Free

The Murray River Guardian

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

Inside this issue:

- **Map and guide to parks in Victoria**
- **Visitor safety information**
- **How to manage your rubbish**
- **Fire information**

Parks VICTORIA

Healthy Parks Healthy People®

VICTORIA State Government

Welcome

Welcome to The Murray River Guardian

At Parks Victoria, we inspire the community to conserve and enjoy Victoria's unique natural and cultural heritage. Together, we care for Country and promote the value of our parks and waterways for the benefit of all Victorians and their visitors.

This guide provides information to make your visit to the Murray River parks both safe and enjoyable, while protecting the river and its environment for the future.

The Murray River covers more than 2,500km and spans three states. The river supports more than 350 bird species, 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 beautiful camping and picnic sites along the river.

For detail on activities you can enjoy along the Murray River and information about these parks and reserves visit www.parks.vic.gov.au

Share your photos on Instagram and Facebook, tag @parksvic

Craig Stubbings
Regional Director - Northern Victoria, Parks Victoria

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.

Let us know what you think about the Murray River Guardian:
murrayriverguardian@parks.vic.gov.au

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Cover: Kings Billabong Park. Image: Daniel Burton

Key contact numbers

Emergency
000 Police/Fire/Ambulance

Victorian Bushfire Information Line
1800 240 667
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

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

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

Kings Billabong Park. Image: Daniel Burton

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

There are plenty of beautiful places to explore along the Murray River from Corryong in the east to Mildura and the South Australian border in the west. 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 – 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 bushwalks. 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.

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.

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

Wangaratta

Warby-Ovens National Park – north of Wangaratta, this national park provides a tranquil setting for a camping holiday, characterised by three distinct vegetation communities - the spectacular granitic hills and woodlands of the Warby Range, the Box-Ironbark of the Killawarra Forest and the Redgum forest and wetlands of the unregulated Ovens Heritage River.

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 Region Visitor Information Centre
100 Edwards Street, Corowa NSW 2646
Freecall: 1800 814 054
www.visitcorowaregion.com.au

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

Yarrawonga

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.

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.

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

Cobram

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.

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

Hattah Lakes. Image: Mallee Catchment Management Authority

Park summaries

Barmah National Park in flood October 2016. Image: Angela Gaynor

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

33 Nixon Street, Shepparton VIC 3630
Freecall: 1800 808 839
www.discovershepparton.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 2289
www.nathaliabarmah.com.au

Echuca

Echuca, 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 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 **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.

Echuca-Moama Visitor Information Centre

2 Heygarth Street, Echuca VIC 3564
Freecall: 1800 804 446
www.echucamoama.com

Kerang – Cohuna

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.

Gateway to Gannawarra Visitor Centre

90 King George Street, Cohuna VIC 3568
Phone: (03) 5456 2047

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.

Swan Hill Information Centre

Corner McCrae and Curlewis Streets, Swan Hill VIC 3585
Freecall: 1800 625 373
www.visitswanhill.com

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 are 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.

Gadsen 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 Gums, 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.

