



# Murray-Sunset National Park



## Visitor Guide

Victoria's own 'outback', Murray-Sunset, stretches from the Murray River at Lindsay Island in the north, and south to Pink Lakes near Underbool. It's great for 4WD and some 2WD touring, bushwalking and camping. The park has a fascinating history, abundant wildlife and beautiful spring wildflowers, and its 633,000 hectares protect 183 species of plants and animals threatened in Victoria.



Remnants of the pastoral era, the Shearers' Quarters

## Enjoying our parks



### Touring for cars and 4WD

All access is on unsealed roads from the Mallee or Sturt Highways and can be travelled by two-wheel drive vehicle but for most tracks 4WDs are required - especially if you wish to explore the interior tracks in this remote park.

Check with rangers for current track conditions, especially after wet weather and during high fire danger periods. Call 13 1963.

**Warning!** Tracks in the park require vehicles with good ground clearance; most tracks contain areas of deep sand with wide wheel ruts.

**Pink Lakes** - access by 2WD vehicles along a gravel road from Linga. For those with limited time a drive around the Pioneer Drive (Pink Lakes) is recommended. Otherwise take a 4WD trip to the Mount Crozier Lookout or old Mopoke Hut outstation. *See separate Pink Lakes park note.*

It is important to check current road conditions with park staff before visiting. Some tracks become impassable in wet weather and others are recommended only for 4WD.

Ensure you carry adequate water, food and fuel when four wheel driving.

**Lindsay Island** - all tracks on Lindsay Island are dry weather only. *See separate park note.*



### Walking and wildlife

There are short walking tracks in the Pink Lakes area. The wildflower display during spring can be impressive. On a warm afternoon you may see Rainbow Bee-eaters chasing flying insects or Mallee and Bearded Dragons scurrying to the cover of a Triodia (Porcupine Grass) clump.

Remote areas offer good bushwalking for people who are experienced, well prepared and self-reliant. Adequate water, a compass and topographic maps are essential. **BEWARE:** summer temperatures are very high and can be unsuitable for bushwalking.



### Camping

The main campground and day visitor facilities are on the southern shore of Lake Crosbie at Pink Lakes. There are toilets, gas barbecues, fireplaces and picnic tables. Camping facilities are also available at Lake Becking, Mount Crozier, Rocket Lake and the Shearers' Quarters.

There are no designated campgrounds on Lindsay Island. Practise minimal impact camping techniques and observe relevant fire regulations. Beware of falling River Red Gum limbs when camping along the river.

Remote campgrounds in the park are shown on the map. They have basic facilities.

## The Shearers' Quarters

This historic building was once the home of the lessee of Sunset Pastoral Co., and today offers hostel-style accommodation.

Bookings can be made by contacting the Werrimull office of Parks Victoria on 13 1963.

## Location and access

This park is in northwest Victoria, between Ouyen and Mildura and the South Australian border. It is about 550km from Melbourne and 400km from Adelaide.

Access to the park from Melbourne is via the Calder Highway, and from South Australia via the Sturt Highway.

### Be fire ready, stay safe

Be aware of the forecast Fire Danger Rating for this area when planning your trip. Plan to leave early on hot, dry and windy days, as these conditions may cause the closure of some park areas for public safety.

Before you visit a park check the latest conditions by calling 13 1963 or visit [www.parkweb.vic.gov.au](http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au).

For updated information on fires in Victoria or general fire safety advice, please call the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667 or listen to a local ABC/ACE radio station or visit [www.CFA.vic.gov.au](http://www.CFA.vic.gov.au).

