

Lindsay, Mulcra and Wallpolla Islands

Murray-Sunset National Park

Visitor Guide



Explore Lindsay, Mulcra and Wallpolla Islands and discover the rich river landscapes of the mighty Murray River in this remote corner of Victoria. Take in the superb scenery as you explore the network of creeks and billabongs by foot, 4WD or canoe. Camp among the River Red Gums and fish for Redfin, Perch, Catfish and Murray Cod. Look for birds and wildlife in the wetlands, or swim and relax beside the river.



Parks Victoria acknowledges the First Peoples of the Millewa-Mallee as the Traditional Owners of Murray-Sunset National Park and pays our respects to their Elders – past, present and emerging.

Lindsay, Mulcra and Wallpolla islands have a long and rich cultural history with Aboriginal occupation dating back thousands of years. Surveys have found many scar trees, hearths, campsites, shell middens and burial grounds. Aboriginal artefacts are protected by law, and it is prohibited to disturb them in any way.

Getting there

Lindsay, Mulcra and Wallpolla islands are located along the Murray River between Mildura and the South Australian border, ranging from around 570km to 650km north-west of Melbourne and 300km to 350km east of Adelaide.

Access to the islands is via the Sturt Highway from Mildura and South Australia.

Things to see and do

In this remote corner of Murray-Sunset National Park, the dry Mallee meets the rich and diverse wetlands of the Murray River and its islands. The area provides a haven for wildlife and superb scenery for visitors to explore and photograph.

Relax, fish or swim at a secluded campsite beside a river, or head out on a birdwatching or canoeing adventure along the many creeks and billabongs. Enjoy peaceful nights gazing up at the stars.

There are few facilities in the park, so visitors should come prepared to be fully self-sufficient for the duration of their stay in this isolated and relatively untouched area.

For further information about Pink Lakes and the remote interior of the park, please refer to the Murray-Sunset National Park Visitor Guide available from www.parks.vic.gov.au.

Car touring and four-wheel driving

Although 2WD vehicles can access some tracks in dry weather, 4WD vehicles with good ground clearance are recommended for most tracks, particularly tracks in the park's remote interior.

All tracks are dry weather only. Gates onto the islands may be closed during floods or environmental watering. Please check current road conditions on the park's web page at www.parks.vic.gov.au or by calling 13 1963 before visiting.

Camping

There are few designated campgrounds or facilities along the Murray River and its islands, but many of the tracks lead to perfect

shady sites along the creeks. Some have picnic tables. No booking is required. Camping is free and on a first in, first-served basis. Permanent structures or camps are not permitted.

Please practise minimal impact camping and observe relevant fire regulations. Campsites should be at least 20m from the riverbank.

A range of tourist accommodation, petrol and other supplies are available in Renmark, Cullulleraine, and Mildura.

Walking

Short informal bushwalks can be enjoyed along established tracks or along the banks of creeks and rivers. Be aware of high summer temperatures, and avoid walking in the hottest part of the day.

Picnicking

Many delightful picnic spots can be found throughout the area. Refer to the maps for locations where picnic tables are provided. No bins are provided – please take your rubbish home with you.

Swimming

There are many beautiful spots to swim around the islands.

Fishing and boating

Fishing is a popular activity along the Murray River. Fish include Golden Perch, Murray Cod, Redfin, Yabbies and the introduced European Carp. Fish from the water's edge or launch a small boat on Mullaroo Creek, Wallpolla Creek, Lindsay and Murray Rivers. Please launch your boat from a managed boat ramp to avoid erosion.

All vessels except non-motorised and electric-powered boats are prohibited on Lake WallaWalla.

Fishing in the Murray requires a NSW fishing licence, and fishing in the other creeks and lakes in the park requires a Victorian fishing licence. Licences can be purchased from many local outlets and online from www.onegov.nsw.gov.au and www.vfa.vic.gov.au.