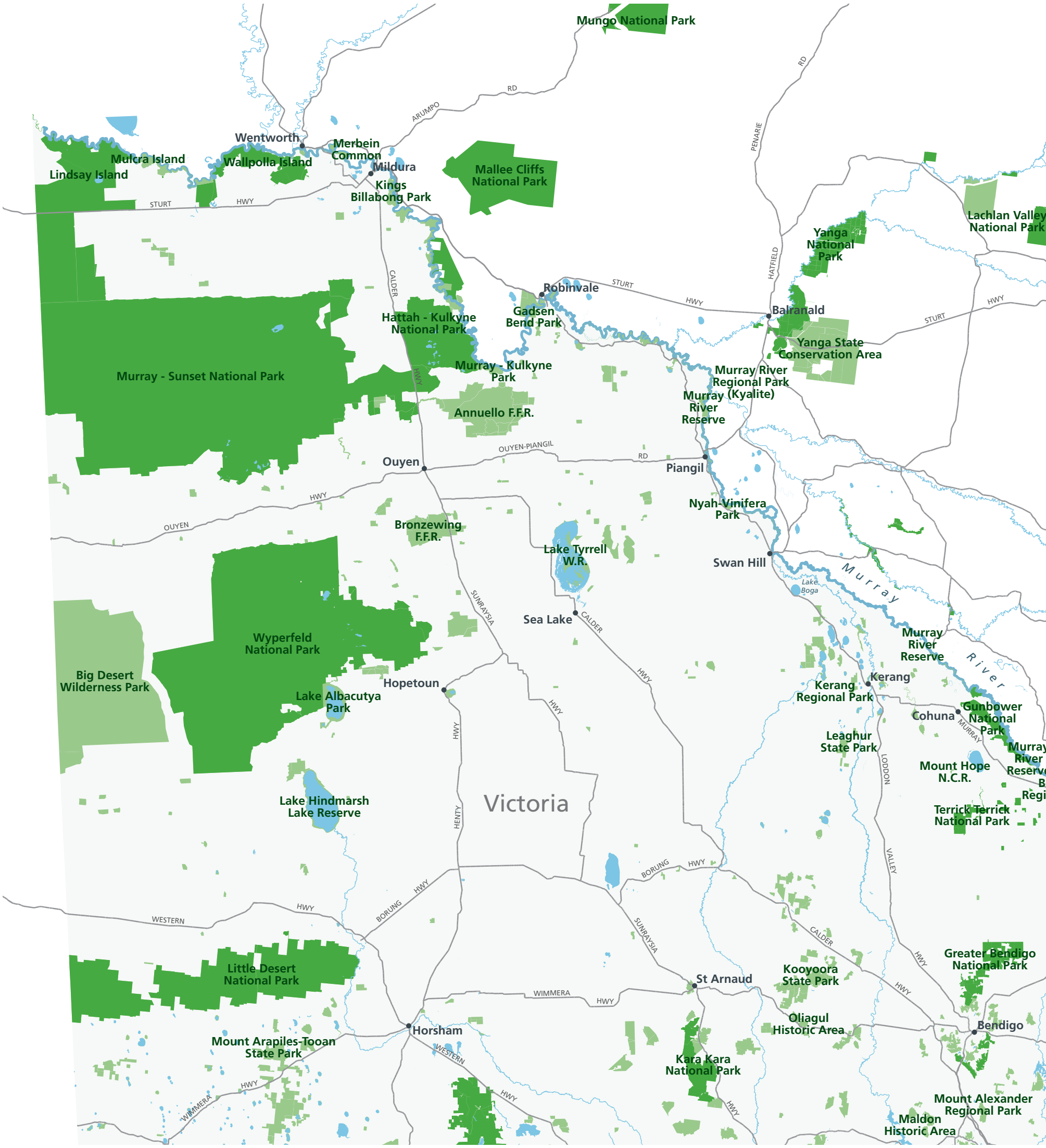
Mildura Visitor Information Centre
The Alfred Deakin Centre, cnr Deakin Avenue and Twelfth Street), Mildura VIC 3500
Freecall: 1800 039 043
www.visitmildura.com.au

