

Wyperfeld National Park



Visitor Guide

'Dalkaiana wartaty dyadangandak' - We are glad that you have come to our Country.

This vast Mallee park is a place of endless space with three distinct landscapes each offering a new experience - Big Desert country to the west, Mallee to the east and floodplains and shifting sand dunes to the north. Autumn, winter and spring are the best times to visit. There is plenty of country to cover for 4WD enthusiasts.



Enjoying the park

Camping and day visits

Camping facilities include picnic tables, fireplaces and toilets. General supplies and accommodation are available in Hopetoun, Rainbow, Patchewollock, Walpeup, Underbool and O'Sullivan's Pine Plain Lodge. Camp fees apply at the Wonga, Round Swamp (4WD), Remote (hike in), Casuarina and Snowdrift camping areas. Bookings are required and can be made at www.parks.vic.gov.au/stay.

Wonga Camping Area and Visitor Information Centre.

This camping area, in the southern end of the park, is spacious and includes an Information Centre. Displays provide insights into the industrious Malleefowl, along with general natural and cultural history. Enjoy three self-guided interpretive walks, a scenic nature drive and basic camping facilities.

Casuarina Camping Area is a good base to explore the northern Pine Plains area of the park. The camping area is set amid Pine-Buloke woodlands surrounded by Mallee sand dunes and a circular-walking track to Bracky Well.

Snowdrift Picnic and Camping Area is accessible by 2WD and is set alongside one of the largest white sand dunes in the area. Fireplaces, toilet and tables are provided.

Walking – Choose from a range of short and long walks. Wear suitable clothing and carry drinking water, maps and a small first aid kit. Stay on tracks.

Scenic drives

James Barrett Nature Drive in the south is suitable for 2WD, while 4WD may enjoy a visit to the snow-white sand dunes of Snowdrift at Pine Plains in the north.

Four-wheel driving

Access to the remote west of the park is via Murrayville-Nhill Road, but check with rangers for current track conditions, especially after wet weather and during high fire danger periods.

Caution: The following tracks are narrow and have deep sand - North South Access, Milmed Rock, Chinamans Well, Gunners and North Callitris Track. Vehicles must have good ground clearance. Some smaller 4WD vehicles may have difficulty.

Please note: No vans or trailers.

The **Mallee Drive** is one of Victoria's Iconic 4WD Adventures and passes through Wyperfeld National Park. Visit **www.iconic4wd.com.au** for more information.

Be fire ready and stay safe

On days of forecast Code Red Fire Danger this park will be closed for public safety.

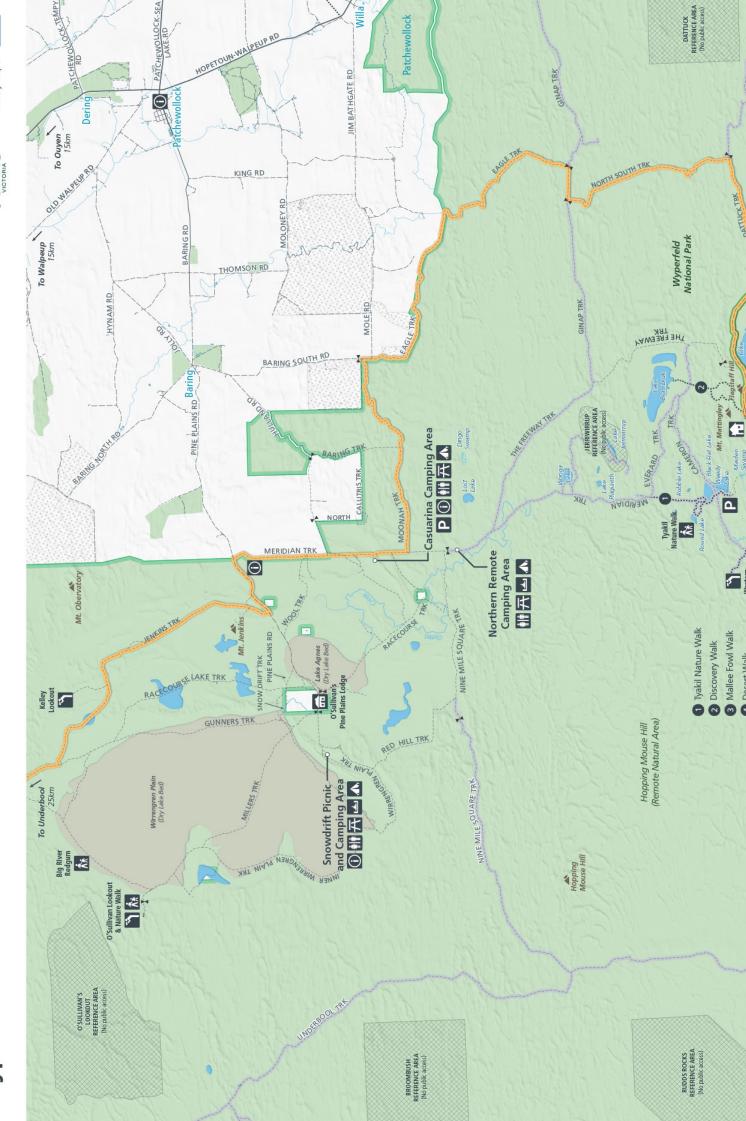
If you are already in the park you should leave the night before or early in the morning for your own safety.

