

European Settlement

Lake Cullulleraine is one of three small remaining townships in the farming area known as the Millewa, which was cleared and settled by about 800 farmers in the 1920's under a Government sponsored scheme.

The Lock 9 weir was constructed in 1927 on the Murray River along with a steam pump and earthen water supply channel to Lake Cullulleraine. This ensured a reliable water supply. Government then constructed an extensive earthen channel delivery system for stock and domestic water to most of the farms in the Millewa. A steam pumping station was constructed at Lake Cullulleraine to provide the initial lift to the gravity channel system. The pumping station was converted to electric pumps after the Millewa was connected to the State power grid in the 1960's. The channel system was only run during winter but nevertheless suffered from high water losses due to seepage and evaporation of more than 90%. The stock and domestic channel system was converted to a pressurised pipeline by the mid 1970's. The rising main from the pumping station at the lake delivers water to the Bambill storage dam located at the highest point in the Millewa. From there the storage water is reticulated by gravity to all farms and the two townships of Werrimull and Meringur in the Millewa.

Land Features

Lake Cullulleraine is a former natural ephemeral wetland that, in a bygone era, occasionally received water from the Murray River during a major flood. The Lake is now maintained at a water level with minimum variation, and is supplied by an earthen delivery channel from the Murray River with pumped off-take just upstream of Lock 9.

Cultural Heritage

The seasonal fluctuations in water maintained the health of vegetation and attracted wildlife that provided an ample food source for the Latji Latji tribe which inhabited the district. There is evidence of past aboriginal occupation in the local area in the form of shell middens, surface scatterings and scar trees in the old growth vegetation closer to the river. There are also burial sites in the local area.

Environmental Impacts

Since European Settlement in the 19th Century timber harvesting and firewood collection have resulted in the loss of habitat such as woody debris from the forest floor and large hollow bearing trees for native fauna. Other factors such as wind erosion and pests (rabbits and foxes) have also degraded native vegetation.

Fauna

The Growling Grass Frog and the Regent Parrot are nationally threatened species that have been sighted in the local area. Other significant fauna that have been sighted in the local area include:

Birds

- Whiskered Tern
- Eastern Great Egret
- Grey Falcon
- White-Bellied Sea-Eagle
- Nankeen Night Heron
- Apostle Bird
- Gull-Billed Tern