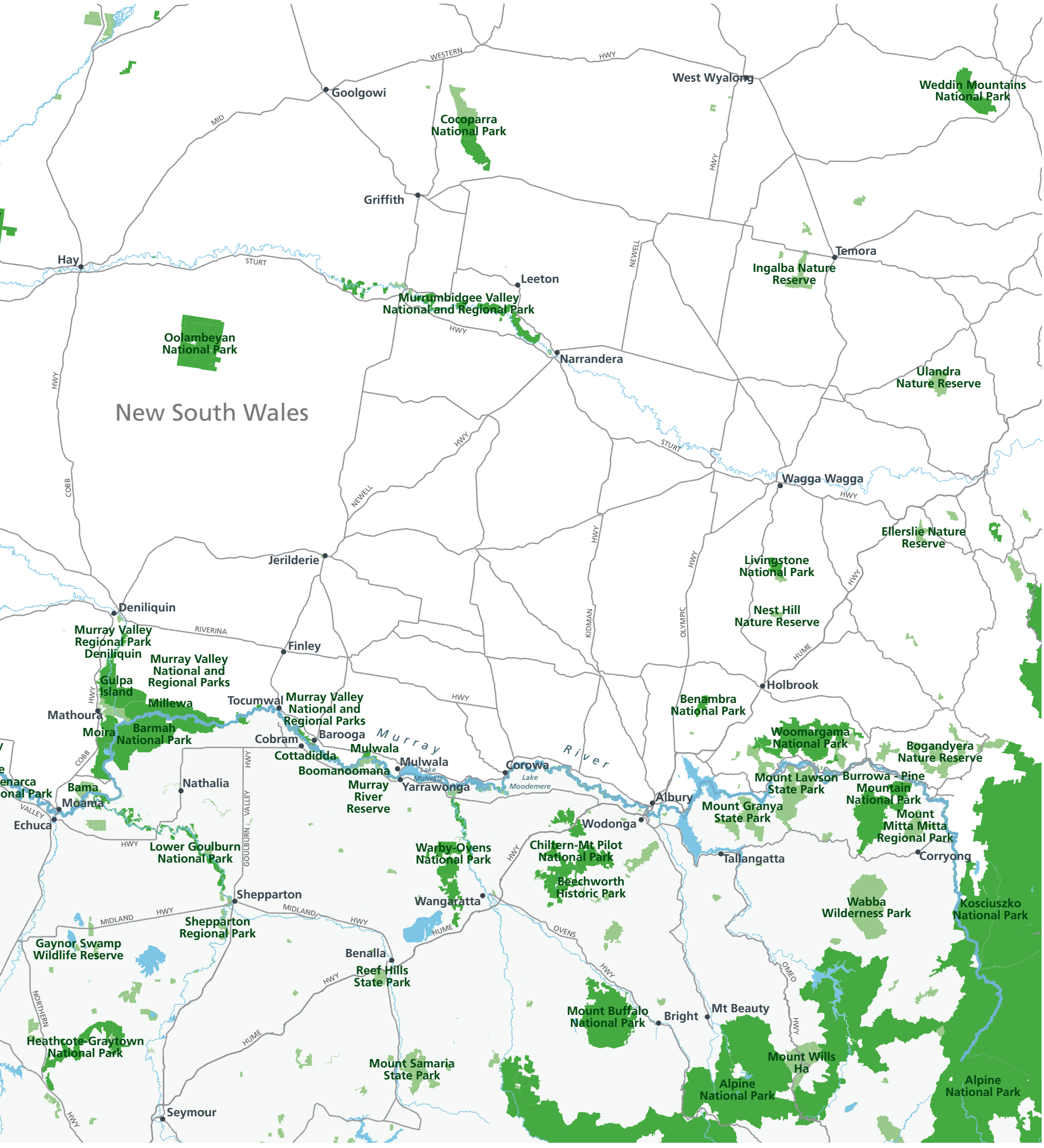
Robinvale Euston Information Centre
Bromley Road, Robinvale Victoria 3549
Phone: (03) 5026 1388
www.robinvaleeuston.com

Hattah-Kulkyne National Park. Image: Daniel Burton

Kayakers on the Mullaroo River Murray-Sunset National Park. Image: Daniel Burton

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.
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of any kind and therefore disclaims all liability for any error,
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Source: ©Land and Property Management Authority
Panorama Avenue Bathurst NSW 2795
www.lpma.nsw.gov.au

JUNIOR RANGERS

BORN TO EXPLORE

Remarkable River Red Gums

A River Red Gum is a type of Eucalypt that's known to grow up to 45m in height (the same as a nine story building). They can live for over 500 years and like to grow alongside rivers and lakes or areas that are seasonally flooded.

