

## WELCOME TO THE PELICAN TRAIL

This trail is set on the largest waterways in the canoe guide series. When planning any excursion on this trail, canoeists are advised to be sure to check weather and wind forecasts. Novice canoeists should stay close to foreshores and not attempt to cross the estuary or the inlet. Novice canoeists should not go near the Dawesville Cut, which has a strong tidal flow and, very often, hazardous water disturbance within itself and across its openings. Tides are at their highest during cooler months. During holiday periods, particularly during the warmer months, 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.

On a calm day, the trail is a wonderful canoeing experience, with placid waters complemented by the bushland on the eastern foreshore. From Point Grey south there are many isolated sandy beaches. The western foreshore has some urban development, but still is very appealing. Historically, the inlet and the estuary were crabbing and fishing heaven. Canneries once stood on both foreshores.

*This trail is aptly named after the Australian Pelican (*Pelicanus conspicillatus*), our largest local water bird. The pelican certainly is conspicuous. It is mainly white, with black wingtips and black markings on its tail. It is from 1.6m to 1.9m long, has a wingspan of from 2.5m to 3.4m and a bill of from 40cm to 47cm. The bill has a large, pinkish pouch which turns mostly scarlet during the courtship period. The pelican is able to glide in thermals to a height of 3,000m. Remains of pelicans dating from 30 to 40 million years ago have been found in Australia.*

This trail also abounds with flocks of local and migratory birds; for example, the Australian Black Swan (*Cygnus atratus*).

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

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

*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)

# PEEL INLET & HARVEY ESTUARY CANOE GUIDE NO. 7

## The Pelican Trail

Compiled by

Canoe Trail Friends of  
Mandurah & Pinjarra Inc.



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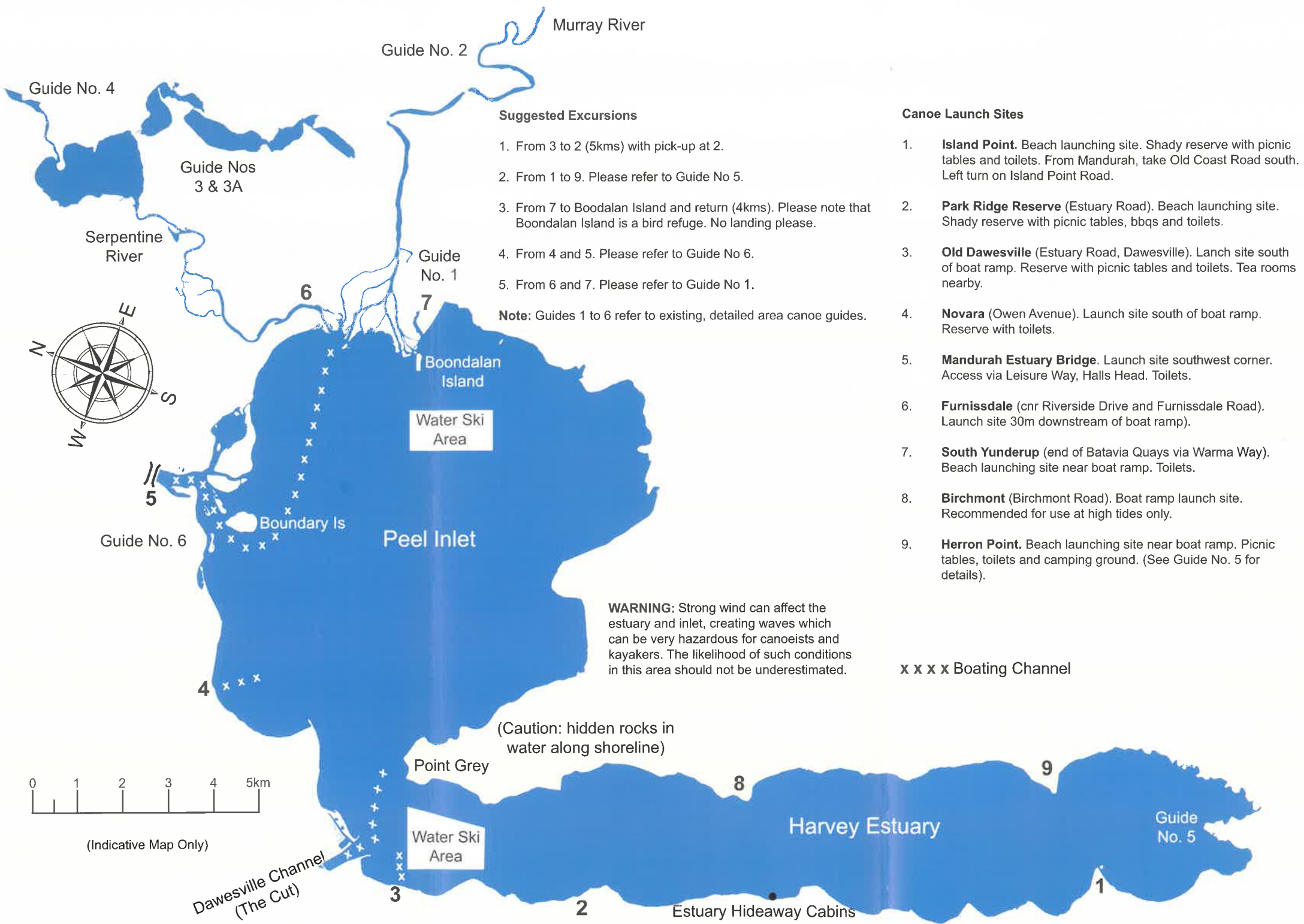


