

WELCOME TO THE OSPREY TRAIL

Canoeing on this trail is best done in the cooler months, when tides are at their highest, rather than during holiday periods or the warmer months when power boating is very popular. Canoeists should always be aware of and avoid power boats and remember to keep clear of the wash created by them. There are frequent sightings of ospreys and dolphins along this trail, and watching out for them can be very rewarding.

Please do not canoe or kayak in the Creery Wetlands, as this is an important sanctuary and habitat both for resident and for migratory wetland birds. Observing these wetland birds without disturbing them is best carried out on land via the boardwalks and observation points provided for this purpose. The entrance to this land based facility is off Darwin Terrace, Mariners Cove.

This guide has an 'indicative map' only. For detailed maps, please contact Canoeing WA at: www.wa.canoe.org.au or: ph 9285 8501.

When you explore and enjoy this trail, please respect private and public property.

The Osprey (Pandion haliaetus) is a large raptor. The wingspan of the adult can exceed 1.5m. Ospreys are magnificent birds, with white heads and chests, distinctive light-brown necklaces around their throat areas and dark-brown upper wings. They sit, monarch-like, and survey their realm. To see an osprey take flight from its look-out perch, skim across the water and then suddenly dive, reappearing with a fish clasped in its talons, is a dramatic and truly memorable sight. Ospreys are monogamous and are thought to mate for life. They build large nests using sticks, seaweed and man-made materials like rope and wire. Nests are most often built in large, dead trees with a commanding view of territory. The nests may remain in use for many years, with new materials being added as the seasons come and go. Sometimes, possibly due to parasites or other contamination, the adult birds will partially dismantle a nest before rebuilding it.

There is concern that ospreys are in decline throughout Australia, due to habitat tree removal.

The Canoe and Kayak Guide to Western Australia by Martin Chambers is a reference book for trips from Esperance to Exmouth. Copies are available from canoe retailers, outdoor suppliers and direct from the author, ph: 9385 8371.

3/09

TRAIL HINTS

Before using this trail guide, canoeists and kayakers should:

1. have received instruction from a qualified instructor (contact Canoeing WA for details of instructors);
2. be familiar with the Boating Rules and Regulations contained in the official *Western Australian Boating Guide* produced by the Department for Planning and Infrastructure, copies available from the department's Marine Office in Mandurah and from boating retailers;
3. know their capabilities, as paddling on calm waters does not qualify anyone to undertake more difficult paddling tasks;
4. be able to swim confidently wearing paddling attire,
5. keep to the right in boating channels and canals;
6. check weather reports, as wind can create hazardous waves, especially on inlets, estuaries, lakes and pools;
7. use open canoes only in the calmest of conditions;
8. be aware of submerged or semi-submerged hazards such as trees and logs;
9. in summer months check with the Shire of Murray or the Mandurah City Council for information about algal bloom;
10. be careful when rivers are flowing fast as more effort is then required to paddle, particularly upstream, and not paddle rivers when they are in flood;
11. watch out for and avoid any snakes swimming rivers or other waterways;
12. take care if using boat ramps as they can be very slippery;
13. recognise that paddling conditions are generally calmer in the morning than in the afternoon;
14. let a responsible person know of their trip plans;
15. when planning trips on calm waters allow for a speed of 4km/h for adults and less for young or inexperienced canoeists; and
16. use insect repellent and/or cover up to protect against mosquitoes.

Phone Contacts

Police:

Life-threatening emergency only 000
Non-emergency 13 1444

Hospitals:

Mandurah, Peel Health Campus 9531 8000
Pinjarra, Murray Hospital 9531 7222

Local government

Mandurah City Council 9550 3777
Shire of Murray 9531 7777

DEC 24 Hour Wildcare Helpline 9474 9055

(for sick & injured wild life, including birds)

PEEL INLET CANOE GUIDE NO. 6

The Osprey Trail

Compiled by

Canoe Trail Friends of
Mandurah & Pinjarra Inc.



Sponsored by

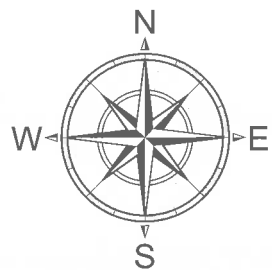


The Canoe Trail Friends of Mandurah & Pinjarra Inc. is a non-profit organisation run by volunteers who wish to promote the establishment and maintenance of recreational canoe trails on the waterways of the Peel Regional Park and to advocate awareness of and care for the natural environment.

The Canoe Trail Friends of Mandurah & Pinjarra Inc. does not accept any responsibility or liability for any loss, injury, death, damage, liability, cost or expense that may be suffered, sustained or incurred by any person relying on any aspect of this guide or making use of any trail named or described herein.

