

HISTORY

Major Thomas Mitchell, the first European to explore the region in 1836, described the country as “ready for the immediate reception of civilised man and destined to become a portion of a great empire”.

This enthusiasm encouraged the early squatters to explore the area and establish vast sheep runs fronting the creeks of the area before moving steadily outwards into the drier lands further north.

The construction of the Wimmera Mallee stock and domestic channel system was the solution, which harvested the high rainfall of the Grampians to supply the towns and stock dams of the Wimmera Mallee via what was the longest open channel system in the world.

The installation of the Wimmera Mallee Pipeline Project was finalised in 2010 and replaced the open channel system.

Amongst the early squatters were the Scott brothers who settled around the banks of the Yarriambiack Creek at a place called “Werracknabeal” (the gums shading the watercourse); Peter McGinnis was the first European pastoralist to settle in the Mallee (Hopetoun) and along with his partner George Bell

established the Lake Corrong Run, later owned by Edward Harewood Lascelles; the Davis family originally owned Brim sheep station, but following the agricultural selection many families came to the area including the staunch Presbyterian McKenzie family who named Beulah.

The original Pine Plains Station (Patchewollock district) was taken up around 1847 and changed hands many times, but since the early 1900’s the O’Sullivan family have occupied the property.

The southern Shire towns of Murtoa, Minyip and Rupanyup are situated in the fertile Wimmera region which was settled in the 1870’s by predominantly German families originating from South Australia.

HOME OF THE SILO ART TRAIL

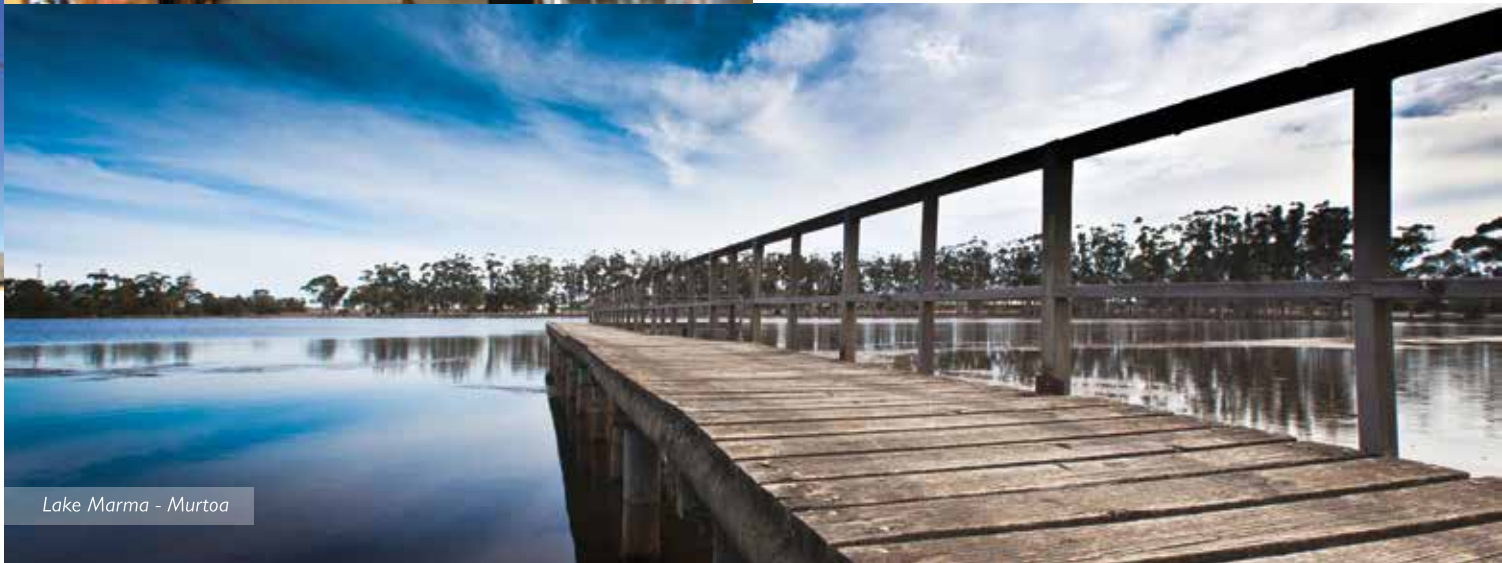
Stretching 200kms, silo art can be found in Sheep Hills, Brim and Patchewollock. Quickly being celebrated as Australia’s largest outdoor gallery, the artists work will astonish you. Artist included Adnate in Sheep Hills, Guido Van Helten in Brim and Fintan Magee in Patchewollock. Stay tuned in 2017 for murals in Rupanyup, Rosebery and Lascelles.



