

Lake Hindmarsh Lake Reserve

Gurru

Visitor Guide

Dalkaiana Wartaty Gurru – Welcome to Lake Hindmarsh. The Traditional Owners of this land; the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia and Jupagulk people welcome you to this place that has been an important place to wildlife and people for thousands of years. Lake Hindmarsh can remain dry for several or more years until the Wimmera river sufficiently floods and fills the lake. When flooded Lake Hindmarsh is the state's largest natural freshwater lake.



When water is present



Getting there

Lake Hindmarsh – Gurru is approximately 380km from Melbourne and 450km from Adelaide.

The lake is reached via the Western Highway, 22km north of Dimboola and just west of Jeparit on the Nhill-Jeparit Rd.

Access is suitable for two-wheel drive vehicles.

Co-operative management of the park

In 2005, the Barengi Gadjin Land Council Aboriginal Corporation entered into the first Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) in Victoria with the Victorian and Australian Governments.

A co-operative agreement that includes this park ensures that the Traditional Owners will be able to continue to care for country by being involved in the management of the areas where their native title rights have been recognised.

A rich history, both Aboriginal and European

In more recent times explorer Edmund John Eyre followed the course of the Wimmera River in 1838 and named Lake Hindmarsh after the first Governor of South Australia.

To the much older Traditional Owners of the land the Wotjobaluk people, it is known as Gurru the kangaroo.

Gurru is part of the creation story that is still told today by Traditional Owners. Purra, the ancestral kangaroo was being hunted by Doan, the sugar glider. As Purra hopped north ward dragging his great tail it formed the Wimmera River. He at last stopped to feed and ate the ground bare of all grasses. This became the lake - Gurru.

Things to see and do

Fringed by ancient River Red Gums and fed by the Wimmera River, this huge lake is an ideal place for basic bush camping. When full this lake is shared by parrots, pelicans, sea eagles, anglers and water sports enthusiasts alike.

Even when dry this is a remarkable spot to visit rich with wildlife and an important stronghold for many bird species living on the edge of the Big Desert.

Along with Black Box woodlands, the huge River Red Gums, with their thick trunks and gnarled limbs provide an important habitat for animals, birds and insects.

Camping

Both Four- Mile Beach and Schulze's Beach are suitable for two-wheel drive vehicles. Caravan access is available at Four Mile Beach and Schulze's Beach via tracks suitable for two-wheel drive vehicles.

Four-Mile Beach at the southern end near Jeparit is the most popular area with well-developed facilities including powered sites, flush toilets, showers and a camp kitchen. Camp fees apply. Call the Hindmarsh Shire Council about this site: Mobile 0425 719 788

Schulze's Beach is very basic with flush toilets. No fees apply.

The Wattles is very basic with pit toilets. No fees apply. Access is via a dry weather road only.

No drinking water is supplied – bring your own.

Bush camping

Bush camping is available at several other locations around the lake but there are no facilities, and access is via a dry weather road only.

Minimise your impact on the lakes environment. Show care and respect for this place.

Camp at least 20 metres from water bodies.

Camp in natural clearings and avoid camping under large trees, their limbs may fall without warning.

Use a chemical toilet or bury human waste at least 100 meters from water bodies.

