

### 12 Hampden Bridge/Wiradjuri Bridge and Sculpture Garden

Named after the Governor, The Right Honourable Henry Robert Viscount Hampden, the first bridge was constructed in 1862 to help the development of the town. Starting as a toll bridge about 150 metres upstream of the present Hampden Bridge, it was replaced in 1895.

After meeting changing transport needs for over 100 years, Hampden bridge was replaced by the Wiradjuri Bridge in 1995, having become inadequate for present day use.

100 metres downstream of the present Hampden Bridge, you can still see remnants of the old wharf used by steamers from Echuca and South Australia to deliver their freight. The first steamer, the Albury, arrived in 1858 while the last, the Wagga Wagga, carried red gum logs to a Narrandera sawmill until about 1905.

### 13 Wagga Beach

Famous Wagga Beach has been the place for locals to escape the summer heat for decades.

Located on the banks of the Murrumbidgee, the beach is a great place to enjoy a picnic or game of beach cricket...and remember to look out for the 5 o'clock wave!

### 14 Wollundry Lagoon

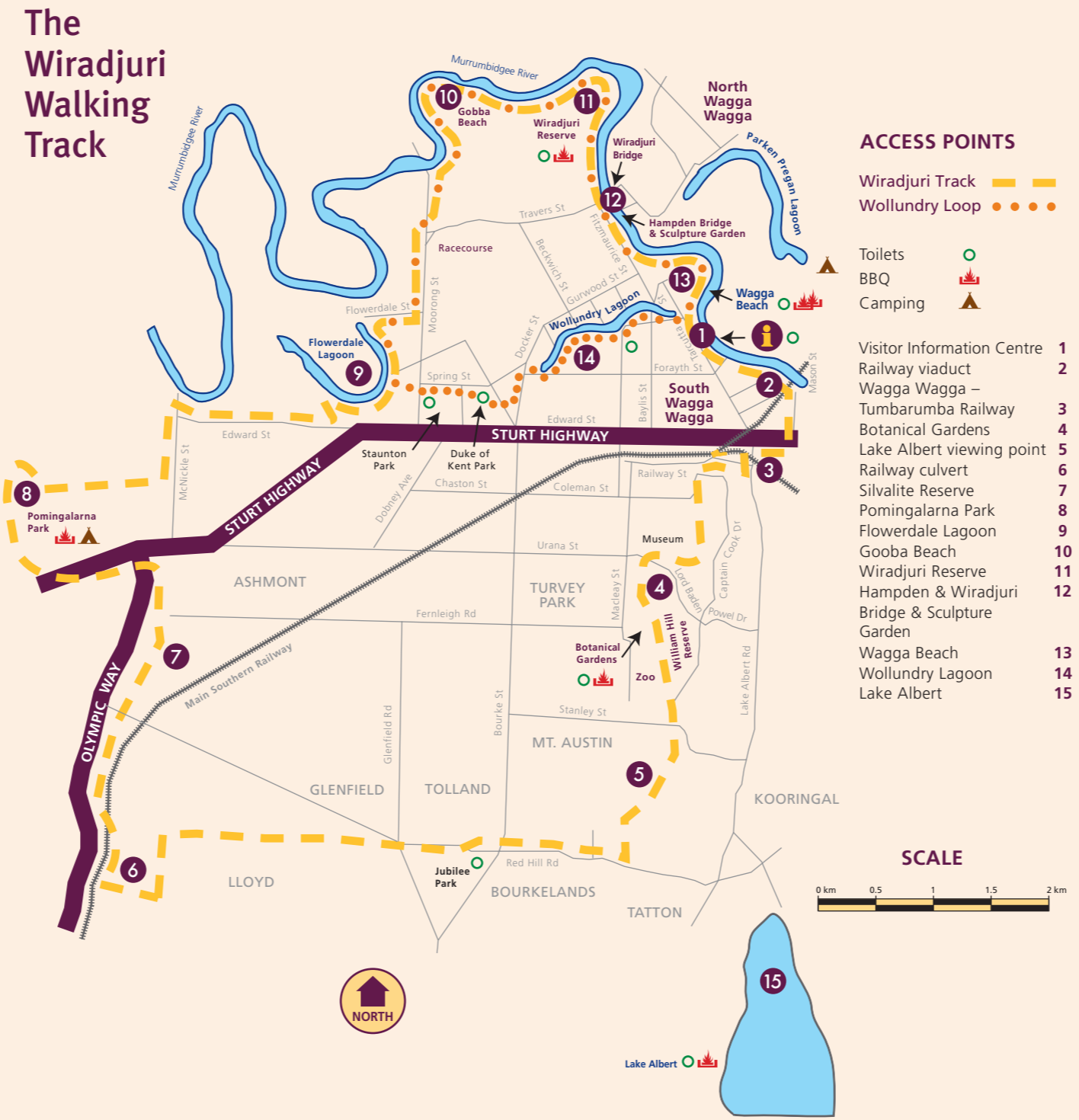
The Wollundry Lagoon is a haven for birdlife and is also the home of the Wiradjuri Ceramic Mural. Originally to be located under the Wiradjuri Bridge, in 2003 the mural was installed at the Civic Centre to give it more prominence.

