

Free The Murray River Guardian

Your guide to visiting and camping in the parks along the Murray River 2015 - 16



Map and guide to parks in VIC and NSW
'The one that got away'... fishing tips
Managing your rubbish
Fire information

Where can I paddle? Canoeing on the Murray

The environmental water story and it's impacts on the River Red Gum

Welcome to The Murray River Guardian

Welcome to the 21st edition of The Murray River Guardian, produced by Parks Victoria.

Parks Victoria manages more than four million hectares of outstanding parks on behalf of the Victorian Government for all people, much of it in partnership with organisations, communities, volunteers and individuals, who have greatly assisted in protecting and enhancing parks.

This guide is filled with a wide range of information to make your visit to the Murray River parks both safe and enjoyable, whilst protecting the river and its environment for the future.

Did you know that the Murray River is one of the longest rivers in the world at 2,700 kilometres, spanning three states and 15 navigable locks? The river supports over 350 varieties of birds, as well as many species of mammals, reptiles and fish. The towering River Red Gums, tranquil sandy beaches, wide expanses of water and colourful red cliffs provide the setting for many amazing camping and picnic sites along the Murray. Fishing and canoeing are very rewarding pursuits along the Murray - discover more about these activities in this guide.

So whether you're visiting for the first time or returning to your favourite camping spot, there's always something new to discover.

We hope you enjoy this year's edition!

Craig Stubbings
Regional Director - Northern Victoria, Parks Victoria

Key contact numbers

Emergency
000 for fire, police and ambulance

Victorian Bushfire Information Line
1800 240 667 or TTY 1800 122 969
www.emergency.vic.gov.au

NSW Bushfire Information Line
1800 679 737
www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

Parks Victoria
13 1963
www.parks.vic.gov.au

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
136 186 for general Victorian fishing information
www.delwp.vic.gov.au

Wildlife Rescue
WRIN Victoria 0419 356 433
WIRES NSW 1300 094 737

NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service
13000 PARKS (1300 072 757)
www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au

Fisheries Information Line
1300 550 474 for general NSW fishing information
www.dpi.nsw.gov.au

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

Authorised and published by Parks Victoria L10, 535 Bourke Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

Copyright © Parks Victoria 2015

Production Manager: Angela Gaynor
Editorial Managers: Suzanne Hughes

Acknowledgement of Country

Aboriginal people, through their rich culture, have been connected to the land and water, for tens of thousands of years. Parks Victoria respectfully acknowledges Aboriginal traditional owners, their cultures and knowledge and their continuing connection to and cultural obligations to care for their country.



Canoe tree on the banks of Lake Hattah, Hattah-Kulkyne National Park.

The one that got away . . .

Fishing is the most popular sport in the world, so it’s not surprising that it’s the favourite pastime of visitors to the Murray River. With over 1500km of river frontage between Wodonga and the South Australian border, there are plenty of options.

Frequently asked questions regarding recreational fishing include;

- Where should I fish?
- What bait should I use?
- Do I need a license?

There are legendary places spoken about in hushed tones such as Ned’s Corner, Mildura, Robinvale, Boundary Bend, Gunbower, Torrumbarry Weir, Barmah, Yarrawonga and Bundalong. There are also the legendary Murray Cod hot spots of the Goulburn River in Lower Goulburn National Park, Broken Creek at Nathalia, which joins the Murray downstream of Barmah, and the Ovens River downstream of Peechelba. Of course, if you ask a Cod fisherman where he fishes you’re sure to be told a lie!

Before throwing a line in to the river, you must research and purchase the correct fishing license.

You must have a valid New South Wales fishing license, even if you are fishing from the Victorian side of the Murray River.

If you plan to fish the Broken Creek, Goulburn or Ovens Rivers, Lindsay River, Mullaroo Creek or any water-way south of the Murray, you need a Victorian license.

Fishing license costs

	VIC
NSW	
\$7 for 3 days	\$6 for 2 days
\$14 for 1 month	\$12 for 28 days
\$35 for 1 year	\$24.50 for 1 year
\$85 for 3 years	\$66 for 3 years
www.licence.nsw.gov.au	www.vic.gov.au/fisheries/ recreational-fishing/fishing-licence

People under 18 are exempt – for other exemptions visit the websites above. Licences can be purchased from a variety of places, including local shops, caravan parks, service stations and some Kmart stores as well as online.

All funds from fishing licence fees are used to improve recreational fishing in both states.

So you have your fishing license - where to go fishing?

Find a spot where there is some fish habitat like logs or snags in the water or a big bend in the river with a nice bank and you’re in with a chance to catch a fish or two. Given the river is full of snags and some mighty big fish, a strong line of 20-30lb braid or mono will give you a better chance of keeping your gear and to land one of the mighty green monsters that live among the snags.

There are a few theories on the best bait. Try setting a shrimp trap and catching a few fresh shrimp, which are some of the best bait you can use. It might improve your chances of hooking a nice Golden Perch (Yellow Belly), Murray Cod, the odd Redfin or a hard fighting European Carp. If shrimp are not working for you, try a Yabby (bigger are better), a Bardy grub or worm. Other artificial baits such as Gulp or cheese can also catch a lot of fish. If you want some fun, try burling with some bread or dry dog food close to the bank, or baiting your line with some cooked sausage and hang on.

There are lots of informal launch sites, but if you want to keep things clean and safe there are also many good concrete ramps along the Murray.

West of Wangaratta: Bundalong, Yarrawonga Regional Park, Horseshoe Bend in Cobram Regional Park, The Gulf and the day area in Barmah National Park. Across the river there are concrete ramps at Tocumwal, Picnic Point, Barooga, Corowa, and three at Howlong.

Cohuna: Koondrook, Gunbower, the Shillinglaws Regulator and Spencers Bridge at Gunbower Creek.

Swan Hill: Nyah Recreation Reserve, Wood Wood - near Nyah-Vinifera Park, Federal Square in Swan Hill and Beverford.

Robinvale: Wemen - entrance to Pound Bend, Coreena Bend



Courtesy: Daniel Burton

- Happy Valley Landing, Robinvale Caravan Park just below the Murray River Bridge, the east end of the Robinvale Cutoff-Higgins road, Tol Tol - east end of Walsh’s Bend and Boundary Bend.

Hattah-Kulkyne: Firemen’s Bend and Emmerts Bend as well as places to launch light boats at most river bends.

Mildura: Apex Park and Mildura Bridge, Snaggy Point, Lock 10, Merbein Common sandbar, Pump Hill, Johnston’s Bend, Bruce’s Bend Nichols Point, Psyche Pumps at Kings Billabong, Red Cliffs, Karadoc Sandbar, Danes Rd, Spence’s Bend at Nangiloc and Watts Bend at Colignan.

