



### EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

POLICE / FIRE / AMBULANCE **000**

**DIMBOOLA HOSPITAL** ..... 5363 7100

**DIMBOOLA POLICE** ..... 5359 1470

**VICTORIAN SES** ..... 13 25 00  
(State Emergency Services)



### HINDMARSH SHIRE COUNCIL

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Phone: (03) 5391 4444  
tourism@hindmarsh.vic.gov.au

www.visithindmarsh.com.au

Hindmarsh Shire Council proudly supports Wimmera Mallee Tourism.

www.visit hindmarsh.com.au



### FIRE DANGER INFORMATION

Fire restrictions are applied across Victoria by CFA, when fire danger is high.

Typically this is over the period of November through to April. Dimboola and Hindmarsh Shire Council fall within the "Wimmera" Fire Ban District. Please note at the end of the fire seasons, usually April, a number of farmers will burn off stubble and smoke may be evident in the area.

A Total Fire Ban is declared for the district by the CFA on days when fires are likely to spread rapidly and could be difficult to control. A Total Fire Ban declaration means no fires can be lit for the declared district for that day.

For more information on Fire Danger and Total Fire Bans: [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au)

### PARKS VICTORIA ..... 131 963

Visitors should be aware of and prepare themselves and their vehicles for all hazards in Victoria's parks. Some parks may be closed due to weather conditions. Check [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au) before you leave and throughout your trip. Register your trip by completing the trip intentions form on [www.police.vic.gov.au](http://www.police.vic.gov.au)

Victoria's climate is harsh; make sure you survive by being sun smart and always carry drinking water with you. Always make sure you let someone know the details of your trip.

If you are travelling and enjoying the many water spots around Dimboola and District, make sure you are safe and have all relevant boat and fishing licences.

Please be aware there may be minimal or no mobile phone coverage in some areas.

For more useful information: [www.parkweb.vic.gov.au](http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au)  
[www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au)



## Activities

Be amazed and captivated by what Dimboola has to offer. There is something for everyone year round.

### Nine Creeks Walking and Bicycle Tracks

Situated between the Wimmera River and the town centre, the four kilometres of the all-ability walking tracks include a river crossing boardwalk and pedestrian bridges.

Interpretive signage along the tracks provides an insight into the area's historical significance and uses by Indigenous, Chinese and European communities over many years.

### Nature

The Little Desert is a focal point for 4WD enthusiasts who travel far and wide to tackle the sandy dunes of the northwest. With plenty of camping grounds and facilities in the National Park, your day trips or overnight stays will be ones to remember. However it will be advisable to check conditions with Parks Victoria before embarking on your adventure.

### Walking

The Little Desert National Park has a number of signposted walks, ranging from 30 minutes to three days duration. Please refer to Parks Victoria for further information.

parkweb.vic.gov.au/explore/parks/  
little-desert-national-park/things-to-do/walking



### Sport and Recreation

The Dimboola Recreation Reserve is often referred to as one of the most picturesque in Victoria. Situated beside the Wimmera River, the reserve accommodates a large variety of sporting facilities, including lawn bowls, swimming, croquet, tennis, rowing, football, cricket, netball, basketball, badminton, skateboarding, angling, canoeing and a series of outdoor fitness stations.

The reserve is also the venue for the Dimboola Agricultural and Pastoral Society's Annual Show, the Dimboola Rowing Club Annual Rowing Regatta, Dimboola Swap Meet, and regularly hosts Wimmera Football League matches.

The Riverside Holiday Park is part of the reserve and just a few minutes' walk to the main shopping area.

### Gymnasium / Health and Fitness Centre

The Gymnasium located at the Dimboola Health and Fitness Centre at the Dimboola Memorial Secondary College is a state of the art facility with annual and casual membership's available. The Dimboola Health and Fitness Centre also features a multipurpose synthetic playing surface with a hockey pitch and twelve tennis courts.

The facility offers a multipurpose room that can be used by the community for functions when not being used as a College class room. Contact the Dimboola Memorial Secondary College on 03 5359 1460 for more details.

### Golf

Dimboola Golf Course is a sandscrape course meandering along the Wimmera River with picturesque native gum trees and flat to undulating fairways. Opened seasonally from April to October, there is an annual tournament in July. Enjoy a relaxing morning or afternoon in natural settings. The course is located only a few minutes' drive from town.



