

# Parks of the Riverland



*Healthy Parks  
Healthy People*



## Parks of the Riverland

**Dominated by the River Murray, the Riverland region offers the perfect relaxing holiday destination.**

The river carves its way past steep sandstone cliffs, giant stands of River Red Gums, wetlands and vast tracts of mallee country.

Riverland parks represent some of the most visually spectacular and environmentally important areas in the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin.

From the peaceful backwaters of the majestic River Murray to mallee wilderness, Riverland parks offer wonderful opportunities for camping, canoeing, fishing and bushwalking.



Murray Cray  
*Eustacus armatus*

## Experience parks of the Riverland

### Go for a walk

There are excellent bushwalking opportunities available. Interpretive walking trails with information panels and accompanying brochures help you learn about plants and animals of the Riverland.

### Enjoy a picnic

Ideal picnic spots include sandy banks along the river and creeks, and the shade of mallee trees. Some parks provide picnic tables and benches.

### Set up camp

Select a camp site and stay overnight to experience the sights and sounds the Riverland has to offer. In the spirit of good camping, please camp in designated camp sites, and leave as little impact on the landscape as possible.

### Discover the wildlife

The parks of the Riverland cover a diverse range of ecosystems, which is reflected in the diverse wildlife of the area.

Different species of birds that live on the flood plain and in the mallee are best seen at dawn and dusk. Sit quietly and watch the numerous waterbirds feed along the water's edge.

A bird identification book and binoculars are useful items.





### Drop in a line

Try your luck at fishing or yabbying. The river and creeks of the Riverland provide you with a relaxing way to spend the day.



### Learn about the parks

Information bays are located at the entrances to Riverland parks. Take the time to stop and learn about the history of the different parks and the plants and animals that inhabit them.



### Explore the waterways

Canoeing is a great way to explore the Riverland's quiet backwaters, lagoons and wetlands. Many Riverland parks offer excellent opportunities for canoeists. Several canoe trails exist and accompanying canoe guides are available.

Canoes can be launched from several boat ramps and some camp sites.



### Go for a drive

Driving is an excellent way to explore Riverland parks. Well-maintained roads allow visitors to discover the plants and animals of the mallee and flood plain from the comfort of their own vehicles.

Self-guided drives also exist, with well-posted trails and accompanying brochures available from the national park office in Berri.

Please note some sections of the Riverland parks are accessible by 4WD only.

## Planning your visit

### When to visit

Climatically and scenically, autumn and spring are the best times to visit Riverland parks. However, the climate of the Riverland makes it suitable for visiting parks most of the year. The summer months, January and February can be very hot.

Roads along the flood plain are generally unsuitable for driving on immediately after heavy rains and can force the temporary closure of some parks. To avoid disappointment, please contact the Berri District Office before setting out.

**Strong currents and snags in the river and backwaters can make swimming very dangerous. Take care at all times.**

### Approximate distance and drive times from Adelaide

Brookfield CP	130 km	1 hr 40 min
Morgan CP	150 km	2 hr 10 min
Maize Island Lagoon CP	160 km	2 hr 15 min
Pooginook CP	190 km	2 hr 40 min
Moorook GR	180 km	2 hr 30 min
Loch Luna GR	190 km	2 hr 40 min
Murray River NP		
- Katarapko	220 km	2 hr 50 min
- Lyrup Flats	250 km	3 hr 10 min
- Bulyong Island*	300 km	3 hr 15 min
Cooltong CP	245 km	3 hr 10 min
Chowilla GR & RR	280 km	4 hr 15 min
Danggali CP	350 km	4 hr 40 min

CP - Conservation Park • GR - Game Reserve • NP - National Park  
RR - Regional Reserve \*Accessible only by water (15 mins)

## Murray River National Park

### 13 023 hectares

The Murray River National Park comprises three sections, Katarapko, Lyrup Flats and Bulyong Island. These three areas of similar habitat form an archipelago (group of islands) park and are important in conserving a number of flood plain environments.

### Katarapko



Katarapko is made up of three sections: Katarapko Creek, Eckert Creek and Lock 4. The park is dominated by flood plain and contains permanent and semi-permanent wetlands. It is an important breeding area for many forms of wildlife including waterbirds. At Katarapko, you can enjoy canoeing, birdwatching and self-guided walking trails.