YARRIAMBIACK SHIRE

Touring Guide

wimmeramalleetourism.com.au



FLORA & FAUNA

Although the watercourses are sometimes dry, the Red Gum and Black Box woodlands attract a wide variety of colourful birds such as Red-rumped Regent Parrot, Sulphur-crested and Major Mitchell Cockatoos.

The beautiful pink and white Major Mitchell Cockatoo is listed as vulnerable in Victoria due to land clearing, i.e. loss of suitable food (native Pine and Buloke) and hollows for breeding and invasion of hollows by feral bees.

Throughout the region a variety of vegetation communities include Pine-Buloke woodlands, Mallee Eucalypts and heathlands containing Guinea Flowers, Desert Banksias, Tea Trees and She-Oaks.

The merging of the floodplain with Mallee desert and Pine-Buloke woodlands creates a haven for bird watchers. Wedge-tailed Eagles, Nankeen Kestrels, White Winged Choughs, a variety of Honeyeaters and Apostle Birds can be found fossicking around camping areas.

Goannas are often seen on hot days; emus are common and three species of kangaroos (Red, Western Grey and Eastern Grey) are often seen in the parks. A visit during spring will reward you with a desert display of colour and birdsong,



particularly after fire has brought new life into the Mallee heathlands.

More than 200 species of birds have been recorded in the parks, including the endangered mound-building Mallee Fowl and over 450 species of native plants have been found in the district’s communities.

The hard working Mallee Fowl or Lowan is the only mound – building bird species in the world to inhabit such a dry environment.

Mallee Fowl begin work on their mounds in autumn, creating a “compost heap” of dead leaves, twigs and sand. Rainwater causes this material to decompose and heat up which the male bird checks with its beak and tongue until it reaches 30°C, when egg laying can start.

Every morning for many months, the male bird checks the mound and either opens it or heaps it higher to maintain the correct temperature for the incubation of the eggs. Once hatched the chicks struggle to the surface unaided. After a brief rest they can then run and on their first day fly.

SOAK UP THE QUIET LIFE



TRAVEL ADVICE

To preserve the vulnerable natural environment visitors need to help by: - keeping to roads and tracks open to public vehicles, as wheel ruts last for years in dry sandy country: soil binding mosses and lichens can be destroyed and weeds and erosion introduced. Walkers too should keep to tracks for their own safety as well as that of the environment.

Please camp in designated camp sites wherever possible. Use a gas or fuel stove rather than a camp fire – dead timber is an important habitat. Dogs, cats, other pets and firearms are not permitted in national parks.

All native plants and animals are protected by law and are not to be disturbed or removed.

Public transport is available to the Shire from the cities of Melbourne, Adelaide and Mildura by rail and/or coach. Three aerodromes are available within the Shire for private plane use.

DISCOVER THE WIMMERA MALLEE

NATIONAL PARKS

Yarriambiack’s Mallee towns provide the gateway to Victoria’s three great “Outback” national parks (Wyperfeld, Murray–Sunset and Hattah Kulkyne), which protect over one million hectares of the Wimmera Mallee and the natural landscapes are home to abundant wildlife and a fascinating range of native flora.

Many visitors to Wyperfeld National Park fall in love with the beauty, spaciousness and undisturbed Mallee Flora and Fauna - especially the bird life. The park is best visited in autumn, winter or spring when emus and western grey kangaroos can be seen grazing at dawn and dusk in the usually dry lakebeds and creeks.

The name Wyperfeld is of German origin and was probably given by German settlers who came to the Wimmera from South Australia and was first reserved as a national park in 1909.