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Welcome to

# Dimboola

OFFICIAL VISITOR GUIDE

HINDMARSH SHIRE COUNCIL

Victoria's Outback SECRET

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# Welcome TO DIMBOOLA

Dimboola is a town with a big heart and a relaxed lifestyle. Located approximately 400km North West of Melbourne, the town's proximity offers superb educational, recreational, medical and aged care facilities. The unique wilderness areas nearby are ideally suited to outdoor pursuits.

# Enjoy



Picnic Bend

## Attractions to Explore

### WIMMERA RIVER

The section of the river that flows downstream from Polkemmet Bridge, and through Dimboola and district forms part of the Wimmera River that was given Heritage Status under the Heritage Rivers Act (1992).

River flow is controlled by the Dimboola weir that was first constructed in 1903 to facilitate both agricultural and town water requirements. The importance of the river to the Dimboola district can never be understated as its social, economic, recreational, and tourism benefits to the community are integral to Dimboola's prosperity.

### PICNIC BEND

Picnic Bend is a lovely section of the Wimmera River designated for water sports, primarily water skiing. The Dimboola Water Ski and Boat Club maintain a large lawned area with BBQ, picnic facilities, toilets and sun shelter. The recently refurbished boat ramp includes a floating pontoon providing easy access.

### SNAPE RESERVE

Snape Reserve is a Trust for Nature Property comprising 754 hectares, bordering the Little Desert National Park. The property was purchased in 2002 with the aim of restoring native vegetation and preserving wildlife habitat. A self-guided walk can be followed commencing at the front gate of the reserve.

Dimboola Rowing Pontoon



### LITTLE DESERT NATIONAL PARK

The Little Desert National Park was declared in 1968 when the Kiata Lowan Sanctuary was extended in size. Over the years the area has increased to 132,000 hectares and extends from the Wimmera River in the east to the South Australian border in the west. In excess of 200 bird species, including the threatened Mallee Fowl, and 670 species of native plants have been identified within the park.

Wildlife abounds with kangaroos, brush-tailed possums, bats, echidnas, wallabies and many types of reptiles including snakes, stumpy tail lizards, bearded dragons and lace monitors to name a few.

The Little Desert National Park in this area is unique because it is bordered by the Wimmera River. This popular area features two major camping grounds, Horseshoe Bend and Ackle Bend. Both are situated on the banks of the river with sandy swimming beaches and facilities including toilets, BBQ's, shelters and fresh water. The experience is further enhanced by the many opportunities for water activities, such as canoeing, swimming, fishing, and boating. The abundance of wildlife offers a plethora of other recreational pursuits, such as bird watching, bush walking, art and photography.

Whether touring by car, 4WD, trail bike, bicycle or walking, visitors to the park will be thrilled by the ever-changing panoramic views. A walk up Pomponderoo Hill lookout will provide uninterrupted views over the Little Desert, breath taking sunsets and views to Mount Arapiles in the distance.

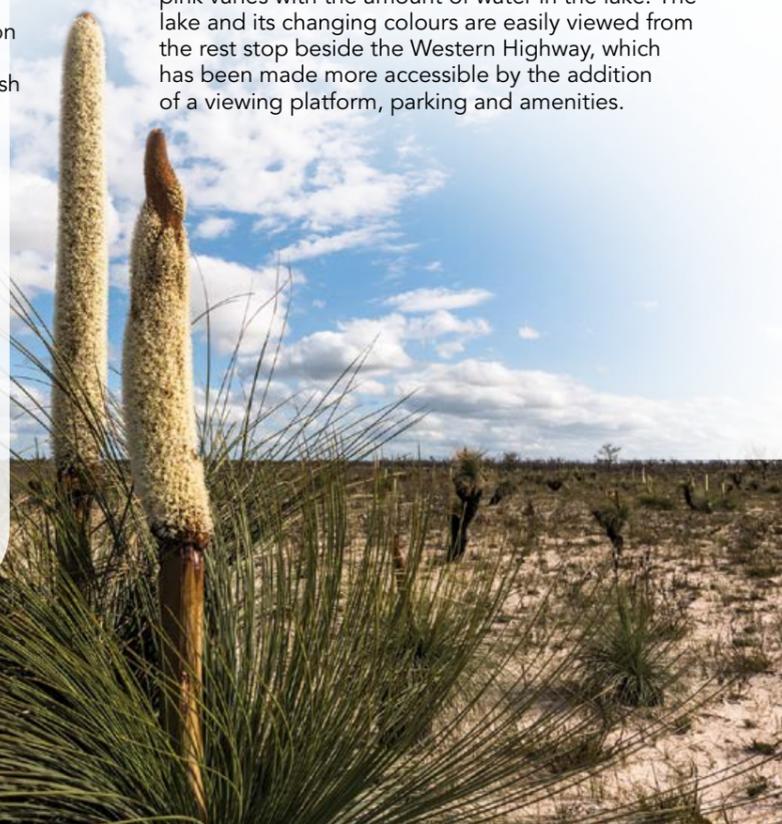
The Little Desert National Park office is based in the nearby Wail State Forest, which offers further walks and recreational opportunities.



