

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 or spring is the best time to visit and there is plenty of country to cover for 4WD enthusiasts.



Ornithologist Arthur Mattingly describes Wyperfeld as "paradise for nature lovers". It is a place of tranquillity and inspiration for everyone.

Welcome to Country

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

Through their rich culture the Wotjobaluk People have been intrinsically connected to Country - including the area now known as Victoria and the State's parks and reserves - for tens of thousand of years.

Parks Victoria recognises this connection and acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Aboriginal Communities of these areas.

Enjoying the park



Driving

2WD and 4WD vehicles can use the park. Day visitors and campers can enjoy the James Barret Nature Drive in the south, while 4WDs may enjoy a visit to the snow-white sand dunes of Snowdrift in the north at Pine Plains area.



Facilities and accommodation

Campground 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. Camping fees apply only at Wonga Campground.

Wonga Campground in the southern end of the park is spacious and has a Park Information Centre, three self-guided interpretive walks, a scenic nature drive and basic camping facilities.

Casuarina Campground in the northern Pine Plains area of the park is set amid Pine-Buloke woodlands and vast open lakebeds surrounded by Mallee sand dunes and a circular-walking track to Bracky Well.



Snowdrift Day Visitors area is 4WD access only and is set alongside one of the largest white sand dunes in the area. Fireplaces, toilet and tables are available.

Location and access

The park is 450 km north-west of Melbourne and may be reached;

- via Patchewollock off the Sunraysia Highway
- via Hopetoun on the Henty Highway
- via Underbool on the Mallee Highway
- via Rainbow from the Western Highway at Dimboola.

A sealed road gives access from Rainbow or Hopetoun to Wonga Campground in the southern park area - the main camping and picnic area.

Casuarina Campground, in the northern park area, is reached from Patchewollock by 2WD or Underbool along Gunners Track or Wonga by 4WD.

4WD access from Wonga Campground to Pine Plains area - check with rangers about current track conditions, call 13 1963.



Wyperfeld park information

A visit to the park information centre at Wonga Campground helps to ensure you get the most from your stay. Displays include insights into the industrious Malleefowl, along with general natural and cultural history.

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.