Mammals

- Fat-tailed Dunnart
- Giles Planigale

Reptiles

- Bandy Bandy
- Eastern Water Skink

Fish

- Freshwater Catfish
- Murray Cod
- Golden Perch
- Silver Perch

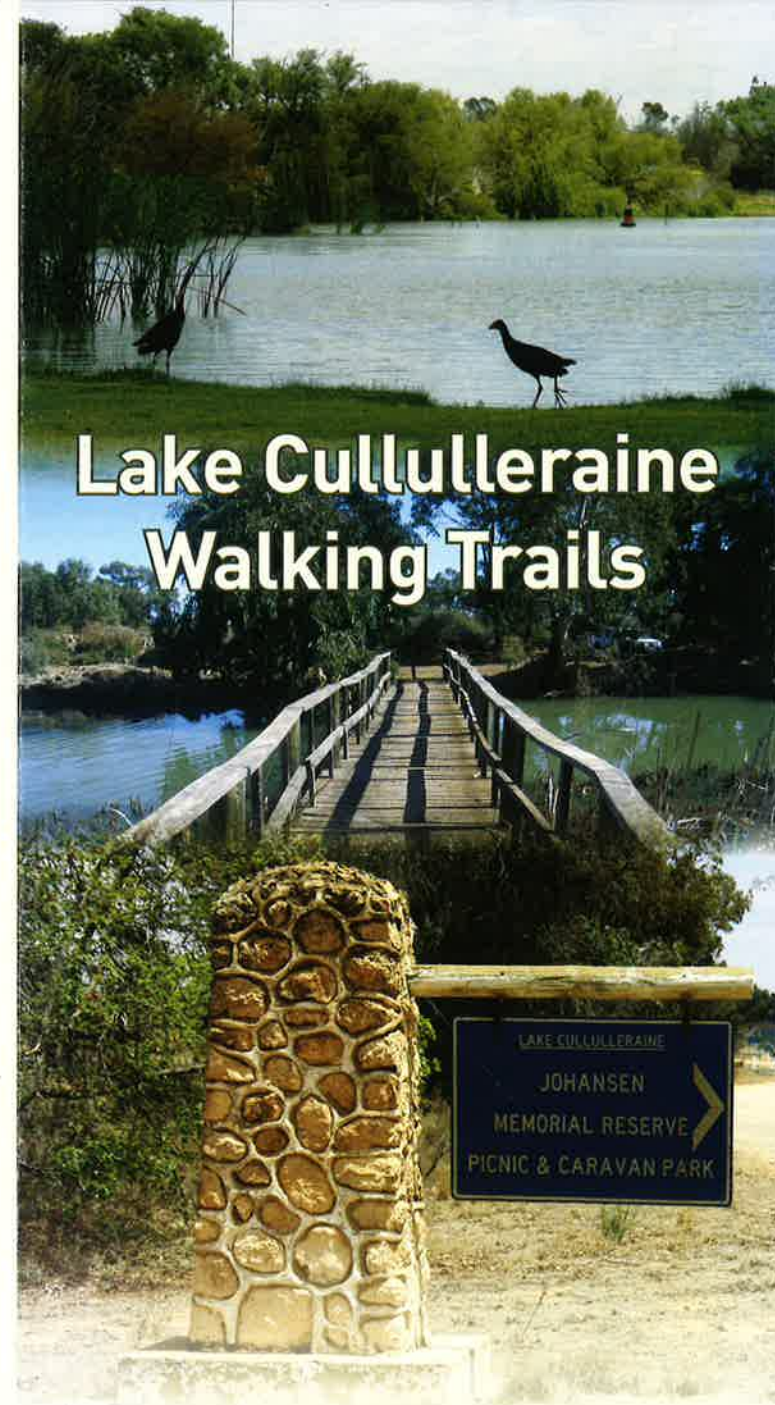
Flora

The Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVC's) found at Lake Cullulleraine include:

- Riverine Chenopod Shrubland
- Semi-arid Chenopod Shrubland
- Low Chenopod Shrubland
- Semi-arid Woodland
- Woorinen Sands Mallee
- Chenopod Mallee

Flora that can be sighted frequently while walking around Lake Cullulleraine include:

- Black Box
- Moonah
- Black Bluebush
- Old Man Saltbush
- Ruby Saltbush
- Harlequin Mistletoe
- Desert Glasswort
- Cumbungi



Walking Trails

The main trail commences at the rotunda in Johansen Reserve, from here you can head either east or west. Alternatively you can start at the Bushman's Rest Caravan Park where the Helsey's trail begins. The Goonegul Parish trail starts on the east side of the lake past the Yacht Club, and features a short cut for those not wanting to walk the perimeter trail. Both trails meet at the pedestrian bridge which spans the channel carrying water from the Murray River.

Goonegul Parish Trail

The trail name comes from the full-blooded Latji Latji language. Goonegul means flat plains and Parish means water. The Latji Latji people were predominant in the Murray Valley and middens have been found around the lake, although these sites have not been fenced off or identified.

Helsey's Trail

This trail was named after Mr and Mrs Bill Helsey who were early settlers in the early 1940's. They lived and worked on the north side of the lake. Mrs Helsey kept chickens and other poultry, selling eggs and produce to make a living. Bill was a woodcutter and fisherman, but met an untimely death due to an accident with a swing saw.

Recreation

We hope that you enjoy your time at Lake Cullulleraine. Activities that you can take part in during your stay include:

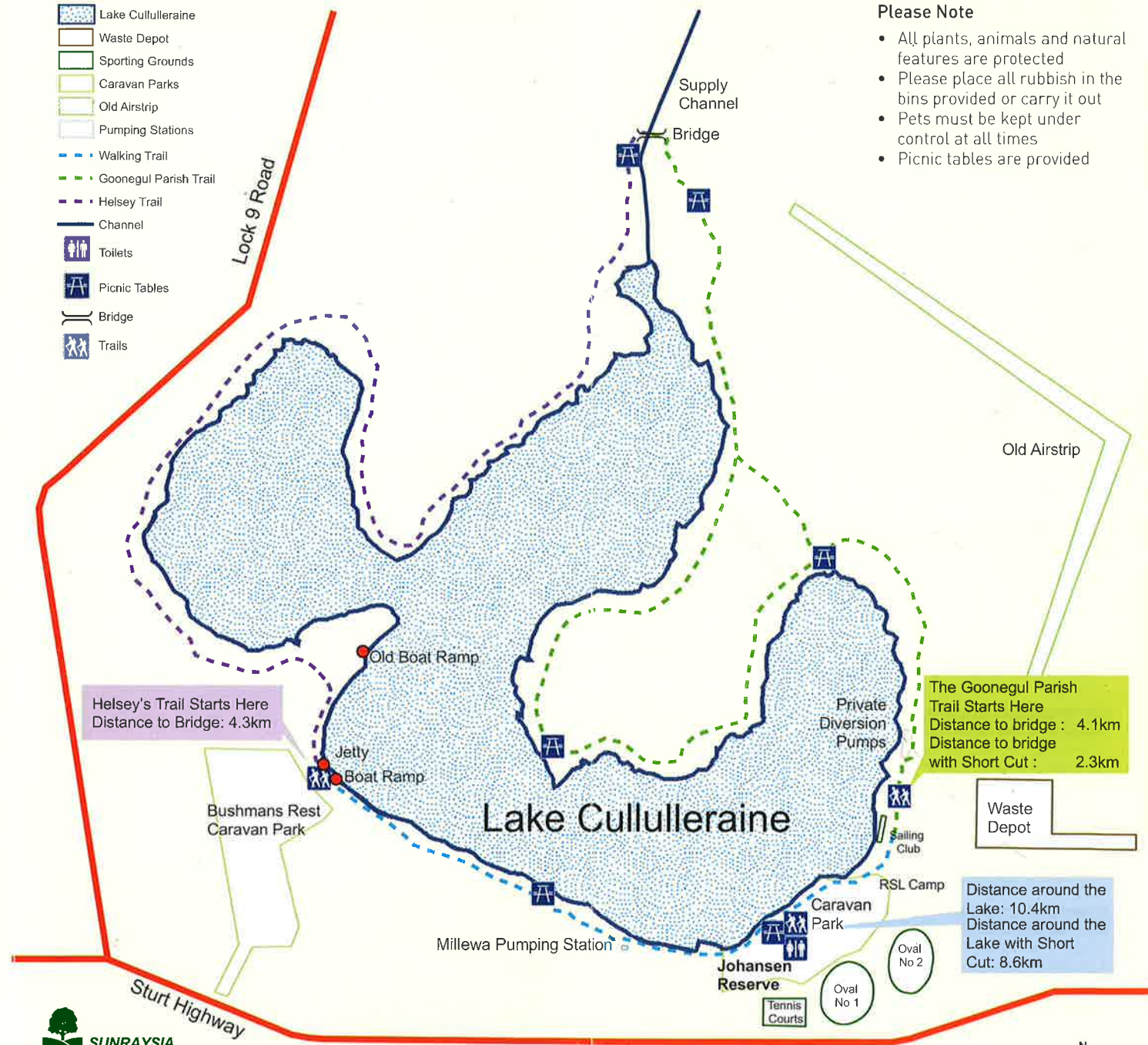
- Water sports such as sailing, skiing, canoeing and fishing
- Walking or cycling around the lake along the marked walking trails
- Visiting nearby tourist destinations such as Lock 9, Meringur Pioneer Park, the Mandella trail and heritage listed Catholic Church at Werrimull
- The Murray Sunset National Park is also well worth a visit on cooler days, particularly in spring, during the wildflower season

Walkers Tips

- Ensure you carry plenty of water
- Wear a hat and apply sunscreen
- Leave the area as you found it, and place any rubbish in the bins provided

Legend

- Lake Cullulleraine
- Waste Depot
- Sporting Grounds
- Caravan Parks
- Old Airstrip
- Pumping Stations
- Walking Trail
- Goonegul Parish Trail
- Helsey Trail
- Channel
- Toilets
- Picnic Tables
- Bridge
- Trails



Please Note

- All plants, animals and natural features are protected
- Please place all rubbish in the bins provided or carry it out
- Pets must be kept under control at all times
- Picnic tables are provided



While every effort has been made to ensure map accuracy, Sunraysia Environmental takes no responsibility for the spatial accuracy of information displayed on this map.

Scale - 1 : 15,000

0 50 100 200 300 400 Metres