### PINK LAKE AT LOCHIEL

Pink Lake is located beside the Western Highway at Lochiel approximately 6 kilometres west of Dimboola. Maurice Littleton obtained a licence in 1882 to commercially harvest salt from the lake. Salt is still extracted to this date and is available for purchase from numerous shops in Dimboola under the brand name Mount Zero Pink Lake Salt.

The pink colour of the water comes from a pigment secreted by microscopic algae. The intensity of the pink varies with the amount of water in the lake. The lake and its changing colours are easily viewed from the rest stop beside the Western Highway, which has been made more accessible by the addition of a viewing platform, parking and amenities.



## Indigenous Heritage

Dimboola and district has a long-standing, rich and continuing indigenous heritage. Evidence of the distant past can be seen in the numerous middens and scarred trees that punctuate the banks of the Wimmera River.

The 'ranch' and billabong located just over the Wimmera River on the road to the Little Desert National Park in Dimboola was a traditional and popular meeting and living place for the local community. Of significance to the local indigenous community is the memorial stone and plaque situated at the front of the Dimboola Library commemorating the life of Uncle Jack Kennedy, noted community elder.

Major heritage sites include the Ebenezer Mission Station at Antwerp, established by the Moravians in 1859 to Christianise the Aboriginal inhabitants of the area. The nearby Antwerp Cemetery boasts a memorial to Stawell Gift winner, Robert Kinnear, and other local indigenous community members.

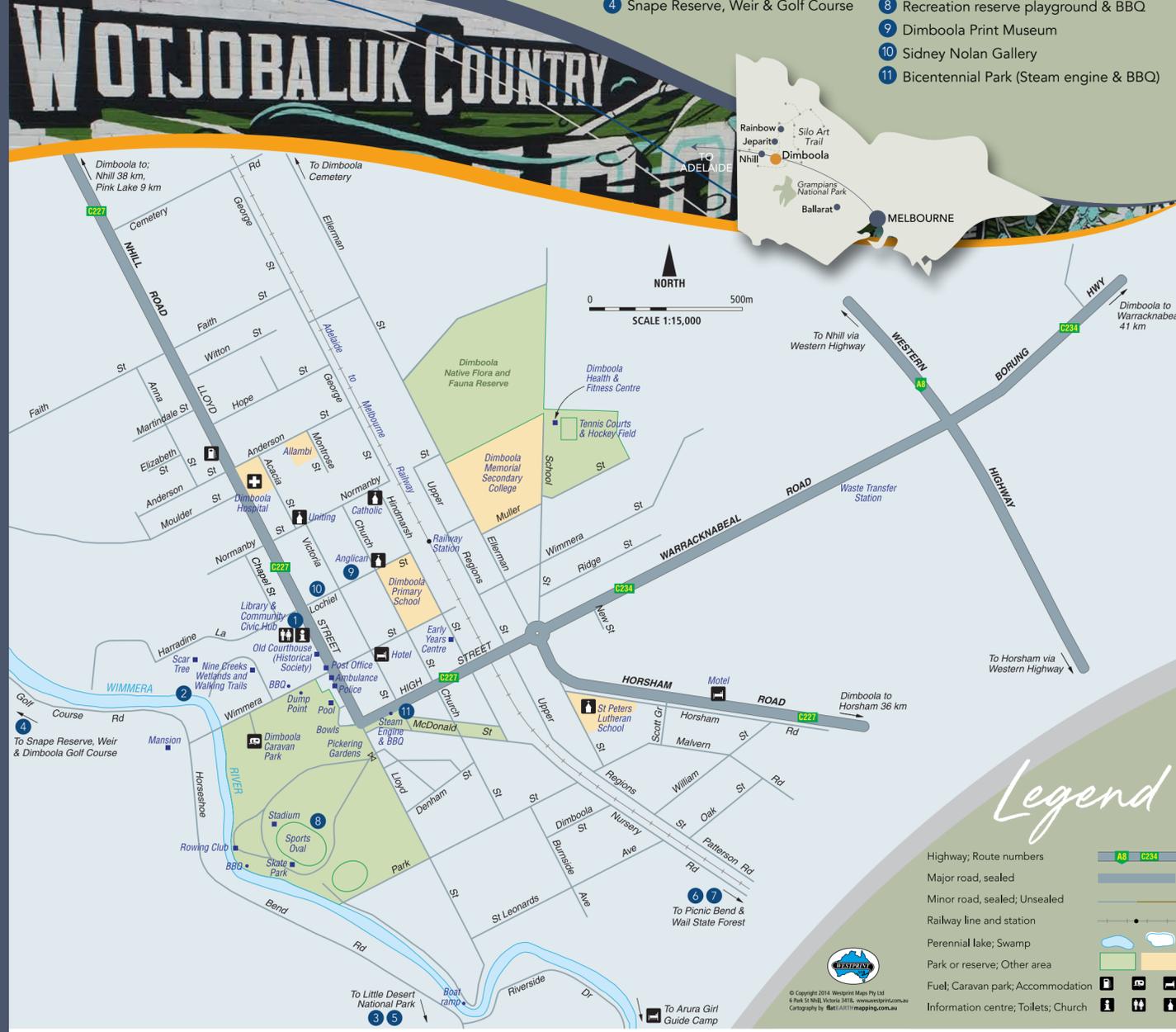
In 2005 the first Indigenous land use agreement in Victoria was entered into between the Victorian/Australian Governments and the Barenji Gadjin Land Council.