Pine Plains, in the northern reaches of Wyperfeld National Park, is where Mallee desert merges with the Pine–Buloke woodlands. It takes in the open spaces of Wirrengren Plain and the giant “Snowdrift” sand dune. It is a great place to experience space, beauty and Mallee wildlife – don’t forget your cameras.



4WD OPPORTUNITIES

The region boasts an excellent climate during autumn, winter and spring (wildflower season) with brilliant sunrises and sunsets accentuated by crystal clear night skies that reveal stars far brighter and more numerous than you will ever see in any city. Summer in the Wimmera Mallee can be hot.

Winter rainfall patterns provide an average of 325mm in the north increasing to 475mm in the southern part of the Shire.

Parks Victoria manages the large and spectacular Mallee national parks and separate park notes are available for each park. Access is available by 2WD and 4WD vehicles. However many of the internal tracks are only recommended for 4WD vehicles and some even become impassable in wet weather and during high fire danger periods. Call 13 19 63 for the Parks Victoria info line.

Always ensure you carry adequate water; food and fuel when four wheel driving and let someone know where you are going and when you intend to return.



MAJOR EVENTS

BARLEY BANQUET RUPANYUP

4th Weekend in October
www.rupanyupmajorevents.com.au

BIG WEEKEND MURTOA

1st Weekend in October; held annually
www.murtoa.net/big-weekend

JUNG MARKET

Last Saturday of the month from January to November & 3rd Saturday in December
Jung Recreation Reserve, 9am-1pm
www.jungtownship.com

PATCHEWOLLOCK MUSIC FESTIVAL

3rd Weekend in October
www.patchewollockmusicfestival.com.au

SPEED MALLEE MACHINERY FIELD DAYS

First Wednesday & Thursday of August, held annually 2km south of Speed, on the Sunraysia Hwy
www.mmfd.com.au

Y-FEST WARRACKNABEAL

Easter Weekend, held annually
www.yfest.com.au



VISITOR INFORMATION

Beulah Business and Information Centre
77 Phillips St Street
Beulah VIC 3395
T 03 5390 2200
E info@beulahvictoria.com.au

Gateway BEET
75 Lascelles Street
Hopetoun VIC 3396
T 03 5083 3001
F 03 5083 3309
W www.gatewaybeet.com.au

Warracknabeal Visitor Information Centre
119 Scott Street
Warracknabeal VIC 3393
T 03 5398 1632

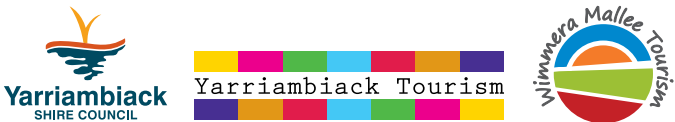
www.wimmeramalleetourism.com.au
www.siloarttrail.com