West of Mildura: Higgins Cutting, downstream of Berribee Homestead, downstream and upstream of Lock 7, Mullaroo mouth, upstream and downstream of Lock 9 and Mullaroo Creek.

There are limits on the number of fish that can be caught.

The Bag limit is the maximum number of fish you can take per day.

The Possession limit is the maximum number of fish you can have if you’ve been fishing for more than one day. One day is equal to the 24 hour period from midnight to midnight. For freshwater fishing it is equal to twice the daily bag limit unless otherwise stated.

The main fish in the Murray are the Murray Cod, Golden Perch (Yellow belly).

Golden Perch

Legal length: 30cm.
Bag limit: 5 NSW and VIC
Possession limit: 10 NSW and VIC
Good baits: Shrimp, Yabbies, Worms, spinner baits.

Murray Cod

Legal length: 55cm to 75cm
Bag limit: 2 NSW, 1 VIC
Possession limit: 4 NSW, 1 VIC
Good baits: Bardi Grubs, Yabbies, lures and large flies and cheese!

Murray Cod cannot be taken from any inland waters between September - November inclusive.

Yabbies

Legal length: None
Bag limit: 200 NSW, 150 VIC
Good baits: Fish heads, chicken gut.

In Victoria you can only put out 10 baited lines with no hooks and two baited traps. A maximum of 10 nets, either hoop nets or open lift top nets, may be used in the river and a maximum of 5 hoop nets in streams and tributaries. Hoop nets and bait traps must have a tag that remains above the water’s surface with the fisher’s full name and place of residence clearly and legibly written.

Female Yabbies with eggs must be returned carefully to the water.

There also rules around net fishing traps: no net traps can be used in waters where platypus is found. The use of Opera House nets is prohibited in all Victorian public waters. In NSW,

Yabby traps must have a 90mm entrance funnel ring in place to prevent the death of birds and turtles.

When to fish?

Local fishermen say the best times are early morning, late afternoon or after dark - but you can get lucky during the middle of the day too. If you find yourself on the river in the lead-up to a full moon, or on a rising river, then your chances are better.

Parks Victoria’s advice for all fishers is: tight lines, enjoy the great outdoor, fish responsibly and leave the river cleaner than you found it.

How to Release a Caught Fish back into the Water

If you are having a run of good luck, you will probably end up catching more fish than you can eat, or more than you are allowed to keep, due to bag limits.

Here are some tips for releasing a caught fish to make sure it survives.

- Unhook the fish as quickly as possible to reduce the time it is out of the water.
- Remove hooks that are in the mouth of the fish. Using needle-nosed pliers or a hook retrieving tool makes unhooking quicker.
- It is best to unhook a fish while it is still in the water.
- If the fish is hooked deeply, cut the line as close as possible to the fish’s mouth rather than removing the hook.
- Handle the fish firmly and carefully, and use wet hands or wet gloves when handling it to minimise damage to its skin.
- Don’t drop a fish on the bottom of a boat, on hard surfaces or on metal that can become very hot in the sun. A smooth, wet surface like vinyl covered foam is best to lay live fish on.
- Carefully return the fish to the water. Do not throw it.
- If the fish looks exhausted - struggling to hold itself upright and unable to swim away - gently hold or push it through the water so that it gets a good flow of water over its gills.
- If there is a water current, hold the fish upright and facing towards the current until it starts to show signs of recovery.
- Use a fish-friendly landing net with knotless mesh. The knots can damage the fish’s scales, skin, eyes and fins.
- If you are going to take a photo of your fish before release, support it properly, don’t hold it by the gills or eyes.

Remember: Wherever you choose to fish, make sure to take all your rubbish with you - such as fishing line, hooks, bait packets and plastic bags.

Left fishing rubbish ends up polluting the river and harming the birds, animals and fish that make the Murray such a great place to visit.

On days when the river level is dropping, it’s extremely hot or the fish aren’t biting, just remember that any day on the river beats your best day at work.

Park activity - canoeing

Where can I paddle? Canoeing on the Murray

The Murray River has lots of great locations for both recreational and serious canoeing and kayaking, with magnificent River Red Gum forests, dazzling red cliffs and endless meandering bends. Whether you sweep along the river mid-stream or take time to explore its islands and back waters, the Murray offers great paddling experiences.

Murray River – Yarrawonga to Barmah

Around Yarrawonga, you can set off for some back-water exploration at Williams Bridge in the Lower Ovens Regional Park, downstream from Riverbend Caravan Park at Bundalong. This site has great camping spots and good vehicle access most of the year.

Paddle under the bridge and explore the creeks and islands within the park - you'll be amazed at what you find. It's only a 30min paddle till you pop out into the mighty Murray. You can either paddle upstream or let the current take you down to the junction of the Ovens and Murray Rivers. There, you can exit at one of the boat ramps or paddle back up the Ovens River and take Williams Creek back to Williams Bridge. For those wanting several days canoeing there are a few options; launch below the weir at Yarrawonga and canoe downstream for one, two or even five days, camping on beautiful sandy beaches. Many groups canoe from Yarrawonga to Bourkes Bend or Cobram to Tocumwal or Picnic Point to Barmah. The current in the Murray can be strong at times so ensure you have the knowledge and skills before setting out.

Murray River – Barmah to Cohuna

The number and variety of waterbirds along the Gunbower Creek is a real feature and there are camping and picnic spots along the creek for some quiet bird watching. The Gunbower Island canoe trail is just south of the town of Koondrook, about 25km north of Cohuna. It is a return trip of around 5km and takes about two hours. There are triangular markers and numbered signs along the way. At the end of the trail (marker number 8) there are some great wetlands to explore. The trail is good to paddle day or night, with the birds and wildlife more active early morning and late evening.

During flooding of the forest, both natural and environmental, you can also paddle into the flooded wetlands of Greens Swamp and Corduroy Swamp by following Yarran Creek off the Gunbower Creek. You can access the Yarran Creek from Rifle Butts Track just out from Cohuna. It is advisable to take a GPS device with you and set a home site to return to when entering this area as it can be confusing paddling among the trees with no landmarks. For more information contact the Parks Victoria on 13 1963 or Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning on 136 186.

Murray River – Cohuna to Robinvale

Pental Island near Swan Hill sits between the Little Murray and Big Murray and has public canoe launch areas on both sides. You can take a paddle around the island from one river into another and enjoy the contrasts of natural and agricultural landscapes.