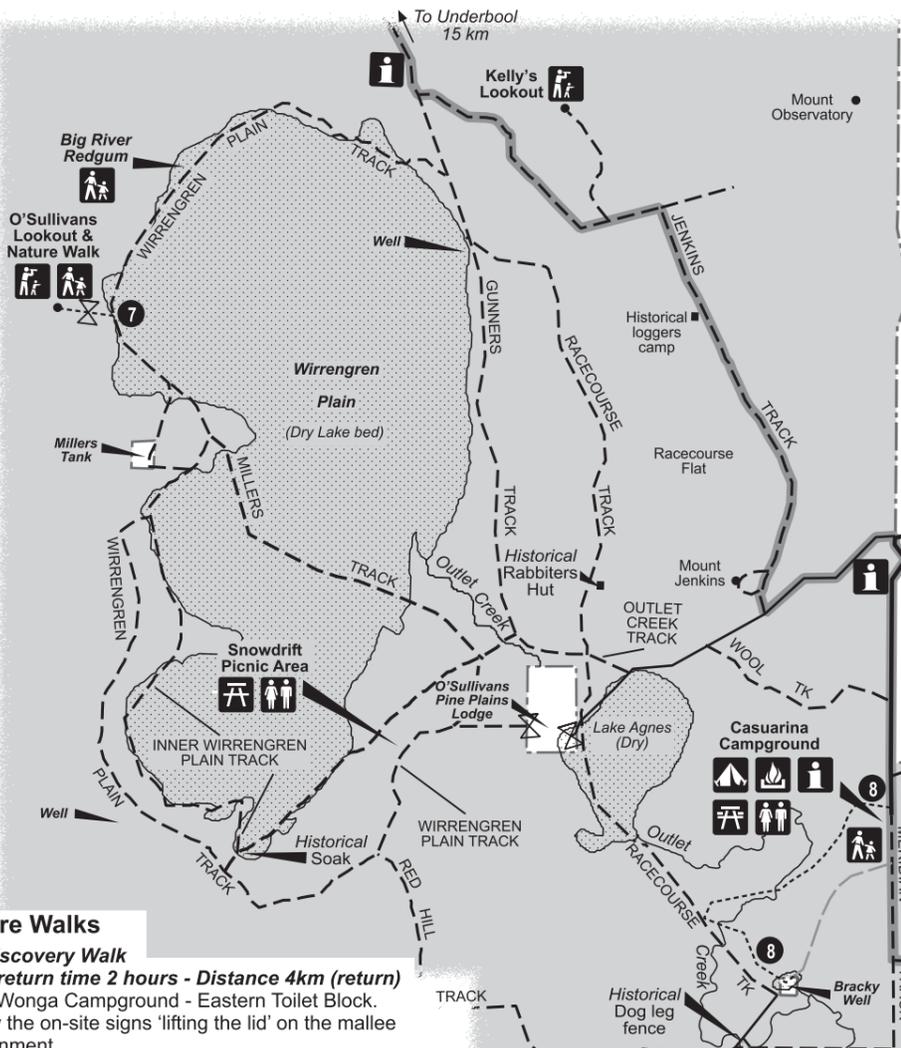
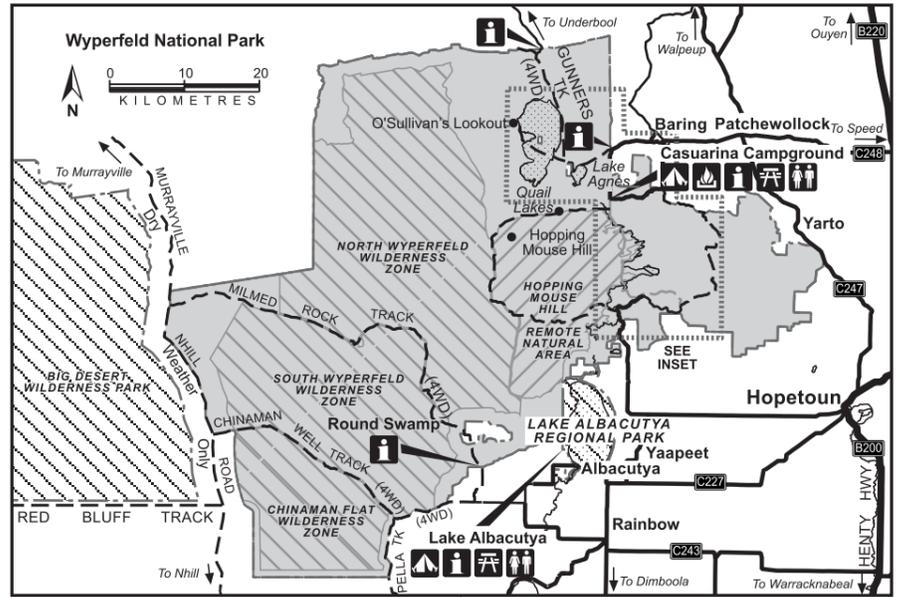
For updated information on fires in Victoria or general fire safety advice, please call the **Victorian Bushfire Information Line** on 1800 240 667 or listen to a local ABC/ACE radio station or visit www.CFA.vic.gov.au.



Wyperfeld's facts and figures

- Size 365,800 ha
- Over 200 native bird species
- Around 450 native plant species
- 1909 3,900 ha temporarily reserved
- Proclaimed National Park 1921

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!



Be Safe, Be Prepared

- Carry adequate drinking water, a compass and topographic maps (walkers), puncture kit for bicycles and a small first aid kit
- Beware of falling limbs when camping
- Wear strong, comfortable shoes and a shady hat
- Take a warm jumper and/or waterproof jacket
- Stay on the tracks - don't wander off

Wyperfeld - Australia's First Mallee National Park
Be sure to read this fascinating book for an insight into the park's rich human and natural history, published by the Friends of Wyperfeld, Geoff Durham.