### Lyrup Flats

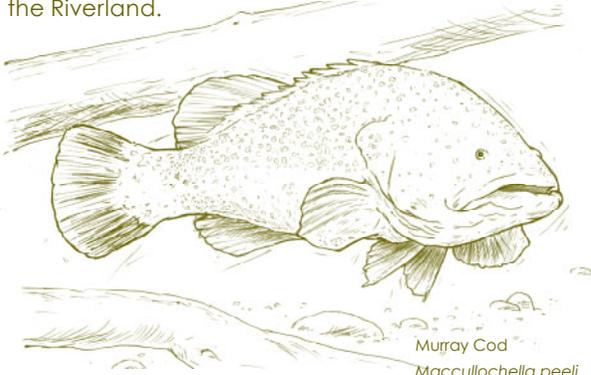


Lyrup Flats encompasses an area along the flood plain on the northern side of the River Murray. Opposite the township of Lyrup, the park is easily reached by turning off the Sturt Highway just past Berri and continuing down to the River Murray. Lyrup Flats provides wonderful opportunities for birdwatching, fishing, camping, and bushwalking along the majestic River Murray.

## Bulyong Island



A favourite place for anglers, small boat users, houseboats and canoeists, Bulyong Island forms part of the River Murray flood plain and includes several significant areas of waterfowl habitat. The island is separated from the mainland by Ral Ral Creek, an anabranch of the River Murray, which offers some of the best canoeing experiences in the Riverland.



Murray Cod  
*Maccullochella peelii*

## Chowilla Game Reserve and Regional Reserve



**17 582 hectares (game reserve)**  
**75 036 hectares (regional reserve)**

Chowilla Game Reserve comprises flood plain and wetland environments. Chowilla features great stands of majestic River Red Gum and hardy Black Box gums, as well as Lignum and River Cooba. Large numbers of waterbirds and other native fauna can also be seen.

South of the River Murray lies a section of Chowilla Game Reserve known as Border Cliffs. Accessed via Murtho Road, Paringa, this section offers excellent opportunities for canoeing and camping. Toilet facilities are also available.

The Border Cliffs Customs House Walking Trail is an excellent way to experience and learn about wetland environments.

The regional reserve comprises vast stands of mallee woodland and bluebush shrublands that stretch from the flood plain to Danggali Conservation Park in the north.

## Cooltong Conservation Park



**3681 hectares**

Cooltong Conservation Park was dedicated to preserve quality mallee vegetation and habitat for the mallee bird species that frequent the area, in particular the Malleefowl. The park is dominated by mallee vegetation, with undulating dunes and shales and is popular among birdwatchers eager to catch a glimpse of elusive mallee birds.

The park is accessible to conventional vehicles, however, some sections of the park are only accessible by 4WD.

## Maize Island Lagoon Conservation Park



**215 hectares**

Backed by magnificent cliffs, Maize Island Lagoon Conservation Park contains many backwater lagoons lined by tall, majestic River Red Gums. This habitat provides ideal conditions for a variety of waterbirds.

During flood periods the park supplies nesting habitat for numerous aquatic bird species. Hollows in red gums provide habitat for a range of brightly coloured birds.

## Danggali Conservation Park and Wilderness Protection Area



**252 079 hectares**

Danggali is the largest of the Riverland parks. Known for its vastness and wilderness appeal, the park is dominated by mallee scrubland. In 1977, Danggali Conservation Park was classified as Australia's first Biosphere Reserve under UNESCO's 'Man and the Biosphere Program' to conserve its dense mallee woodland, Black Oak woodland and bluebush shrubland.

Red and Western Grey kangaroos are common and many semi-arid land bird species are present. The park provides opportunities to enjoy remote area camping, birdwatching and the chance to explore relics of pastoral history.

Due to the remoteness of the park, visitors are advised to take sufficient food, water and fuel with them. The camping areas are accessible to conventional vehicles, however, some sections of the park are only accessible by 4WD.

## Moorook Game Reserve



**1249 hectares**

Moorook Game Reserve is made up of flood plain and wetland environments including Wachtels Lagoon, narrow creeks and shallow swamps.

The reserve contains a number of areas that provide important habitat for many aquatic birds and mammals. Fishing and canoeing are popular activities.



Mallee gums

## Pooginook Conservation Park



**2862 hectares**

Gently rolling sand dunes covered by multi-stemmed mallee cover Pooginook Conservation Park. The dense mallee cover on the northern section of the park contrasts with the more open mallee in the southern section where the land is re-establishing from wheat farming.

The park's habitat provides shelter for a range of wildlife including kangaroos, echidnas, Southern Hairy-nosed Wombats and the elusive Malleefowl.

Bird life includes Black-eared Miners, honeyeaters and many other colourful mallee birds. During spring the park blossoms, displaying a variety of colourful mallee plants.

The park's camping ground is accessible to conventional vehicles, however, some sections of the boundary road are only accessible by 4WD.

