

WHAT, WHERE & WHY

Gunbower Creek Lagoons

Wandering through majestic red gums the Gunbower Creek meanders for 120kms from Torrumbarry to Koondrook. Its lazy reaches, beautiful bends and wetlands cradle the Gunbower Island. To the North East the ever changing Murray River provides life to the islands forest, creek and wetlands. It was a supermarket and home to the first Australians. Since European settlement its timber has powered the stately paddlewheel boats on the Murray River and formed the foundation for Victoria's rail network. Its water now supports clean green local agriculture, helping to feed Australia and the world.

For our visitors it is as place to camp, fish or just relax. A place to enjoy a sunrise or a sunset. You might see an emu wandering by or a flash of colour as an azure kingfisher perches momentarily on a branch tempting that perfect photo. Watch a playful water rat or platypus in the reeds or the regal pelicans as they circle waiting for clearance to splash down and search for fish.

Over time the creek and river have flooded and formed 12 lagoons as the waters have cut through lower areas or flowed around soft sand rises. Wetlands have been formed as creek bends have been cut off when the water has changed its course. This has created new environmental systems, each lagoon different to the next.

The lagoons provide a home to a wide range of our unique flora and fauna. Shy swamp wallabies can be seen around the wetlands while kangaroos and emus graze the open grassland. Waterbirds are there in all their glory. The lagoons are home to turtles, platypus and frogs. Many of the birds and animals and their vegetation habitat is recognised as nationally and internationally significant.

The creek is regulated now, different to what the first Australians knew. Hidden in the forest and wetlands there is evidence of their ancient presence. Scar trees and shell middens can be seen by the observant.

Be respectful and reflect on those who went before us whose spirits still watch over this beautiful place.

CONTACTS

POLICE 000
FIRE 000
MEDICAL EMERGENCY 000

BUSHFIRE INFO LINE VIC 1800240667
BUSHFIRE INFO LINE NSW 1800679737

WILDLIFE VICTORIA 0419356433
Native wildlife rescue

PARKS VICTORIA 131963
www.parks.vic.gov.au

NORTH CENTRAL 0354487124
Catchment Management Authority
| map www.nccma.vic.gov.au

TURTLES AUSTRALIA
www.turtles Australia.org.au/

LITTER HOTLINE EPA 1800548837
24hour report litter

FISHERIES VICTORIA (DEWLP) 136186
FISHERIES NSW 133550474

CANOE HIRE 0428487823

VANDALISM 000

FIREARMS
www.police.vic.gov.au/firearms

RUBBISH (Take in/Take out policy)

GATEWAY TO GANNAWARRA
VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE 0354562047

PETS ON GUNBOWER ISLAND
Gunbower State Forest (Yes)
Gunbower National Park (No)

GUNBOWER CREEK LAGOONS

SAFES LAGOON

REEDY LAGOON

TAYLORS LAGOON

COCKATOO LAGOON

GUM LAGOON

UPPER GUNBOWER LAGOON

LONGMORE LAGOON

PHYLAND LAGOON

TURNER LAGOON

SPLATTS LAGOON

HEART-SHAPE LAGOON

BLACK CHARLIE LAGOON

Activities at Lagoons:

Conservation Activities, Kayaking, Hiking, Cycling,
Photography, Bird watching.



Safes Lagoon



Reedy Lagoon



Taylors Lagoon



Cockatoo Lagoon



Gum Lagoon



Upper Gunbower Lagoon

Safes Lagoon is a 66.87 ha wetland located five kilometres South of Koondrook. The lagoon is a natural billabong. It is shaped by a single circular channel which meets at a junction at Gunbower Creek. Historically the lagoon has supported a very high diversity of waterbirds, large bodied fish, freshwater turtles and frogs. A number of fish eating birds and birds of prey use the lagoon for breeding. Many significant threatened bird species including the Blue Billed Duck, Little Egret and White-bellied Sea Eagles have been recorded at this Lagoon.