Nature Walks

1 Discovery Walk

Total return time 2 hours - Distance 4km (return)

Start: Wonga Campground - Eastern Toilet Block. Follow the on-site signs 'lifting the lid' on the mallee environment.

2 Tykil

Total return time 2 hours - Distance 4.4km (return)

Start: Black Flat carpark, 4 km from the western end of the Wonga Campground. Interpretive signs along the track help you in your discovery of the Mallee.

3 Desert Walk

Total return time 2.5 hours - Distance 6km (return)

Start: Nine Mile Square carpark, west of the entrance road. (4.5 km from Wonga Campground) Walk west along the track from the carpark for 450 metres, then turn left along the Desert Walk. The track eventually loops back near the start of the Nine Mile Square Track. Excellent views across to Big Desert and Outlet Creek. A good loop walk on a sandy track to experience the mallee environment.

Half-day walks

4 Discovery Walk -Loop including Everard, The Freeway and Eastern Lookout Tracks

Total return time 3.5 hours - Distance 8km (return)

Start: Wonga Campground - Eastern Toilet Block. Follow the first 1.5 km of the Discovery Walk to Devils Pools. Crossing sand dunes and passing through mallee tea-tree into the Redgum woodland surrounding Lake Brambruk. Return along The Freeway Track.

5 Nine Mile Square Track - Frews Plain

Total return time 2 hours - Distance 4km (return)

Start: Nine Mile Square carpark, on the western side of the entrance road about 5.5 km from Wonga Campground. After crossing a soft sandy dune, this track firms and goes through Black Box woodland and stands of mallee and tea-tree. Return by the same route.

6 Eastern Lookout via Lignum Track

Total return time 4 hours - Distance 10km (return)

Start: At the Information Centre. 200 metres along the James Barrett Nature Drive Track, turn left along Lignum Track. Travel about 2 km to a track junction, then turn left. When you reach James Barrett Nature Drive Track again, turn right to Eastern Lookout. Return via Lignum Track, opposite carpark.

The track crosses or passes close to several dry lake beds and can become muddy after rain. A favourite area for kangaroos and emus among the redgums and dry lake beds.

