03 5481 2200

During peak tourist periods – January, Southern 80 weekend and Easter – skip bins are located at O'Dwyer Road, Torrumbarry Roadhouse (during opening hours – phone 5487 7260), Gunbower Recreation Reserve, Victoria Park and Echuca East Boat Ramp to collect waste.

Campers waste is free at Transfer Stations in the Campaspe Shire. Please separate your glass bottles, cans and plastic containers. Recyclables are always free for residents and visitors.

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

**Echuca Environment Centre** – 520 McKenzie Rd  
Monday to Saturday 8.00am – 4.45pm  
Sunday 10.00am – 3.45pm

**Rochester** – 139 High Street  
Tuesday 1.00pm – 4.00pm  
Thursday and Sunday 9.00am – 12.00noon

## City of Wodonga – 02 6022 9300

**Wodonga Transfer Station/Recycling Centre** – 29 Kane Rd  
Monday to Friday 9.00am – 5.00pm  
Saturday, Sunday, Public Holidays 10.00am – 4.00pm

## Albury Shire – 02 6043 5860

**Albury Waste Management Centre** – Centaur Road Lavington  
Monday to Friday 7.00am – 5.00pm  
Saturday and Sunday 9.00am –4.00pm

## Gannawarra Shire – 03 5450 9333

**Kerang** – Kerang–Murrabit Rd  
Sunday, Tuesday and Friday 1.00pm – 4.00pm  
Closed Boxing Day – 26 December

**Cohuna** – cnr Chuggs and Cohuna-Leitchville Rds  
Tuesday and Friday 9.00am – 11.00am  
Sunday 1.00pm – 4.00pm  
Closed Boxing Day – 26 December

## Wakool – NSW – 03 5887 5007

**Barham/Koondrook** – North Barham Rd, Barham  
Tuesday and Thursday 12 noon – 5.00pm  
Sunday 12 noon – 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

## Swan Hill – 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** – 246 Hayward Rd  
3km south of the township adjacent to railway line  
Wednesday 9.00am – 3.00pm  
Sunday 1.00pm – 4.00pm

**Robinvale** – 899 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

**Manangatang** – 126 Moonday Rd  
Tuesday 1.00pm – 4.00pm  
Thursday 9.00am – 1.00pm  
Sunday 9.00am – 12 noon

## Indigo Shire – 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 – 02 6071 5100

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

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

## Corowa Shire – 02 6033 8999

**Corowa** – Riverina Highway (Albury Rd)  
Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8.00am – 1.00pm  
Tuesday and Thursday 12.00noon – 5.00pm  
Saturday and Sunday 8.00am – 5.00pm  
Mulwala – Old Barooga Rd  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday 9.00am – 1.00pm

**Howlong** – Goomargana Rd  
Tuesday and Friday 2.00pm – 5.30pm  
Wednesday 7.30am – 11.30am  
Saturday and Sunday 10.00am – 5.30pm

## Berrigan Shire – 03 5888 5100

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

**Finley Recycling Centre** – Killeens Road, Finley (recycling only)  
Sunday 8.30am – 12.00noon

## Murray Shire – 03 5884 3302

**Moama Waste Disposal Depot** – Centre Road, Off Cobb Highway, Phone – (03) 5480 0414  
Monday to Friday 8.00am – 3.00pm  
Saturday and Sunday 9.00am – 3.00pm  
Mathoura Transfer Station – Clifton Street, Phone – (03) 5884 3694  
Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday 8.00am – 4.00pm

## Deniliquin – 03 5898 3000

**Deniliquin Waste Disposal Depot** – 5898 3155  
Hay Road (Cobb Highway) about 4km from the North  
Deniliquin roundabout  
Open every day 8.30am – 4.00pm

## Mildura Rural City – 03 5018 8100

**Mildura Landfill** – Scherger Drive, 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

**Ouyen Landfill** – Dunkley Road, Ouyen  
Monday and Thursday 8am – 12noon  
Tuesday and Friday 1pm – 6pm  
Sunday 10am – 2pm

## Wentworth Shire – 03 5023 2307

**Wentworth Transfer Station** – Pooncarie Road  
Sunday and Wednesday 8.00am – 5.45pm  
Friday 12.30pm – 5.45pm

**Dareton Transfer Station** – Dunya Road  
Tuesday and Thursday 8.00am –12.00pm  
Saturday 8.00am – 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 – 03 5020 1300

**Balranald** – Sturt Highway  
Tuesday, Thursday 5.00pm – 7.00pm  
(1 August to 30 April)  
(1 May – 30 September) 4.00pm – 6.00pm  
Saturday Sunday 10.00am –1.00pm  
10.00am – 3.00pm

**Euston** – Sturt Highway  
Tuesday, Thursday 1.00pm – 6.00pm  
Sunday 9.00am – 3.00pm

## Tumbarumba Shire – 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 1.00pm – 5.00pm  
Saturday 9.00am – 2.00pm

**Khancoban Landfill** – Alpine Way, Khancoban  
Tuesday, Friday 3.00pm – 5.00pm  
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**

- In NSW**
- Solid fuel fires (including wood and heat bead barbecues and cookers) are not permitted during the 'Solid Fuel Fire Ban Period' over the summer months. call the NSW National Parks office for more information 03 5483 9100
  - No solid fuel fires, including gas barbecues, may be lit on a day of Total Fire Ban

- In VICTORIA**, small campfires are permitted for cooking or warmth provided that:
- The fire is in a properly constructed fireplace or a 30cm deep trench. Trenches must be backfilled before leaving
  - All flammable material within a distance of three (3) metres is removed around a campfire or barbecue
  - The fire is no larger than one (1) square metre
  - The fire is attended by an adult who has the capacity to extinguish the fire. The person in charge of the fire must be in the line of sight and within 50 metres of the fire
  - The fire is completely extinguished with water before leaving
  - No solid fuel fires may be lit on a day of Total Fire Ban
  - Barbeques that are fired by gas or electricity may be used provided they are:
    - permanently fixed structures built of stone, metal, concrete or another non-flammable material designed exclusively for meal preparation, or
    - designed and commercially manufactured exclusively for meal preparation (including portable barbecues), and when alight are placed in a stable position
    - You have either a hose connected to a water supply or at least 10 litres of water available for immediate use



## Toilets **Please use toilets where provided**

- Chemical toilets are recommended. Please take toilets with you when you leave
- 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 the park
- 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)



## Danger **For your safety**

- Do not camp or park under or near trees as they can drop branches or the whole tree can fall without warning. Limbs 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



## 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



## Rubbish **Carry In Carry Out**

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

- No bins are provided on the Victorian side of the Murray River
- Take all rubbish with you 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
- Keep campsites free of litter at all times
- Do not place litter in campfires
- Use bins where provided



## 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 one metre on the fire
- Firewood must not be removed from national parks or state forests
- Chainsaws must be well maintained. Only use them when safe to do so to avoid starting fires



## Generators

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

- In Victoria, generators are not permitted in national parks
- For both Victoria and NSW, 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
  - the 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



## 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



## 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**