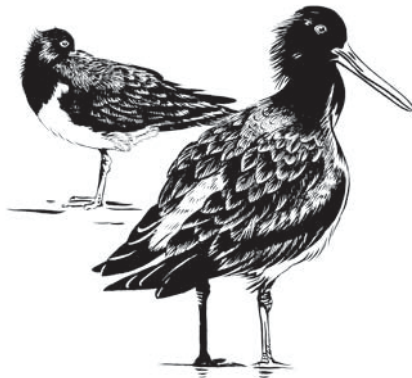


# Lake Connewarre State Game Reserve



## Visitor Guide

In one of the largest estuaries in Western Victoria, Lake Connewarre State Game Reserve has a variety of swamps, marshes, lakes and river areas. This complex environment has a wide range of vegetation communities providing habitat for estuarine flora and fauna unique to the area.



Pied Oyster Catcher ©MT

## Internationally Significant Wetlands

Lake Connewarre State Game Reserve is a complex wetland ecosystem linked to the sea by the Barwon River. In 1983 the Reserve was declared by the Victorian Government as a "wetland of international significance" under the Ramsar convention.

The reserve provides significant habitat for a number of endangered migratory bird species. Two international agreements with Japan and China ensure species such as Greenshank, Eastern Golden Plover and Red-necked Stints are protected.

The reserve is dominated by two very different lakes, Lake Connewarre and Reedy Lake. The water quality and plant communities of Lake Connewarre are influenced by daily tidal changes with lake water coming from the sea via the Barwon River.

Reedy Lake is a brackish fresh water lake and is almost completely covered by water plants including tall stands of Phragmites and Cumbungi. Water levels within the lake are artificially altered to replicate a more natural cycle.

## Enjoying the park

### Have a picnic

Taits Point has excellent panoramic views of Lake Connewarre and the surrounding escarpment from two viewing platforms. Other picnic sites include the historic Sheepwash on the Barwon River and Jock McCorkell Reserve.

### Catch a fish

A number of fishing platforms and a boardwalk provide good access to the river upstream at Barwon Heads. The main catches are Bream, Yellowed Eyed Mullet, Redfin and Mulloway.

A recreational fishing licence is required by all anglers. Illegal fishing should be reported to 13 FISH (13 3474).

## Go boating

Taits Point has a boat ramp suitable for launching small craft – canoes, kayaks and small fishing boats. Note there is no vehicle access to the boat ramp.

Sail boarding is also popular in the main lake.

A five knot speed restriction applies to all powered craft within Lake Connewarre, the Barwon River downstream from the Second Break, including all port waters.

