



Nagambie Waterways

BOATING GUIDE 2007



Welcome

Strathbogie Shire Council has prepared the “Nagambie Waterways Boating Guide” to help boaters safely enjoy this recreation venue. Funding to assist with the production of this guide has been made available by the State Government through a grant from the Boating Safety Facilities Program administered by Marine Safety Victoria.



The Waterway

Strathbogie Shire Council is the waterway manager authority for ***the Goulburn River between Hughes Creek and the Goulburn Weir, including Lake Nagambie,*** excluding creeks and streams flowing into the river and storages.



The Goulburn River is a major source of irrigation water in northern Victoria and the waters impounded by the weir provide recreation boating opportunities on the river, Lake Nagambie and Goulburn Weir. The waterway comprises both deep and shallow waters along and adjacent to the Goulburn River and within Lake Nagambie.

Boat operators should exercise care to ensure that they are operating in a fashion that is appropriate to their location and not adversely impacting on other water users and the environment.

Boating Safety

All operators of powered and un-powered boats, should understand the common-sense boating safety rules for Victorian waters, and in particular the specific boating rules in place on the Goulburn River, Lake Nagambie and Goulburn Weir. This publication outlines the rules applicable to those waters and should be read in conjunction with the general Statewide boating rules made under the provisions of the Marine Act 1988, and temporary boating rules.

Boat Registration and Operator Licensing

Boat Registration

All boats equipped with a motor capable of being used for propulsion are required to be registered with Marine Safety Victoria through its agent VicRoads.

Operator Licensing

All recreation power boat operators are required to hold an operator's licence issued by Marine Safety Victoria through its agent VicRoads.

Licensing requirements –

| | |
|--|--|
| <i>Under 12 years</i> | <u>Not</u> permitted to operate a power boat |
| <i>12 to less than 16 years</i> | Restricted Power Boat Operator Licence - Subject to speed limits, operating hours and supervision requirements |
| <i>16 years and over</i> | General Power Boat Operator Licence |

Personal Water Craft (PWC) operators are required to obtain an endorsement to their operator's licence.



Safe Boating Rules

The waterway environment offers a range of boating opportunities. However, it is important that boat operators recognise some of the operational limitations that may influence boating safety. Boat operators should be aware that they may unexpectedly encounter other boats when turning bends in the river.

They should also be aware that they could encounter shallow waters and sub-surface obstructions along the whole water course due to the changing nature of the river and lake.

Operating Zones and Speed Limits

Because of the wide variety of boating activities and the nature of waters, specific operating rules are in place to provide for a safe boating environment. These specific rules largely relate to activity operating zones and speed limits, which are marked on the maps contained in this publication and are delineated on the water by signs and buoys/markers.



Boat operators should not operate on these waters unless they are totally familiar with the rules. If an operator is unsure of his/her location, or the relevant zone rule, they should slow to 5 knots.



While there are significant areas of water where speeds in excess of 5 knots are permitted, the operators of high speed boats must recognize that they are likely to encounter boats travelling at slow speed, both powered and un-powered. Boats must not exceed 5 knots within 50 metres of a person in the water and, unless specifically exempt in the local rules, boats must not exceed 5 knots when within 50 metres of another boat or a structure (including boat ramps, jetties and bridges).

On the Goulburn River keep to the right and on open waters operate in an anti-clockwise direction.

A 5 knot speed limit applies to Goulburn River, Goulburn Weir and Lake Nagambie after dark. 5 knots equates to approximately 9 km/h.

Boat operators should keep well clear of the cruise boat the “Major Mitchell”, particularly when it is arriving at or leaving a berth.



0.05 alcohol limits

All boat operators must observe the 0.05 blood alcohol limits and 0.00 limits apply to operators less than 21 years of age. Severe penalties apply for exceeding the limit .