River Red Gums make perfect habitats (homes) for many different animals. Older River Red Gums can have up to 300 hollows in the trunk and branches that make perfect homes for threatened species like the Superb Parrot, Brush-tailed Phascogale and Carpet Pythons. Even fish can live in these hollows when the trees are flooded by water! Many insects also live in the branches and hollows, often becoming food for the other animals.

Protecting River Red Gum parks for the future

River Red Gums are a very popular source of timber for burning and building. Sadly, because of this, many of our red gum forests have disappeared over the last 200 years.

Parks Victoria's River Red Gum parks were established in 2010 and will help protect the largest remaining area of River Red Gum forest in the whole world!

Find the following words in the puzzle below:

BANKS, BARMAH, COD, CAMPING, EMUS, EXPLORING, FORESTS, FUN, HERITAGE, PARKS, REDGUMS, RIVERS, WETLANDS

13 letters will remain that make up 2 secret words. List these letters in order of how they are found in the space below to discover the secret word.

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

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

Interesting River Red Gum facts:

- Aboriginal people use the leaves of the River Red Gum as medicine
- The flowers of the River Red Gum help bees to make very tasty honey
- River Red Gums can live for over 500 years
- River Red Gums can handle being underwater for over three months
- River Red Gums survive drought by dropping leaves so they don't lose as much water through evaporation
- The tree hollows of River Red Gums make great homes for many different types of birds and animals
- Older River Red Gums can contain up to 300 tree hollows

River Red Gums are renowned for dropping branches, especially when you least expect it in calm, hot weather. Never camp or park your car underneath a River Red Gum just in case the tree falls or drops branches.

COLOUR IN THE RIVER RED GUM AND THE ANIMALS THAT LIVE IN IT

Junior Ranger environmental tip

Fallen branches can provide homes for animals. This is why firewood can only be collected from designated areas. Junior Rangers always use a gas stove for cooking rather than an open fire.

Study a River Red Gum

Find a large River Red Gum with tree hollows:

- How many tree hollows can you count?_____
- How many different types of animals can you see in the tree? (Dusk can be a great time for spotting birds and animals in River Red Gums) _____
- Guess how high your tree is?_____ metres
- How close is your tree to water?_____ metres
- How many different colours can you see on the tree?_____

In the space below draw an animal that you have seen in a River Red Gum tree

Explore the wonders of nature by becoming a Junior Ranger

There's something very satisfying about seeing a child discover and explore the natural world around them. Whether it's paddling in a rock pool, rolling in a pile of autumn leaves or finding a new creature or plant, the joy of discovery is a beautiful thing to see.

A growing body of research tells us that spending time in nature is good for children. Connecting children with nature is important for their intellectual, emotional, social, spiritual and physical development. So, in an increasingly busy and urbanised world, where screens are sometimes rated higher than play, there is good reason to get our kids outdoors and into parks. At Parks Victoria we believe parks are a perfect playground for children and their families to have fun in and connect with nature.

Parks Victoria's Junior Ranger Program offers a great way to foster children's interest in the natural world around them. It's also been developed to instil an appreciation and understanding of these environments and why it's important to conserve and protect them. Run during school holidays in parks across the state, the free program includes a range of interactive and fun activities for children aged 6-12 years.

Holiday activities are led by rangers who love sharing their own passion and knowledge about the parks with others. Kids can use a microscope to discover minibeasts are living right under our nose, or become a bush detective searching for creatures' tracks and traces.

There is also a range of self-guided activities available to help you and the family learn about the park's animals and habitats.

To get involved, visit www.juniorrangers.com.au where you'll find a What's on Page, a range of self-guided park activities, games and puzzles. You can also join the 4,000 subscribers who receive the e-newsletters detailing upcoming events.

