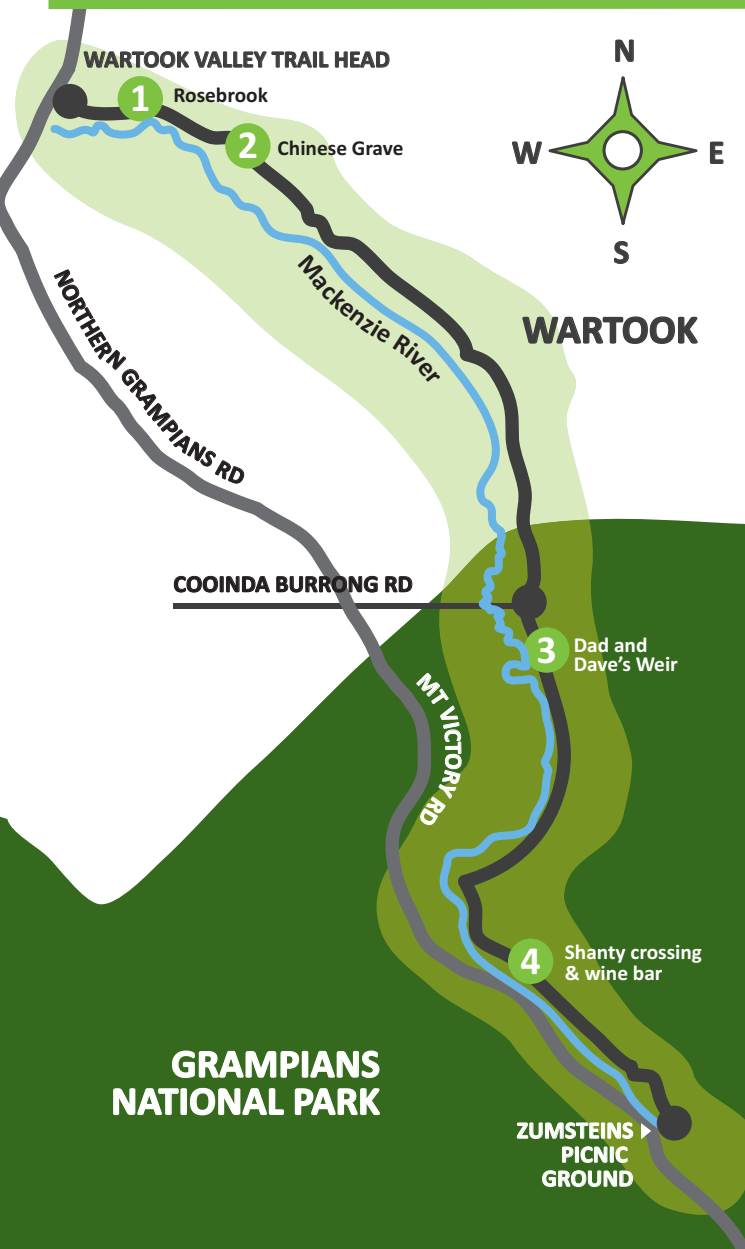


MACKENZIE RIVER BUN-NAH TRAIL



BE PREPARED AND STAY SAFE

- Check trail and park conditions at www.parks.vic.gov.au or call 13 1963
- Check the weather forecast and know the fire danger rating. Avoid walking or riding when it is very hot and windy – download the VicEmergency App to stay up-to-date
- Carry plenty of drinking water for each person in your group, extra on hot days
- Pack clothing appropriate for the weather and season, including rainwear and warm layers
- Carry a paper-based map and GPS
- Carry a first aid kit and consider a personal locator beacon (PLB)
- Stick to the track and if your group separates, plan to meet at track junctions

HELP US PROTECT THIS LANDSCAPE

- Please take all rubbish with you - there are no rubbish bins on this trail or in the national park
- At certain times of the year, sheep graze the Wartook Valley end of this trail; please close all gates after you
- Do not feed the native wildlife – keep wildlife wild
- Dogs and domestic pets are not permitted on this trail or in the national park
- Stay on the track and do not enter any neighbouring farmland
- Motorbikes, horses and public vehicles are not permitted on the trail

IN AN EMERGENCY

Dial 000 for police, ambulance or fire. Mobile phone reception is limited and will not be available in many areas. Consider the use of a personal locator beacon (PLB) and the Emergency+ smartphone app to assist emergency services.

IMPORTANT UPDATES

For up-to-date information on what is open and closed visit www.parks.vic.gov.au or call Parks Victoria on 13 1963.