Reedy Lagoon is an important wetland within Gunbower Forest, which is listed as a Wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention. Reedy Lagoon provides refuge habitat for fish, water rats, waterbirds, frogs and turtles. Reedy Lagoon also has many rare and threatened plant species including river swamp wallaby grass and wavy marshwort. Reedy Lagoon receives environmental water regularly, ensuring it remains healthy and can continue to support its rich diversity of birds, animals and plants. Reedy Lagoons is also culturally significant for Traditional Owners of the Gunbower Forest.

Taylor's Lagoon is located approximately 10km south-east of Cohuna along Island Road. The lagoon appears to have been a natural lagoon rather than an original course of the Gunbower Creek as the lagoon only had a natural offtake at the downstream end. The upstream end was originally cut off from the creek during the development of irrigation in the district. Taylor's Lagoon supports many water bird species including Darters, Coots and Purple Swamp Hens.

Cockatoo Lagoon is an historical meander of the Gunbower Creek. The lagoon provides feeding and breeding habitat for a high diversity of waterbirds in various feeding guilds, including fish-eaters, large and small waders, deep water and shoreline foragers, waterfowl as well as a num-

ber of birds-of-prey. The key-hole shape lagoon surrounds a sand hill which provides suitable nesting habitat for female turtles; Broad-shelled, Murray River and Common Long Neck. A large proportion of the lagoon is under threat from the Pale Yellow Water Lily. Authorities are currently taking step to eradicate this non-native invasive aquatic plant from the Gunbower Creek System. Warning: Do not be tempted to take cuttings from this plant so as to prevent its spread into other waterways.

Gum Lagoon is a 33 ha wetland located approximately one and a half kilometres north of Gunbower. The lagoon is a natural billabong. The northern end of the lagoon has a number of swampy islands. Gum Lagoon is characterised by open water. The lagoon provides good habitat for many waterbirds, and in particular the southern end supports an active Ibis Rookery comprising Australian White Ibis.

Upper Gunbower Lagoon once a channel of the Gunbower Creek and excised by construction of the National Channel in the 1890s supports a high diversity of aquatic and water dependent flora and fauna species including twelve significant fauna species; Broad-shelled Turtle, Murray River Turtle, common Long-neck Turtle, Growling Grass frog, Bearded dragon, Eastern Great Egret, Nankeen Night Heron, Royal spoonbill, Pied cormorant, Azure Kingfisher, Diamond Firetail, Brown Tree Creeper. The lagoon has important feeding and breeding habitat for Platypus.

Longmore Lagoon is a large, wide water body with a large amount of standing timber. Turtles: Broad-shelled, Common long-necked and Murray River turtles. Lace Goannas are common and known to raid turtle nests to feed on turtle eggs. Peron's tree frog, Barking marsh frog and spotted marsh frog calls have been recorded. The Lagoon supports an Ibis Rookery. Other bird species include, Kites, Reed warblers, Swans and Australian Shell Duck.

Turner & Phyland Lagoons are linked containing extensive complex habitat. The lagoons support a range of Native Fish, Murray Darling Rainbow fish, Flathead Gudgeon, Carp Gudgeon, Native Freshwater Catfish. Turtles: Murray River Turtle and the Broad Shelled and Common Long Neck. Bird species include, Purple Swamp Hen, Australian wood duck, Black Swans, Black Tailed Hens and the White-bellied sea-eagle.

Splatt's Lagoon provides habitat for a range of species, Native fish-Flathead Gudgeon, Carp Gudgeon, Australian Smelt, Frogs-Peron's Tree frog, Barking Marsh frogs. Turtles: Broad-shelled Common Long Necked. Bird species-Whistling Kite, Nankeen Night Heron, Azure Kingfisher, Black cormorants, Pied cormorants and Darters.

Heart Shape Lagoon This lagoon is shaped by a single channel which loops around in a heart shape to meet itself at its junction with the Gunbower Creek. This lagoon sits within the surrounding Welton Nature Conservation Reserve (Managed by Parks Vic) which provides good nesting habitat for tree nesting birds, including birds-of-prey and fish eating birds.

Black Charlie Lagoon is found in the Gunbower National Park a short distance off River Track south of Torrumbarry Holiday Park. The lagoon receives water from the Murray River through Cameron Creek inlet. Black Box and Grey box trees dominate this end of the Gunbower forest. Red Gums are found near the edge of the swamp and in low lying areas.