Safety Equipment

This table outlines the recommended safety equipment to be carried or worn in boats likely to use these waters -

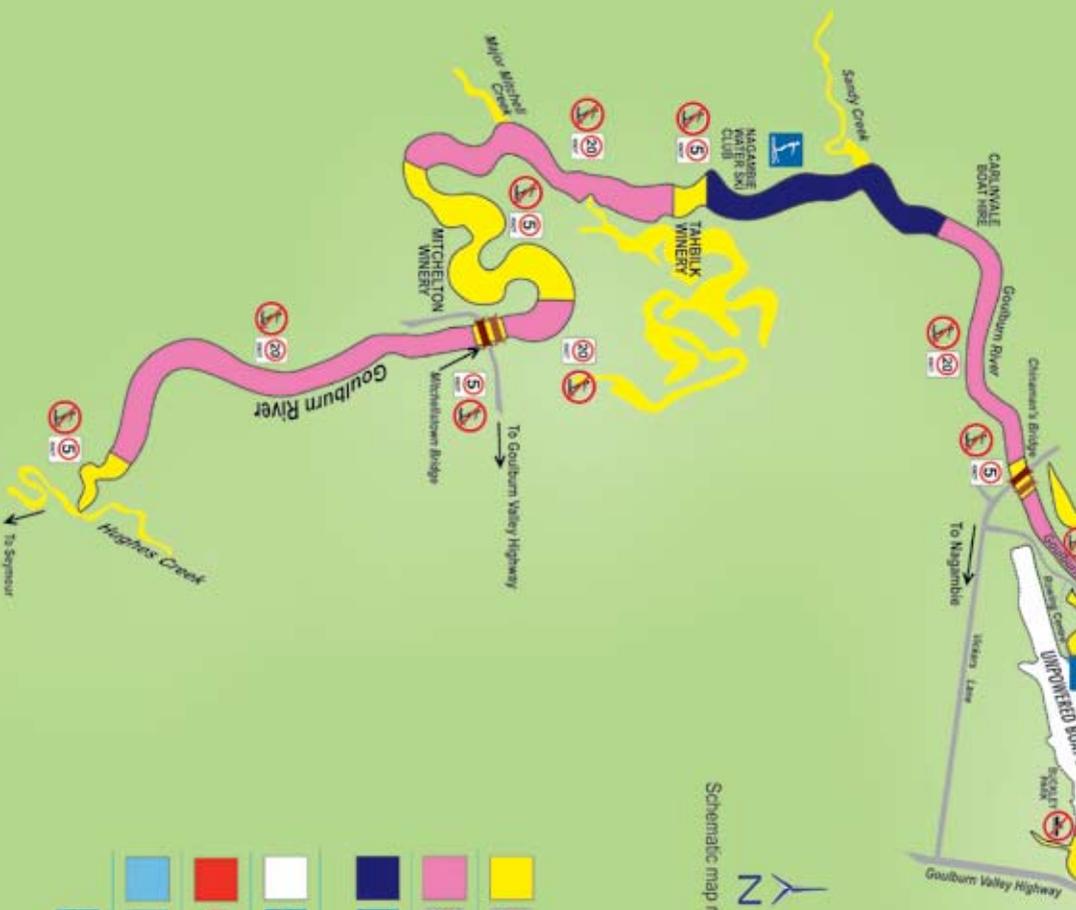
| SAFETY EQUIPMENT | UNPOWERED BOATS (inc rowing boats, canoes & kayaks) | POWER BOATS LESS THAN 4.8m | POWER BOATS FROM 4.8m to 8m | PWC |
|---|--|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Personal Floatation Device (PFD) 1, 2 or 3 for each person on board or being towed | Wear when underway | Wear when underway | ✓ | Wear when underway |
| Two paddles or two oars fitted with rowlocks | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ |
| Bucket with lanyard | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ |
| Bailer, pump or other efficient bilge pumping arrangement | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ |
| Approved fire extinguisher where any fuel is carried | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ |
| Waterproof and buoyant torch or lantern in working order | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

(1.) All occupants of boats up to and including 4.8 metres in length are required to wear a specified PFD when underway and when in an open area of the boat.

(2.) Operators should visit the Marine Safety Victoria website (www.marinesafety.vic.gov.au) for safety equipment details and changes.