Inquiries: send a **stamped** self-addressed envelope to:
PO Box 3188, Mandurah East, WA 6210 or visit:

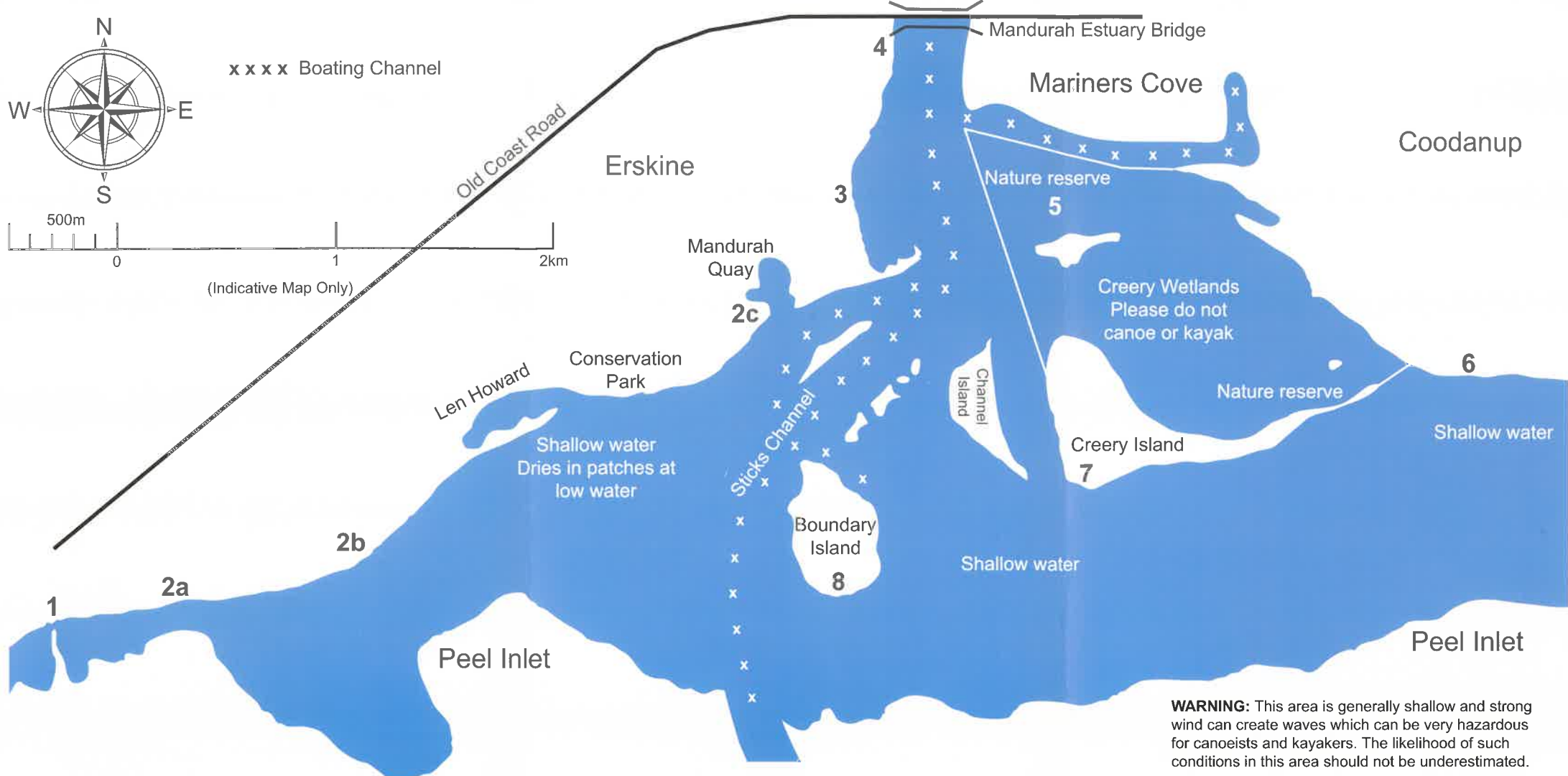
<http://canoetrailfriendsmandurahandpinjarra.blogspot.com>



x x x x Boating Channel



(Indicative Map Only)



WARNING: This area is generally shallow and strong wind can create waves which can be very hazardous for canoeists and kayakers. The likelihood of such conditions in this area should not be underestimated.

- 1. Launch site suitable for non-powered craft just south of boat ramp at Owen Avenue, Novara. Picnic tables, shade and toilets.
- 2a. Minor beach launch site suitable at high tide only located at end of Dampier Avenue, Novara.
- 2b. Minor beach launch site suitable at high tide only. Access via Glendart Court, Erskine. Limited parking, shady trees, picnic tables and toilets. 6km return walk in Len Howard Conservation Park.
- 2c. Minor beach site located at the end of Marina Quay Drive, Mandurah Quay.
- 3. Osprey Nesting pole.

- 4. Launch site south-west of Mandurah Estuary Bridge. Access via Leisure Way, Halls Head. Toilets.
- 5. Creery Wetlands.
- 6. Launch site suitable for non-powered craft at high tide only. Natural boat ramp, Peel Parade, Coodanup. Foreshore reserve with picnic tables and toilets 500m east.
- 7. Comfort/rest site.
- 8. Comfort/rest site.

Note
Care should be exercised at all times when paddling in boating channels. These areas are particularly busy on weekends and during holiday periods.

- Suggested Excursions**
- From 1 to 4 via Boundary and Channel islands (7.5km). Vehicle pick-up at destination.
 - From 6 via Peel Inlet to Channel and Boundary islands and return.
 - From 4 to 7 Creery Island then 8 Boundary island. Return via 7 and Osprey nest at 3 (7kms).