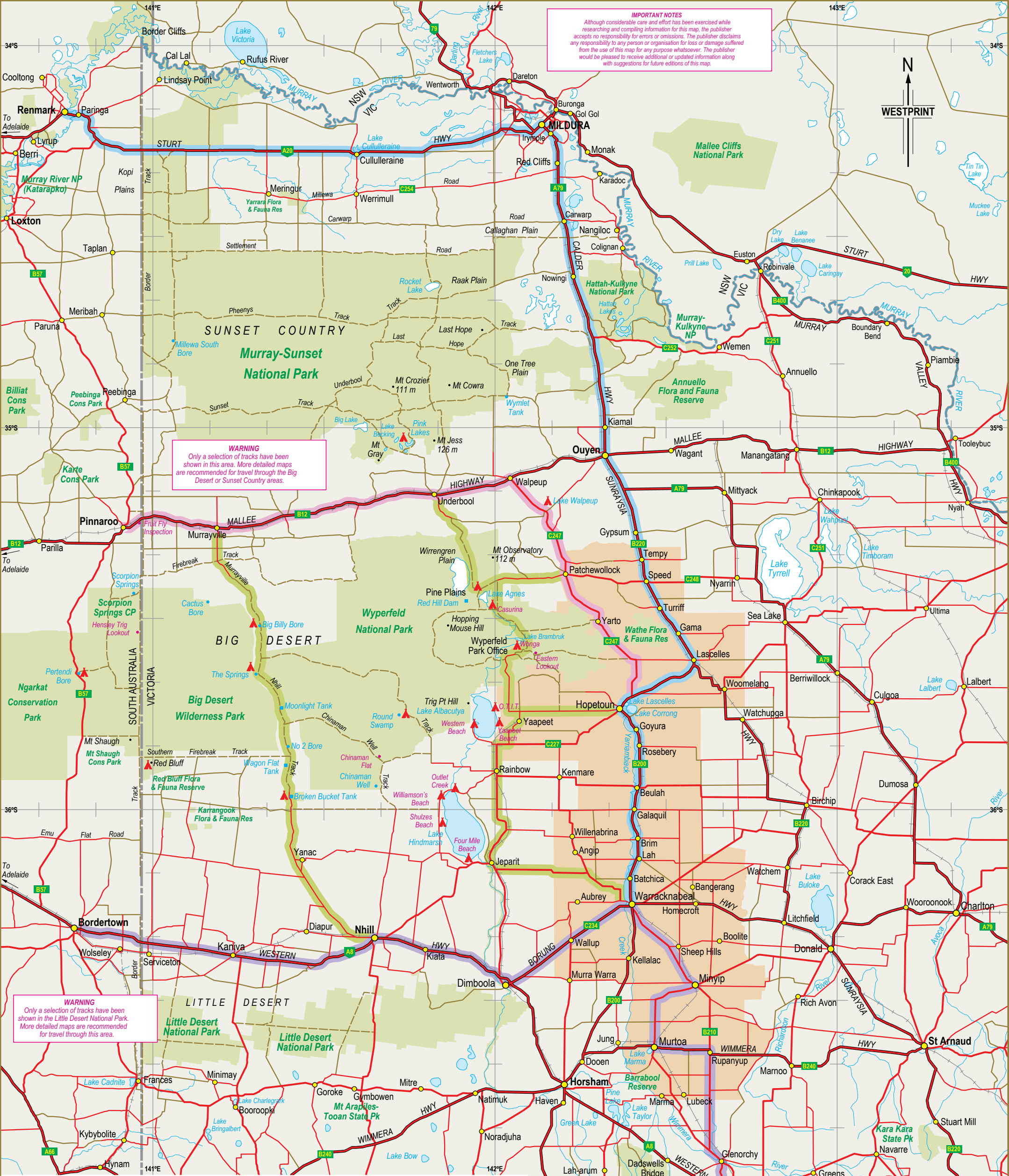
Facebook
Wimmera Mallee Tourism
Yarriambiack Tourism
Silo Art Trail

Instagram
Silo Art Trail

CONTACT US

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W www.yarriambiack.vic.gov.au





YARRIAMBIACK SHIRE

WIMMERA MALLEE

LEGEND	
 Highway, National and State routes	 River or creek
 Major road, sealed; Unsealed; Bridge	 Perennial lake; Mainly dry or salt lake
 Minor road, sealed; Unsealed	 National or conservation park or reserve
 Track (4WD recommended)	 Tourist route 1
 State border	 Tourist route 2
 Railway line	 Tourist route 3
 Yarriambiack Shire area	 Tourist route 4

BEULAH

Population approx. 200

Beulah serves a prosperous agricultural community in the heart of the Wimmera/Mallee.

The town offers a range of services including a general store, cafe, post office, op shop, pharmacy, service station and hotel. The Beulah Business & Information Centre (T. 03 5390 2200) houses the post office and Commonwealth Bank agency, provides public internet access, tourist information, patchwork mural and a range of other services.

Accommodation is available at the Victoria Hotel (T 03 5390 2248) along with powered camping sites at the recreation reserve; which also contains the public swimming pool, playground, tennis & netball courts and a football/cricket oval. A picturesque walking track and painted bollards surrounds a small lake created by the weir over the Yarriambiack Creek. The creek is a nice spot for fishing and boating activities. Other points of interest include Beulah's street murals that depict scenes from the town's early years of development and the famous "vermin proof fence". (Remnants of the fence can still be seen along the Henty Highway just south of Beulah.)