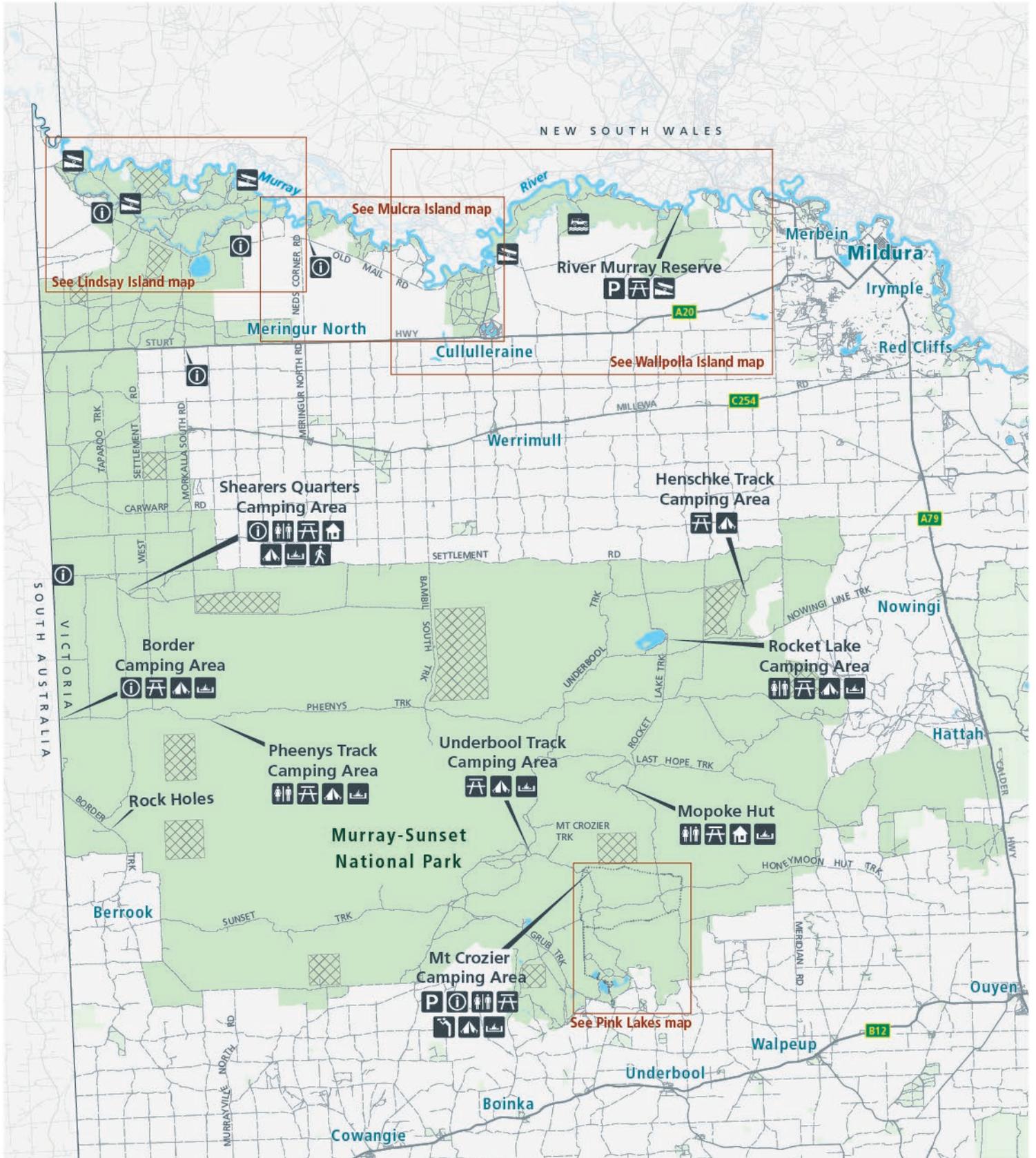
Please familiarise yourself with and abide by the regulations and restrictions in the *NSW Recreational Freshwater Fishing Guide* and *Victorian Recreational Fishing Guide* which can be downloaded from www.dpi.nsw.gov.au and www.vfa.vic.gov.au respectively.

Canoeing

Excellent canoeing can be enjoyed throughout the islands. Negotiating fallen timber and river bends can be challenging, but the scenery is superb.

