

WELCOME TO THE SWAMPHEN TRAIL

The Murray River is born with the union of the Hotham and Williams rivers. Its life force disperses into the Peel Inlet just below Coopers Mill. What a life it leads, flowing past historic Quindanning Hotel, onwards to Lane Pool Reserve near Dwellingup, passing forests, and camping areas like Yarrigal, Stringers, Charlies Flat, Tonys Bend and Baden Powell. It continues rapidly down through the reserve into Scarp Pool. From here, it crashes down the Darling Scarp into farmland, mixes with teatrees and arrives at Pinjarra, where our trail begins.

Tree-lined banks, some beaches, and pockets of reeds provide refuge places for a diverse range of birds. The harder to see species include sacred kingfishers, pink-eared ducks and rainbow bee-eaters.

This all-year-round rural trail is a quieter section of the Murray River, with there being less power boating than there is below Murray Bend. Canoeists see cattle, farm buildings, remnant orchards and discarded machinery. Residences are set back along this scenic waterway.

The swamphen (Porphyrio porphyrio) is unmistakable with its bright red bill and forehead and its purple or rich blue face, neck, chest and shoulders. The upper body is dark brown to black and it has a white undertail. At around 450mm high, the swamphen is easily seen as it runs along the river banks or perches on reeds or low tree branches.

This guide has an 'indicative map' only. For detailed maps, please contact Canoeing WA at: www.wa.canoe.org.au or: ph 9285 8501.

When you explore and enjoy this trail, please respect private and public property

Accommodation:

Pinjarrah Park & Country Camping

Williams Road, Pinjarra, on the banks of the Murray River
3km from Pinjarra

Pinjarra Cabins & Caravan Park

1716 Pinjarra Road, Pinjarra
2km west of Pinjarra Post Office

The Canoe and Kayak Guide to Western Australia by Martin Chambers covers trips from Esperance to Exmouth. Copies are available from canoe retailers, outdoor suppliers and direct from the author, Phone: 9385 8371.

TRAIL HINTS

Before using this trail guide, canoeists and kayakers should:

1. have received instruction from a qualified instructor (contact Canoeing WA for details of instructors);
2. be familiar with the Boating Rules and Regulations contained in the official *Western Australian Boating Guide* produced by the Department for Planning and Infrastructure, copies available from the department's Marine Office in Mandurah and from boating retailers;
3. know their capabilities, as paddling on calm waters does not qualify anyone to undertake more difficult paddling tasks;
4. be able to swim confidently wearing paddling attire;
5. keep to the right in boating channels and canals;
6. check weather reports, as wind can create hazardous waves, especially on inlets, estuaries, lakes and pools;
7. use open canoes only in the calmest of conditions;
8. be aware of submerged or semi-submerged hazards such as trees and logs;
9. in summer months check with the Shire of Murray or the Mandurah City Council for information about algal bloom;
10. be careful when rivers are flowing fast as more effort is then required to paddle, particularly upstream, and not paddle rivers when they are in flood;
11. watch out for and avoid any snakes swimming rivers or other waterways;
12. take care if using boat ramps as they can be very slippery;
13. recognise that paddling conditions are generally calmer in the morning than in the afternoon;
14. let a responsible person know of their trip plans;
15. when planning trips on calm waters allow for a speed of 4km/h for adults and less for young or inexperienced canoeists; and
16. use insect repellent and/or cover up to protect against mosquitoes.

Phone Contacts

Police:

Life-threatening emergency only 000
Non-emergency 13 1444

Hospitals:

Mandurah, Peel Health Campus 9531 8000
Pinjarra, Murray Hospital 9531 7222

Local government

Mandurah City Council 9550 3777
Shire of Murray 9531 7777

DEC 24 Hour Wildcare Helpline 9474 9055

(for sick & injured wild life, including birds)

MURRAY RIVER CANOE GUIDE NO. 2

The Swamphen Trail

Compiled by

Canoe Trail Friends of
Mandurah & Pinjarra Inc.



