

WELCOME TO THE GREAT EGRET TRAIL

The Harvey River rises about 10km north of historic Hoffmans Mill in the Stirling Dam catchment area. This is a river which has been much affected by man. Within its catchment there are five dams and a weir. From them run river diversions and drainage systems which supply water to the area's famous dairy and beef cattle and vegetable and citrus industries. On this trail the river wends its way via rural properties and bushland and then branches to form a small delta before emptying into the Harvey Estuary. This river provides only minimal comfort or rest sites.

The Great Egret Trail begins at the southern end of the Harvey Estuary, either from Island Point on the western shore or Herron Point on the eastern shore. This is a very peaceful area, with wooded shorelines, estuary islands and beaches, abundant bird life and a feeling of 'getting away from it all'. If the water levels in this area are too low for paddling, an alternative is the beach at Park Ridge Reserve, Estuary Road, Park Ridge, on the western foreshore of the Harvey Estuary, approximately 10km back towards Mandurah.

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 Great Egret (Ardea alba), the largest of the Australian egrets, is unmistakable. Standing 830mm tall, it has white plumage and, when not breeding, a yellow bill. During the breeding season (October to December) the bill turns mostly black. At this time, long hair-like feathers (nuptial plumes) on the back extend beyond the tail. It can be observed standing on its long, thin legs on the edges of waterways, quietly waiting for prey.

Accommodation:

Estuary Hideaway Cabins

2151 Old Coast Road, Bouvard. M: 0407 838061

Located on western foreshore of Harvey Estuary

Herron Point camping area

Herron Point Road, Coolup (26km from Pinjarra)

Located on eastern foreshore of Harvey Estuary

Inquiries: Pinjarra Visitor Centre, ph: 08 9531 1438

The Canoe and Kayak Guide to Western Australia by Martin Chambers covers 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)

HARVEY RIVER CANOE GUIDE NO. 5

The Great Egret Trail

Compiled by

Canoe Trail Friends of
Mandurah & Pinjarra Inc.