Murray-Sunset National Park

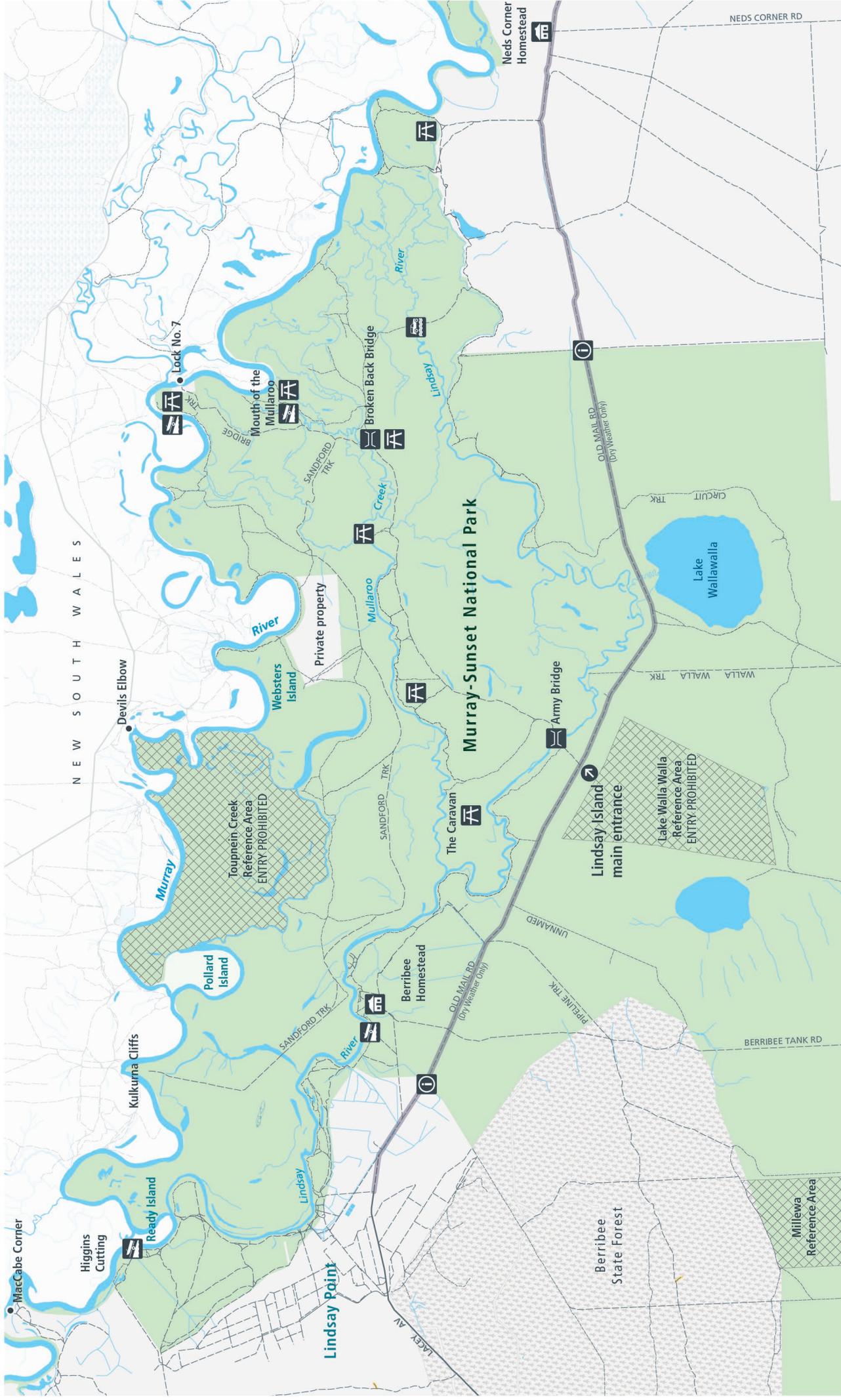
Overview



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|--------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Parking | Fireplace | Guided walk | Freeway/Highway | Walking track |
| Information | Boat ramp | Historical site | Main road | Murray-Sunset National Park |
| Toilets | 4WD crossing | | Sealed road | Other park/reserve |
| Picnic table | Hut | | Unsealed road | Reference Area – Entry prohibited |
| Lookout | Walking track | | 4WD | State Forest |

