

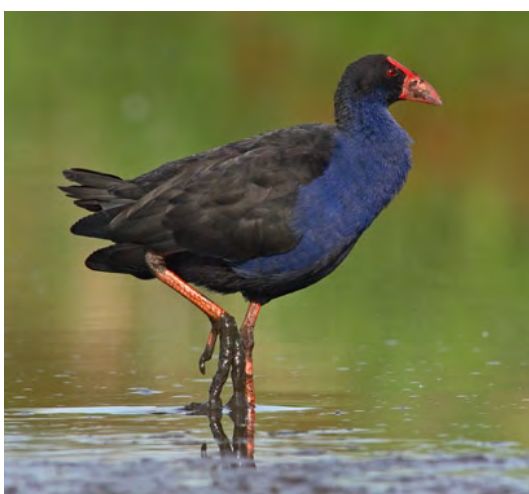
Merbein Common

River Murray Reserve



Visitor Guide

Merbein Common encompasses diverse landscapes including riverine vegetation, billabongs and small patches of Native Pine. Hardy Black Box and tranquil River Red Gums are abundant along with many fish, birds and animals that utilise this vegetation for protection and shelter.



Purple Swamphens enjoy wading in river margins and find ideal habitats in Merbein Common

Location and access

Merbein Common is about 570km north-west of Melbourne. It is located on the Calder Highway between Mildura and the Murray River Crossing and can be accessed via the Abbotsford Bridge to Curlwaa.

Enjoying the park

There are a variety of walking tracks in the area, catering for all fitness levels.

Merbein Link Trail - This trail showcases the old racecourse, tall River Red Gums and Chaffey Landing. A picnic area with toilets can be accessed at the river near the Merbein Sandbar.

Archaeological Trail - This walk passes by the old billabong that was part of the Murray River 15,000 years ago.

Catfish Billabong Trail - Horseshoe Billabong (formerly Catfish Billabong) provided European Settlers with plentiful resources and burst with opportunity of life.

Cultural and Nature Trail - Black Box and towering River Red Gums are abundant along this walk.

Other popular walks include the Merbein Lookout walk that highlights an old Canoe Tree where an information board is located. The Lake Hawthorn/Lake Ranfurly Track continues on past Lake Hawthorn and Lake Ranfurly, all the way into Mildura.

Fishing

Fish include Golden Perch, Murray Cod, Redfin, Yabbies and the introduced European Carp. If you are over 18 years of age you must hold a current Victorian Recreational Fishing Licence from www.service.vic.gov.au. Fishing in the Murray River requires a New South Wales licence from www.service.nsw.gov.au.

Bird watching and photography

Merbein Common has an array of bird species perfect for photographers. A bird list for the Mallee area can be obtained from the Mildura Visitor Information Centre.