The Little Murray begins where the Loddon River ends near Fish Point. It is a day trip from there to the weir behind Lake Boga. There is also a canoe friendly creek that runs through Nyah-Vinifera Park which is a very pleasant paddle. It is subject to variable water levels due to the environmental watering program. More information can be obtained at the Swan Hill information Centre.

The best spot for river canoeing at Robinvale is above the weir where the water is deep, and there is some interesting paddling and exploring to be done around nearby Bumbang Island. This is a Historic Features Reserve with rich Aboriginal and European cultural heritage. It also has a number of waterways and wetlands in and around it which are perfect for slow and easy paddling. East of Belsar and Yungera islands, near Lake Powell, are other good spots that have interesting waterways to be explored.

Murray River (including the Hattah lakes) – Robinvale to Hattah

Just off the Calder Highway, 70 km south of Mildura, the Hattah-Kulkyne National Park has Mallee and Woodland country, magnificent River Red gums, and group of lakes watered by a constructed environmental watering system. The main lakes, Hattah and Mournpall, are good for canoeing at all times, and when the water level is high, there are another six to



Canoeing on the Murray River

eight lakes that can be paddled on. There are lots of birds to be seen, woodland and water species, and two basic campgrounds at the main lakes, as well as riverside bush camps in nearby Murray-Kulkyne Park.

Murray River – Hattah to the South Australian Border

The Murray is wide and good for river paddling at Mildura, and also along the creeks downstream around Walpolla Island. However the canoeing hot spot is Kings Billabong, both for its special canoe launching pontoon and its amazing birdlife. The launching ramp is a slide with rollers and handrails so that a canoe can be launched and re-landed very easily. It's ideal for children, novice paddlers and anyone who finds canoe launching a challenge. The billabong has large numbers of many different waterbirds and native species. A paddle through this wetland is a very special experience.

There are two canoe trails along Wallpolla Creek. The first is a one day paddle of about 17.5 km long and starts at Lock 9 on the river. Paddle about 1.8km upstream and turn right into Wallpolla Creek. Then continue on and go left in Mullroo Creek and then keep to the right before turning into Milky Creek. Follow it for around a kilometre until it opens back into the Murray. From here turn left and travel back downstream back to Lock 9.

The second is a two day paddle of around 51.5 km long.

Day one: start at Lock 9 on the Murray. Paddle upstream about 1.8km upstream and turn right into Wallpolla Creek. After about 1.1km turn left into Mullroo Creek and paddle for just over 5km. You will pass Deep Creek on your right and Milky Creek on the left until you rejoin Wallpolla Creek. Continue along Wallpolla Creek for around 12.5km, passing Railway Creek on the right, Moorna Creek on the left until you reach the Dedmans Creek junction where you can camp for the night.

Day two: Wallpolla Creek does not flow back into the Murray from this junction, so you have to continue along Dedmans Creek to return to the Murray again. Then turn left and enjoy a long smooth paddle of around 30km downstream back to Lock 9.

Lindsay Island is part of the Murray-Sunset National Park, around 90 kilometers west of Mildura. It is crossed by numerous small creeks carrying floodwaters from the Murray River into swamps, billabongs and flood plains. The island features old River Red Gums and Black Box woodlands that are home to many native birds and animals, such as Wedge Tailed eagles, Emus, and Red and Western Grey kangaroos. It has a shared history of both Aboriginal and European occupation and is an interesting and beautiful place for leisurely paddling. Cross

through Lindsay Island and down to Mulroo creek mouth, then continue down Lindsay River for a visit to the historic Berribee Homestead.

Goulburn River – Nagambie to Echuca

Away from the river there is also good paddling at a number of places:

The Goulburn Weir at Kirwans Bridge near Nagambie is the best place to launch for some good paddling on the sheltered waters of the weir while more adventurous paddling can be found downstream of the weir through to the junction of the Goulburn and Murray Rivers. For a more leisurely experience set off from the junction of the Goulburn and Murray Rivers at Echuca Village, at Junction Track off Stewarts Bridge Road, and take a paddle up into the hidden wonders of the heritage listed Goulburn River. There are plenty of launching sites in the area; concrete boat ramps at Murchison, Toolamba and Shepparton and numerous dirt ramps along the river.

Ovens River

At Warby-Ovens National Park, start at Cameron's Bend at Bundalong and paddle upstream to explore a unique River Red Gum ecosystem and the heritage listed Ovens River.

For the more adventurous, head off from the Boorharman North Recreation Reserve to explore the wetlands and lagoons of the Ovens River. If you're quiet you might see platypus and sea-eagles.

Canoe safety

- The Murray may not look like a dangerous river from above the water, but there can be strong currents in deep waters.
- Always wear a good quality and compliant life jacket and remember your hat, sunscreen and sunglasses – especially in the summer months.
- Make sure you are confident on the water and that you can swim to shore from where you are planning to paddle.
- Steer clear of logs and protruding snags.
- Check the weather forecast before setting off so you are prepared for storms, rain and strong winds. If camping in stormy or windy conditions, be aware of the potential for falling tree limbs and campfires getting out of control.
- If on a long distance paddle, always carry first aid, extra sunscreen, water, spare clothing and some food. Make sure these things are in a watertight bag and tied securely in the craft.
- Always let someone know where you are going and your estimated time of arrival. Paddling in groups of two or more is a safer option.

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.

Corryong - Towong

Corryong - 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 - a great 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). Alternatively, Mt Burrowa is the highest peak in the park (1,300m) 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 - just 30km north-east of Albury, this national park 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

Albury-Wodonga

Lake Hume - more than four times the size of Sydney Harbour, it 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 - 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.

Wodonga Visitor Information Centre
69-73 Hovell Street, Wodonga, VIC 3690
Phone: 1300 796 222
www.visitalburywodonga.com



Look out for koalas at the Narrandera Nature Reserve.

Narrandera

Murrumbidgee Valley National Park- located along the Murrumbidgee River, activities include 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, this national park 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, this natural lake has a wide range of bird life in a river red gum forest setting. From the local town of Wahgunyah, explore the 4km interpretative walking trail along the river to the lake. This is the venue for both skiing and rowing events held throughout the year.

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.rutherglenvic.com

Yarrawonga - Mulwala

Yarrawonga Regional Park - also known as The Common, has a lovely sandy beach and is popular for camping, bush walking, bike riding and a variety 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 12km north of Yarrawonga, on the banks of Lake Mulwala, Kyffins Reserve has over 1km of shoreline with camping areas well away from the main road.



Regent Honeyeater.
Courtesy: Dean Ingwersen, Birds Australia

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 - Yarrawonga-Mulwala is an easy 2km stroll suitable for children, elderly and wheelchairs. 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 - 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.

Park summaries

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 – this 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.

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** 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

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

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.