Closure signs will be erected and rangers will patrol when possible, however you may not receive a personal warning that the park is closed so check the latest conditions by calling **13 1963** or visit **www.parks.vic.gov.au**.

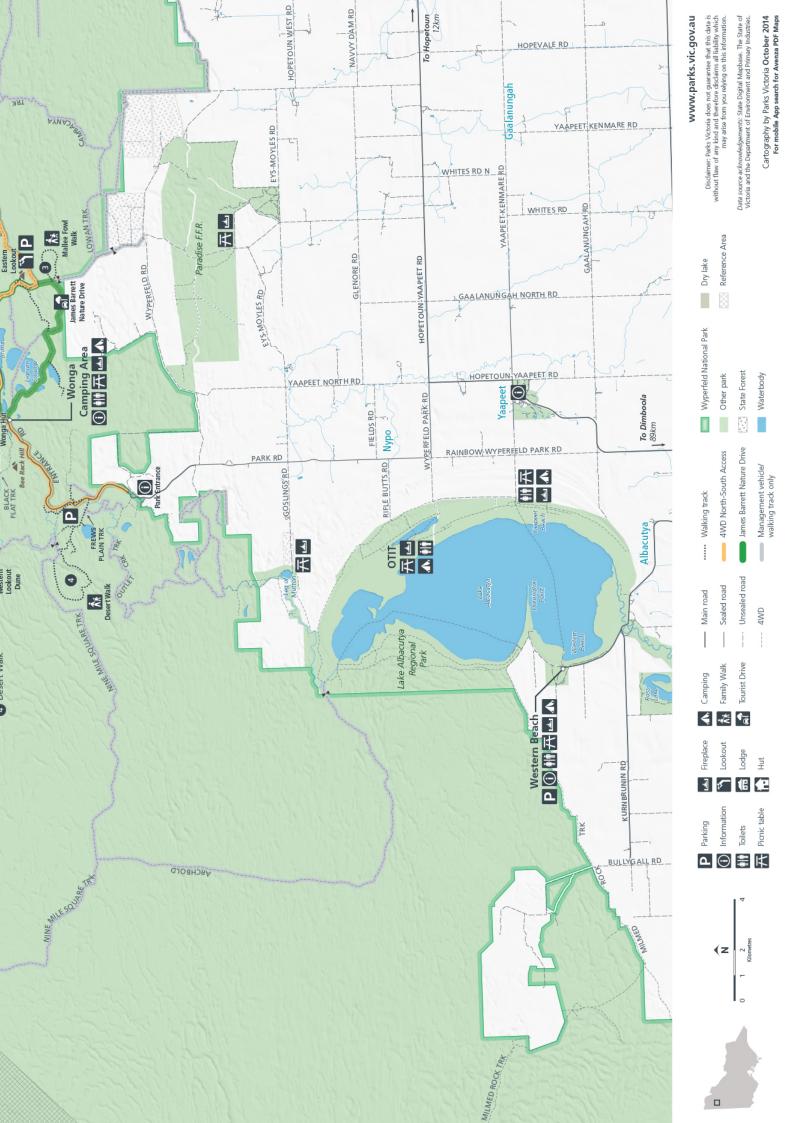
For up to date information on fires in Victoria or general fire safety advice call the **Victorian Bushfire Information Line** on **1800 240 667** or visit **www.emergency.vic.gov.au**.



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For further information Call Parks Victoria on 13 1963 or visit www.parks.vic.gov.au

> Wyperfeld National Park RMB 1465 Yaapeet Vic 3424 Tel: (03) 5395 7221

Mildura Visitor Information (Alfred Deakin Centre) 180-190 Deakin Avenue Mildura Vic 3500 Tel: (03) 5021 4424 Freecall 1800 039 043 Email:

> Horsham Visitor Information Centre 20 O'Callaghan Parade Horsham Vic 3400 Tel: (03) 5382 1832 Freecall 1800 633 218

Caring for the environment Please take rubbish with you for recycling and disposal

> Keep to tracks, for your own safety and to protect soils and vegetation

> Dogs and other pets are not permitted in the park

Firearms, generators and chainsaws are prohibited

Fire

Fires may only be lit in fireplaces provided.