The Canoe Trail Friends of Mandurah & Pinjarra Inc. is a non-profit organisation run by volunteers who wish to promote the establishment and maintenance of recreational canoe trails on the waterways of the Peel Regional Park and to advocate awareness of and care for the natural environment.

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 3 to 2 (5kms) with pick-up at 2.
2. From 1 to 9. Please refer to Guide No 5.
3. From 7 to Boondalan Island and return (4kms). Please note that Boondalan Island is a bird refuge. No landing please.
4. From 4 and 5. Please refer to Guide No 6.
5. From 6 and 7. Please refer to Guide No 1.

**Note:** Guides 1 to 6 refer to existing, detailed area canoe guides.

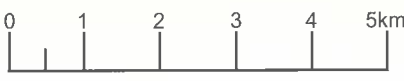
**Canoe Launch Sites**

1. **Island Point.** Beach launching site. Shady reserve with picnic tables and toilets. From Mandurah, take Old Coast Road south. Left turn on Island Point Road.
2. **Park Ridge Reserve (Estuary Road).** Beach launching site. Shady reserve with picnic tables, bbqs and toilets.
3. **Old Dawesville (Estuary Road, Dawesville).** Launch site south of boat ramp. Reserve with picnic tables and toilets. Tea rooms nearby.
4. **Novara (Owen Avenue).** Launch site south of boat ramp. Reserve with toilets.
5. **Mandurah Estuary Bridge.** Launch site southwest corner. Access via Leisure Way, Halls Head. Toilets.
6. **Furnissdale (cnr Riverside Drive and Furnissdale Road).** Launch site 30m downstream of boat ramp.
7. **South Yunderup (end of Batavia Quays via Warma Way).** Beach launching site near boat ramp. Toilets.
8. **Birchmont (Birchmont Road).** Boat ramp launch site. Recommended for use at high tides only.
9. **Herron Point.** Beach launching site near boat ramp. Picnic tables, toilets and camping ground. (See Guide No. 5 for details).

**WARNING:** Strong wind can affect the estuary and inlet, creating waves which can be very hazardous for canoeists and kayakers. The likelihood of such conditions in this area should not be underestimated.

x x x x Boating Channel

(Caution: hidden rocks in water along shoreline)



(Indicative Map Only)