7 O'Sullivan's Lookout

Total return time 20 minutes

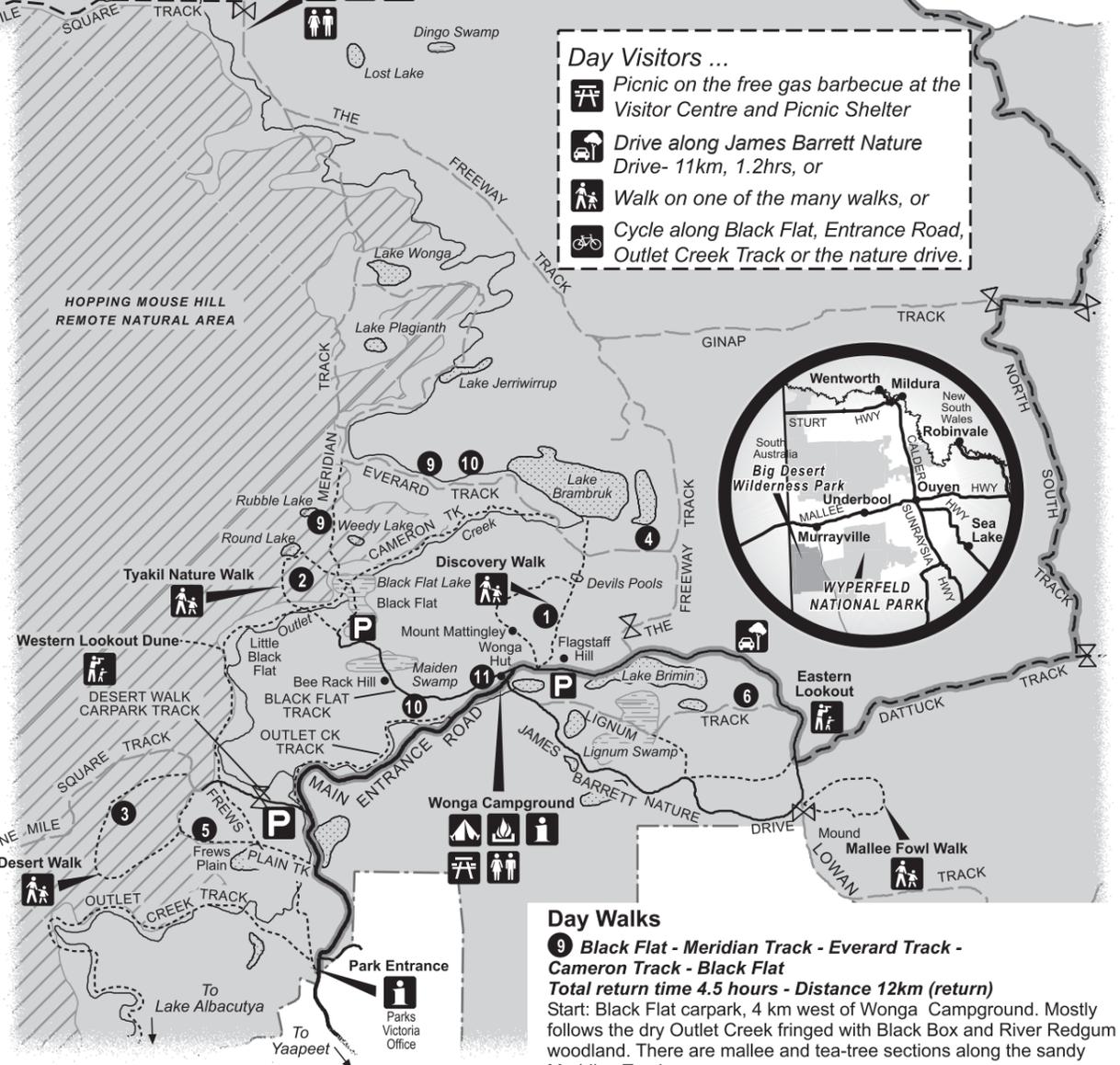
8 Casuarina Loop Walking Track

Total return time 3 hours

Start: 100m north of the Casuarina Campground. While following the orange triangle markers through blackbox woodland, open dune fields and hopbush, remember to look for Regent Parrots flying past and Major Mitchell Cockatoos in the morning.

Day Visitors ...

- Picnic on the free gas barbecue at the Visitor Centre and Picnic Shelter
- Drive along James Barrett Nature Drive- 11km, 1.2hrs, or
- Walk on one of the many walks, or
- Cycle along Black Flat, Entrance Road, Outlet Creek Track or the nature drive.



Day Walks

9 Black Flat - Meridian Track - Everard Track - Cameron Track - Black Flat

Total return time 4.5 hours - Distance 12km (return)

Start: Black Flat carpark, 4 km west of Wonga Campground. Mostly follows the dry Outlet Creek fringed with Black Box and River Redgum woodland. There are mallee and tea-tree sections along the sandy Meridian Track.

10 Discovery Walk - Everard Track - Meridian Track - Black Flat Track

Total return time 5.5 hours - Distance 13.5km (return)

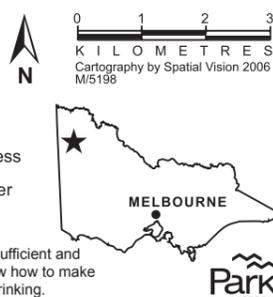
Start: Wonga Campground - Eastern Toilet Block. An interesting walk traversing sandy mallee and heathland dunes spilling into the Outlet Creek floodplain and following Outlet Creek. Varied vegetation with good birdwatching.

11 Overnight Walks

Total return time 2 days - Distance 40km (return)

Wonga Campground to Remote Camp, via Freeway Track and return via Meridian and Everard tracks.

Wyperfeld National Park - Wonga Campground & Pine Plains Area		Recreational Facilities	
	Highway		Camping
	Sealed road		Car park
	Unsealed road		Picnic area
	Track		Toilets
	Management vehicles and walkers only track		Fireplace
	Walking track		Lookout tower
	National Park		Nature drive
	Other Park		Nature walk
	Wilderness Zone		Park information
	Remote Natural Area		Gate
	Water body		Walk reference number
	Swamp		Drinking Water: Be self-sufficient and carry water in, and/or know how to make untreated water safe for drinking.