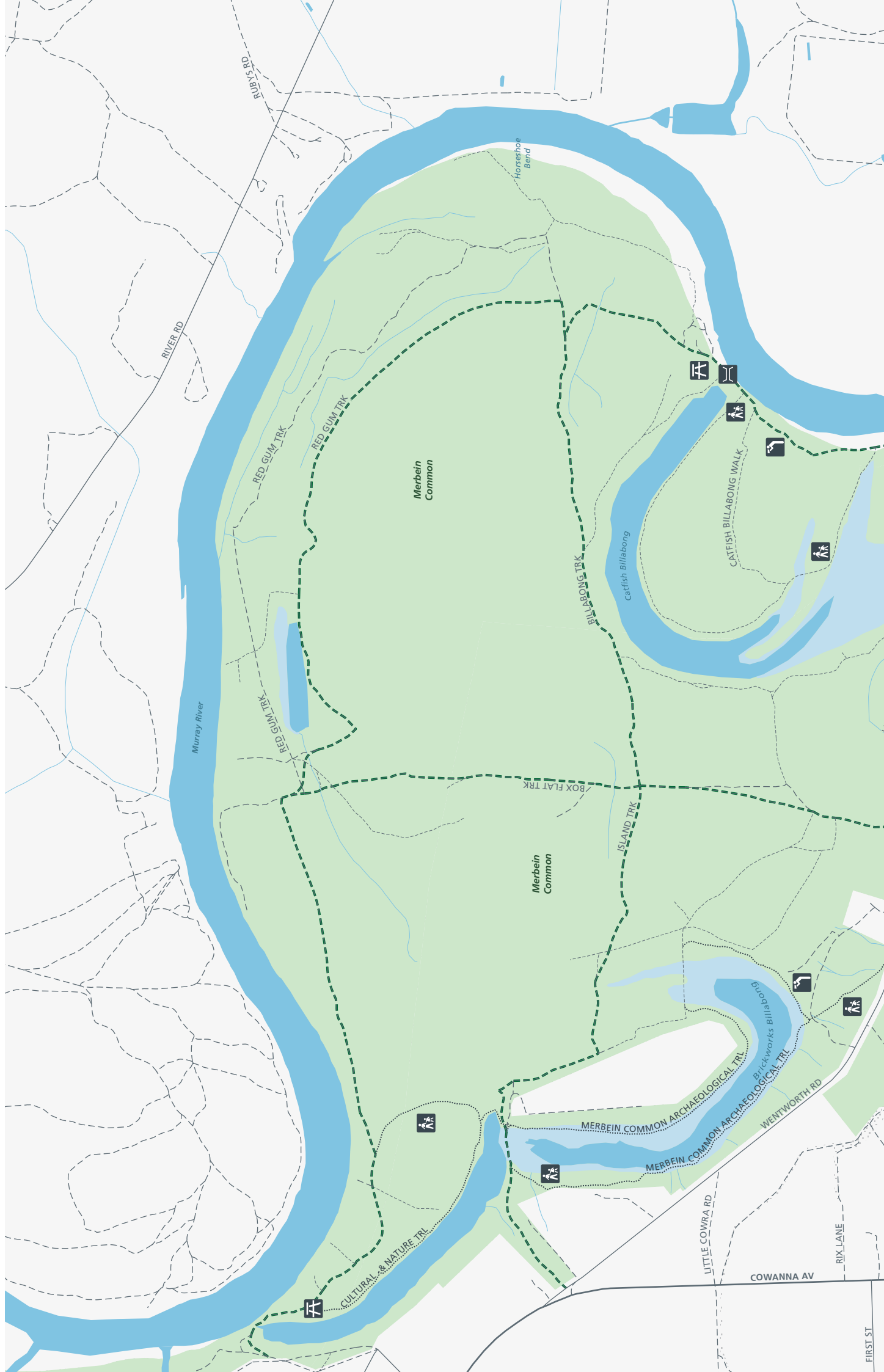
Plants and animals

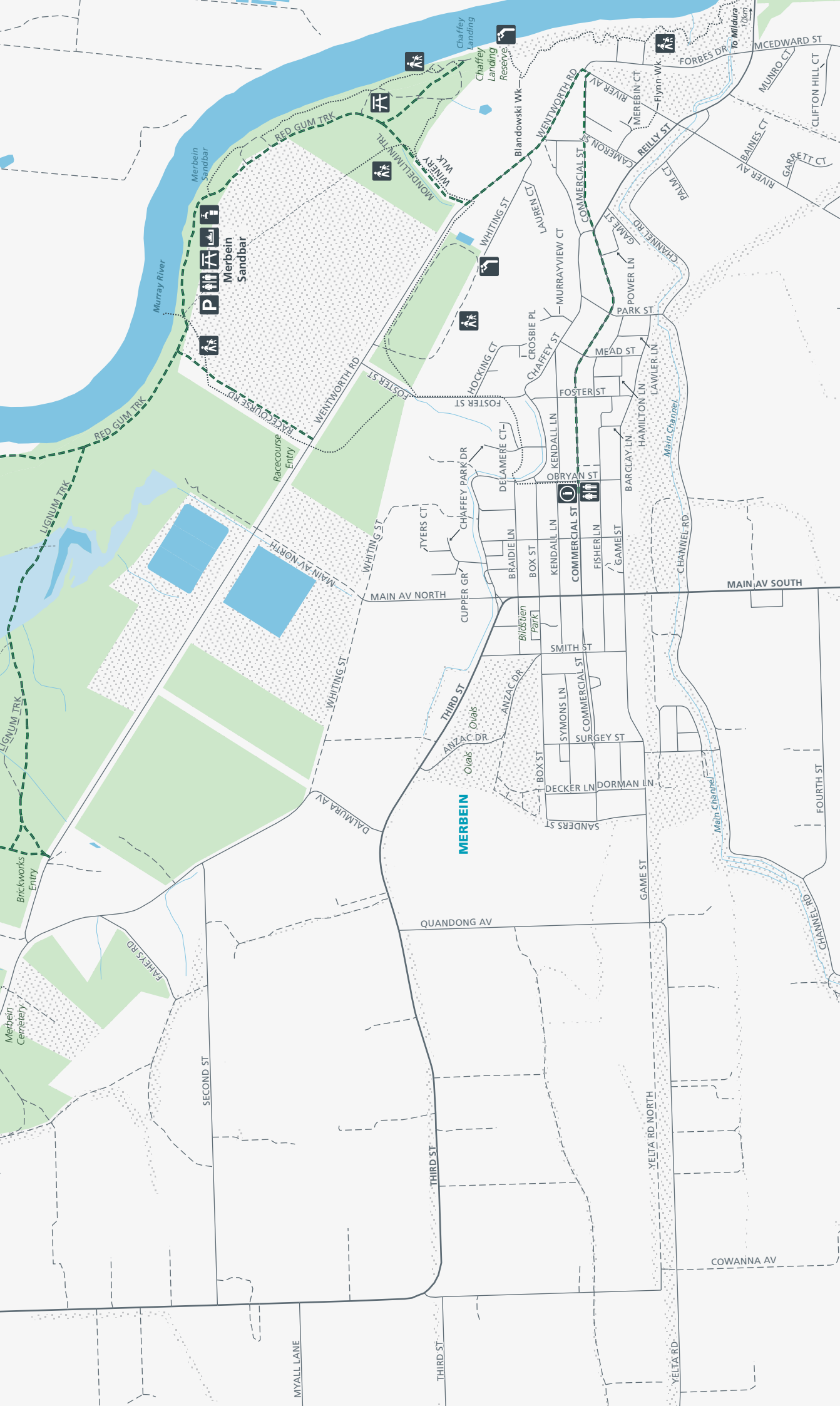
Many fish, birds and animals use the billabong and the vegetation as nurseries, protection and for food. Tall River Red Gums remain close to waterways and Black Box are scattered throughout the area away from the water's edge. Aquatic vegetation acts as a vital habitat for fish species including yabbies and shrimps.



