

## Lane Poole Reserve

*Pitching a tent in the jarrah forest has long been a favourite pastime among those who come to Lane Poole Reserve to enjoy a family getaway or to just take in the beautiful landscape and extraordinary abundance of plants and animals. And now, thanks to a major upgrade, campers are enjoying even better facilities.*

**A**n easy 100km drive south-east of Perth, Lane Poole Reserve covers more than 50,000ha and is the largest park in the northern jarrah forest. Named after CE Lane Poole, Western Australia's first Conservator of Forests and a man who did much to ensure the sustainable management and conservation of WA's forests, the landscape is as diverse as it is beautiful. It ranges from steeply forested valley slopes and the rock-rimmed pools of the Murray River near the Darling Scarp to the more open, undulating jarrah and wandoo woodlands further east, and some of the most extensive stands of old-growth jarrah and marri forest north of the

Blackwood River. The reserve also plays host to 500 species of flora, which fill the forest with colour in spring and is also home to 123 bird species – including parrots and magpies, cormorants, grebes, herons, grey fantails and several species of honeyeater and robin. Red-tailed black, Baudin's and Carnaby's cockatoos commonly entertain with their raucous calls. If you're lucky, you may even spot an emu strutting along a forest path. Visitors can also see western grey kangaroos, quokkas and western brush wallabies and may even see chuditch, dunnarts, water rats, possums, echinidas and brush-tailed phascogales. Sixteen species of amphibian can also be found in the reserve.

### RECREATION

Lane Poole Reserve is hardly a well-kept secret and in 2012–13 it attracted more than 200,000 visits. In addition to coming for the magnificent environment, people come to enjoy the range of recreation opportunities and great facilities on offer. In spring and summer, people flock to the Murray River to raft, canoe or kayak its waters. In winter, when the river rises, white water and faster currents challenge experienced canoeists and kayakers. Fishing is also a popular pastime due to the populations of rainbow trout, redfin perch, cobbler and marron. Closed seasons, bag limits, minimum legal



*Opposite page*

**Left** The tranquil Murray River.

*Photo – Jiri Lochman*

**Right** The Bibbulmun Track runs through Lane Poole Reserve.

*Photo – Dennis Sarson/Lochman Transparencies*

**Above** Cycling on the Munda Biddi Trail.

*Photo – Len Stewart/Lochman Transparencies*

**Above right** Canoeing on the Murray River.

**Right** New camp kitchens cater to campers and day visitors.

*Photos – Rod Annear/Parks and Wildlife*



sizes and licences help protect stocks from over-fishing.

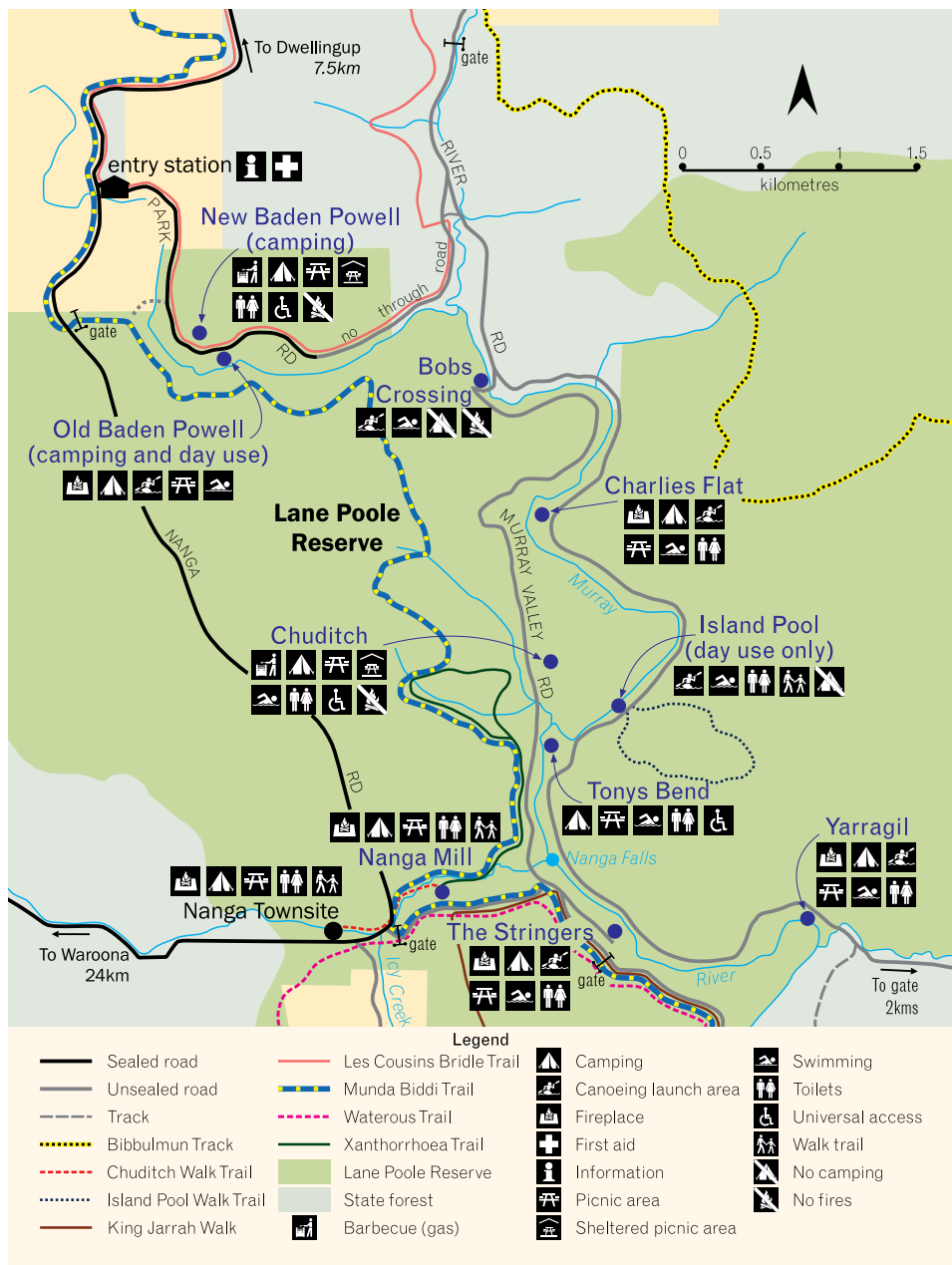
Back on dry land, bushwalkers have a range of options available that vary in length and difficulty. The long-distance Bibbulmun Track passes through Lane Poole Reserve and walkers can camp at Dookanelly, Murray, Swamp Oak and Yourdamung huts, which are all within the