BRIM

Population approx. 150

The name comes from an aboriginal word for "spring or well of water". Redda's Park, on the banks of the Yarriambiack Creek (Weir Pool) features a camping ground that includes powered and non powered sites, playground, BBQ and boat ramp. The Brim weir pool is a great location for fishing and water sports. Most sporting facilities are centrally located at the recreation reserve and include football, cricket, netball, tennis and golf with the bowls club nearby.

Evidence of early settlement can still be seen, including the solitary grave of James Simson who died in 1858 as a result of being gored by a bullock. Located in Simson Street, this is the only defined grave left of the Brim Station Cemetery. Local businesses include a hotel, garage-hardware-engineering, farm supplies, general store and post office.

Brim is home to the first silo art that was completed in December 2015. Guido Van Helten's epic mural is now famous across Australia.

HOPETOUN

Population 528

The huge wall mural in the centre of town depicts pioneer heritage such as the Mallee roller, stump jump plough, stripper and wagons. Over 200 varieties of birds and wildflowers can be found within the surrounding National Park and Reserves.

Lake Lascelles is a popular venue for water sports and fishing and has amenities, BBQ, playground and picnic facilities. The "Mallee Bush Retreat" on the shores of Lake Lascelles provides a range of accommodation options based on unique designs including 2 Silos, 2 Cow Sheds, Stables, Machinery Shed and a Limestone Grain Store with 33 beds available. Powered sites are offered at a low cost and free camping is encouraged around the Lake perimeter. (T. 0439 529 973)

Lake Corrong is filled by the Yarriambiack Creek and is a haven for a variety of birds and a popular fishing hotspot. Lake Corrong is sometimes dry and can be accessed via the Henty Highway, Two Mile Road or the eastern side of Lake Lascelles.

Corrong Homestead (built by the Mallee's first settler Peter McGinnis) is believed to be the oldest original house in the Mallee and has been fully restored.

Hopetoun provides a range of services and facilities including a supermarket, post office, bank, pharmacy, service station, hotel & two caravan parks. In addition there is an extensive range of sporting facilities including football, netball, golf, tennis, swimming and lawn bowls.

Hopetoun's Model Car Raceway located on Lascelles' Street allows visitors to race model cars on a 41 metre, eight lane slot car track. Hire a car and race your friends and family. T: 0429 826 937

Wheat Milk Sugar creates a range of gelato and pasta. Watch the pasta making in action while you enjoy a selection of yummy gelato.

Call in to Gateway BEET for a copy of Hopetoun Walk & Drive Town Discovery Tours.

JUNG

Population approx. 100

The Jung Market is located on the Recreation Reserve beside the banks of the picturesque Yarriambiack Creek and is held on the last Saturday of every month except December when it is the third Saturday, from 9am to 1pm.

LASCELLES

Population approx. 100

Lascelles was named after the "Father of the Mallee", Edward Harewood Lascelles. The Stockman's Hut Gallery known for hosting some of Australia's best corrugated iron sculptures and rural inspired paintings, is conveniently located on the Sunraysia Highway, adjacent to the historic Minapre Hotel.

The town provides close access to Wathe Flora and Fauna Reserve, which is one of the few areas where the endangered Mallee Fowl can be seen. The Lascelles Camping Ground features powered and non powered sites, amenities, playground, BBQ and rotunda.



Cust's Store - Rupanyup

MINYIP

Population 418

Crawford Productions featured Minyip as "Coopers Crossing" in the long running television series "The Flying Doctors". Production ceased in 1989, but travellers from around the world still visit Minyip for a stroll down memory lane.

St John's Lutheran Church, classified by the National Trust in 1974, features a striking octagonal belfry and houses a magnificent Fuller pipe organ.

The Minyip Cemetery located to the east of town reflects the strong German influence in Minyip's beginnings and holds great interest for those involved in genealogy and history.

The Minyip Wetlands and Caravan Park is a picturesque location for camping and includes excellent facilities for all ages. Walking tracks, outdoor fitness equipment, playground, BBQ facilities and ponds for fishing allow visitors to indulge in a relaxing precinct with activities at your caravan door.