Sponsored by



GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



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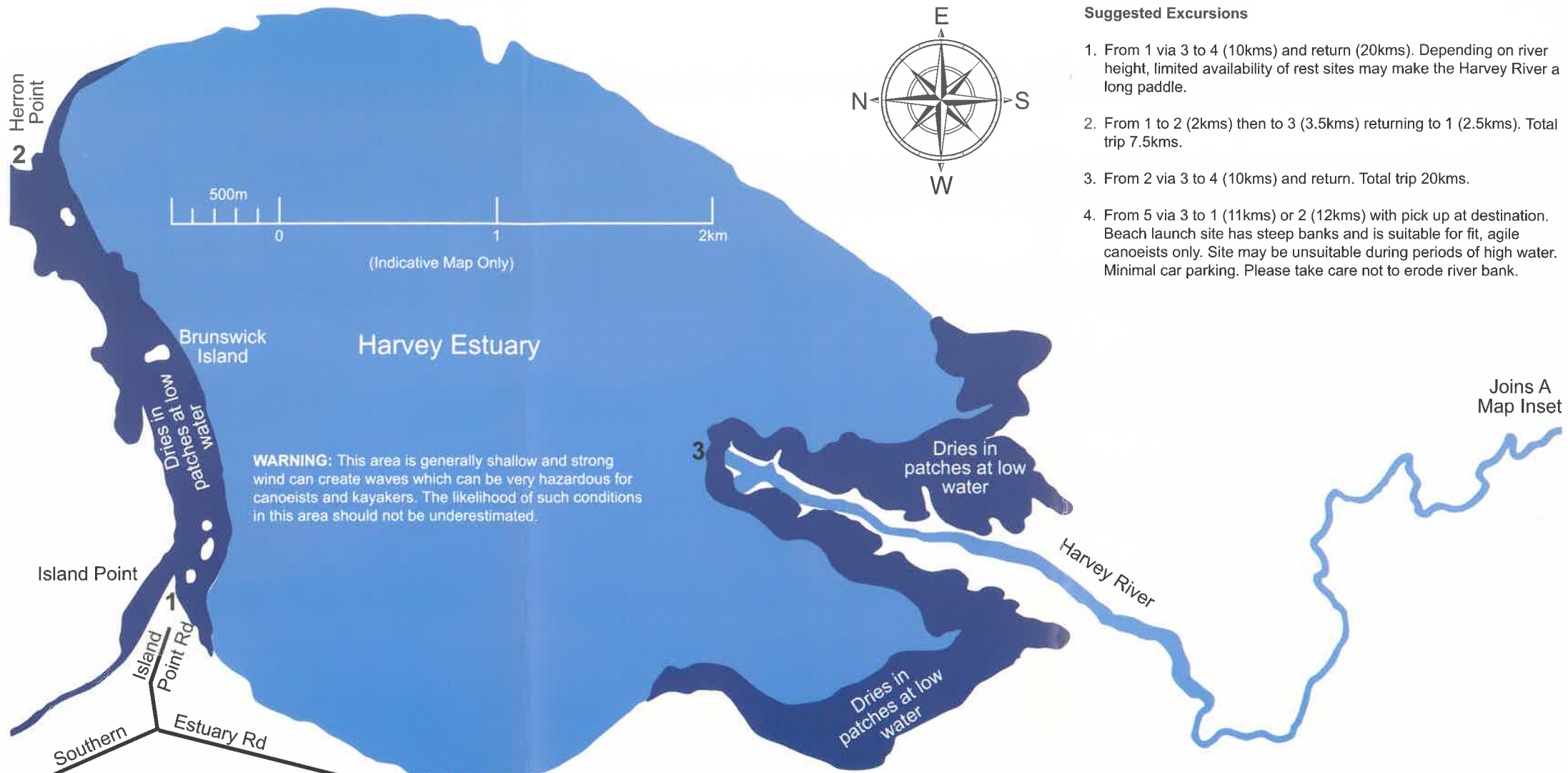
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THE PADDLERS' WAREHOUSE
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The Canoe Trail Friends of Mandurah & Pinjarra Inc. is a non-profit organisation run by volunteers who wish to promote the establishment and maintenance of recreational canoe 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>



Suggested Excursions

1. From 1 via 3 to 4 (10kms) and return (20kms). Depending on river height, limited availability of rest sites may make the Harvey River a long paddle.
2. From 1 to 2 (2kms) then to 3 (3.5kms) returning to 1 (2.5kms). Total trip 7.5kms.
3. From 2 via 3 to 4 (10kms) and return. Total trip 20kms.
4. From 5 via 3 to 1 (11kms) or 2 (12kms) with pick up at destination. Beach launch site has steep banks and is suitable for fit, agile canoeists only. Site may be unsuitable during periods of high water. Minimal car parking. Please take care not to erode river bank.

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. Beach canoe launch site Island Point. Shady reserve, picnic tables, toilets. Limited parking. From Mandurah take Old Coast Rd South. Left turn on Southern Estuary Rd then next left on Island Point Rd.
2. Beach canoe launch site Herron Point near boat ramp. Picnic tables, toilets, car parking and camping ground (see Canoe Guide Notes).
3. Delta of Harvey River. Narrow entrances may make river difficult to find. Portage may be necessary over sand bars at river mouth in low water. River mouth bearing 155 degrees magnetic from (1) and 175 degrees magnetic from (2).
4. 'Lookout Beach' Large sandy beach approx 6.5kms from river mouth. Good rest/comfort site.
5. Old Bunbury Road bridge.

Notes

- Very shallow water between Herron Point, Brunswick Island and Island Point. (Used by early farmers as stock crossing).
- Canoeists traverse the Harvey Estuary through mainly shallow to very shallow tidal. There are, however, channels at least waist deep which can become significantly deeper during high tides.
- Algae may occur during periods of low water in Harvey River and Estuary foreshore.
- The Harvey River is generally suitable for paddling only after winter and spring rain.
- If water level is too low for paddling on estuary, refer to canoe guide for alternate venue.