# Dimboola

## Things to do and see

- 1 Post Office & Community Civic Hub
- 2 Heritage Wimmera River
- 3 Horseshoe Bend camping area
- 4 Snape Reserve, Weir & Golf Course
- 5 Pomponderoo Hill Lookout
- 6 Picnic Bend (water skiing)
- 7 Wail State Forest
- 8 Recreation reserve playground & BBQ
- 9 Dimboola Print Museum
- 10 Sidney Nolan Gallery
- 11 Bicentennial Park (Steam engine & BBQ)



## Explore Heritage

### HERITAGE BUILDINGS AND STREETScape

Dimboola has a number of heritage red brick buildings, none more so outstanding than the present Library (formerly the Mechanics Institute and Dimboola Shire Office) in Lloyd Street that was built in 1877.

### Early History

Dimboola was originally known as 'Nine Creeks', where the Wimmera River breaks into nine distinct watercourses. European settlement began when Matthew Ternan established a rough wine shanty to quench the thirst of the bullockies while watering and resting their teams prior to negotiating the numerous river and creek crossings. The bullockies were either carting provisions or transporting wool for the squatters who had begun taking up pastoral land in the region. In 1845 when William Patterson established the local 'Upper Regions' run.

### Dimboola & District Cemeteries

Dimboola has one of the best-presented cemeteries in the state. The first burials recorded in 1869 were of a mother and daughter, Mary Anne and Gemima Clements. Many of the district's early pioneers lie at rest under magnificent headstones. There is a significant German heritage throughout Dimboola and district and local cemeteries worth visiting include Katyl, Lochiel, Antwerp and Upper Regions.

### Gateway Arch to the Little Desert

The gateway arch is a colourful and interpretive entrance that welcomes visitors to the wonderland of the Little Desert National Park. The international signpost located in front of the Post Office and adjacent to the arch provides a very popular photographic opportunity for visitors to Dimboola.

### Dimboola Print Museum

The fascinating Dimboola Print Museum commemorates the pioneering work of the early printers and newspapermen in the district. The museum houses 100-year-old printing machines, furniture and type artefacts all in working order.

### Dimboola Railway Precinct

The railway arrived in Dimboola in 1882, with the station buildings being completed the following year. The railways have been an integral part of the town's development. The precinct boasts the only operational manual turntable between Melbourne and Adelaide and features two pedestrian bridges; one a step bridge, the other a ramp bridge.