All children under the age of 10 years must wear an approved PFD 1, 2 or 3 at all times when a recreational boat is underway, unless the child is within a deckhouse, cabin, half-cabin or secure enclosed space.





Schematic map not to scale



LEGEND

- 

5 KNOT ZONE (No water skiing)
- 


20 KNOT ZONE (No water skiing)
- 

EXCLUSIVE WATER SKI ZONE
 (Water skiing permitted)
 (Transit boats permitted)
- 

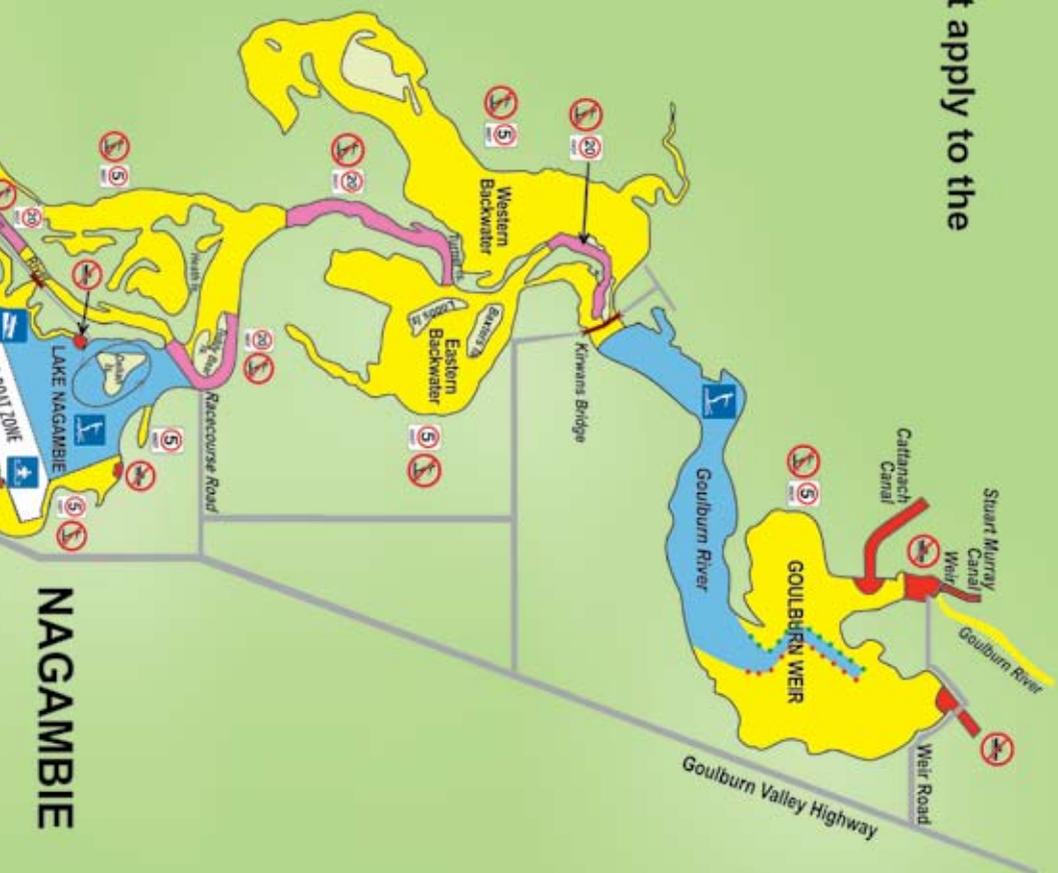
UNPOWERED BOAT ZONE
- 

NO BOATING ZONE
- 

GENERAL RULES
 (Water skiing permitted)
- 

PUBLIC BOATING ACCESS

Operating zones that apply to the Goulburn River, Goulburn Weir and Lake Nagambie.



