

# Mildura Riverfront Shared Path



The Mildura riverfront shared path is designed for pedestrians and cyclists to enjoy scenic views of the spectacular Murray River and local natural environment. Although most of the path along the riverfront is exclusively for pedestrians and cyclists, the path includes some areas of roadway. There are also some small sections of unmade path where the path has not yet been constructed. Please refer to the map for details about the type path provided.

The path can be accessed from a number of areas along the river, with various access points at most locations including the River Boulevard, Chaffey Bend, Johnsons Bend, Ranfurly Bend and Ranfurly Way.

## Using the riverfront areas

By following these few simple rules we can look after our riverfront areas so they can be enjoyed by everyone, including the native animals that call them home.



### Chaffey Landing

Chaffey Landing is a historically significant site. William Blandowski, a naturalist and zoologist camped here in 1857. During the Great Depression temporary houses were built in the area. See overleaf for more details.



### Ranfurly Bend Rock Bar

Rock Bars occur along the Murray River providing habitat and shelter for a diverse range of aquatic animals including yabbies, shrimp, frogs & tadpoles, turtles and fish. Rock bars provide a wide range of habitat by creating variability in water depth, flow and temperature.



### Johnsons Bend

4.3km

### Johnsons Bend Shell Middens

Shell middens are places where the remains from eating shellfish and other food has accumulated over time. Shell middens are important cultural heritage sites as they tell us a lot about Aboriginal activities in the past.



### Apex Park

Apex Park is Mildura's most popular sandbar area. Facilities include toilets, barbeques and picnic tables.



### The Old Mildura Homestead & Cemetery

The homestead is an accurate reconstruction of the first home built in Mildura in around 1847. Mildura's earliest cemetery includes graves of some early pioneers and members of the Chaffey family. See overleaf for more details



### Legend

- Shared Path
- Road
- Unformed Path

### Pioneer Plantation and lookout

The Pioneer Plantation has been established to acknowledge pioneers of the area. The area includes interpretive signs, a large old canoe tree, historical machinery, a lookout and several benches and picnic tables.



### Lake Ranfurly

### Lake Ranfurly

Lake Ranfurly is listed on the Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia for its significant bird life. It supports a very large and diverse range of waterbirds. A total of 117 bird species have been recorded including 26 species considered threatened or listed under international migratory bird agreement.



### Pinkie Bend

2.9km

### Charcoal Bend

1.8km

### Mildura Marina

0.9km

### Charcoal Bend Wetland

Wetlands provide essential breeding and feeding habitats for many kinds of waterbirds, fish, invertebrates and plants. They add to the diversity of the landscape and are a focus for a number of recreational activities.

### River Boulevard

1.5km

0 km 1 2 3 6 7 8 9 10 11 12





## Chaffey Landing

**William Blandowski**, naturalist and zoologist, had been commissioned by the National Museum of Victoria to proceed to the junction of the Darling and the Murray Rivers to 'investigate the local natural history and collect specimens for the National Museum.'

In early April, 1857, Blandowski's expedition chose to camp 'in a finely sheltered position below some sandstone cliffs' (Chaffey Landing) called 'Mondellemin' by the Aboriginal people. This became his base for collecting specimens until 6th August, 1857, when he set out for Adelaide.

## 'Bag Town'

During the Great Depression of the 1930's, when unemployment reached over 29%, temporary homes, mostly made of hessian type material, were erected along the Murray River bank in

the Merbein area. This collection of temporary homes, housing many families and itinerant workers, became known, locally, as Bag Town and stretched intermittently from Old Mildura (end of the 'Mad Mile') to the Abbotsford Bridge.

A 'Bag Town' settlement of mostly wood cutters also existed at Merbein West. Over eight temporary 'houses' of varying size and construction were located in the vicinity of Chaffey Landing.

## Lord Ranfurly

**Uchter John Mark Knox** was born (presumably in Ireland) on the 14th August 1856. At the age of 19 he became the 5th Earl of Ranfurly, after his brother died while on a shooting expedition in Abyssinia on 10 May 1875. He came up to Mildura on the 23rd June 1888 and purchased 160 acres of freehold land adjoining what is now Lake Ranfurly the area was then known as Old Mildura. The

property was cleared and developed with mainly apricots, citrus and vines.

The Lord Ranfurly enjoyed horse racing and was the first President of the Mildura Club in 1890. He was credited with being the first person to grow Washington navels in Australia and was the first exporter of oranges to London.

His Lordship died 1st October 1933. An obituary appeared in The Times (London) on 2nd October 1933. In the obituary it mentions "...and he spent some time in Australia fruit growing".

## The Old Mildura Homestead and Cemetery

The homestead is an accurate reconstruction of the first home built in Mildura in around 1847. It is built on the site of the original "Mildura" pastoral lease and station established by the Jamieson brothers in 1847. It was here that the Chaffey

vision for the irrigation colony evolved. The recreation consists of the homestead, outbuildings, the wool-shed and rose garden. The Homestead is open seven days from 10am-4pm.

