



Patterson River

Visitors Guide

The Patterson River is a unique man made waterway, created in 1876 to provide direct drainage from the entire Dandenong Valley catchment area. Since then, it has become a popular recreational venue offering a range of recreational opportunities not provided elsewhere in the region.

In recent years, the facilities have assisted Patterson River to become one of the most popular boating and fishing gateways to Port Phillip Bay.

Location and Access

Patterson River is situated within the City of Kingston, approximately 28 kms south east of Melbourne. The river begins at the joining of the Eumemerring and Dandenong Creeks at the National Watersports Centre before its short journey to the sea. Parking is available off Launching Way. (Melways Ref. 97 G5)

In 1934, 960 houses and farms were inundated by floodwaters. It was then decided to raise the levels of the artificial banks between the bay and Pillars Bridge, south of Dandenong. The river mouth is regularly inspected by Parks Victoria and contractors are employed to dredge the outlet to a safe depth when needed.

Things to see and do

- The river banks allow for picnic and strolling watching the boats slip by. Facilities include under cover picnic areas, children's playgrounds and electric barbecues.
- Bike riding is popular with bike trails to Mordialloc, Dandenong, Frankston and the city.
- Fishing along the river is permitted by Victorian Fishing License holders. Fishing licenses are available from the tackle shop and kiosk at Launching way.
- The most popular reason to visit Patterson River is to partake in recreational boating. Boating facilities including four 2 lane boat ramps, boat washing facilities and weather reports excellent car and trailer parking are available. A tackle shop and kiosk at Launching way caters for all boating and fishing needs including Fishing licenses and boat fuel.
- Even if you don't have a boat, you can still enjoy a cruise along the river and on the Bay with one of commercial boat operators who conduct tours.
- The National Water Sports Centre has a myriad of popular water based events year round.

Vegetation

The Patterson River supports a number of significant plant species including indigenous and non-indigenous flora and aquatic species. Indigenous trees include the silver wattle, lightwood, black wattle, blackwood, black she-oak and river red gum, shrubs include the spike wattle, hedge wattle, scrub she-oak and jagged fireweed and grasses include silver top wallaby grass, Australian salt grass and blue tussock grass. Non-indigenous flora include sheep's burr, angled onion, lesser joyweed and broom spurge. Aquatic species include common swamp wallaby grass, pointed centrolepis, common spike-rush and small river buttercup.

Fauna

Significant fauna along the banks of the river include the striped marsh frog, Bouganville's skink, grass skink, tree dragon, weasel skink, copperhead, tiger snake, water rat and platypus. A wide variety of bird life use the Patterson River for food and shelter. White Faced Herons, Greater Egrets, Coots Ducks and even the occasional Rufous Night Heron can be spotted wading in the shallows. Numerous species of fish also call Patterson River home. These include Carp, Red Fin, Trout, Bream, Flathead, Goldfish, Mosquito Fish, Roach, Short finned Eel, Mulloway, Galaxids, Leatherjacket, Whiting, Flounder and even the occasional dolphin sighting.

Heritage

The Patterson River is not actually a river. The river was originally swampland extending from Mordialloc to Frankston, behind a broad coastal sand ridge. In 1879. Public Works were conducted to cut through the sand ridge to drain the swamplands. This cut was referred to as the Patterson's Drain, named after the then Public Minister of Public Works.

This cut, later became known as the Patterson River. Prior to European settlement of the Melbourne region around 160 years ago, a "coastal" tribe of Koori's camped in and around the district and coastal areas of Victoria. A large area known as the Carrum Carrum Swamplands provided abundant food for the people of the Kulin Nation, the traditional people of this area, in the form of eels, fish, birds, and various plants such as water ribbons and cumbungi shoots.

National Water Sports Centre

A well known feature at Patterson River is the National Water Sports Centre (NWSC). The centre was developed as an international standard rowing course in preparation for Melbourne's bid for the 1988 Olympics. Unfortunately, this and later bids did not succeed and the NWSC is now used for a more diverse range of water based activities including rowing, water skiing, canoeing, kayaking, triathlons, coarse angling and radio controlled yachts.