Kerang Regional Park - these wetlands 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 Marraboar 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
Cnr McCrae and Curlewis Streets, PO Box 488 Swan Hill 3585
Freecall: 1800 625 373
www.swanhillonline.com



Canoeing on Lake Hattah, Hattah-Kulkyne National Park

Park summaries



Lindsay Island Courtesy: Tracey O’Keeffe

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

Balranald Visitor Information Centre
Market Street, Balranald NSW 2715
Freecall: 1800 444 043
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

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.

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

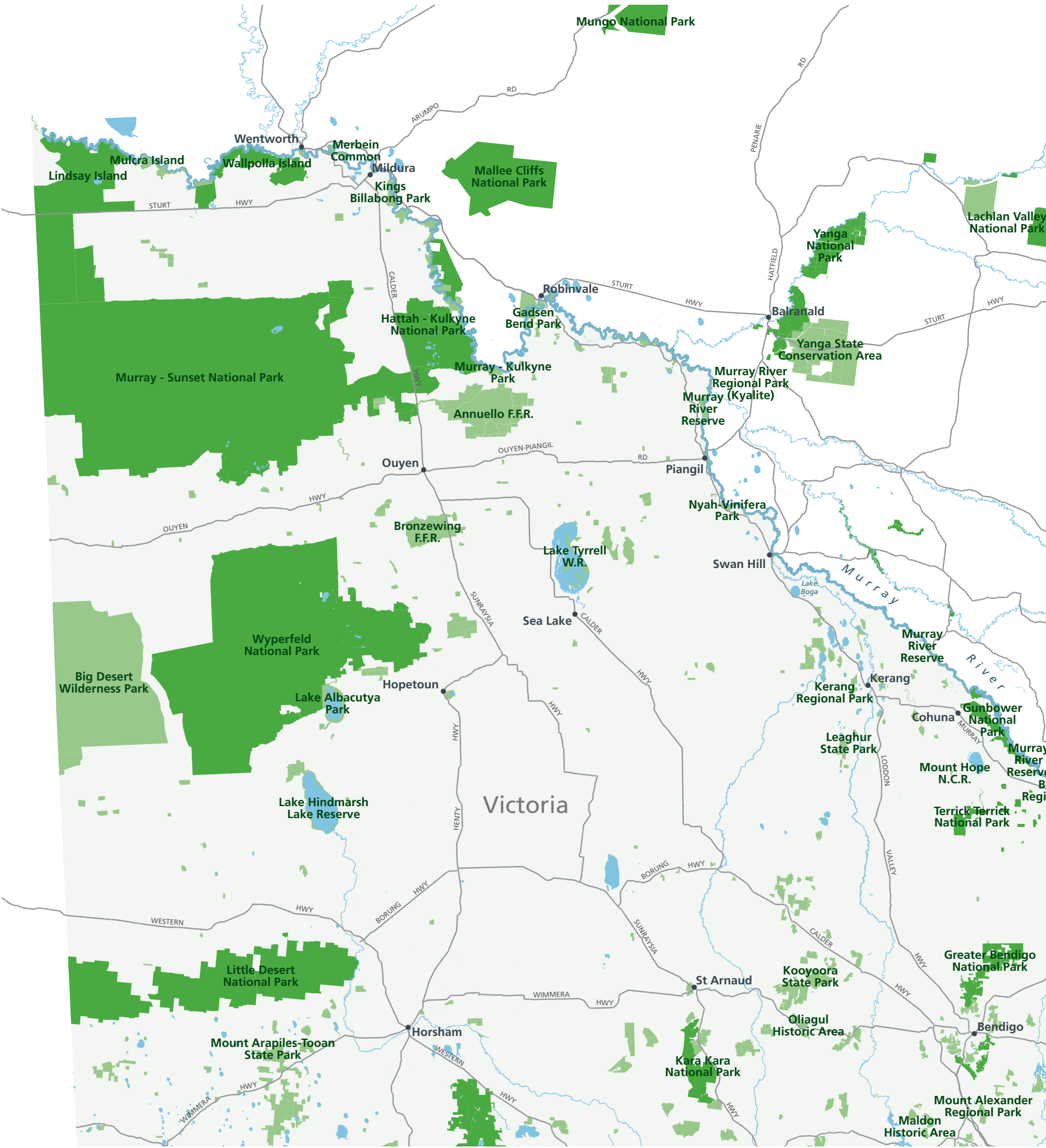
And ... if you are heading further down the Murray through South Australia, then call into the Visitor Information Centre at Renmark to find more fantastic things to see and do.

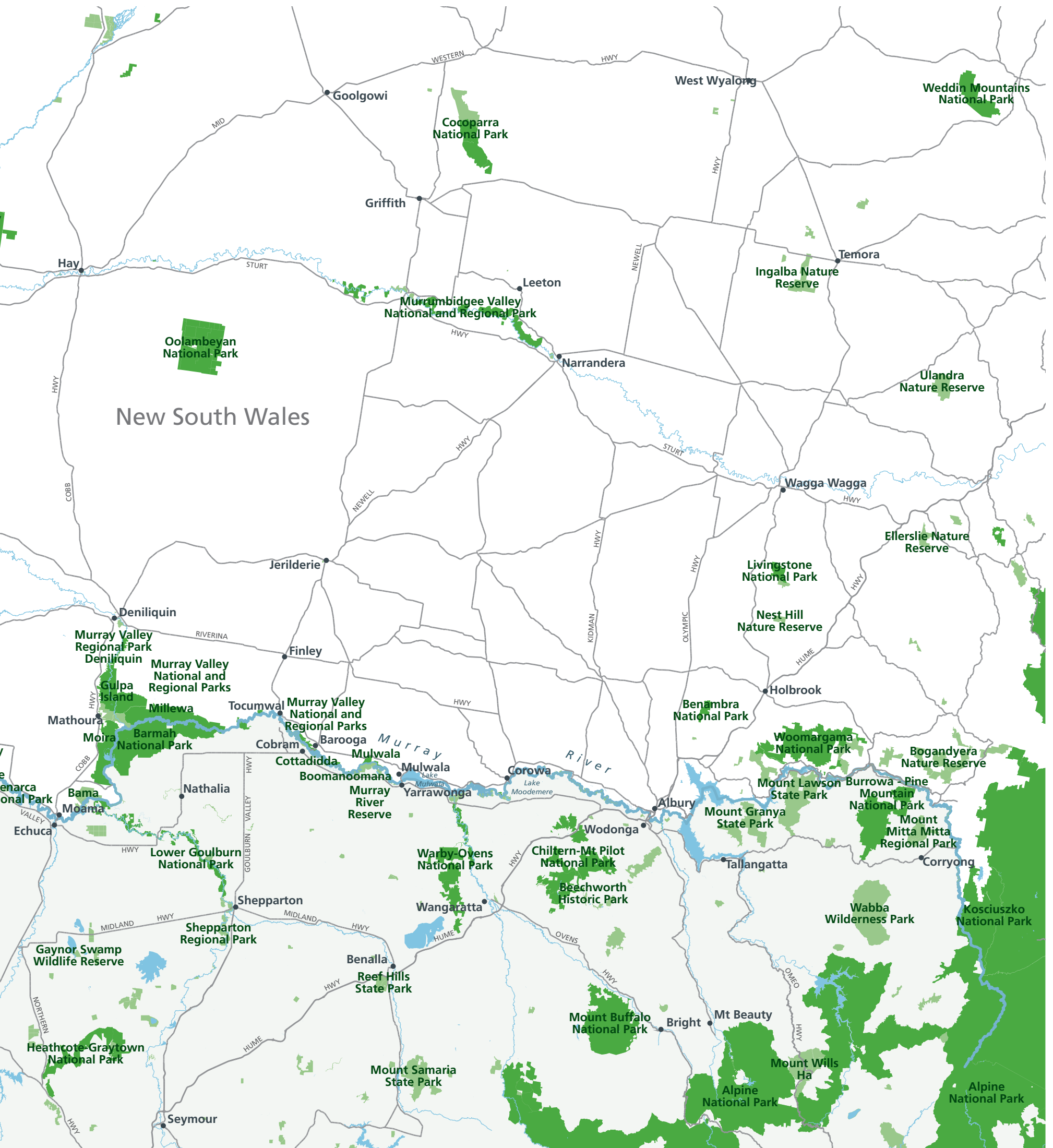
Renmark Paringa Visitor Information Centre
84 Murray Avenue, Renmark SA 5341
Phone: (08) 8586 6704