No fires are permitted on a day of
Total Fire Ban. Built in and
portable gas or electric barbecues
may be used provided:

- a 3 metre area is cleared of anything flammable
- at <mark>least 10 litres of water is available for immediate use a second control of the seco</mark>
 - an adult is in attendance
 at all times

Wyperfeld National Park is in the Wimmera and Mallee
Total Fire Ban District

It is your responsibi<mark>lity to</mark>
know if it is a day of
Total Fire Ban. If in doubt call the
Victorian Bushfire Information
Line on 1800 240 667

Mobile phones: you may not be in network range in some park areas. To be connected to emergency services when you are not in range dial 112 then press the 'Yes' key.

Healthy Parks Hea<mark>lthy People</mark>

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!



People

'As I travel through Mallee country I feel the Old People with me and I know I am home.' Suzie Skurrie, Wotjobaluk.

The Wotjobaluk People regularly travelled along *Tyakil-ba-Tyakil* (Outlet Creek) visiting lakes and swamps throughout their region.

Through their rich culture, the Wotjobaluk People have been intrinsically connected to Country for tens of thousands of years.

European settlers followed the same route to establish pastoral runs from the 1860s. The usually dry Outlet Creek snakes its way through the centre of the park. Lake Hindmarsh to the south fills and overflows into this creek system.

Pressure from naturalists inspired the government to reserve 3,900 hectares in 1909. Wyperfeld National Park was proclaimed in 1921 and now covers 360,000ha. The name is of German origin and was probably given by German settlers who came to the Wimmera-Mallee from South Australia.

Plants and animals

Spring is the best time to see wildflowers. Around 450 species of native plants occur in Wyperfeld and many are in distinct communities.

River Red Gum and Black Box woodlands cover the floodplains of Outlet Creek and its lakes, while Pine and Buloke grow on nearby dunes.

Mallee eucalypts cover most of the eastern section of the park, with rolling sand plains covered with heathland in the western section. Wyperfeld National Park is a birdwatcher's delight with over 200 species recorded.



Bearded dragon

Exploring the Mallee parks

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

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

Lake Albacutya Park adjoins the southern end of Wyperfeld National Park. When flooded the lake is a significant wetland, recognised under the RAMSAR Convention for protection of wetlands and migratory birds. Camping areas are provided at Western Beach, Yaapeet Beach and OTIT.

Big Desert Wilderness Park is one of the most remote and least disturbed areas in Victoria protecting 142,300 hectares of the Mallee. Vehicles are not permitted. Four-wheel drive access through the Big Desert, outside the Wilderness Park, is via the Murrayville Track. Bushwalkers must be experienced and self-reliant. Camping is available at Red Bluff and Broken Bucket and in the adjacent State Forest.

Little Desert National Park is most famous for its Malleefowl. Features include the Wimmera River at Dimboola, Mallee dunes and wonderful spring wildflowers. Opportunities for walking, 4WD and bird watching abound. Access the park via Western Highway at either Dimboola or Kiata.

Murray-Sunset National Park, stretching from the Murray River south to Pink Lakes, is one of the world's few remaining relatively untouched semi-arid regions. It has a wealth of animal and bird life, vast landscapes, breathtaking sunsets and starry nights. 4WD vehicles are best here.

Lindsay Island is in the northwest corner of the park. Enjoy fishing and yabbying in the billabongs and creeks of Lindsay River.

Rolling Mallee sand dunes meet the Murray River in Hattah-Kulkyne National Park and Murray-Kulkyne Park. A series of intermittent tranquil lakes provide great opportunities for canoeing when flooded. Enjoy, walking, picnicking or just relaxing in the great open spaces. A heritage style Visitor Information Centre gives an overview of the park.

When full, **Lake Hindmarsh** is Victoria's largest fresh water body, fringed by River Red Gums and host to waterbirds. Enjoy boating, fishing and swimming. Access the park from Rainbow or Jeparit.

Get involved

Spending time with friends can be good for your mind, body and soul. Volunteering is a great way to get involved in your environment.

You can join the Friends of Wyperfeld National Park in caring for these special places by contacting Parks Victoria on 13 1963 or visit www.parks.vic.gov.au.

Location and access

Wyperfeld National Park is 450 km north-west of Melbourne and may be reached:

- via the Western Highway at Dimboola through Rainbow to southern Wyperfeld
- via the Sunraysia Highway at Speed through Patchewollock to Pine Plains
- via Hopetoun on the Henty Highway
- via Underbool on the Mallee Highway
 A sealed road provides access from Rainbow or
 Hopetoun to Wonga Camping area in the south.

Casuarina and Snowdrift camping areas in the north of the park are accessible from Patchewollock by 2WD. If coming from Underbool along Gunners Track or Wonga 4WD is required.

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