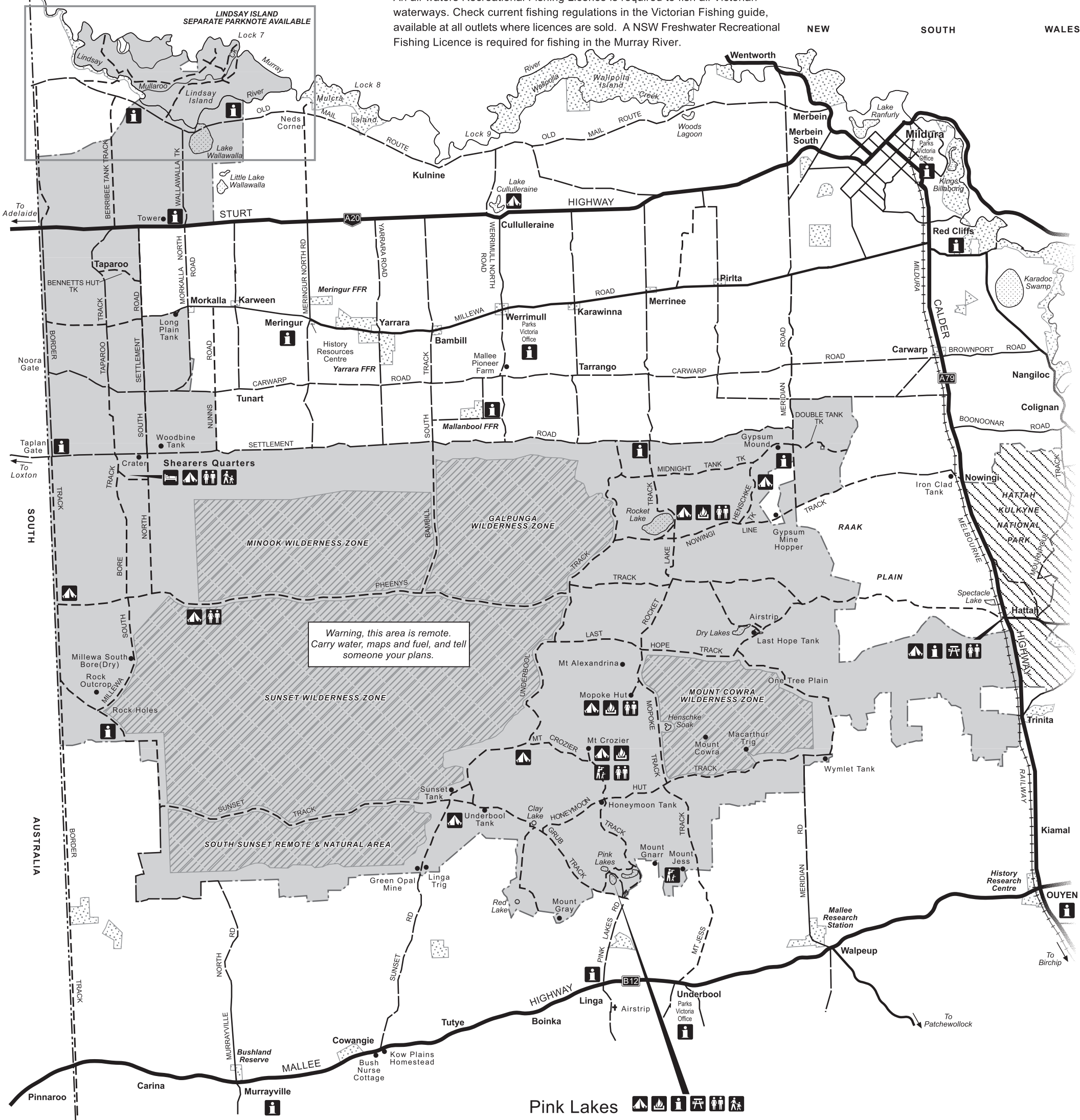
This northwest corner of Victoria is a must for self contained campers looking to get away from it all. Excellent camping locations abound on the Murray and Lindsay Rivers. Beware of camping under River Redgums as limbs may fall at any time. All tracks are dry weather only and the gates onto the Island are closed during floods. These floodplains are a haven for wildlife.

### Catching that big fish

Recreational fishing is popular on Lindsay Island, in the Lindsay River and Mullaroo Creek. You can fish from the water's edge or launch a small boat. The waterways contain Golden Perch, Murray Cod, Redfin, Yabbies and the introduced European Carp.

An all-waters Recreational Fishing Licence is required to fish all Victorian waterways. Check current fishing regulations in the Victorian Fishing guide, available at all outlets where licences are sold. A NSW Freshwater Recreational Fishing Licence is required for fishing in the Murray River.

**WARNING!** During dry, hot weather feral bees may be present and persistent around any source of moisture, eg. drinking/washing water, food, perspiration. Be prepared for discomfort and bee stings!



Warning, this area is remote. Carry water, maps and fuel, and tell someone your plans.

**Drinking Water**  
Be self-sufficient and carry water in, and/or know how to make untreated water safe for drinking.

### Pink Lakes

Commercial salt harvesting began in the Pink Lakes area in 1916, using shovels and wheel-barrow. For more than twenty years camel teams transported the salt away from the area. Today old salt stock piles and machinery used in harvesting can be seen on the edge of Lake Crosbie. Excellent camping facilities are provided at Lake Crosbie.

A gypsum mine also operated on the Raak Plain. A former railway line running west from Nowingi is now the Nowingi Line Track.

Murray-Sunset National Park		Recreational Facilities	
	Highway		Camping
	Major sealed road		Fireplace
	Minor sealed road		Lookout
	Minor unsealed road		Park information
	Vehicle track (4WD recommended)		Accommodation
	National Park		Picnic area
	Other Park		Toilets
	Wilderness Zone / Remote Natural Area		Walking track
	Other Public Land		
	Water body		



For further information

Parks Victoria  
Information Centre  
Call **13 1963**

or visit the  
Parks Victoria website  
**www.parkweb.vic.gov.au**

Mildura Visitor Information  
(Alfred Deakin Centre)  
180-190 Deakin Avenue  
Mildura Vic 3500  
Tel: (03) 5021 4424  
(03) 5018 8380  
Email us: tourism  
@mildura.vic.gov.au

### Caring for the environment

Help us care for your parks by following these guidelines:

Please take your rubbish home or place it in bins where provided

All native plants, animals, archaeological and historic sites are protected by law in parks & must not be disturbed or removed