Longmore Lagoon



Phyland Lagoon



Turner Lagoon



Splatts Lagoon



Heart Shape Lagoon

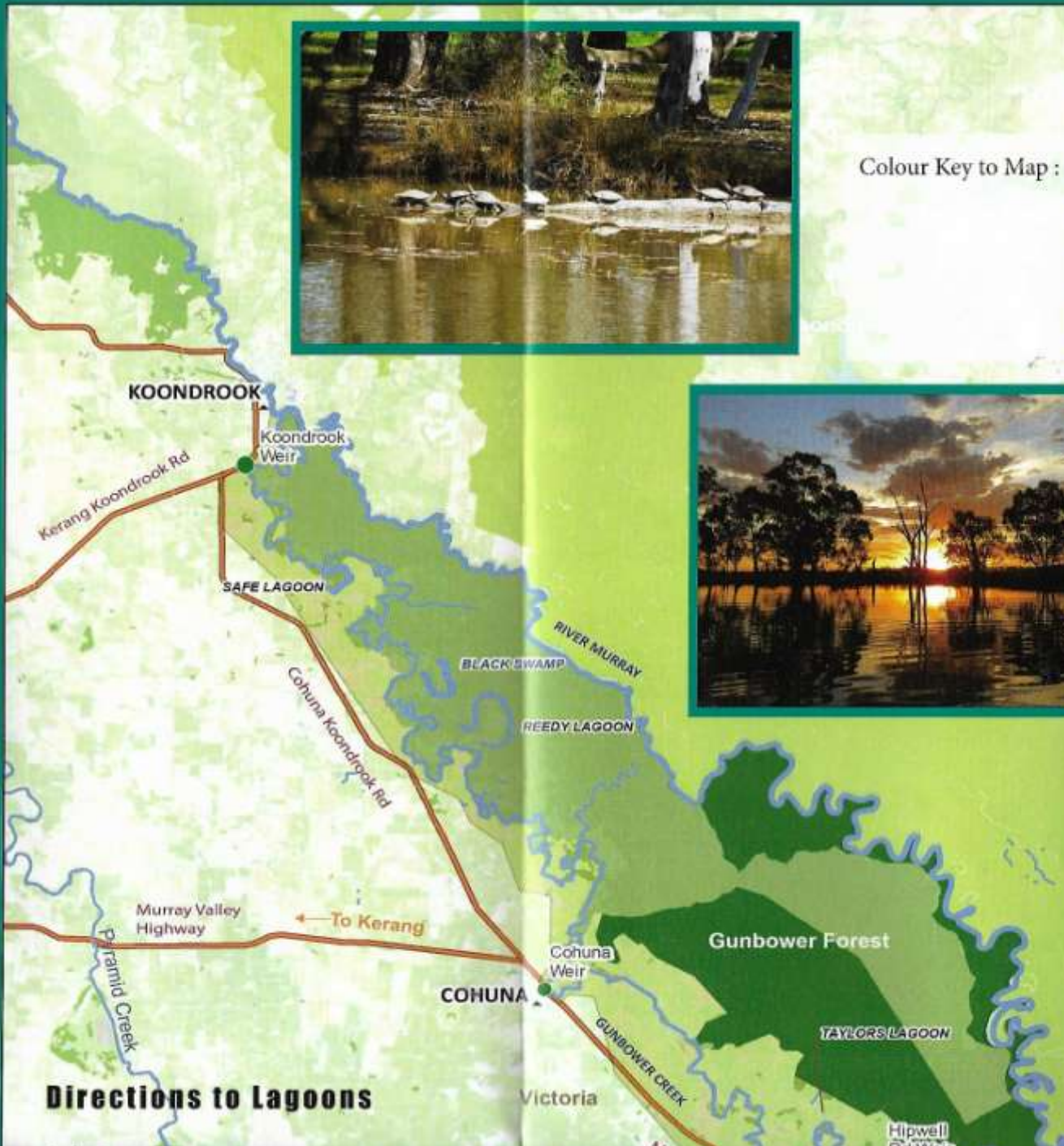


Black Charlie Lagoon

GUNBOWER CREEK LAGOONS



- Colour Key to Map :
- Gunbower State Forest
 - Gunbower National Park
 - Gunbower Creek & Lagoons
 - Koondrook / Pericoota Forest NSW



Directions to Lagoons

New South Wales

Safes Lagoon

Turn off at Kerang-Koondrook Road to Koondrook Weir Track at Canoe Trail Sign, follow main track 4km to canoe trail sign, veer right, travel 1/2 km to Canoe Trail picnic area. Canoe Launch provided. Entrance to lagoon 100 metres across the Gunbower Creek.