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
- Ground compaction
- Flood
- Lightning 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.

Follow the guide below to minimise the risks to you and others.

Do

- Set up camp well away from trees. Tents, cars and picnics should be set-up in open spaces. 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

Fallen tree branch on campsite along the Murray River

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 – it is an offence to move or go around road closed signs.
- Please read any warning signs and adhere to road closures.
- Rangers will regularly monitor conditions and re-open closed areas as conditions dry out when it is safe to do so.

When visiting 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

Some parks along the river can be closed for some time but that's no reason to cancel your trip. There are alternate places to visit or camp on higher ground, and still plenty of opportunities to see the abundant bird and aquatic life.

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

Water safety tips

Swimming

- Alcohol and water 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 in the water if they have been drinking.
- Never swim alone.
- Always enter the water slowly, feet first and never dive in. Submerged objects like branches or rocks are often invisible from above the surface.

Always actively supervise children

- Young children are particularly vulnerable around the water, make sure they are always within your reach.
- Parents and guardians must actively supervise children near water. Adults watch closely at all times.
- Children under five should always be within reach.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. The law relating to lifejackets is different to Victorian 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 for operating a recreational vessel 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

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

For detail on activities you can enjoy along the Murray River and information about these parks and reserves visit www.parks.vic.gov.au

Fire safety - Victoria

Stay fire safe this summer

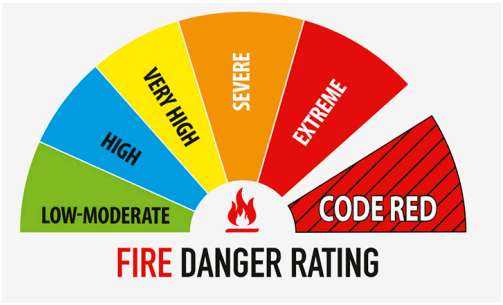
Fire Danger Ratings predict how a fire would behave if one started, including how difficult it would be to put out. The higher the rating, the more dangerous the conditions.