For further information

Parks Victoria
Information Centre
13 1963
or visit the
Parks Victoria website
www.parkweb.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
Ph: (03) 5021 4424
Freecall 1800 039 043
Email:
tourism@mildura.vic.gov.au

Horsham

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

Caring for the environment

Help us look after your parks by following these guidelines:

Please take rubbish home with you for recycling & disposal

Dogs and other pets are not permitted in the park

Firearms, generators and chainsaws are prohibited

Light fires only in fireplaces provided. Keep fires small to reduce habitat disturbance. Gas or fuel stoves are preferred

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

Wyperfeld National Park is in the **North Western Total Fire Ban District**

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

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!



Remote area access

Looking for 4WD opportunities? Call in at the park office to check routes and track conditions.

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

Caution: On the following tracks, vehicles must have good ground clearance, as tracks are deep sand and narrow. Smaller 4WD vehicles may have difficulty: North South Access, Milmed Rock, Chinamans Well, Gunners and North Callitris Track.

Please note: No vans or trailers.

People, plants and animals

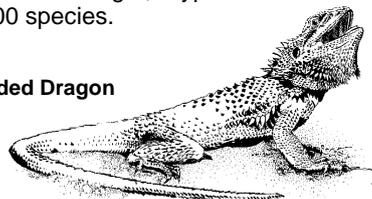
The Wotjobaluk People regularly travelled along 'Tyakil-ba-Tyakil' (Outlet Creek) visiting lakes and swamps, as they travelled their region. European settlers followed the same route to establish pastoral runs from the 1860s. The usually dry Outlet Creek snakes its way through the centre of the park. 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.

Spring is the best time to see wildflowers, although in dry years the displays may not be as spectacular. 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-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. A birdwatcher's delight, Wyperfeld has recorded over 200 species.



Bearded Dragon

Exploring the Mallee region

The Victorian Mallee parks cover over one million hectares and are extremely 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 and opportunities abound for high clearance 4WDs.

Parknotes are available for other large and spectacular Mallee national parks that adjoin similar areas in South Australia and New South Wales.

Murray Sunset National Park

Stretching from the Murray River south to the Pink Lakes, this park is one of the world's few remaining relatively untouched semi-arid regions. It has a wealth of animal and bird life, Red and Western Grey kangaroos, vast landscapes offering breathtaking sunsets and starry nights. 4WD vehicles are best here. Lindsay Island is in the northwest corner of the park - enjoy fishing and yabbing in billabongs and creeks of the Lindsay River system.

Hattah - Kulkyne National Park and Murray - Kulkyne Park

These delightful parks feature the merging of rolling mallee dunes with the Murray River. Other features include a series of tranquil lakes (intermittent) which are protected under the Ramsar Convention, a heritage style Visitor Information Centre, nature drive and self-guided nature walk. When flooded, enjoy great opportunities for canoeing, walking, picnicking or just relaxing in the great open spaces.

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.

Big Desert Wilderness Park

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

Lake Hindmarsh Reserve

When full, this is Victoria's largest body of fresh water, fringed by River Red Gums and host to waterbirds. Enjoy boating, fishing and swimming. Access from Rainbow or Jeparit. Check for current conditions before visiting - it may be dry!

Little Desert National Park

Most famous for its Malleefowl. Features the Wimmera River at Dimboola, Mallee dunes and wonderful spring wildflowers. Opportunities for walking, 4WD and birdwatching abound. Enter the park via Western Highway at either Dimboola or Kiata (the main campground).

Get Involved - hands on!

Hanging out with friends can be good for your mind, body and soul. Restoring habitat diversity can have healthy benefits to you and your community and volunteering is a great way to get involved in your environment.

You can join the Wyperfeld Friends group in caring for these special places and become a friend. Call Parks Victoria on 13 1963 or visit www.parkweb.vic.gov.au

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