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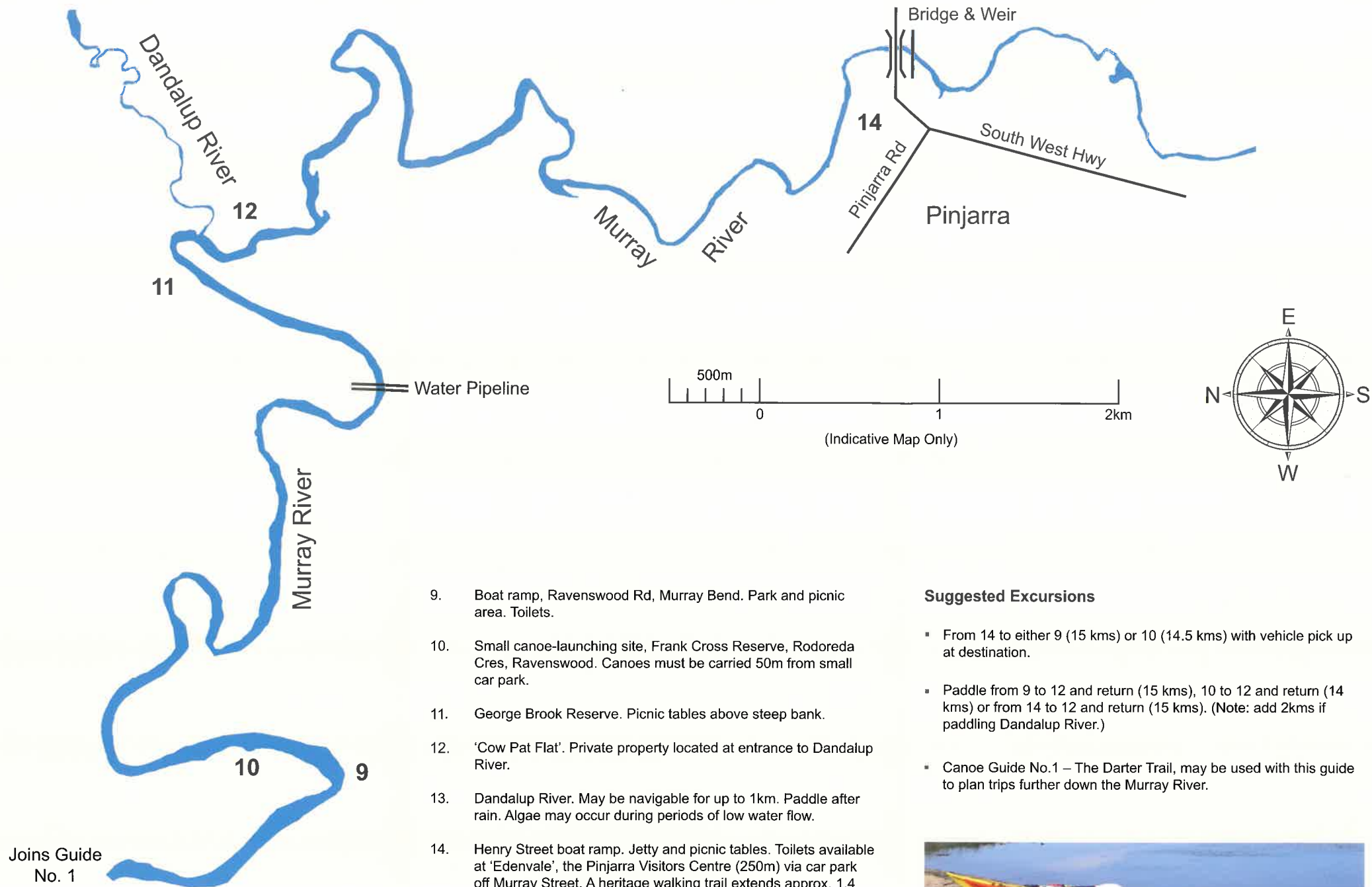


The Canoe Trail Friends of Mandurah & Pinjarra Inc. is a non-profit organisation run by volunteers who wish to promote the establishment and maintenance of recreational canoe trails on the waterways of the Peel Regional Park and to advocate awareness of and care for the natural environment.

The Canoe Trail Friends of Mandurah & Pinjarra Inc. does not accept any responsibility or liability for any loss, injury, death, damage, liability, cost or expense that may be suffered, sustained or incurred by any person relying on any aspect of this guide or making use of any trail named or described herein.

Inquiries: send a **stamped** self-addressed envelope to:
PO Box 3188, Mandurah East, WA 6210 or visit:

<http://canoetrailfriendsmandurahandpinjarra.blogspot.com>



9. Boat ramp, Ravenswood Rd, Murray Bend. Park and picnic area. Toilets.
10. Small canoe-launching site, Frank Cross Reserve, Rodoreda Cres, Ravenswood. Canoes must be carried 50m from small car park.
11. George Brook Reserve. Picnic tables above steep bank.
12. 'Cow Pat Flat'. Private property located at entrance to Dandalup River.
13. Dandalup River. May be navigable for up to 1km. Paddle after rain. Algae may occur during periods of low water flow.
14. Henry Street boat ramp. Jetty and picnic tables. Toilets available at 'Edenvale', the Pinjarra Visitors Centre (250m) via car park off Murray Street. A heritage walking trail extends approx. 1.4 kms upstream from the boat ramp.

WARNING: Canoeists and kayakers should keep well away from the Pinjarra Weir on both the downstream and upstream sides. In addition to dangerous turbulence, water may conceal construction materials such as exposed reinforcing rods.
ALWAYS PORTAGE AROUND WEIRS.

Suggested Excursions

- From 14 to either 9 (15 kms) or 10 (14.5 kms) with vehicle pick up at destination.
- Paddle from 9 to 12 and return (15 kms), 10 to 12 and return (14 kms) or from 14 to 12 and return (15 kms). (Note: add 2kms if paddling Dandalup River.)
- Canoe Guide No.1 – The Darter Trail, may be used with this guide to plan trips further down the Murray River.