Murray-Sunset National Park

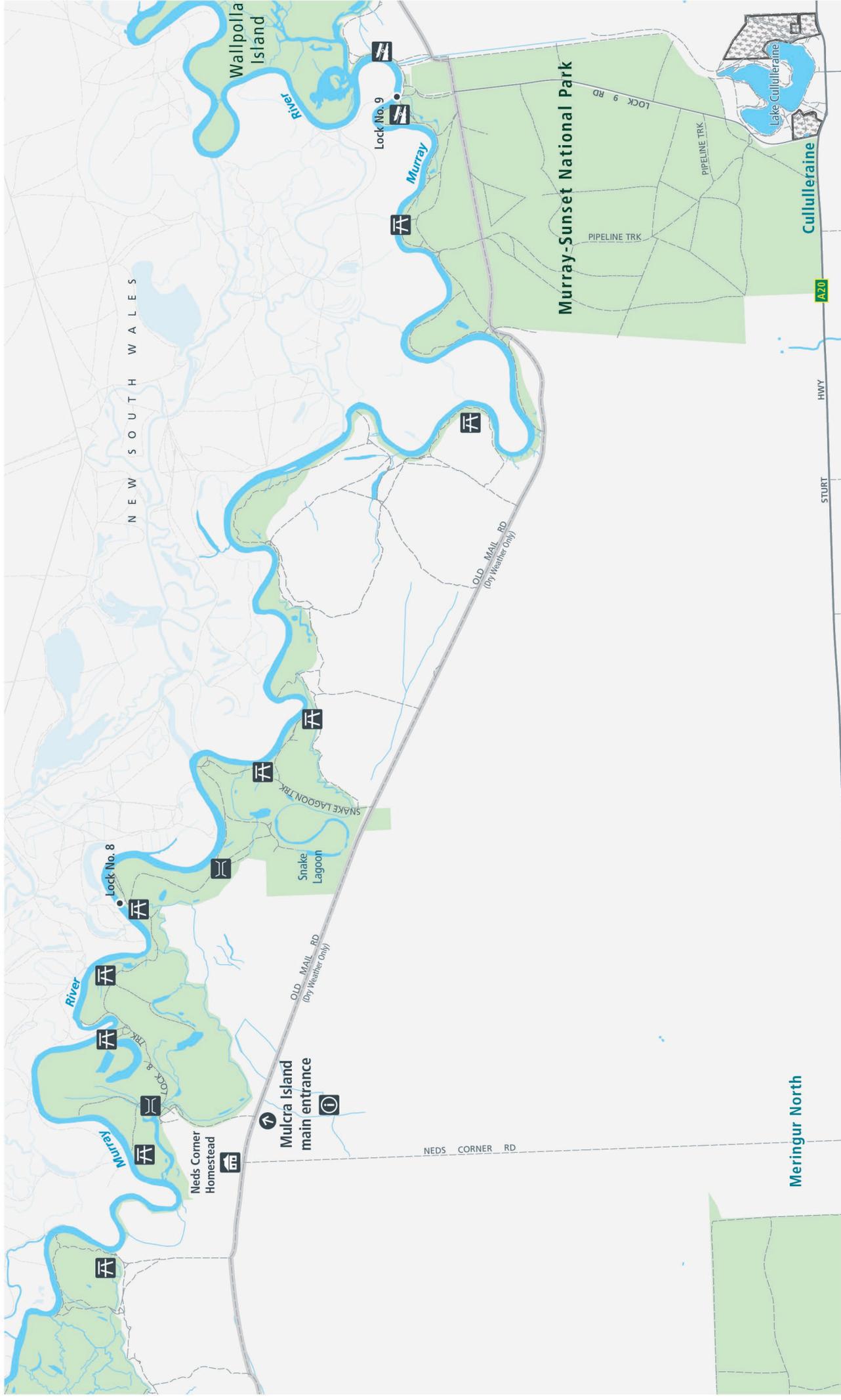
Lindsay Island



Old Mail Road (4WD recommended)