## Morgan Conservation Park

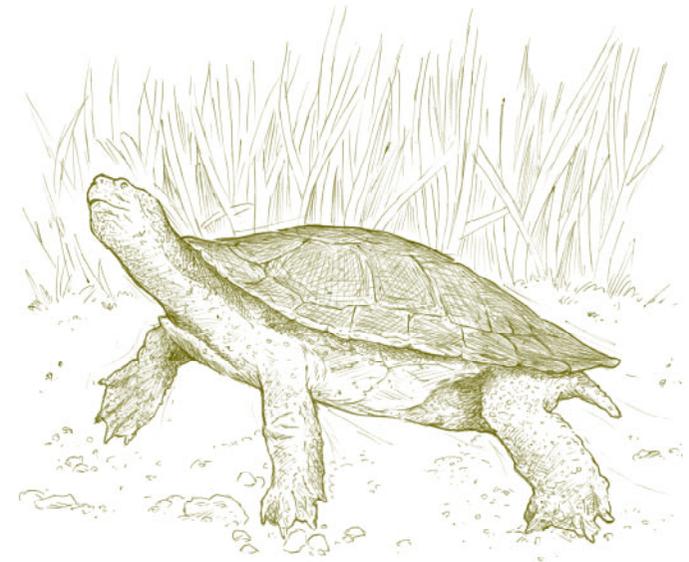


**377 hectares**

Situated on the River Murray, Morgan Conservation Park conserves a system of River Murray anabranches, River Red Gum woodlands and one large spectacular lagoon that is filled during periods of high water.

The park provides important habitat for numerous bird species. Keep your eyes open for Regent Parrots, pelicans and White-faced Herons. Common Brushtail Possums can be seen and if you are quiet you might be able to spot a Water-rat swimming along the edge of the reed beds.

The park provides excellent opportunities for canoeing and birdwatching. There are strong currents in this section of the river. Care must be taken when swimming.



Murray Short-necked Turtle  
*Emydura macquarii*

## Brookfield Conservation Park



### 5534 hectares

This park was a gift to South Australia from the Chicago Zoological Society to conserve Southern Hairy-nosed Wombats. The gently undulating limestone country is also ideal habitat for Fat-tailed Dunnarts and Red Kangaroos that share the park with prolific bird life, including the rare Bush Stone-curlew, Ground Cuckoo-shrikes and Australian Owllet-nightjars.

Camping is not permitted but bushwalking and day visits are popular. A picnic table and benches are provided. The self-guided nature drive is an excellent way to explore the park.

Although access to the park can be gained by conventional vehicles, some areas are restricted due to research on the Southern Hairy-nosed Wombat.

Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) now manage Brookfield Conservation Park. To access the Research Zone and Scientific Camp, contact Tricia Curtis, CVA on (08) 8212 0777.

## Loch Luna Game Reserve



### 2070 hectares

Loch Luna Game Reserve comprises a range of water bodies including narrow creeks and shallow swamps. The area contains a variety of environments that provide important habitat for many aquatic birds and mammals. Loch Luna is ideal for canoeing and birdwatching.

The main entrance to the park is on Morgan Road (off the Sturt Highway), north of Nappers Bridge.

This section of the park is great for camping, fishing, relaxing and canoeing.

## The National Parks Code

Help protect your national parks by following these guidelines:

- Leave your pets at home.
- Take your rubbish with you.
- Observe fire restrictions usually 1 November to 30 April. Check CFS hotline 1300 362 361.
- Conserve native habitat by bringing your own firewood and using liquid fuel or gas stoves.
- Use fireplaces where provided.
- Camp only in designated areas.
- Respect geological and heritage sites.
- Keep wildlife wild. Do not feed or disturb animals, or remove native plants.
- Keep to defined vehicle tracks and walking trails.
- Be considerate of other park users.