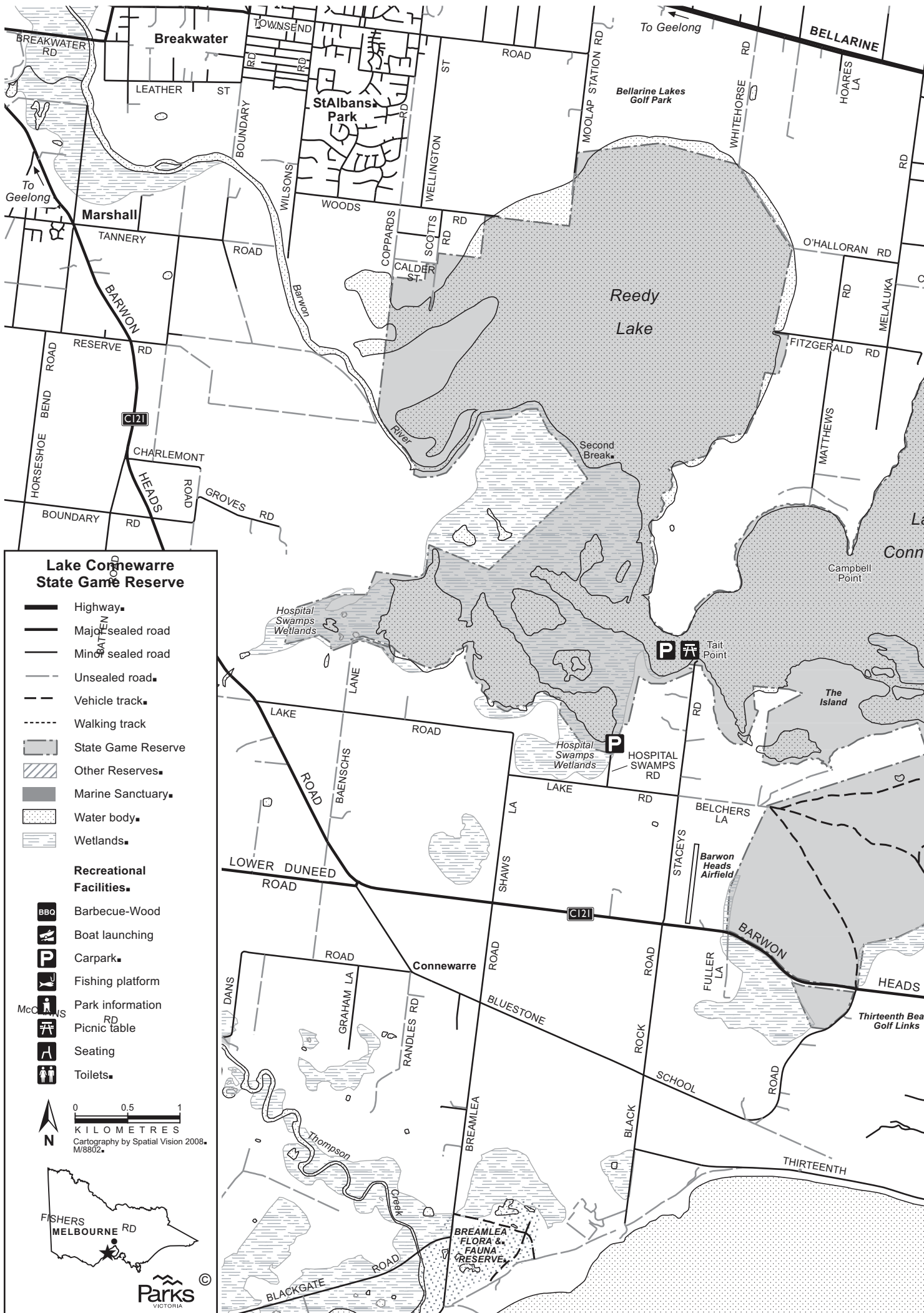
## Duck Hunting

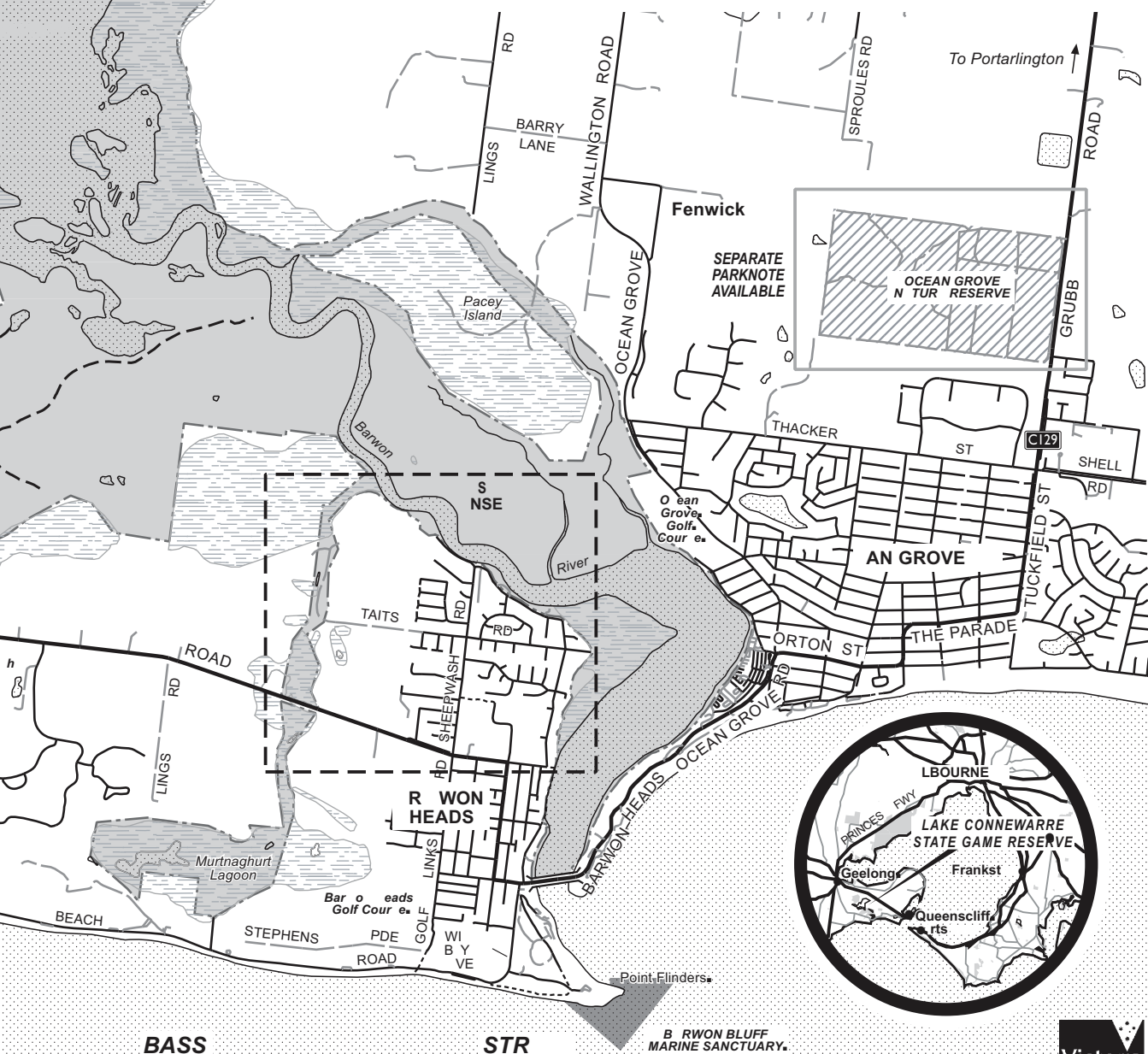
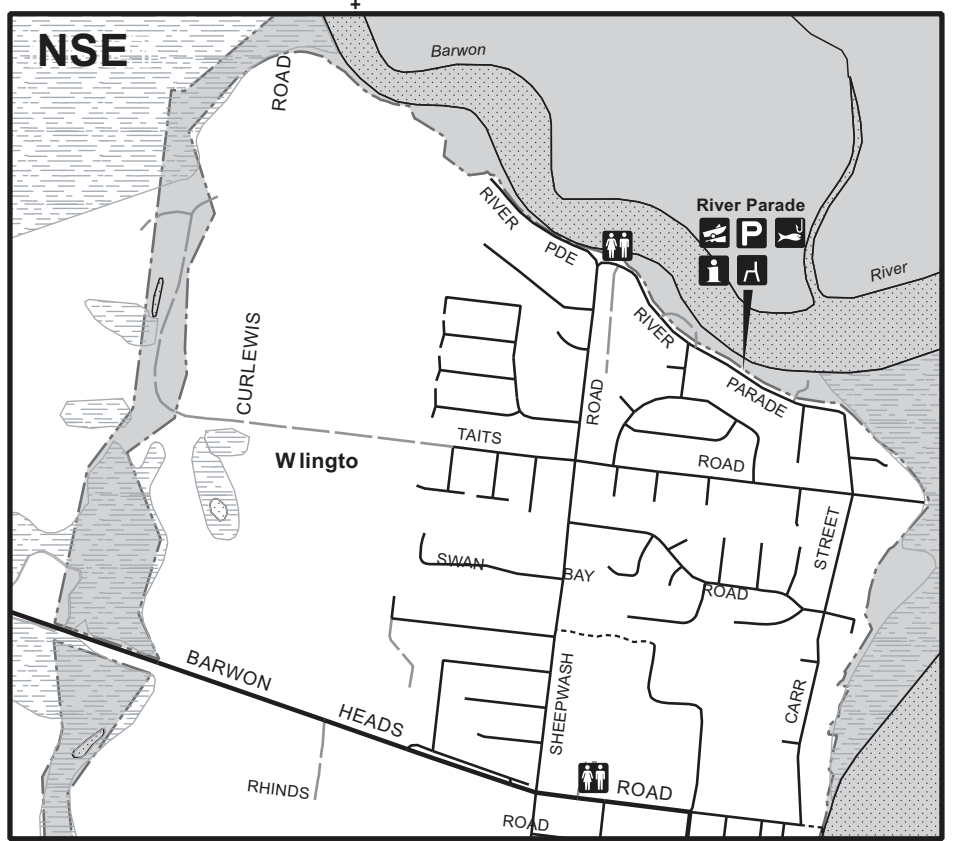
Duck hunting is permitted within designated areas of the reserve during the declared duck hunting season.

Groups such as Geelong Field and Game, Geelong Rod and Gun Club and Workers for Wetlands undertake conservation works throughout the reserve outside of the hunting season.

For more information on hunting in the Lake Connewarre State Game Reserve, or how you can help look after the reserve, contact Parks Victoria on 13 1963.