Galahs Courtesy: Tracey O’Keeffe

Murray River Parks





This map provide an overview of the area.
Refer to www.parks.vic.gov.au or www.environment.nsw.gov.au/nationalparks
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 Services 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

Environmental water

The benefits of environmental water in River Red Gum parks continue to flow . . .

People head to the Murray River year after year to enjoy the magnificent network of rivers, wetlands and floodplains that characterise the River Red Gum parks. But did you know that these systems rely on regulated water flow to keep them healthy and vibrant?

Environmental water is a management technique whereby water is released into specific creeks and wetlands and held there for periods of time. Environmental water plays an important role in our parks by helping to give these systems the water they need to survive, reducing the impacts of river regulation and a changing climate.

Environmental water has been a key part of water policy in Victoria since the 1990s, driven largely by grim changes in the condition of waterways and floodplains at the time. Iconic river red gums were dying, wetlands were dry, fish numbers were declining and water quality had deteriorated.

According to Ranger Jack Kelly, environmental watering at Lindsay and Mulcra Islands, in the north of Murray-Sunset National Park, has evolved greatly in the past ten years. “At the start it involved sand-bagging to manipulate water in the creeks. Now we have infrastructure in place that makes the job easier to get water to more of the waterways. One stretch of river that previously had only dead red gums now has saplings 12 foot high due to environmental water.”

Across Victoria, environmental water is now actively managed to improve ecological conditions. Delivering environmental water can help trigger fish movement and breeding, improve the condition of local vegetation, reduce black water and algal bloom risks and increase feeding and breeding opportunities for waterbirds. The water is held for a period of time with the aim

of mimicking a natural flood. This allows species that naturally prefer the wet conditions to prevail, and it drowns out species that would not normally be as abundant in the floodplain.

By enhancing these ecological values, the community also benefits. The waterways of northern Victoria are highly valued for recreation and tourism. Environmental water can improve recreational fishing, bird watching opportunities, conditions for canoeing and rowing regattas, as well as scenery for campers and day visitors. The waterways also support irrigated agriculture and by doing so, valuable food and fibre production. Keeping waterways healthy and functioning is in everyone’s best interest.

At Hattah-Kulkyne National Park, Ranger Team Leader Shane Southon is thrilled with the benefits environmental water has brought to the lakes. Shane saw years of drought impact the park, “For many years the lakes were dry and I didn’t think they would ever fill. They did thanks to environmental water allocations and the installation of a pump station to help get water into the lakes. The River Red Gum floodplain and the lakes themselves are now recovering after years of stress.”

Shane says that the presence of environmental water has brought an increase in visitor numbers, including the number of school groups that use the area for paddling and hiking. Every school holidays, more people are travelling from Melbourne, South Australia and beyond to see Hattah lakes. “They tell their friends about the lakes and then they visit too. It has had such a positive response. People are very happy to set up camp here in the hot weather when we have water in the lakes.”

Additional benefits come when environmental watering is combined with other river and wetland restoration activities.

By enhancing these ecological values, the community also benefits. The waterways of northern Victoria are highly valued for recreation and tourism. Environmental water can improve recreational fishing, bird watching opportunities, conditions for canoeing and rowing regattas, as well as scenery for campers and day visitors. The waterways also support irrigated agriculture and by doing so, valuable food and fibre production. Keeping waterways healthy and functioning is in everyone’s best interest.

Parks Victoria as the land manager works closely with waterway managers (the Catchment Management Authorities), to deliver a range of complementary activities to the environmental watering including revegetation works, controlling pest animals, and preventing erosion.

The River Red Gum parks are fortunate to receive environmental water from a variety of sources, including the Victorian Environmental Water Holder, the Murray-Darling Basin Authority, the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder and also through donations from individuals, community groups and



August 2004 – Stressed river red gum on Lindsay Island
Courtesy: Shane Kelly



May 2006 – Same river red gum on Lindsay Island after receiving environmental water
Courtesy: Shane Kelly

Environmental water

other organisations. Priority sites for environmental watering now include the Goulburn, Broken, Loddon and Campaspe river systems, as well as wetlands and floodplains of the River Murray.

During spring 2015, the North Central Catchment Management Authority delivered environmental water to the Gunbower Forest. A regulator built under the Living Murray Program has delivered environmental water to the area for a second year. During environmental watering programs, access tracks to some recreational areas are closed for safety, however, once tracks are dry and safe they reopen for visitor use. To find out which tracks are open, please visit www.parks.vic.gov.au or local visitor information centres.

Ranger Team Leader Murray Thorson sees the advantages of having water delivery infrastructure in place. “When we get the next drought and if environmental water is available, we can maintain the condition of these wetlands. Previously we were relying on rain or a high river. This is particularly important given Gunbower, like Hattah, includes several Ramsar listed wetlands which are of international importance.” The Ramsar convention promotes the conservation and sustainability of wetlands through an international treaty. There are more than 2,000 Ramsar sites across the world.