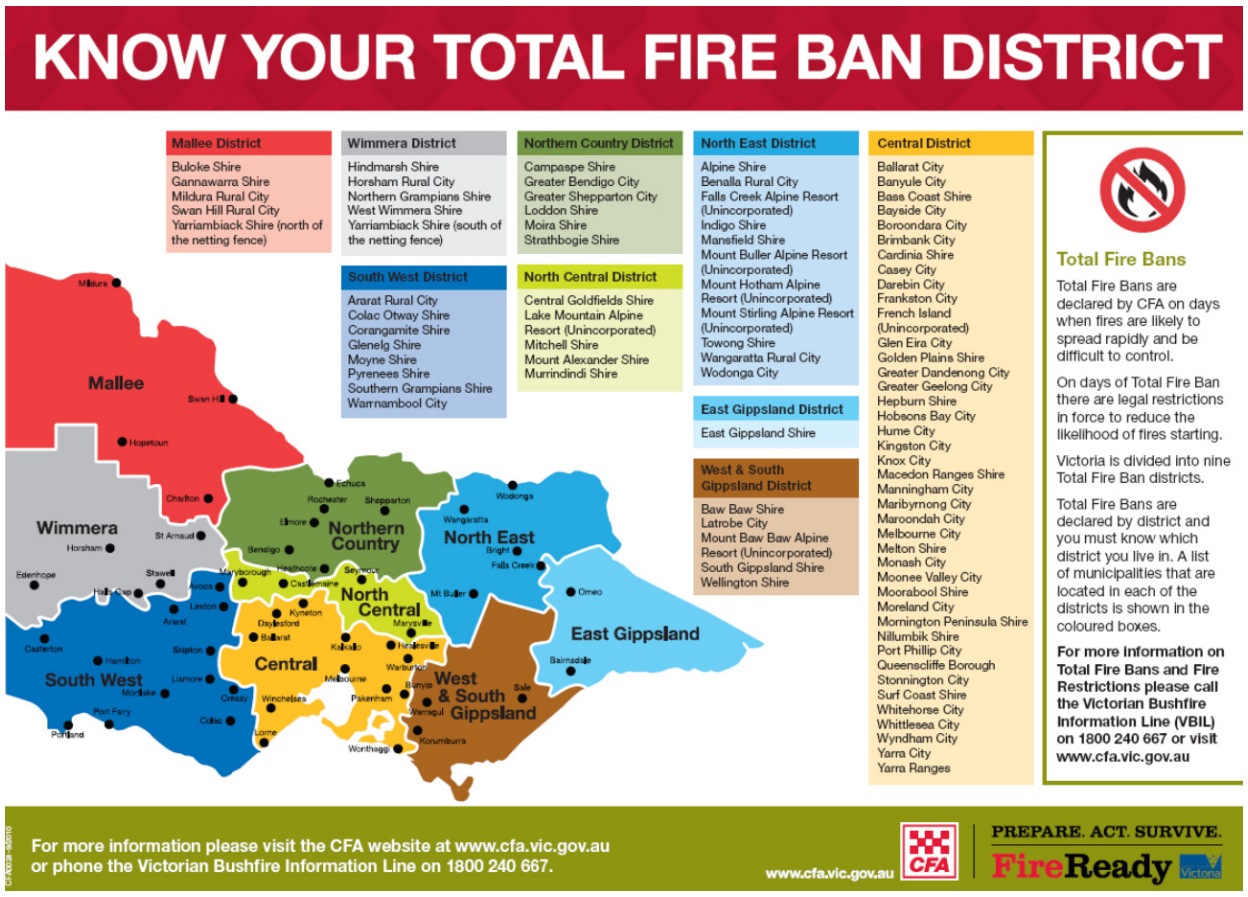
Ratings are your trigger to act, so to stay safe you need to know the Fire Danger Rating in the district where you live or travel.

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.

Fire Danger Ratings 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, or download the FireReady app onto your smart phone
- 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 weather, fire 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

	WHAT DOES IT MEAN?	WHAT SHOULD I DO?
CODE RED	> 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.	> 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: – 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	> 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.	> 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	> 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.	> 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	> If a fire starts, it can most likely be controlled in these conditions. > Be aware of how fires can start and minimise the risk. > Controlled burning off may occur in these conditions if it is safe – check to see if permits apply.	> Check your Bushfire Survival Plan. > Monitor conditions. > Action may be needed. > Leave if necessary.
HIGH		
LOW-MODERATE		

- 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.

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 campers 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 - 12.00pm

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 - 12.00pm

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

Mildura Landfill - Scherger Drive, off Ontario Ave
Monday to Friday 7.00am - 4.45pm
Saturday, Sunday and Public Holidays 8.00am - 3.45pm
ANZAC Day 1pm – 3.45pm
Closed Good Friday, Christmas and New Years Day.

Nangiloc Transfer Station - Castle Crossing Rd
Tuesday and Thursday 1.00pm - 6.00pm
Sunday 3.00pm - 6.00pm
Closed Good Friday and Christmas Day

Lake Cullulleraine Transfer Station - Sturt Hwy
Wednesday 1.30pm - 5.00pm
Sunday 9.00am – 12.30pm
Closed Good Friday and Christmas Day

Werrimull Waste Facility - King St
Wednesday 9.00am - 12.30pm
Sunday 1.30pm – 5.00pm
Closed Good Friday and Christmas Day

Ouyen Landfill - Dunkley Road, Ouyen
Monday and Thursday 8.00am - 12.00pm
Tuesday and Friday 1.00pm - 6.00pm
Sunday 10.00am - 2.00pm
Closed Good Friday and Christmas Day

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 - 12.00pm

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

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 - 12.00pm

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

Swan Hill Rural City – 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 - 12.00pm

