

## Brilliant Base Camp #2: Wyperfeld National Park

Wyperfeld NP lies in the Mallee region of north-west Victoria, 450km from Melbourne. A vast park, the semi-arid conditions mean that autumn, winter and spring are the best seasons to visit. In the past, the Wotjobaluk People travelled along *Tyakil-ba-Tyakil* (Outlet creek) to the swamps and lakes; these water-courses are now usually dry.

Some walkers head for the northern Pine Plains section of the park; the majority prefer the facilities and walks at the southern end, near the Wonga Camping Area.

### Highlights

- The sense of space and isolation is amazing: mobile reception is very limited, so switch off and enjoy nature.
- The walks, short and long, are well-signed and explore different ecosystems and plant habitats. Some have interpretation boards along the track.
- About 450 native plants occur at Wyperfeld. Varied landscapes include: floodplains surrounded by River Red Gums and Black Box; sandy dune areas which support Pine and Buloke; Mallee eucalypts and heathland. Wildflowers are prolific in spring.
- Over 200 bird species have been recorded, including Malleefowl and the vulnerable Regent Parrot. Other wildlife includes kangaroos, emus and sand goannas.

### Safety

- Set up camp and park your vehicle away from large trees. River Red Gums are prone to drop large branches without warning.
- Feral bees inhabit sections of the park. Exercise care near water and other fluids.
- Always carry a hat, water, map and sunscreen. (A fly-net can also be useful!)
- Water at camping areas should be boiled or treated before drinking.



*Wonga Camping Area*



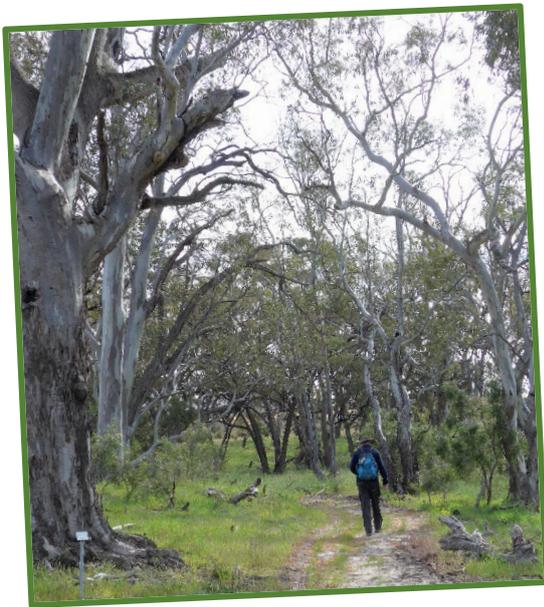
*Daisy and River Red Gum*

### Facilities in Northern Wyperfeld

- Casuarina Camping Area (free): accessible by 2WD.  
Pit toilets; picnic tables; fireplaces; non-potable water.
- Snowdrift Camping Area (free): currently only accessible by 4WD.  
Pit toilets; picnic tables; fireplaces.

### Facilities in Southern Wyperfeld (Wonga Camping Area)

- At least sixty unpowered campsites for tents or caravans distributed in an expansive campground. Book & pay online in advance at [www.parks.vic.gov.au/where-to-stay](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au/where-to-stay); choose your site on arrival.
- Visitor Information Centre: displays on flora, fauna and cultural history.
- A large shelter - with a free gas BBQ and tap - suitable for groups of 50 or more.
- Pit toilets; picnic tables; fireplaces; non-potable water.
- A wash block with 8 cubicles: BYO bucket of bath water!



### Popular Walks in Northern Wyperfeld

1. Casuarina Loop Walk
  - 9 km, 3 hours, easy: a circular walking track to Bracky Well
2. Walkers who have access to electronic maps on their phone should find it easy to design their own walks e.g. using Nine Mile Square Track and Emu Flat Track.

### Popular Walks in Southern Wyperfeld

1. Tyakil Nature Walk
  - 4.5 km, 2 hrs, easy: some sandy patches
  - Varied plant habitats; good bird-life and photo opportunities
2. Discovery Walk
  - 4.0 km, 2 hrs, easy; some sandy sections of track
  - Less shade than the Nature Walk – avoid the middle of the day in hot weather
  - Greater focus on flora; views from Mt Mattingley

3. Desert Walk
  - 7 km, medium, 2 ½ - 3 hours: the sandy track climbs and crosses dune lines
  - Little shade, but interesting plant habitats; prolific flowering heath in spring
  - Opportunity to see emus and sand goannas
4. Walks along the 15 km Nature Drive:
  - Ten-minute climb (one way) to Eastern Lookout
  - Malleefowl Walk: 1.5 km, easy
5. Walkers who have access to electronic maps on their phone should find it easy to design their own day walks, such as Visitor Centre - Lignum Swamp Track – Eastern Lookout (approx. 12 km return, 4 hrs), or the Meridian Track – Everard Track – Cameron Track circuit (approx. 13 km, 4 hrs).

### Maps and resources

- Meridian Maps *Victoria's Deserts Touring Guide, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2020*. Paper version: \$14.95; Avenza version: \$10.99
- Refer to [Parks Victoria's website](#) for additional information regarding access to different sections of the park.
- [Here's a link](#) to the 'Parks Note' Visitor Guide.

### Other Accommodation and Services

- Wyperfeld is serviced by the small towns Rainbow, Hopetoun and Underbool; limited accommodation and shopping facilities are available in these locations.
- O'Sullivan's Pine Plains Lodge, which is adjacent to the National Park, provides accommodation for visitors to the northern section of Wyperfeld.



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