Environmental water is also being delivered to Lakes Powell and Lake Carpul near Robinvale, providing habitat and drought refuge for hundreds of waterbirds as well as species such as

carpet pythons and bats. It is a great time for both visitors and locals to see these lakes and enjoy the benefits of the environmental watering. While water is delivered the lakes will remain fully accessible for camping, canoeing, fishing and bird watching.

Nyah-Vinifera Park is also bouncing back as environmental water improves the condition of the forest and attracts many native animals, including Swamp Wallabies, frogs, birds and small fish. This is the first time environmental water has been delivered to the Vinifera creek system which experienced a 15 year drought before natural floods in 2011.

The future looks good for these and other sites within River Red Gum parks that receive environmental water. With the help of monitoring, Parks Victoria is continually learning about the value of environmental watering as work with the local waterway managers continues to maximise the benefits to the environment and community. As Shane suggests “trying to mimic nature is not the easiest thing to do, but we will continue to learn from research and balance the environmental and recreational needs of our waterways.”



Construction of a regulator at Hattah-Kulkyne National Park



The Hattah lakes (October 2014) during an environmental watering event once construction of the pump station and regulators was completed.

Healthy Parks Healthy People

Parks are incredibly important, not just for their intrinsic value and for the plants and animals that live in them, but for our health and wellbeing as well. Research tells us that nature and human health are inextricably linked.

Nature provides fresh water, clean air and food, upon which all human life and health depends. It benefits people’s mental, physical and spiritual health and wellbeing. Research shows that time spent in nature, or even just looking at nature, is good for our physical and mental health.

Sprawling urbanisation coupled with shrinking natural spaces has left society disconnected from the natural world.

It is for these reasons that our parks are now more important than ever. Our national parks, including the River Red Gum parks and the Murray River are of great environmental and cultural importance. They are home to majestic River Red Gums, tranquil wetlands and threatened species like the Superb Parrot and the Carpet Python. They are the base for recreational activities like camping, fishing and bushwalking. They bring visitors to the area and support local economies.

River Red Gum parks establishment

How far have we come since the establishment of Victoria’s River Red Gum parks?

What are the River Red Gums parks?

The River Red Gum forests along the banks of the Murray, Goulburn and Ovens Rivers are amongst the iconic Australian landscapes. They have long been loved by locals and visitors alike.

Since European settlement, the landscape has been highly modified through land clearing and industry, such as water diversions, grazing and logging. The resilience of the remaining forests is frequently tested during times of drought, flood and from climate change.

In 2010 the River Red Gum parks were established to further protect the River Red Gum forests and improve their health. The establishment of the parks also recognised the importance of enabling Traditional Owners living and connected with these areas to joint manage many areas and maintain and improve recreational and tourism opportunities.

Four new national parks were established;

- Barmah National Park
- Gunbower National Park
- Lower Goulburn National Park
- Warby-Ovens National Park

The existing Murray-Sunset, Hattah-Kulkyne and Terrick Terrick national parks were expanded. Other new parks were created including; Gadsen Bend, Kings Billabong and Nyah-Vinifera parks and the Kerang and Shepparton regional parks.

Improving parks for visitors

Since the establishment of these parks, Parks Victoria has been upgrading several camping and day visitor areas.

These improved visitor facilities focus on making these parks more enjoyable for visitors so they keep coming back, bringing their family and friends. Facilities like these encourage more people, from diverse backgrounds, to spend more time in nature, which is great for their physical and mental health. It’s our *Healthy Parks Healthy People* approach in action.

Merbein Common - Improvements at Merbein Common include a concrete boat ramp, improved parking for cars and boat trailers, new picnic tables, fire rings and signage. The works complement the new toilet constructed in 2013.

Kings Billabong Park - new facilities at Psyche Bend and the Walks Carpark include improved parking, canoe launch and jetty, picnic tables and signage. The works complement the new toilet facilities constructed in 2013 at Billabong Walks carpark.

Hattah Lakes Campground, Hattah-Kulkyne National Park - Hattah Lakes campground includes two new toilet facilities, a picnic shelter, fencing and bollards to improve safety and reduce compaction around large red gums, access track improvements, picnic tables, fire rings and signage.

Nursery Bend, Gunbower National Park - features new picnic tables and signage.

Masters Landing, Gunbower - includes a new all accessible toilet, upgraded campground and day visitor area access, picnic

River Red Gums can grow up to 45 metres tall and live for more than 500 years. Their trunks are often twisted and patchy with grey bark above an area of brown-black bark. The trees need periods of flooding and can survive inundation for months. Their seeds are washed onto higher ground during a flood and germinate and grow before the next flood. The hollows or broken branches provide nesting for bird life including galahs, cockatoos, and various parrots and fallen branches provide habitat for many animals.

tables and fire rings, a new timber fence around the old house, and signage.

Barmah National Park - Barmah Lakes campground and day visitor area includes three new toilet facilities, a picnic shelter, concrete boat ramp, fencing to improve safety around large red gums, access track improvements, picnic tables, and signage. At Rices Bridge additional boat trailer parking has been constructed and signage installed.

The Gulf Campground, Barmah National Park - improved access and parking areas, a new concrete boat ramp, picnic tables, better protection of a large ring tree that is significant to the Yorta Yorta people, and directional signage.

Scotts Beach at Cobram - six new picnic tables installed along the river’s edge so visitors can appreciate uninterrupted views of the river, car parking areas constructed behind the picnic area, and a new path connecting parking and picnic areas. Two defined gravelled camping areas suitable for motor homes, RVs and caravans have been created. While some areas have been closed off to vehicle access, visitors can still park adjacent to the bollards and erect tents behind the bollarded area. This ensures

campers have safe areas to camp that are free from vehicle activity.

The River Red Gum forests and wetlands are facing challenges from changing climate, drought and altered water flows. The new parks will protect the natural and cultural heritage of these areas and help support local communities. Parks Victoria is working with Aboriginal Traditional Owners, community groups, local government and individuals to provide the best possible care to this precious area. We are working together to control pest plants and animals, deliver water to the forest, conduct planned burning, improve visitor information and facilities, and more. Check out page 10 to discover the ongoing benefits of environmental water to the River Red Gum parks.

The River Red Gum parks are great places to relax and enjoy the great outdoors. A whole range of activities can be enjoyed in the parks – camping, fishing, water sports, horse riding, four wheel driving, bushwalking and much more. Flip to page 3 and 4 for further information about popular activities. River Red Gum parks - protected for everyone to enjoy, now and in the future.