Longitude: 144° 08' 52.84 E Latitude: 035° 41' 07.63 S

Reedy Lagoon

From Cohuna travel 1 km to turn off to Koondrook, travel 7kms to Spences Bridge Road, follow track, via left into Iron Punt Track, travel 3.5km to Lagoon Sign.

Longitude: 144° 11' 29.10"E Latitude: 035° 43' 47.23"S

Taylor Lagoon

At Cohuna turn in to roundabout to scenic drive along Island Road, follow Gunbower Creek about 11 km to lagoon sign.

Longitude: 144° 18' 51.83"E Latitude: 035° 50' 51.48"S

Cockatoo Lagoon

17km south of Cohuna turn into Thompson Weir Road travel over bridge 4 km to Lagoon sign.

Longitude: 144° 21' 39.12"E Latitude: 035° 54' 31.86"S

Gum Lagoon

At Gunbower Hotel corner turn into Gunbower Island Road travel 3km, veer left into Thompsons Bridge road travel approx. 500 metres to lagoon sign.

Longitude: 144° 22' 38.96"E Latitude: 035° 55' 54.49"S

Upper Gunbower Lagoon

500m south of Gunbower turn off MVH into Fox Island Road, travel 1.8kms to Lagoon sign

Longitude: 144° 22' 44.09"E Latitude: 035° 57' 00.68"S

Longmore Lagoon

500m south of Gunbower turn off MVH into Fox Island Road, turn into Richards Road, 2km to Longmore Lagoon Sign

Longitude: 144° 23' 32.99"E Latitude: 035° 57' 34.49"S

Phyland Lagoon

6kms south of Gunbower, turn off MVH at Phylands Road, 200 metres to Phylands Lagoon Sign

Longitude: 144° 24' 48.89"E Latitude: 035° 59' 44.25"S

Turner Lagoon

8km south of Gunbower, turn off MVH into Patho School Road 300metres to Turners Lagoon Sign

Longitude: 144° 25' 40.25"E Latitude: 036° 00' 10.75"S



Splatts Lagoon

10 Km south of Gunbower, turn off MVH into Torrumberry Weir Road, 100 metres to Splatts Lagoon Sign

Longitude: 144° 27' 26.20"E Latitude: 036° 00' 44.12"S

Heart Shape Lagoon

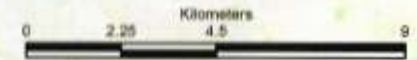
10km south of Gunbower turn off MVH into Torrumberry Weir Road, Cross National Channel, turn right into Headworks road, travel 3 km to Lagoon sign.

Longitude: 144° 29' 04.67"E Latitude: 035° 58' 46.00"S

Black Charlie Lagoon

10km south of Gunbower turn off MVH into Torrumberry Weir Road, travel 8km, turn left at River Track turn left at 2nd un-marked track, travel 500m to lagoon. Cultural Sensitive Area.

Longitude: 144° 27' 26.81"E Latitude: 035° 56' 59.56"S



DISCLAIMER:
This information product has been derived from the best quality data available at the time of its development. The North Central CMA accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of this product.

NOTE: ALL LAGOONS ARE LOCATED OFF MURRAY VALLEY HIGHWAY & COHUNA-KOONDROOK ROAD, BETWEEN KOONDROOK, COHUNA, GUNBOWER & TORRUMBARRY.

VIEW IMAP at www.nccma.vic.gov.au

TRADITIONAL OWNERS: Barapa Barapa, Yorta Yorta

PHOTOS: Audrey Dickins, Kirstin Nicholson, Wendy Duckworth-Veitch



Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning



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