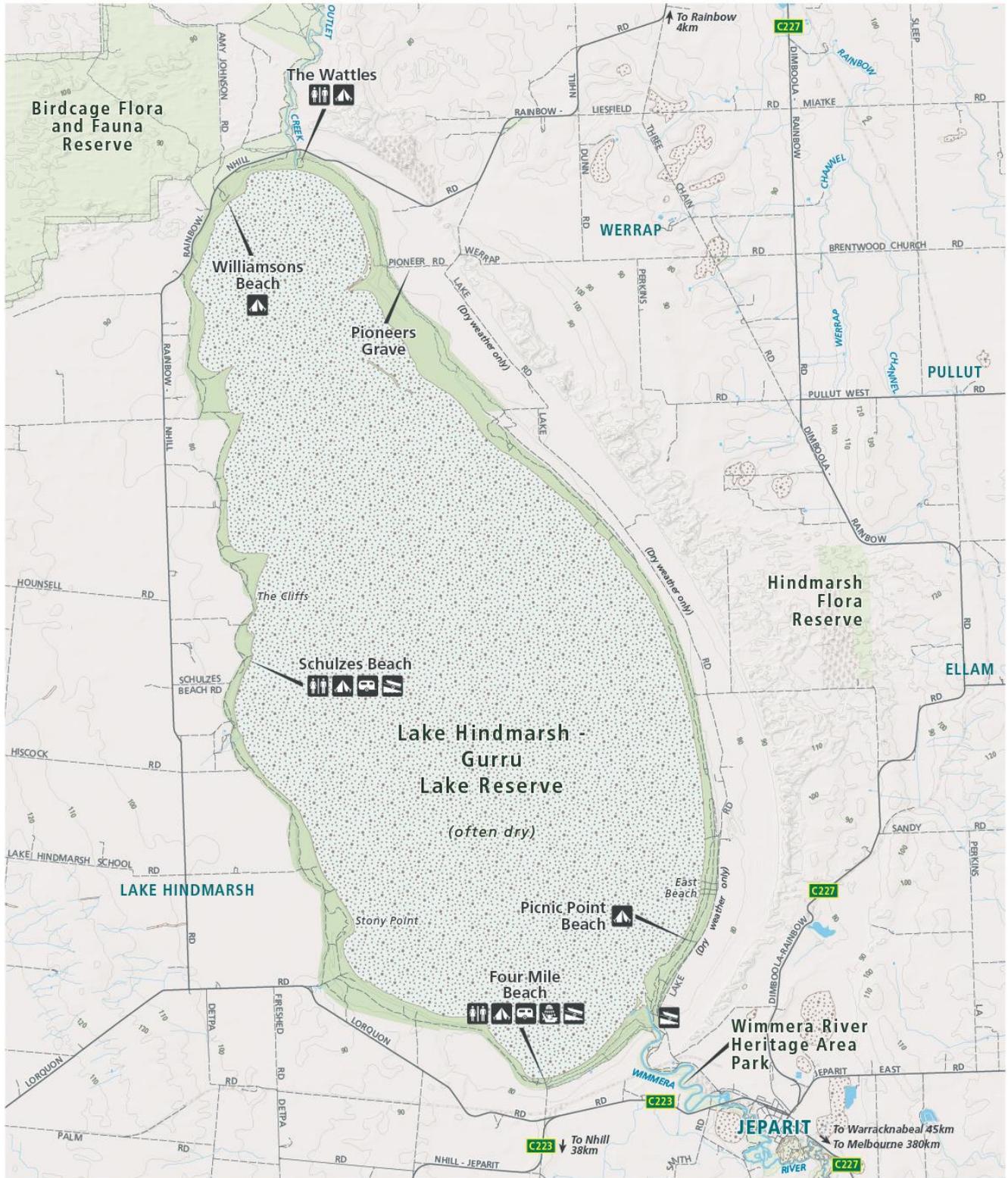
Be prepared and stay safe

For emergency assistance call Triple Zero (000). If there is a green emergency marker sign near you, read the information on the marker to the operator. Lake Hindmarsh Reserve is in the Wimmera fire district. Bushfire safety is a personal responsibility. Anyone entering parks and forests during the bushfire season needs to stay aware of forecast weather conditions. Check the Fire Danger Rating and for days of Total Fire Ban at www.emergency.vic.gov.au, on the VicEmergency smartphone app or call the VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226. No fires may be lit on Total Fire Ban days. On Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating days this park will be closed for public safety. Warnings signs may be erected, but do not expect a personal warning.

Check the latest park conditions at www.parks.vic.gov.au or by calling 13 1963.

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 Toilets	 Camping area	 Highway	 4WD	 Waterbody
 Shower	WERRAP Locality	 Main road	 Contour in metres	 Lake - often dry
 Boat ramp	JEPARIT Township	 Sealed road	 Feature park	 Subject to inundation
 Caravan site		 Unsealed road	 Other park	 Plantation



0 5 Kilometres

www.parks.vic.gov.au
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