## For further information

Parks Victoria  
Information Centre

**Call 13 1963**

or visit the

Parks Victoria website

**[www.parkweb.vic.gov.au](http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au)**

Queenscliff Visitor  
Information Centre  
55 Hesse Street  
Queenscliff VIC 3225  
Phone: (03) 5258 4843

## Caring for the environment

Help us look after your park by following these guidelines:

Please take all rubbish with you for recycling or disposal

All plants, animals, historical and archaeological sites and geographic features are protected by law

Dogs and other pets are not permitted in the park

Firearms are prohibited

No fires, including barbecues, may be lit on a day of Total Fire Ban. **Lake Connewarre State Game Reserve** is in the **Central Total Fire Ban District**

**It is your responsibility to know if it is a day of Total Fire Ban.** If in doubt call the **Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667**

**Park closures** - Be prepared to leave early as **extreme weather may cause the closure of some park areas** for public safety

Collect only dead wood from the ground for campfires

Vehicles, including motor bikes, may only be used on formed open roads. Drivers must be licensed and vehicles registered and roadworthy

*Visiting a park can improve your health, mind, body and soul. So, with over four million hectares of parkland available to Victorians, why not escape to a park today!*

## Barwon River Parklands

There are over 26km of walking and cycling paths along the Barwon River. There are also gold courses, fishing and viewing platforms, playgrounds, public toilets and picnic areas. The Barwon River provides for canoeing, kayaking and water skiing.

Below are just a few of the places to visit along the river.

### Buckley Falls Park

Enjoy stunning river and valley views from the lookout. Buckley Falls can be reached by car or via the sealed walking/cycling path from nearby Queens Park.

### Balyang Sanctuary

The sanctuary is a haven for birds - swans, pelicans, Eurasian coot, dusky moorhen, Pacific black duck, mallard, pied cormorant, geese and silver gulls. Riverside walking/bike paths link Balyang Sanctuary with other parks along the Barwon River.

### Ocean Grove Nature Conservation Reserve

Explore one of the last remaining parcels of native vegetation on the Bellarine Peninsula. The reserve has an information centre that is open on weekends. A number of interesting walks start from the reserve's picnic area.

## White Mangroves

The banks of the Barwon River form the most western occurrence of white mangrove in Australia. White mangroves are uniquely equipped to survive in muddy and salty conditions. The mangrove root system allows the plant to breathe whilst exposed at low tide.

The mangroves play an important role in the food chain and biodiversity by providing an excellent source of food and shelter for many species of fish, animals and birdlife. Looking after these plant species will ensure adequate food stocks for fish and protect fishing opportunities.

Unfortunately the mangroves along the lower Barwon River are in decline due to pressure from the impact of people. Walking and fishing along the river edge damage the sensitive streamside mangroves and salt marsh communities.

You can help protect the mangroves and wetlands by staying on designated walking tracks and using fishing platforms while fishing. This will ensure future food stocks for fish, animals and birdlife.

## Birdlife

The reserve is a popular site for bird watching with one hundred and forty nine recorded species of birds. Birds such as Strawnecked and Sacred ibis along with Yellowed-billed spoonbills regularly use breeding sites in the area.

The river edges and tidal mudflats along the lower Barwon River provide excellent habitat for egrets, gulls, terns, pelicans and cormorants. The tidal flow allows aquatic invertebrates and small fish to move up the river, providing a valuable food source for these species.

Another significant visitor to the reserve is the Orange-bellied Parrot. Breeding in Tasmania over summer, this species migrates north via Bass Strait islands to Victoria's coastline for the winter. It is thought that Lake Connewarre forms one of only five known over-winter sites.

## Be fire ready and stay safe

Many parks and forests are located in high fire risk areas. **On days of forecast Code Red Fire Danger this park will be closed for public safety.**

If you are already in the park you should leave the night before or early in the morning for your own safety.

Closure signs will be erected and rangers will patrol where possible, however you may not receive a personal warning that the park is closed so check the latest conditions by calling 13 1963 or visit **[www.parkweb.vic.gov.au](http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au)**.

For up to date information on fires in Victoria or general fire safety advice call the **Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667**.

## How to get there

The reserve is situated on the Bellarine Peninsula approximately 65km south west of Melbourne and 8km south east of Geelong.

Lake Connewarre can be accessed from Brimsmead Lane, Mollers Lane, Wallington Road and Barwon Heads Road.

Taits Point Picnic Area can be accessed from Staceys Road.

Reedy Lake can be accessed via Coppards Road, Calder Street, Moolap Station Road, Whitehorse Road and O'Hallarons Road.

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