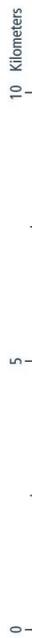
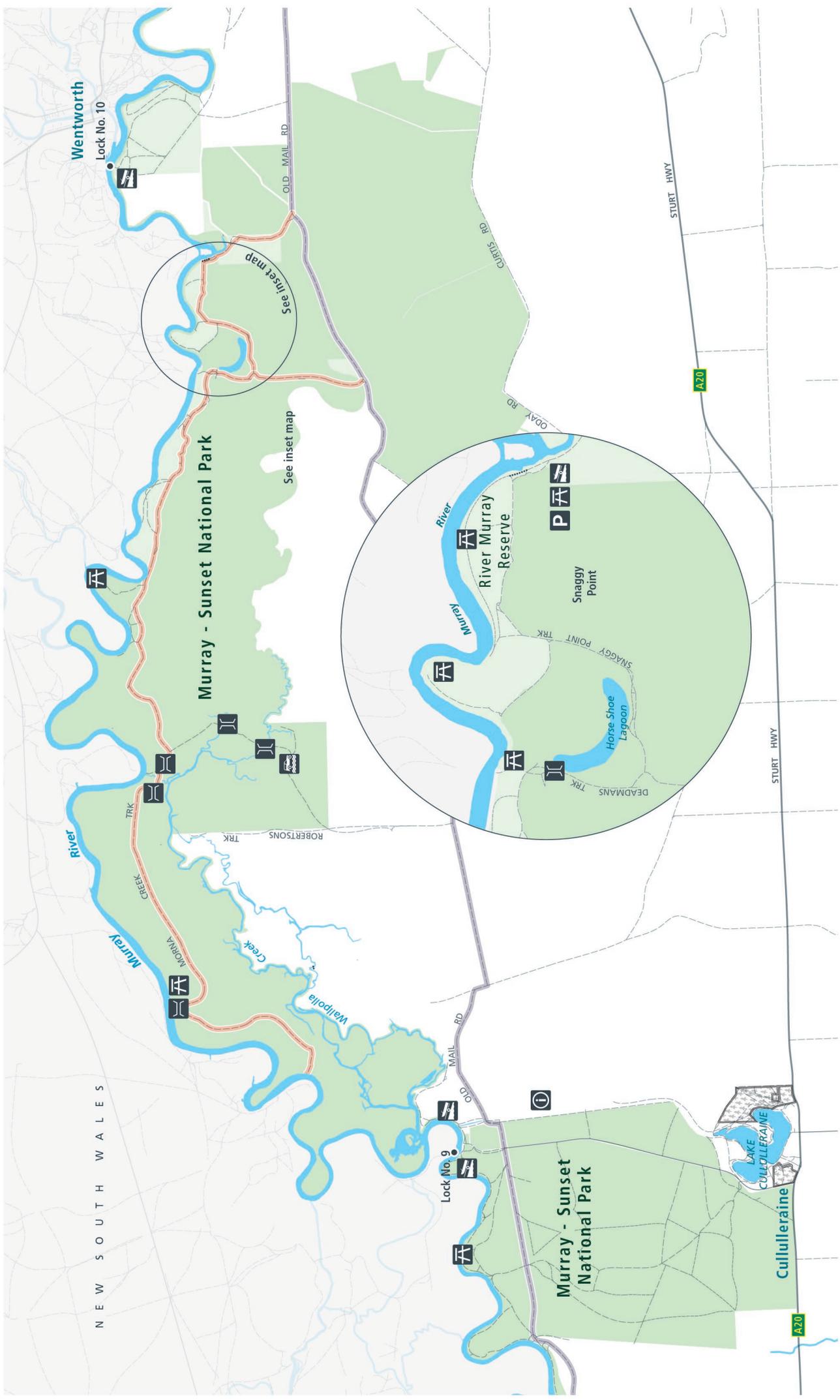
Murray-Sunset National Park

Mulcra Island



Murray-Sunset National Park

Wallpolla Island



Birdwatching

The islands offer excellent bird watching opportunities, with significant populations of both woodland and wetland species. Over 220 species have been observed in Murray-Sunset National Park. More information can be found in the *Birds of the Mallee Parks* factsheet available at www.parks.vic.gov.au.

Plants and animals

The nationally significant wetlands and waterways are a haven for wildlife, including fish, frogs and waterbirds.

There are approximately 600 known species of plants native to the park. Magnificent River Red Gums grow close to the river and along smaller creek beds. Along the smaller creeks Black Box woodlands give way to dense lignum on clay flats – a favoured spot for robins and fairy-wrens.