MACKENZIE RIVER BUN-NAH TRAIL



MACKENZIE RIVER / BUN-NAH TRAIL

The Mackenzie River/Bun-nah Trail is a historic route that stretches for 10.5km between Wartook Valley and Zumsteins Picnic Area. From Zumsteins walkers can continue on the Mackenzie River Trail for another 3.7km to Mackenzie Falls. Originally known as the 'Back Track', the trail closely follows the Mackenzie River, or Bun-nah as it is known to the Traditional Owners. Along the route there are interpretive signs that detail the area's history and its significance to the Jadawadjali People. The trail is open to walkers and mountain bikers when conditions are dry. At times the Mackenzie River floods and the trail is impassable; in this instance it is best to access the trail at Cooina Burrong.

HISTORY

For 100 years, the 'Back Track' was the main road from Wartook Valley into the Central Grampians Ranges. The Back Track was traversed by walkers, horses, carriages and bullock wagon teams. The track was used to transport supplies, animals, timber from mills, tannin bark from wattle stripping and honey and beeswax collected by local beekeepers.

Bun-nah (Mackenzie River) runs through Jadawadjali country, from the northern part of Gariwerd down through the plains to its confluence with Walla Walla (the Wimmera River) at Horsham. Both rivers form a key part of the Gariwerd Creation story. As you follow the track along Bun-nah, you are following the creation story of Tyngal (Tchingal) the emu and Waa the crow.

FIRE RECOVERY

Signage and improvements along the Mackenzie River / Bun-nah Walking and Bike Trail between the Wartook Valley and Zumsteins picnic area have been supported by the Victorian Government which, through its 2014 Bushfire Economic Recovery fund, provided \$120,000.

Following bushfires which swept through the area in January 2014, the Bushfire Economic Recovery fund was established to support communities to recover. The Wartook to Zumsteins trail project was initiated by the Wartook community, who worked in partnership with Regional Development Victoria, Horsham Rural City Council, Parks Victoria, Barengi Gadjin Land Council and Horsham Historical Society to support the fire recovery effort.

POINTS OF INTEREST



Rosebrook homestead, J.T. Collins collection, LaTrobe Picture collection, State Library of Victoria.

1 Rosebrook

Rosebrook Station, which comprised 64,000 acres (26,000ha), was first settled by Philip D. Rose in 1843. He ran sheep and cattle. In 1853 ticket-of-leave convicts Charles and Thomasina Carter, who had arrived in the Wimmera in 1842, bought the Rosebrook lease and moved into the original homestead on the north bank of the Mackenzie River. Rosebrook homestead was home to seven generations of the Carter family until it was destroyed by bushfire in 2014.

Rosebrook is in Jadawadjali country. The local Jadawadjali children played with the Carter children. They taught young Samuel Carter their language, and they learned his. In 1872, Samuel Carter was appointed Honorary Correspondent to the 'Board for the Protection of Aborigines' and his property 'Glenisla' became a depot for the distribution of blankets, clothing and rations.



Gum San Chinese Heritage Centre collection, Ararat.

2 Chinese grave

There is an unmarked gravesite north of the Trail which is the last resting place of a Chinese miner who perished on his way to the Victorian goldfields in the 1850s. Because of a £10 fee that was charged to Chinese miners entering Victorian ports, many arrived via Robe in South Australia and walked from there to the Victorian goldfields. An estimated 53,000 Chinese miners passed through this area during the gold rush. Their presence is remembered in local place names such as Chinaman's track and Chinaman creek.



Dad & Dave's Weir, GWM Water collection.

3 Dad and Dave's Weir

The main function of Dad & Dave's Weir is to divert water to the Water Treatment Plant at Mt. Zero. From Mt. Zero, water travels via a dedicated pipeline to supply the Horsham township.

The existing weir was modified in 2007 to manage water levels and environmental flows of the Mackenzie. The weir features a fish ladder which was incorporated into the design to provide an opportunity for blackfish and platypus to move safely up and down the river.

The creeks and swamps of Gariwerd, where rainfall is higher, were critical to Jadawadjali livelihood, and remain significant places to the Traditional Owners. Wartook Reservoir was created on the location of a former swamp fed by the waters of Bun-nah (Mackenzie River) and archaeological evidence shows that the Jadawadjali people made this one of their main occupation sites.



Wartook Workers 1886, Parks Victoria collection.

4 Shanty crossing & wine bar

The old 'back track' that has become the Mackenzie River Trail, or Bun-nah, was once a busy thoroughfare frequented by squatters and their families, timber mill workers, wattle strippers, bee keepers and construction workers who were building the Wartook Reservoir.

To accommodate the travellers along the track a Wine Bar was established in 1883. Located at a corduroy log crossing on the Mackenzie, a large rock was used as part of the bar's construction. The bar also featured an underground cellar which was visible for many years.

The Traditional Owners however travelled through passes at Barigar (Roses Gap) and Jananginj Njau (Victoria Gap) on their way through Jadawadjali country. They travelled along well-established tracks, which, as described by early squatter Charles Browning Hall (Sayers 1969 [1898] 272): "were much like cattle tracks, except that they passed over places which cattle were not likely to attempt."