Fires may only be lit in fireplaces provided

No fires, (including gas or fuel stoves in tents) may be lit on days of **Total Fire Ban**

Murray-Sunset National Park is in the **North Western Total Fire Ban District**

Firearms, generators and chainsaws are prohibited

Vehicles, including motor cycles, must not be driven off open formed roads

All vehicles must be registered and drivers licensed

Whenever you go walking or driving you should carry drinking water, wear strong comfortable shoes, take a small first aid kit, a jumper and/or waterproof jacket, wear a shady hat, especially November to March, and stay on the tracks - don't wander off

**Mobile phones:** you may not be in network range in some park areas. To be connected to emergency services call 000.

If you are not in range **dial 112 then press the 'Yes' key.**

### Healthy Parks Healthy People

Visiting a park can improve your health, mind, body and soul. So, with over four million hectares of parkland available to Victorians, why not escape to a park today!



## Discovering Murray-Sunset National Park

This large and diverse park was declared in 1991, and plays a unique role in protecting Australia's biodiversity.

Wilderness areas were established to protect large areas with relatively undisturbed vegetation. Mallee vegetation dominates the sandy loam soils with pockets of native cypress-pine and Belah woodlands scattered throughout. On Lindsay Island, River Red Gums line the creeks and billabongs while Black Box woodlands surround the floodplain. Salt-tolerant plants favour the low-lying dry lakebed areas.

Victoria's largest flower the Murray Lily, the restricted Silvery Emu-bush and the rare Blue-leaved Mallee all grow within the park.

Apart from the more conspicuous mammals such as Western Grey and Red Kangaroos, the park is home to a number of rare and threatened species. These include the Paucident Planigale (a small carnivorous mouse-sized marsupial), the slender yellow and green Regent Parrot, and the Millewa Skink. Other notable birdlife includes Malleefowl, Mallee Emu-wren, the Pink Cockatoo and Black-eared Miner.

### A rich human history

Indigenous people have lived in the area for thousands of years. Shell middens, hearths and scar trees found throughout the park reveal much about the lifestyle and rich culture of the people. They not only occupied the watercourses but also travelled throughout the drier Mallee. They led a semi-nomadic lifestyle, travelling within their region in search of food. Local food resources included fish, freshwater mussels, reptiles, kangaroos, Quandongs and Nardoo (a freshwater fern).

Stock grazing in the "Sunset Country" dates back as far as the 1860s. Fascinating remnants of the pastoral era such as the Shearers' Quarters and Mopoke Hut can be discovered. Pest plants and animal eradication and revegetation works strive to restore areas affected by grazing from stock and rabbits.

### Exploring the Mallee region

Parks Victoria manages large and spectacular Mallee national parks that adjoin similar areas in South Australia and New South Wales.

*Separate park notes are available for these parks.*

The Victorian Mallee parks cover over one million hectares and are extremely important for nature conservation because of their relatively undisturbed state.

Wide-open spaces, magnificent sunsets, abundant spring wildflowers and an astonishing cultural history are features.

Autumn, winter and spring are the best times to visit. The main picnic and camping areas are generally accessible in 2WD vehicles, and 4WD opportunities abound.

## Hattah-Kulkyne National Park and Murray-Kulkyne Park

This park features the merging of rolling Mallee dunes with the Murray River and a series of tranquil intermittent lakes protected under an international agreement (the Ramsar Convention Treaty) for protection of wetlands.

Enjoy the Visitor Information Centre, nature drive and a self-guided nature walk. When flooded there are great opportunities for lakeside camping, canoeing, walking, picnicking or just relaxing.

### Wyperfeld National Park

Victoria's third largest national park protects 356,800ha of fascinating Mallee country. Emus and Western Grey kangaroos can be seen grazing at dawn and dusk in the usually dry lake and creek beds. Camping with basic facilities is available, including self-guided trails (including the Tyakil Nature Walk) and a scenic nature drive.

### Lake Albacutya Park

Adjoins the southern end of Wyperfeld National Park. Intermittently dry, when in flood the lake is a significant wetland, recognised under the Ramsar Convention for protection of wetlands.



Apostlebirds

### Big Desert Wilderness Park

One of the most remote and least disturbed areas in Victoria. This park protects 142,300 hectares of the Mallee. Vehicles are not permitted. Bushwalkers must be experienced and self-reliant. 4WD access *through* the Big Desert is outside the Wilderness Park via the Murrayville Track.

### Lake Hindmarsh Reserve

Intermittently dry, when flooded this is Victoria's largest body of fresh water, fringed by River Red Gums and host to pelicans, Black Swans and other waterbirds.

### Little Desert National Park

Famous for its Malleefowl, features the Wimmera River at Dimboola, Mallee dunes and wonderful spring wildflowers. Opportunities for walking, 4WD and birdwatching abound.

### Campfires

Most campfires escape when left unattended, an adult must be present at all times. Put your fire out with **water** not soil or sand.

**Remember, if your campfire is cool to touch it is safe to leave, and it can't go bush!**

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