Information boards telling the history of the precinct can be found on the Dimboola Station's platform. Dimboola continues to be the major railhead between Melbourne and Adelaide where crews interchange and rest. In excess of seventy engine drivers are currently based in Dimboola.



### Steam Locomotive J539

On display in Dimboola Bicentennial Park, the Steam Locomotive J539 was an oil burning locomotive built in Lancashire England in 1954 and was purchased by the Dimboola Branch of the Victorian Railways Institute (V.R.I.) with the help and support of the Dimboola community. The purchase, relocation and preservation of J539 was undertaken in order to commemorate the pivotal role the railways have had in the development of Dimboola.

### Dimboola Library & Community Civic Hub

The Dimboola Library and Community Civic Hub offers locals and visitors a relaxing setting for a picnic lunch or perhaps just a quiet space to unwind. Situated in the centre of Dimboola's shopping precinct behind the historic old Shire Hall, the hub offers beautifully landscaped garden and lawn areas with plenty of seating and picnic tables, along with public toilets.

The Dimboola Library and Community Civic Hub overlooks the Nine Creeks area and is the perfect starting point to explore the local walking trails, or link to the Wimmera River Discovery Trail extended cycling and walking trail (currently under development).



## Explore Arts, Culture & History

### Dimboola Play

Dimboola was the inspiration for Jack Hibberd's renowned play of the same name and the film 'Dimboola' was shot on location in 1979.

### Dimboola Courthouse

Built in 1875 in the "free Classical Style", one of a few surviving weatherboard structures with a verandah of that period. The building served as a court of petty sessions and later a magistrates court. Early Lowan council meetings were also conducted at the courthouse.

Now home to the Dimboola & District Historical Society after the organisation saved the courthouse from certain demolition in 1999, the society then had the building relocated to its present site. Now a research centre and museum, where the town and districts histories are housed, preserved and displayed. Along with ongoing research, the society presides over a vast photographic collection, visual displays, sporting, business house, educational and family history ledgers, journals, and memorabilia. The up-to-date archive room provides comprehensive resource tools for all local and district research and information.

Open Saturday mornings from 10am to 2pm, or by appointment.

### The Nolan Studio

Famous Modernist painter Sidney Nolan (1917 - 1992) was stationed in Dimboola during World War II, when in charge of a squad of soldiers guarding army supplies.

Whilst in Dimboola he became inspired by the colours and vastness of the Wimmera, resulting in the creation of his famous Wimmera Landscape Series that changed the direction of landscape painting in Australia.

A static display is located at the garage/studio where Nolan painted.



## Accommodation



### Dimboola Motel (3.5 Star)

Located only a short drive from the Dimboola town centre. Offering budget priced accommodation, the owners welcome you to their motel for a friendly and relaxed stay. Phone 03 5389 1177.

### Victoria Hotel

Built in 1924, offering single and twin rooms with shared bathroom facilities and guest lounge. Phone 03 5389 1630.

### Riverside Holiday Park

Situated on the banks of the picturesque Wimmera River, offering powered and unpowered sites, on site caravans and cabins. Fishing, swimming, canoeing, boating, walking tracks and only two minutes' walk from the shopping centre. Phone 03 5389 1416.

### Camping

Basic facilities are provided at park campgrounds at Horseshoe Bend and Ackle Bend, south of Dimboola. A fee applies. Bush camping away from the Little Desert National Park campgrounds is permitted in the central and western blocks.

## Hindmarsh Happenings

### GOLF ANNUAL TOURNAMENT

LATE JULY  
03 5489 1792

### A&P SOCIETY ANNUAL SHOW

THIRD SATURDAY IN OCTOBER  
Held at the recreation reserve, the annual show brings the community together with Displays, exhibits, competitions, side-shows, horse events and other activities.

### DIMBOOLA ANNUAL ROWING REGATTA

NOVEMBER  
The Annual Dimboola Rowing Regatta attracts competitors and visitors from all over Victoria and crews from NSW and South Australia. The town comes alive with activity and entertainment along the river. A perfect setting for competitors and spectators alike, this is an event not to be missed.

# Dimboola



For further information, visit: [www.visithindmarsh.com.au](http://www.visithindmarsh.com.au)