Minyip has a post office, butcher, hotel, bank, supermarket, cafe and provides football, netball, golf, tennis and swimming facilities.

MURTOA

Population 783

Aboriginal for "Home of the Lizard", the land around Murtoa was originally occupied by squatters McPherson and Taylor in early 1844.

Visitor accommodation is available at the hotel/motel, hotel and the caravan park. There is an extensive range of sporting facilities including football, netball, golf, tennis, lawn bowls, swimming and a picturesque racecourse.

Murtoa Big Weekend is the feature event of the year and is held the first weekend in October.

Lake Marma and Rabl Park are located in the centre of town and provides a tranquil oasis with its abundant bird life and lovely treed surrounds making it an ideal picnic spot. Concordia Cottage houses a collection of historical material and is the last remaining section of the original Lutheran Concordia College established in Murtoa in the 1890's which later moved to Adelaide.

Dunmunkle Sump Oilers Historic Engines are four massive single piston Richard Hornsby engines dating back to 1911 when they powered the old freezer works and are believed to be the only set of four remaining in the world on their original site. These engines form the basis of this new museum on the site. Open every Big Weekend.

The Barrabool Nature Reserve just south of Murtoa, is a largely undisturbed Wimmera forest with important aboriginal sites.

The Water Tower was built in 1886 and houses three floors of local artefacts and the famous James Hill taxidermy collection of over 500 birds and other fauna.

Murtoa Stick Shed built in 1941 as a grain storage facility, is constructed from 560 unmlled poles that support the corrugated iron roof of the shed. The shed spans the length of five Olympic swimming pools and has been dubbed the 'Cathedral of the Wimmera'. The Stick Shed is the only building in the Wimmera Mallee region to be listed on the Australian Heritage List. Open annually in October during the Big Weekend.



PATCHEWOLLOCK

Population approx. 150

Established in 1914, the small township of Patchewollock takes its name from two aboriginal words "pijue" meaning plenty and "wallah" meaning porcupine grass. The town has a general store & post office and a hotel/motel.

The Mallee Sunset Retreat provides powered and non powered camp sites for travellers.

Nearby "Pine Plains" is now part of Wyperfeld National Park, but its history dates back over 140 years to the early occupation of the Mallee by pastoralists and the development of Pine Plains Station by the O'Sullivan family. The "Station" now offers fully self contained tourist accommodation at Pine Plains Lodge and an opportunity to explore this unique environment (T. 03 5084 1216)

Giant Mallee Fowl sculptures can be seen near the old Railway Station and Goods Shed.

Australia is well known for its historic hotels and the "Patche Pub", is one of the best.

There are many native birds and animals to observe along with ancient flood plains and dry creeks/lakes systems to explore. The spectacular rolling sand hills with unusually high "Snowdrift" and "Mt Jenkins" being popular picnic spots offer spectacular views of the surrounding countryside.

Check out Fintan Magee's mural of local farmer 'Noodle' Hulland on the grain silos.

ROSEBERY

Population approx. 100

The Mallee Sunset Gallery is housed in a white timber church right on the Henty Highway at Rosebery and features hand made artwork, cross stitching, jigsaws and photographs. Most artwork is for sale and complements the home made jams, relishes and preserves that attract customers from interstate.

SPEED, TEMPY, TURRIFF

Population for each approx. 100

These three small towns just a few kilometres apart were settled in 1902 shortly after the Melbourne to Mildura railway line reached this point.

The "Mallee Machinery Field Days" held at Speed on the first Wednesday and Thursday of August each year is a major highlight on the district calendar and attracts exhibitors and visitors from across South East Australia.

RUPANYUP

Population 344

Surveyed in 1873 Rupanyup is located on the Dunmunkle Creek. Rupanyup is an aboriginal word meaning "branch hanging over water".

Renowned for its wide landscaped main street, Rupanyup provides a range of services and facilities including a supermarket, 24/7 card facility diesel, cafe, post office, hardware, newsagency, bank, pharmacy, service station and hotel. In addition there is an extensive range of sporting facilities including football, netball, golf, tennis, swimming and bowls.