NAGAMBIE



Waterskiing

Waterskiing is only permitted on nominated waters (see map). Boat operators should take care on these waters as they may encounter boats traveling at low speed resulting in the need to slow to 5 knots within 50 metres of the other boat. Observers are required to be at least 12 years of age and skiers must wear a PFD 1, 2 or 3 when being towed.



A 6km exclusive waterski zone is located on the Goulburn River downstream from Tahbilk Wines. While the zone permits boats engaged in waterskiing to pass closer than 50 metres to another waterski boat when it is safe to do so, speed must be reduced to 5 knots when within 50 metres of any other boats at all times.

Shallow water and underwater hazards

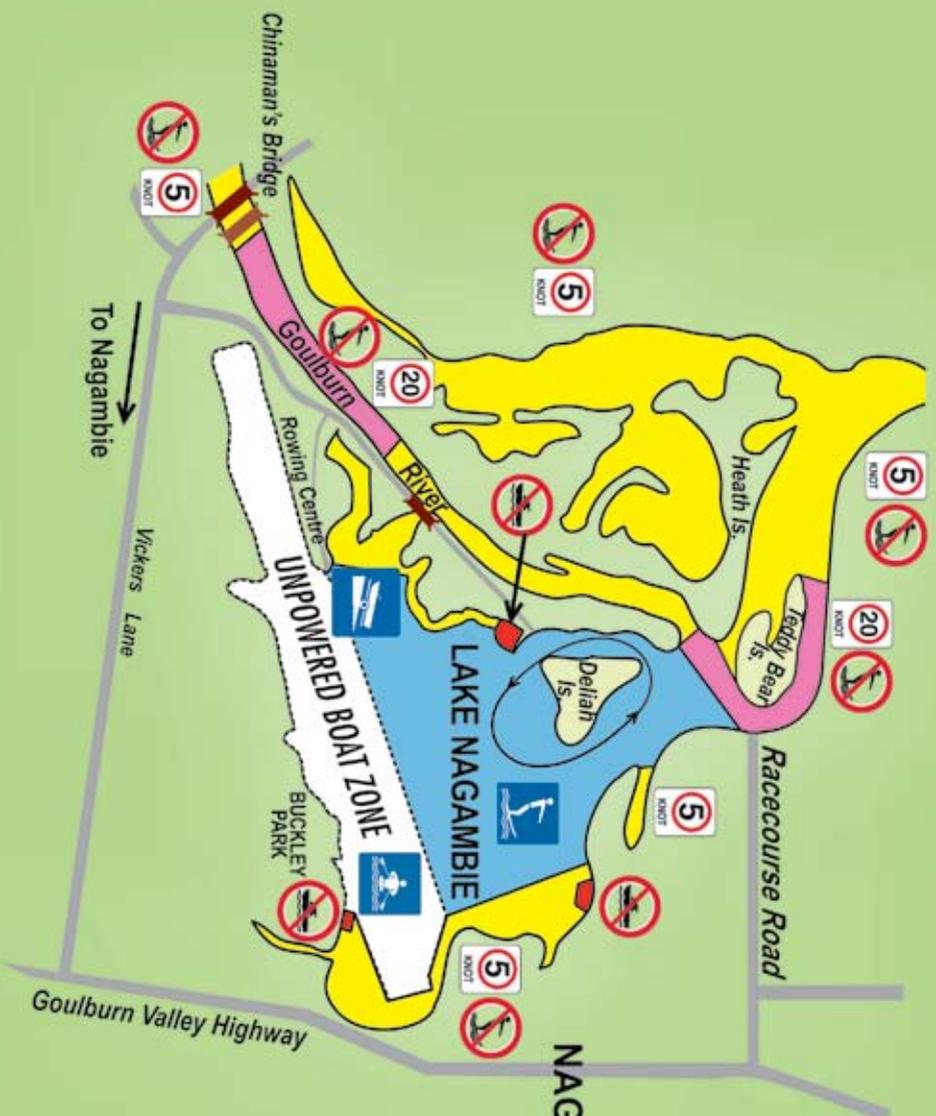
There are extensive areas of shallow water adjacent to the river course and within Lake Nagambie and the Goulburn Weir. Boat operators should avoid shallow water when traveling at more than 5 knots.