Mildura's earliest cemetery includes graves of some early pioneers of the Chaffey family. Antonia Chaffey, great grand daughter of W.B. Chaffey, has designed a commemorative garden beside the burial site of the mother of the Chaffey brothers, Ann Maria and W.B.'s first wife, Hattie Schell, as well as four infants. The gardens comprises a granite sculpture and observation seat.



## Fauna and Flora of the Region

### Gile's Planigale

The Gile's Planigale is a small, carnivorous marsupial about the size of a mouse, with a flattened triangular head, beady eyes and fox-like teeth. It lives among lignum shrubs in riverine areas, using cracks in the soil as shelter.

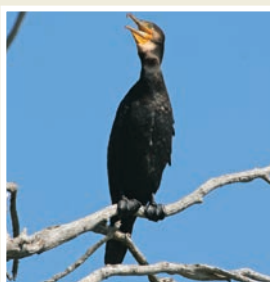
Introduced grazing animals are considered to be a major threat to the habitat of Gile's Planigales. It is listed as threatened in Victoria under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988.



### Great Cormorant

The Great Cormorant is a large black, glossy bird, with some white on the flank, and yellow on the beak, face and throat. Its beak is thick with a hook on the end and serrations along the edge.

They are found in river and wetland habitats, with nests most commonly being in trees over water. They feed on fish which they catch by diving from the water surface and are sometimes seen with their wings stretched out to dry.



### Regent Parrot

The Regent Parrot is a medium sized fast flying, slender, longtailed parrot, reaching 37- 42cm in length. Adult males are bright yellow with an olive green back, blue-black wings and tail, and red inner wings.

Adult females and juveniles are olive-green with blue-green.



### Inland Carpet Python

The Inland Carpet Python is a slow-moving python up to 190 cm long, with an intricate pattern that consists mostly of black and shades of grey. It is a non-venomous snake and a threatened species.

The Inland Carpet Python inhabits areas along waterways dominated by Black Box and River Red Gum trees. Fallen logs and leaf litter provide the python with shelter from predators and habitat for their prey.



### Murray Cod

The Murray Cod is Australia's largest freshwater fish, reaching around 110kg and 1.8metres in size. It is easily identified by its large mouth, cream to white belly and green mottled pattern on the body and head. The tail is rounded and adults have a broad head with a concave profile.



MDBA; Photo: Gunther Schmida

### Growling grass frog

The Growling Grass Frog is an endangered species. It is one of the largest frog species in Australia, growing up to 100mm in length. They vary in colour and pattern but are generally olive to bright emerald green, with irregular gold, black or bronze potting.

They eat insects and sometimes smaller frogs. During breeding season, male frogs make a call that sounds like a motorbike or a growling laugh.



### River Red Gum

The River Red Gum is a medium sized to tall tree usually reaching around 30 metres high, although some times reaching as high as 45 metres high. They are believed to live to between 500 and 1000 years. They commonly grow in riverine environments and are wide spread throughout Australia. Dead limbs and broken branches provide habitat for many native birds, mammals and reptiles including a variety of cockatoos, parrots, gliders and possums.





## Mildura Riverfront Shared Path

The Mildura riverfront shared path is designed for pedestrians and cyclists to enjoy scenic views of the spectacular Murray River and local natural environment.

The path includes both areas of relatively high recreation use, such as **Apex Park** within **Chaffey Bend** and the **Mildura Marina to Lock 11**, to more secluded areas, such as the **River Boulevard** near Benetook Avenue and **Chaffey Landing**, Merbein.

Vegetation communities include Riverine Grassy Forest, dominated by River Red Gum trees, and Black Box Chenopod Woodland.

Along the path you will find scenic picnic spots, interpretive signage and areas of cultural and historical significance.

Although most of the path along the riverfront is exclusively for pedestrians and cyclists, the path includes some areas of roadway.

There are also some small sections of unmade path where the path has not yet been constructed. Please refer to the map for details about the type path provided.

The path can be accessed from a number of areas along the river, with various access points at most locations including the River Boulevard, Chaffey Bend, Johnsons Bend, Ranfurly Bend and Ranfurly Way.



## 3-Chain Reserve

The Murray River in Victoria is unique in the world, being one of the few major rivers where the public can freely and openly access the bank along its entire length.

Along the length of the Murray River in Victoria, a strip of land approximately 60 metres (or 3 chains) in width was permanently reserved for public purposes in 1881.

The Mildura Riverfront Shared Path allows for better access to the river, along the reserve, for locals and visitors to the region. Consideration must be given to a number of factors when managing the reserve including:

- protecting its natural and scenic values;
- conserving flora and fauna;
- protection of sites with archaeological, cultural and historical importance;
- allowing for flood mitigation;
- protecting stream banks from erosion; and
- providing opportunities for informal recreation.

In the Mildura area between Chaffey Landing, Merbein and Sandilong Park, the majority of the public purposes reserve along the River Murray is managed by Mildura Rural City Council (MRCC) under Committee of Management.



Mildura Rural City Council



## Mildura Riverfront Shared Path



Enjoy the beauty of the Mildura Riverfront by foot or bike



Mildura Rural City Council