The old flour mill in Gibson Street is an early and rare example of a portable mill of galvanised iron construction and is adjacent to the first reinforced concrete grain silos built in the southern hemisphere, which were designed by Sir John Monash and erected in 1909.

The local RSL owns one of only nine original scale models of the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance.

Woods' Farming and Heritage Museum is located on the Wimmera Hwy and has an amazing collection of stationary engines, tractors, tools, farm and household memorabilia. Perfect for group tours (T. 0427 159 154.)

Many of the town's historical buildings reflect the early pioneering days around the turn of the century including the Rupanyup Railway Station which dates back to 1890.

The Jack Emmett Billabong, surrounded by native trees and shrubs is a fishing hotspot and is adjacent to the Memorial Park that includes BBQ and picnic facilities, amenities, powered camping sites and a playground.

WARRACKNABEAL

Population 2302

Warracknabeal is located in the heart of the State's richest grain growing area and is situated along the banks of the picturesque Yarriambiack Creek.

The Yarriambiack Creek provides a haven for numerous water birds and is ideal gums that line its banks attract many varieties of native birds and animals to share this unique environment. A weir pool offers a great location for boating and fishing activities.

The town derives its name from the aboriginal description of the big red gum trees shading the watercourse. Warracknabeal is the major town within the Shire and provides all the key services required by a vibrant rural community.

A strong retail centre provides excellent shopping facilities including two supermarkets, newsagent, post office, bakeries, butchers, chemist and a full variety of retail stores.

Hotels, motels, caravan park, cafes, restaurants, doctors, dentists, hospital and aged care facilities, visiting specialists, 24 hour ambulance, vet and Yarriambiack Shire Council offices are located in the town.

A Community Market is held the third Saturday of every month, 9am - 1pm at Fishers IGA car park.

Wheatlands Agricultural Machinery Museum houses the most comprehensive collection of farm machinery in Australia on a 16 hectare site dedicated to the collection, restoration and display of agricultural machinery. Wheatlands Warehouse in Scott Street is a second hand store that will keep you fossicking for hours.

Warracknabeal's Annual Easter Festival "Y-Fest" incorporates the Museum's three day Vintage Machinery and Car Rally, Easter Cup Race Meeting, Easter Saturday Street Parade, three day Golf Tournament, Art Show, Water Ski Spectacular, Fishing and Busking Competitions.

The Historical Centre housed in the town's first State Savings Bank displays an array of artefacts found in the homes of the pioneers of the area.

The Log Lockup built in 1872 when the first permanent policeman came to town was used until 1960 and is still located at its original site.

The Golf Club features an 18 hole, sandbelt course with first class greens and watered fairways.

The Lions Flora & Fauna Park includes a BBQ, playground and a collection of native birds and animals.

WOOMELANG

Population approx. 200

Located on the Sunraysia Highway, Woomelang was originally known as "Gronomy" after the natural waterhole that first attracted the early settlers to this area. When the railway line arrived, the Government constructed earthen dams or "Tanks" (as they became known) to hold the water. These "tanks" are still there today, but have been cleaned out and linked together to create a popular free camping, fishing spot and picnic area, including iron artwork.

A good example for local ingenuity can be seen on the southern approach to the town where a shearing shed, constructed using compressed kerosene tins, stands as a monument to war time shortages.

Stop by the Woomelang General Store to see the Victorian Carpet Python Mural.

YAAPEET

Population approx. 100

A small town located in the Southern Mallee 30kms west of Hopetoun provides access to Lake Albacutya Regional Park. Yaapeet Beach is a popular picnic spot and whilst camping is permitted in most areas of the Lake, facilities are limited. Although the Lake is often dry, when in flood it is one of Australia's most significant wetlands, recognised under an international agreement (the Ramsar Convention) for protection of wetlands. The park adjoins Wyperfeld National Park and has similar native plants and animals.

The Yaapeet Camping Grounds located at the Recreation Reserve is the perfect base for exploring the Wyperfeld National Park and features excellent facilities including powered and non powered sites, playground, tennis courts, chop shed, BBQ, amenities and an open fire place.



Outback of Yaapeet