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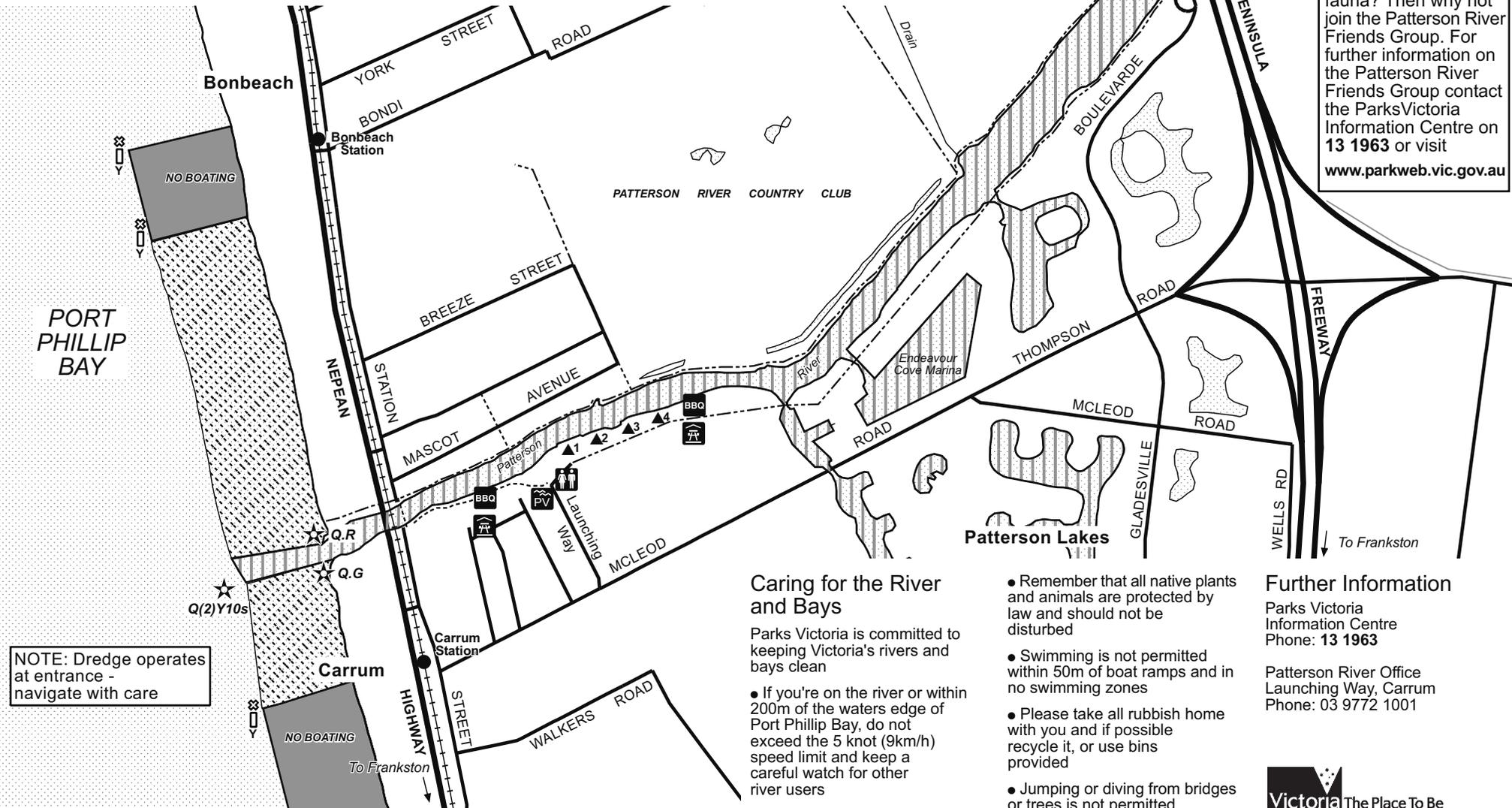
Patterson River

Freeway / Highway	5 Knot Zone	Barbecue
Sealed road	No Personal Watercraft	Parks Victoria Office, Tackle Shop & Coastguard
Bicycle path	Water body	Picnic shelter
	Ramp	Toilets
	Flashing Marker	
	Special Marker	

Recreational Facilities

MELBOURNE
GEELONG

0 200 400 METRES
Cartography by Spatial Vision 2002 M/6932



Join a Friends Group
 Are you interested in helping to protect the Patterson River's heritage, flora and fauna? Then why not join the Patterson River Friends Group. For further information on the Patterson River Friends Group contact the Parks Victoria Information Centre on 13 1963 or visit www.parkweb.vic.gov.au

NOTE: Dredge operates at entrance - navigate with care

Caring for the River and Bays

Parks Victoria is committed to keeping Victoria's rivers and bays clean

- If you're on the river or within 200m of the waters edge of Port Phillip Bay, do not exceed the 5 knot (9km/h) speed limit and keep a careful watch for other river users

- Remember that all native plants and animals are protected by law and should not be disturbed
- Swimming is not permitted within 50m of boat ramps and in no swimming zones
- Please take all rubbish home with you and if possible recycle it, or use bins provided
- Jumping or diving from bridges or trees is not permitted

Further Information

Parks Victoria Information Centre
 Phone: 13 1963
 Patterson River Office
 Launching Way, Carrum
 Phone: 03 9772 1001