A careful lookout is required to avoid running aground or hitting un-marked submerged objects

The Strathbogie Shire Council operates a rescue/patrol boat on these waters and its boating officers, and the Victoria Police, enforce the rules and may issue on the spot fines to those breaking the common-sense boating rules.



Operating zones that apply to Lake Nagambie.



Schematic map, not to scale.



LEGEND

| | |
|--|---|
| | 5 KNOT ZONE (No water skiing) |
| | 20 KNOT ZONE (No water skiing) |
| | EXCLUSIVE WATER SKI ZONE (Water skiing permitted) (Transit boats permitted) |
| | UNPOWERED BOAT ZONE |
| | NO BOATING ZONE |
| | GENERAL RULES (Water skiing permitted) |
| | PUBLIC BOATING ACCESS |



Closures for special events

From time to time, major rowing and canoeing events are held at the Nagambie Lakes Regatta Centre. To maintain a safe operating environment and to ensure the best competition conditions, part or all of Lake Nagambie and the Goulburn River may be closed to all, or nominated, boating activity.

Information about closures can be obtained from –

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| The Visitor Information Centre | 1800 444 647 |
| Strathbogie Shire Council | 1800 065 993 |

Emergency Numbers

If an incident does occur, boat operators should render all possible assistance and, if required, contact the relevant emergency service.

General (Police / Fire / Ambulance) 000

For general waterway enquires contact –

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Strathbogie Shire Council (boating rules & activity) | 1800 065 993 |
| Goulburn Murray Water (non-boating) | 1800 064 184 |

Related internet sites

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Strathbogie Shire Council | www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au |
| Marine Safety Victoria | www.marinesafety.vic.gov.au |
| Nagambie Lakes Regatta Centre | www.regattacentre.com |
| Goulburn Murray Water | www.g-mwater.com.au |
| VicRoads | www.vicroads.vic.gov.au |
| Weather Bureau | www.bom.gov.au |

Respect private property

Much of the land adjacent to the waterway is private property and should not be used without the permission of the land owner.

Environment

The waters and adjacent land are part of a sensitive environment and boaters should:

- Avoid making undue noise, particularly early morning.
- Keep your rubbish on board and dispose of it when you return to shore.
- Do not pollute the water or the adjacent land – ***and take special care not to spill any fuel*** – pollution is not only illegal, it destroys the very environment that makes this waterway so popular.

Visitor Information

Boating is a valued recreation activity attracting thousands of visitors from within Victoria, interstate and overseas. Being close to Melbourne it has become a venue for a wide range of boating activities, eg. rowing/canoeing, fishing, waterskiing and cruising. Major rowing and canoeing regattas are held on Lake Nagambie. Attractions such as cellar door sales of premium wines, restaurants and cafes, markets, and accomodation enhance the boating experience

Strathbogie Shire's Nagambie Lakes Visitor Information Centre, located on the highway, is open to assist visitors seven days a week.

Telephone the Centre on 1800 444 647.



Boat launching fee

A launching fee is payable for use of the Lake Nagambie Boat ramp at McNamara Point. Monies collected are used to offset the cost of maintaining safe access to the waterway.

Important waterway advice



Observe speed limits



Caution should be exercised when boating as there may be unmarked hazards



Travel slowly in shallow water

Cold water could result in hypothermia



Properly maintain your vessel, engine and safety equipment.

Don't overload the boat and take your gear into account



*Wear a PFD in a boat up to and including 4.8 m in length
Don't go boating alone or if you must, always wear a PFD.*



Fully charge your batteries.



Ensure you have sufficient fuel and reserve fuel



Inform a person of your trip intentions



Check the weather report



Maintain a good lookout and operate at a safe speed



Raise the alarm using:

- Marine Radio [27MHz - Ch88, VHF - Ch 16]
- Phone - **000**
- Flares
- EPIRB



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For further information contact the Strathbogie Shire Council

Telephone 1800 065 993

Website

www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au