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 - 12.00pm
Saturday 8.00am - 12.00pm
Sunday 12.00pm - 4.00pm

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 City - 02 6043 5860

Albury Waste Management Centre - Centaur Road
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 – 31 March)
Tuesday, Thursday 5.00pm - 7.00pm
Saturday 10.00am - 1.00pm
Sunday 10.00am - 3.00pm

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

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 - 12.00pm

Tocumwal - Newell Highway, Tocumwal
Wenesday, Friday, Sunday 1.30pm - 4.00pm

Federation Council - 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 - 12.00pm
Saturday 1.00am - 4.00pm
Sunday 9.00am – 12.00pm

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

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

Edward River Council - 03 5898 3000

Deniliquin Waste Disposal Depot – 5898 3155
Tip Road (Cobb Highway) about 4km from the North Deniliquin roundabout
Open every day 8.30am - 3.45pm

Murray River Council - 1300 087 004

Barham - North Barham Rd, Barham
Wednesday 1.00pm - 5.00pm
Sunday 1.00pm - 5.00pm

Goodnight - Goodnight Rd
Sunday 9.00pm - 12.00pm

Koraleigh - Koraleigh Rd
Wednesday 9.30am - 12.30pm
Sunday 1.00pm - 5.00pm

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

Moama Waste Disposal Depot - Centre Road, Off Cobb Hwy
Phone - (03) 5480 0414
Monday to Friday 8.00am - 3.00pm
Saturday and Sunday 9.00am - 3.00pm

Moulamein
Wednesday 1.00pm - 5.00pm
Sunday 1.00pm - 5.00pm
Sunday 9.00am - 12.00pm

Wakool
Wednesday 9.00am - 12.00pm
Sunday 9.00am - 12.00pm

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

Wentworth Shire - 03 5027 5027

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 - 12.00pm
Saturday 9.00am - 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

Note: All facilities are closed on Christmas Day, ANZAC Day and Good Friday.
Sewage Dump Points - some shires and caravan parks have sewage dump points for emptying portable toilets and caravan.

Sustainable camping

Safe and sustainable camping guidelines

Campfires and barbecues

- Small campfires and barbecues are permitted for cooking or warmth:
  - Use a constructed fireplace where provided. Alternatively, light the fire in a 30 centimetre deep trench to prevent sparks escaping or create a barrier around the fire with rocks or soil.
  - Clear the ground around and above the campfire of flammable material for three metres in all directions.
  - Fire should be 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.
  - The area within a distance of 3 metres from the outer perimeter of the barbecue is clear of flammable material
  - You have either a hose connected to a water supply or a container with at least 10 litres of water for immediate use
  - An adult is there at all times when the fire is alight who has the capacity and means to extinguish the fire
  - The fire is completely extinguished before the adult leaves.
- 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 10 for Total Fire Ban District map

Campsites

- Set up campsites 20 metres from any waterway.
- Permanent structures or camps are not permitted.
- 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.
- 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.

Rubbish

- 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.

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 stores in local towns.
- 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 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

Generator use

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

Dogs and other pets

- Dogs are generally prohibited in national parks. Check whether dogs and other pets are permitted in the area you plan to visit 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.

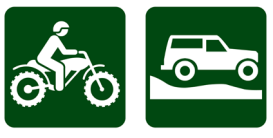
Toilets

- 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.

Swimming and water safety

- Take care when swimming:
  - Rivers have fast currents, underwater objects and deep holes which can be hazardous.
  - Do not swim alone.
  - 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.

4WD and motorbikes



- 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 at all times.
- 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).

Fireworks

- No fireworks are allowed in Murray River forests, parks and reserves.
- It is illegal to obtain, possess or discharge fireworks unless you hold a Pyrotechnicians Licence or Fireworks (Single Use) Licence from WorkCover.
- 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 an emergency call 000 for Fire/Police/Ambulance