All abilities canoe launching ramp, Kings Billabong
Courtesy: Chris Curran, IR Composite Mildura (supplier of recycled plastics used in the ramp and co-designer)



The new red gum timber fence around the Masters Hut at Masters Landing, Gunbower, gives the place even more of a heritage feel.

Falling trees

Entire trees (especially the iconic River Red Gums) can fall, or drop branches 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
- Very hot, still days
- Sudden changes in temperature
- Drought
- Fire
- Compaction
- Flood
- Lightening storms

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.



Fallen tree branch on campsite along the Murray River

Flood safety tips

- 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 – it is an offence to move or go through road closed signs.
- 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.

Follow the guide below 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.

Water safety tips

Swimming

- Alcohol and water related activities can be a fatal mix. Alcohol can severely impede your swimming ability, affect your judgement of situations and your ability to respond in the water should you fall in.
- Watch out for your mates and don't let them go in the water if they have been drinking.
- Never swim alone, make sure someone is always watching out for you in the water.
- Submerged objects, like branches or rocks, are often invisible from above the surface and present a real risk of neck and spinal injuries, especially to divers.
- Always enter the water slowly, feet first and never dive in.

Always actively supervise children

- Young children are particularly vulnerable around the water, so make sure they are always within your arm's reach.
- Parents and guardians are urged to actively supervise children around water – this means watching closely, not just the occasional glance.
- Children under five should always be in arm's reach, and children under 10 should always be in sight.

Safe boating on the Murray River

- When boating on the Murray River it's important to remember that the Murray is a NSW waterway and the laws of NSW apply. One important point of difference to other states is lifejacket laws.
- In NSW, children under 12 are required to wear a lifejacket at all times in vessels under 4.8 metres in length, and also when in an open area of vessels 4.8 to 8 metres that are underway.
- All persons must wear a lifejacket while on vessels under 4.8 metres (including canoes and kayaks) when boating after sunset, or boating alone. When towing, you must have an observer who is 16 or over (or holds a boat driving licence).
- Please consider the impact of your wash on other vessels and the environment at all times, ensuring it does not cause danger or damage.
- Alcohol and boating do not mix, and random breath testing of vessel operators (including observers and towed persons) is conducted in NSW. Alcohol limits are 0.00 for those under 18 and 0.05 for those over 18.

Hiring a houseboat is a great way to enjoy the river, but please do so safely.

- Do not overload houseboats - each boat has a maximum passenger number (up to 12). It is unsafe and illegal to exceed this number.
- Jumping from houseboats is dangerous, and an offence under NSW legislation.
- Remember to keep a proper lookout and travel at a safe speed according to the conditions, and enjoy boating on the Murray River.

More information on boating safety and NSW rules can be found at www.rms.nsw.gov.au

Fire safety - Victoria

Stay fire safe this summer

Fire Danger Ratings predict how a fire would behave if one started, including how difficult it would be to put out. The higher the rating, the more dangerous the conditions.

Ratings are your trigger to act, so to stay safe you need to know the Fire Danger Rating in the district where you live or travel.

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

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

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



Code Red days

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

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

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

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

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

Stay in touch

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

Away from home checklist

- Monitor local weather conditions and on hot, dry windy days plan activities carefully. Contact Visitor Information Centres for safe tourist activities and locations
- Know the most up-to-date Fire Danger Rating and Total Fire Ban information in the area where you are staying for holiday or work by calling 1800 240 667 and/or tuning in to ABC Local Radio, commercial radio and SKY NEWS
- Look and listen for weather and fire information by tuning in to ABC Local Radio, commercial radio and SKY NEWS



WHAT DOES IT MEAN?	WHAT SHOULD I DO?	
CODE RED	<ul style="list-style-type: none">> These are the worst conditions for a bush or grassfire.> Homes are not designed or constructed to withstand fires in these conditions.> The safest place to be is away from high-risk bushfire areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">> Leaving high-risk bushfire areas the night before or early in the day is your safest option – do not wait and see.> Avoid forested areas, thick bush or long, dry grass.> Know your trigger – make a decision about:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– when you will leave– where you will go– how you will get there– when you will return– what you will do if you cannot leave.
EXTREME	<ul style="list-style-type: none">> Expect extremely hot, dry and windy conditions.> If a fire starts and takes hold, it will be uncontrollable, unpredictable and fast moving. Spot fires will start, move quickly and come from many directions.> Homes that are situated and constructed or modified to withstand a bushfire, that are well prepared and actively defended, may provide safety.> You must be physically and mentally prepared to defend in these conditions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">> 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.> If you are not prepared to the highest level, leaving high-risk bushfire areas early in the day is your safest option.> 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 emergency.vic.gov.au, call the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667 or via National Relay Service on 1800 555 677.
SEVERE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">> Expect hot, dry and possibly windy conditions.> If a fire starts and takes hold, it may be uncontrollable.> Well-prepared homes that are actively defended can provide safety.> You must be physically and mentally prepared to defend in these conditions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">> Well-prepared homes that are actively defended can provide safety – check your Bushfire Survival Plan.> If you are not prepared, leaving bushfire-prone areas early in the day is your safest option.> 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 emergency.vic.gov.au, call the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667 or via National Relay Service on 1800 555 677.
VERY HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none">> If a fire starts, it can most likely be controlled in these conditions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">> Check your Bushfire Survival Plan.
HIGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none">> Be aware of how fires can start and minimise the risk.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">> Monitor conditions.> Action may be needed.
LOW-MODERATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">> Controlled burning off may occur in these conditions if it is safe – check to see if permits apply.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">> Leave if necessary.

- Find out what bushfire safety plans are in place where you are camping, caravanning or renting accommodation
- Find the nearest Neighbourhood Safer Place when you are staying in a high risk bushfire area. This and other local information can be found in a Community Information Guide which you can pick up from Visitor Information Centres
- Know alternative routes to leave your destination and pack a hard copy map - electronic devices may be affected during an emergency
- Pack your own travel relocation kit and have it accessible at all times. Contents should include protective clothing such as long-sleeved natural fibre tops, pants, sturdy shoes, hats, drinking water and woollen blankets
- Use your senses, watch for signs of fire such as smelling smoke or hearing sirens, don’t expect an official warning

For information regarding NSW fire safety, please visit www.rfs.nsw.gov.au or call 1800 679 737

Rubbish and recycling disposal locations along the Murray River

Victoria

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 - 12.00 noon

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 - 12.00 noon

Gannawarra Shire – 03 5450 9333

Kerang – Kerang-Murrabit Rd
Sunday, Tuesday and Friday 1.00pm - 4.00pm
Closed Christmas Day and Boxing Day 25 - 26 December