park. The Munda Biddi Trail also passes through the reserve and the Waterous Trail, a two-day loop trail which runs off the Munda Biddi, provides another option for cyclists. For those who prefer their transport with four legs, the Les Cousins Bridle Trail traverses part of the park. There are many other trails within the park offering a range of distances, difficulty and trail type.

## CAMPING

Lane Poole Reserve is extremely popular for camping. In fact it's the most popular bush campground close to Perth, and has a range of campsites and facilities to provide low-cost camping and caravanning sites suitable for a range of groups and users. Some areas are specifically designed for large groups while others are better suited

## Parks for people Lane Poole Reserve



to small family groups or individuals. Two of the most popular campgrounds – Nanga and Baden Powell – are being upgraded, thanks to the State Government's *Parks for People* initiative.

The Nanga campground – built on the site of the old jarrah mill that was burnt in the Dwellingup fires of 1961 – is sheltered by a grove of tall pines. Access to the campground is being improved with sealed road access and the number of caravan sites will be increased from eight to 29. In addition, the 10ha campground has 10 new sites, and there are now six toilets. Communal areas have also been bolstered

with a new fire pit and picnic tables.

The Baden Powell campsite upgrade is complete and can now accommodate about 180 campers in single camp sites and two larger group camping areas. It has been designed to cater to a range of camping types, including better access and facilities for caravans and camper trailers.

Camping for smaller family groups or individuals is also available at Charles Flat, Tonyms Bend, Yarragil, Chuditch and Stringers. All campgrounds have pit toilets, picnic tables and bins. Fire pits are provided at most camp sites but firewood is not supplied. The new Baden Powell and

## Do it yourself

**Where is it?** Lane Poole Reserve is 100km drive south-east from Perth. The entry station to the park is 7.5km south of Dwellingup and, from there, Park Road takes you into Lane Poole's many facilities.

**When to visit?** Lane Poole Reserve is popular year round. It is particularly pretty in spring when the wildflowers are in bloom. You should always check weather forecasts and current road conditions before setting out.

**Camping** Camping in the more secluded new Baden Powell campground, Charles Flat, Chuditch, Stringers, Tonyms Bend and Yarragil can be booked online at parkstay.dpaw.wa.gov.au two days or more in advance. The larger campgrounds at old Baden Powell, Nanga and Nanga Mill are suitable for groups, these cannot be booked in advance – they operate on a first-come, first-served basis. Camping fees apply.

Each of the campgrounds has toilets, tables, barbecues and bins. Some have drinking water and some have fireplaces (campfires are not permitted during the hotter drier months and at any time of year at the new Baden Powell and Chuditch camp sites). Wood is not supplied.

For more information visit [www.parks.dpaw.wa.gov.au/park/lane-pool-reserve](http://www.parks.dpaw.wa.gov.au/park/lane-pool-reserve) or contact Parks and Wildlife's Dwellingup office on (08) 9538 1078.

Dogs are allowed in Lane Poole Reserve but must be kept on a leash at all times.

*Parks for People* is one of LANDSCOPE's many regular features. It features information about some of WA's great national parks and other reserves and the amazing ways to experience them.



Chuditch campgrounds are campfire-free areas but have camp kitchens with gas barbecues.

So, if you're planning an extended stay, Lane Poole Reserve has a good range of camping facilities for you to use as a base for exploring this fantastic and much-loved park.