**Thank you for leaving the bush in its natural state for the enjoyment of others.**

### For further information contact:

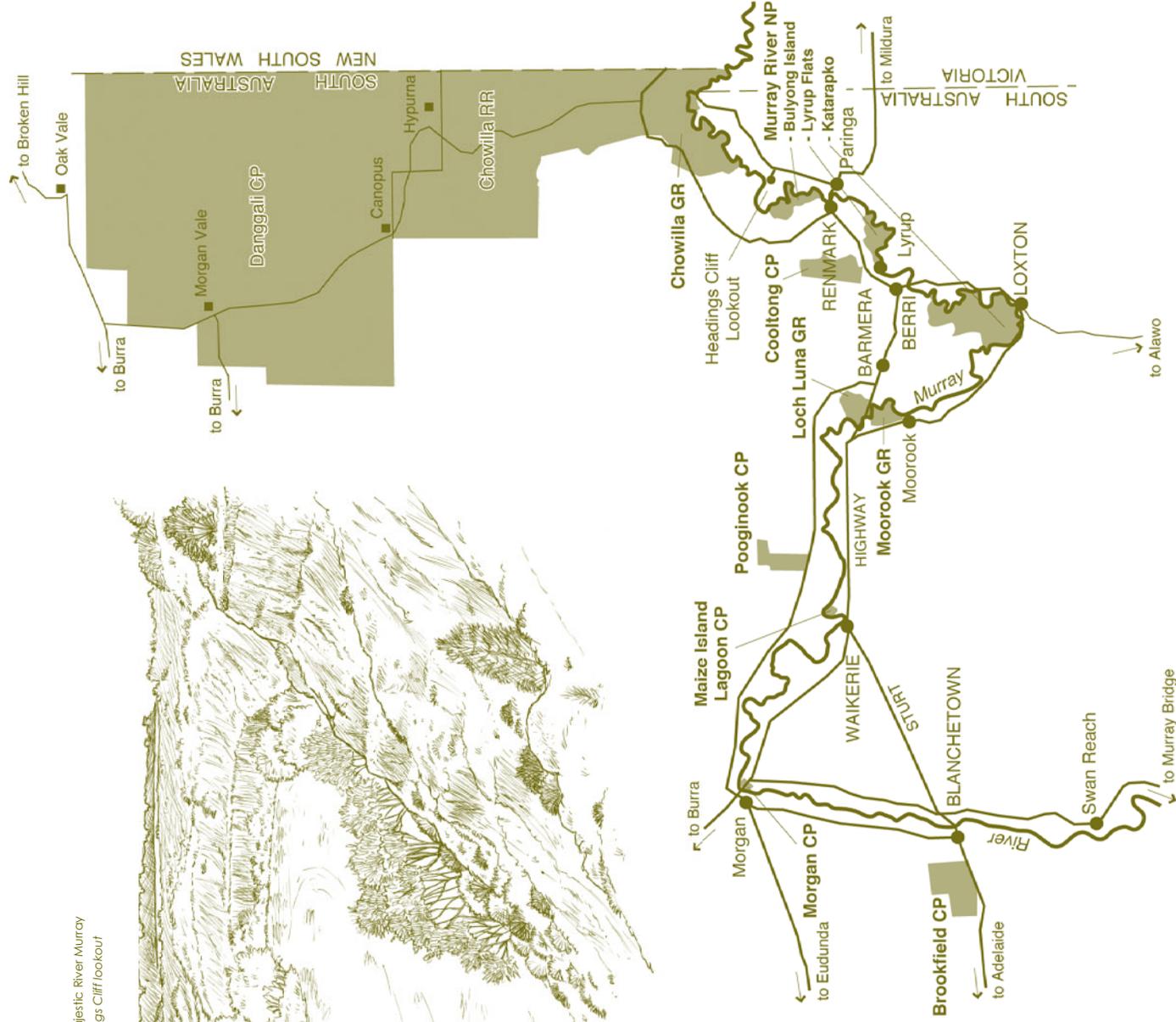
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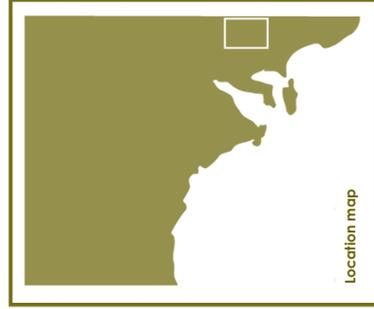
The majestic River Murray  
Headings Cliff lookout



### Park Fees

Camping permits are required in Riverland parks. Permits are available from the Berri DEH office, selected visitor information centres, or self-registration stations at the park entrances.

Fees collected are used for conservation and to maintain and improve park facilities for your ongoing enjoyment.



- |  |                   |  |                |  |               |  |          |  |              |  |                   |
|--|-------------------|--|----------------|--|---------------|--|----------|--|--------------|--|-------------------|
|  | Information       |  | Ranger on site |  | Camping       |  | Toilets  |  | Brochure     |  | Self-registration |
|  | Camp fire         |  | Picnic area    |  | Accommodation |  | Shower   |  | Bushwalking  |  | Swimming          |
|  | Fishing           |  | Canoeing       |  | Boating       |  | Wildlife |  | Birdwatching |  | Photo opportunity |
|  | Self-guided drive |  | 4WD Access     |  |               |  |          |  |              |  |                   |