Cohuna – cnr Chuggs and Cohuna-Leitchville Rds
Tuesday and Friday 9.00am - 11.00am
Sunday 1.00pm - 4.00pm
Closed Christmas Day and Boxing Day 25 – 26 December

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

Mildura Rural City - 03 5018 8100

Times may change please ring the council for details

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

Ouyen Landfill - Dunkley Road, Ouyen
Monday and Thursday 8.00am - 12 noon
Tuesday and Friday 1.00pm - 6.00pm
Sunday 10.00am - 2.00pm

Sewage Dump Point
Cnr Benetook Ave and Adams St, Mildura

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 - 12 noon

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

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

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

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

Swan Hill – 03 5036 2333

Swan Hill Sea Lake – Swan Hill Rd - 4km West of Swan Hill

Monday to Friday 9.00am - 4.00pm
Sunday 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
Monday - Wednesday 9.00am - 3.00pm
Friday and Sunday 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

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

New South Wales

Albury Shire - 02 6043 5860

Albury Waste Management Centre - Centaur Rd, Lavington
Monday to Friday 7.00am - 5.00pm
Saturday and Sunday 9.00am - 4.00pm

Balranald Shire - 03 5020 1300

Balranald - Sturt Highway (1 Oct – 30 March)
Tuesday, Thursday 5.00pm - 7.00pm
Saturday 10.00am -1.00pm
Sunday 10.00am - 3.00pm

Euston - Sturt Highway
Tuesday and Thursday 1.00pm - 6.00pm
Sunday 9.00am - 3.00pm

Berrigan Shire - 03 5888 5100

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

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

Corowa Shire - 02 6033 8999

All Corowa Shire transfer stations are closed Christmas and Boxing day, New Years Day, Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

Corowa – Riverina Highway (Albury Rd)
Friday 9.00am - 12.00 noon
Saturday 1.00pm - 4.00pm
Sunday 9.00am - 1.00pm

Mulwala - Old Barooga Rd
Wednesday, Saturday, Sunday 9.00am – 12.00 noon

Howlong - Goomargana Rd
Tuesday 1.00pm - 4.00pm
Saturday 9.00am - 12.00 noon
Sunday 1.00pm - 4.00pm

Deniliquin - 03 5898 3000

Deniliquin Waste Disposal Depot – Phone 5898 3155
Hay Road (Cobb Highway) about 4km from the North Deniliquin roundabout
Open every day 8.30am - 4.00pm
Except Christmas Day Anzac Day and Good Friday

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

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 - 12.00 noon
Sunday 12.00 noon - 4.00pm

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

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

Wentworth Shire - 03 5023 2307

Wentworth Transfer Station – Pooncarie Road
Wednesday 8.00am - 4.45pm
Friday 12.30pm - 4.45pm
Sunday 9.00am - 4.45pm

Dareton Transfer Station - Dunya Road
Tuesday 8.00am - 4.45pm
Thursday 8.00am - 12.00 noon
Saturday 9.00am - 4.45pm

Pomona Transfer Station - Neilpo Road
Friday 8.00am - 12.00 noon

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

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.

A cleaner Murray
is in your hands
Reduce, Re-use, Recycle



Sustainable camping

Safe and sustainable camping guidelines

Campfires and barbecues

VIC

- Small campfires and barbecues are permitted for cooking or warmth provided that;
 - The fire is lit in a properly constructed fireplace or in a trench at least 30 centimetres deep.
 - Clear the ground around and above the campfire of all flammable material for three metres in all directions.
 - Keep the fire no larger than one square metre.
 - Never leave the fire unattended. An adult must supervise at all times.
 - Ensure you have either a hose connected to a water supply or at least 10 litres of water available for immediate use.
- Put the fire out with water, not soil.
- If a campfire is cool to touch, it is safe to leave.
- Portable gas or electric barbecues may be lit on a day of Total Fire Ban. When alight place in a stable position and ensure the area within a distance of 3 metres from the outer perimeter of the barbecue is clear of all flammable material.
- No campfires or solid fuel barbecues may be lit on a day of Total Fire Ban.
- Refer to the CFA website for more information in various languages. www.cfa.vic.gov.au/about/other-languages/
- Download the Fire Ready app to your smart phone to get updates on Total Fire Bans and fire warnings.

See page 14 for Total Fire Ban District map.

NSW

- Solid fuel fires (including wood and heat bead barbecues and cookers) are not permitted during the ‘Solid Fuel 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.

Campsites

- Set up campsites 20 metres from any waterway.
- Permanent structures or camps are not permitted.
- Digging steps into river banks is an offence and can cause erosion and landslides.
- Camping is not permitted in day visitor areas or on licensed water frontages adjacent to private property.
- Do not spray paint or attach signs to trees.
- 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.

Dogs and other pets

- 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.

Firewood

- Firewood is becoming scarce in areas along the river. Consider the environment and only have fires when necessary for cooking or warmth.
- Firewood can be purchased from petrol stations, some camping stores and hardware store in local towns.
- Cutting down any tree, dead or alive, is an offence and substantial penalties may apply – 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 logs.
- Do not place logs larger than one metre on the fire.
- Domestic firewood collection rules are available at; <http://delwp.vic.gov.au/parks-forests-and-crown-land/firewood>

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.

Generator use

- 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 1.5 metres clear of fuels, dry grass or other combustible objects.
 - extension cords do not cross access tracks and are rated for external use.
 - the generator is only refuelled when the engine is cold.
 - avoid using generators on days of Total Fire Ban.
 - must be fitted with an efficient spark arrester.

Rubbish

VIC

- 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.
- Keep campsites free of litter at all times.
- Do not place litter in campfires, bottles and cans do not burn – please recycle them.

NSW

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

Swimming and water safety

- Take care when swimming.
- Rivers have fast currents, underwater objects and deep holes which can be hazardous.
- Swim with a friend or family member.
- Do not drink alcohol and swim.
- Actively supervise children in and near water.
- Wear a life jacket if swimming in deep water.
- Do not swim in flood water.
- Do not dive or jump in to the river or use any kind of swing.

Toilets

- Please use toilets where provided.
- Chemical toilets are recommended.
- Earth pit toilets are acceptable, and must be at least 100 metres from any waterway.
- Bury all toilet waste, including toilet paper.
- Do not empty chemical toilets into onsite toilet facilities. Dump sites for emptying portable toilets are available in many towns.

4WD and motorbikes

- Off road use of any vehicle (4WD, motorbikes and cars) is strictly prohibited and fines apply. Vehicles must be on properly formed vehicle tracks.
- 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).

In an emergency call 000 for Fire Brigade, Police or Ambulance