Pelicans and Wedge-tailed Eagles soar overhead while Emus and Red and Western Grey kangaroos roam the drier plains. The elusive, endangered Paucident Planigale, a small native mammal, shelters in clay fissures. Regent Parrots flash through the trees and waterbirds wade in the creeks.

River Red Gum forests require regular flooding to thrive, and Parks Victoria supports a program of environmental watering to ensure the diverse wetlands of the Chowilla floodplain, including Lindsay, Mulcra and Wallpolla Islands are protected for future generations.

Caring for the park



Help us look after your park by following these guidelines:

- Please take all rubbish home with you for recycling or disposal.
- All plants, animals, historical and archaeological sites and geographic features are protected by law.
- Dogs and other pets are not permitted in Murray Sunset National Park, including the Murray River Frontage from Lock 9 to the South Australian border.
- Firearms are prohibited.
- Generators are only allowed at Lindsay Island, except on days of Total Fire Ban.
- Firewood is becoming scarce along the Murray River. Collect only dead wood from the ground, or bring your own firewood or gas or electric stove or barbecue.
- Light fires only in fire pits, if provided. Extinguish fires with water before leaving. When it is cool to touch it is safe to leave.
- No fires are permitted on a day of Total Fire Ban. Built in and portable gas or electric barbecues may be used provided:
 - a three-metre area is cleared of anything flammable
 - at least 10 litres of water is available for immediate use
 - an adult is in attendance at all times.
- Chemical toilets are preferred. Pit toilets must be at least 100m from the water's edge. Bury toilet paper and waste appropriately.
- Vehicles, including motor bikes, may only be used on formed open roads. Off road driving is not permitted. Drivers must be licensed and vehicles registered and roadworthy.

Be prepared and stay safe



In an emergency call 000 for fire brigade, police and ambulance.

- This is a remote area, and the nearest emergency services and hospitals are located in Renmark and Mildura.
- There is little to no mobile phone reception on the islands. Visitors should consider carrying a radio or personal locator beacon when travelling in remote areas.
- No drinking water is available on the islands. Visitors should bring plenty of water with them.
- Conditions can be extreme, particularly in summer, and visitors should avoid walking during the hottest part of the day.
- Avoid parking, camping or sitting under or close to large trees like River Red Gums as branches may fall and swing away from the tree at any time. Rope swings are not recommended.
- Take care when swimming, boating or canoeing - deep holes, submerged objects, and strong currents may not be obvious.
- Always enter the water slowly, feet first. For your own safety, do not dive or jump in to the river: submerged objects can cause neck or spinal injuries.
- Actively supervise children in and near water. Children under ten should always be within sight. Children under five should always be within reach. Lifejackets and flotation devices are recommended.

Dangerous wildlife



Feral bees may be present and persistent around any source of moisture during dry, hot weather.

Snakes are also more active in spring, summer and autumn. If you see a snake, stand still and don't panic. Snakes nearly always move away when they feel footstep vibrations. Snakes are protected, so please don't try to kill them.

Mosquitoes may be present along the Murray River at any time of the year and can carry diseases like Ross River Fever or Barmah Forest Virus. Consider wearing long sleeves and pants and using insect repellent, particularly around dusk and dawn.

Bushfires

Murray-Sunset National Park is in the Mallee fire district. Bushfire safety is a personal responsibility. Anyone entering parks and forests during the bushfire season needs to stay aware of forecast weather conditions.

No fires may be lit on Total Fire Ban days. Check the Fire Danger Rating and for days of Total Fire Ban in the 'Prepare and Get Ready' tab at www.emergency.vic.gov.au, on the VicEmergency smartphone app or call the VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226.

On Code Red Fire Danger Rating days this park will be closed for public safety. Do not expect an official warning. Check the latest conditions at www.parks.vic.gov.au or by calling 13 1963.

Further information

More information about Murray-Sunset and other local parks can be found at www.parks.vic.gov.au or by calling 13 1963.

For tourist information about the Mildura region go to:

Mildura Visitor Information and Bookings Centre
180-190 Deakin Ave, Mildura VIC 3500

www.visitmildura.com.au or call (03) 5018 8380