For more information call **Parks Victoria** on 13 1963 or visit www.parks.vic.gov.au

Merbein Common





P Parking

i Information

Toilets

Picnic table

Fire place

Drinking water

Sightseeing

Bushwalking

Bridge

Highway

Main road

Sealed road

Unsealed road

4WD track

Walking track

Tour route

Major river

Minor river

Stream/creek

Waterbody

Subject to inundation

Park/Reserve

State forest (public land)



www.parks.vic.gov.au

Disclaimer: Parks Victoria does not guarantee that this data is without flaw of any kind and therefore disclaims all liability which may arise from you relying on this information.

Data source acknowledgements: State Digital Mapbase. The State of Victoria and the Department of Environment and Primary Industries.

Cartography by Parks Victoria June 2014
For mobile App search for Avenza PDF Maps

For further information

Call **13 1963** or visit
www.parks.vic.gov.au

Mildura Visitor Information
180-190 Deakin Avenue
Mildura Vic 3500
Tel: (03) 5021 4424
tourism@mildura.vic.gov.au

Caring for the environment

Help us look after your park by following these guidelines:

Please take rubbish with you for recycling or disposal

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

Dogs are permitted in the park and must be kept on a leash

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

Firearms are prohibited

Collect only dead wood from the ground for campfires and use existing firepits.

No fires are permitted on a day of **Total Fire Ban**. Built in and portable gas or electric barbecues may be used provided:

- a 3 metre area is cleared of anything flammable
- at least 10 litres of water is available for immediate use
- an adult is in attendance at all times

Chemical toilets are preferred. Pit toilets must be at least 100m from the water's edge. Bury toilet paper and waste appropriately

Healthy Parks Healthy People

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?



A rich human history

The region around the Murray River provided abundant resources including fish, crayfish, yabbies, tortoises and mussels. Nets were also used to catch waterbirds.

A site of historical significance boasts the oldest shell midden in South Eastern Australia, estimated to be between 15,500 and 16,000 years old.

Dr Wilhelm Blandowski, in his explorations of north west Victoria and his encampment at Chaffey Landing (Mondellimin), uncovered more than 17,000 terrestrial and aquatic specimens in the region with the help of the Nyeri Nyeri people. These documented findings provide us with significant insight into the rich biodiversity of the Murray-Darling landscape in the 1850s.

Chaffey Landing

Chaffey Landing, named after WB Chaffey who built the winery/distillery on the cliff above in 1913, is on the eastern boundary of the Merbein Common. This access point enabled paddle steamers, going downstream to Morgan, to be loaded with grape spirit that was then taken by train to Adelaide.

'Bag Town', on Chaffey Landing, is as an early river bank (makeshift) settlement. This area is clearly marked with two big palm trees and some peppercorn trees planted on the site by the residents who lived there during the 'Great Depression' – a part of Merbein's social history. An information station at the site details the history of this era.

Healthy parks, healthy people

There is growing recognition of the vital contribution parks and reserves make to a healthy environment, to the health of individuals and to a healthy society.

With the invaluable assistance of the Friends of Merbein Common we are able to maintain the health and integrity of this park.

Join the Friends of Merbein Common in caring for the park's important inhabitants. You can join the Friends of Merbein Common by becoming a friend today! Call Parks Victoria on 13 1963 or visit www.parks.vic.gov.au.

September 2022

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Healthy Parks
Healthy People®



A plaque in honour of zoologist, Dr Wilhelm Blandowski on Chaffey Landing

Exploring the region

The Victorian Mallee Parks cover over one million hectares and are extremely important for nature conservation because of their relatively undisturbed state.

They protect a range of plant and animal species adapted to the dry mallee environment and contribute significantly to Australia's biodiversity.

Autumn, winter and spring are the best times to visit. Call into the Mildura Visitor Information Centre in Mildura for Mallee parknotes and maps before heading out.

Emergencies

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.

Merbein Common is in the Mallee 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. Do not enter the Park. Warnings signs may be erected, but do not expect a personal warning. Check the latest conditions at www.parks.vic.gov.au or by calling 13 1963.