In the early 1850s, most building expansion in the town took place north of Wollundry Lagoon but due to a number of floods, it was necessary to look elsewhere for suitable land.

In 1858 surveyor P. Adams and his pupil, C. Bolton surveyed the area south of the lagoon and on Adam's recommendation, a bridge was built across the lagoon in 1861.

Under the supervision of George Sheppard, architect and surveyor, trees were planted around Wollundry Lagoon in the late 1870s.

- Please**
- Stay on the track, otherwise you may be trespassing.
  - Observe fire bans – do not smoke near flammable vegetation.
  - Do not carry firearms.
  - Move quietly near stock.
  - Take all your rubbish home.
  - Use the stiles provided and leave all gates as you find them.
  - Appreciate native animals... from a distance.
  - Beware of falling limbs.



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## The Wiradjuri Walking Track

The Wiradjuri Walking Track follows a 30km trail around the city of Wagga Wagga. Suitable for people of all ages, it's a great way to discover the history and nature of this regional centre.

An ideal place to start the track is at the Wagga Wagga Visitor Information Centre (1). From here, you'll follow the Murrumbidgee River for about 1km to the railway viaduct (2), built in the 1870s for trains to cross the flood plain and river. The new railway bridge was opened in 2007.

After a short walk through the town, the track begins the gradual ascent of Williams Hill, passing the Wagga Wagga Botanical Gardens and Zoo (4). Just south of the gardens you will spot a panoramic view of Lake Albert and the Australian Alps on a clear winter's day.

From Red Hill Rd the track heads west, leading to a historic railway culvert (6), Silvalite Reserve (7) and Pomingalarna Park (8) which provides an exceptional view of the city from the west.

The track then descends onto the flood plain, crosses the district's original farming land and follows the river for about 6km – returning to the information centre.



points of interest

### 1 The Wollundry Loop

The 12.1km Wollundry Loop is a shorter, and more leisurely walk, which follows the Wollundry Lagoon. The lagoon, which is inhabited by native birds, animals and a family of geese, is a cool, tranquil spot – enjoyable in all seasons.

### 2 Wagga Wagga Visitor Information Centre

The Information Centre will be able to assist with all your needs for information and tourism activities in the region.

Within this area, you'll also find local theatres, libraries and art galleries.

### 3 Railway viaduct

Completed in September 1880, the viaduct was built as part of a rail link to Albury, Hay and Jerilderie in order to compete with the Victorian and South Australian rail and river transport systems servicing the area.

In 1878, A&R Amos won the contract to construct the 7kms of line over the flood plain and river.

Costing \$31,312, 1,288 piles set in 322 rows of concrete sills were used in construction

and the main piers were supplied by the English Stockton Forge Co.

3kms of the viaduct was rebuilt between 1896 and 1899 and further strengthened in the 1990s.

### 4 Wagga Wagga – Tumbarumba Railway

At the turn of the 20th century there was strong lobbying to prevent the transportation of Upper Murray produce into Victoria as there were no transport facilities in this part of New South Wales.

During the 1880s, the Wagga Wagga Progress Committee and, later on in the 1910s, the Wagga – Tumbarumba Railway League both argued for the establishment of a railway line.

Large public meetings were held in Wagga Wagga during the intervening years. These efforts were rewarded when the line's construction was finally carried out between 1911 and 1917.

### 5 Wagga Wagga Botanical Gardens

Walk around the Wagga Wagga Botanical Gardens and you will encounter a wide variety of displays including Australian natives, bamboo, cacti, camellia and rose gardens.

The gardens also boast a zoo, restaurant, miniature railway, children's playgrounds, BBQ areas and walk-in aviary.

Entry is free.

Near the gardens, you'll also find the museum with excellent exhibitions such as the Sporting Hall of Fame.

### 6 Views of Lake Albert

From here you'll be able to spot panoramic views of Lake Albert and the Australian Alps beyond on a clear winter's day.

Lake Albert commemorates Prince Albert, Queen Victoria's consort. Known by early settlers as the Swampy Plain, it was made into a lake in the 1890s by the diversion of Crooked Creek and Stringybark Creek and raising a simple bank at the north end. The lake has provided water for stock and recreational uses for over a century.

### 7 Railway culvert

This section of the main southern line from Wagga Wagga to Gerogery (95.3km) began construction in 1878 and was officially opened on 1 September 1880.

As part of this line, this culvert is a superb example of the English bond methods of brick construction which was very common throughout the Empire in the 19th century. The bricks were baked in a kiln very close to the site, as was the practice of contractors at the time. With the brick mortar still intact after 100 years, the tunnel is a monument to the skill of the tradesmen of the day.

### 8 Silvalite Reserve

Silvalite Reserve contains areas of box woodland vegetation and is the home of a threatened population of Squirrel Gliders and Swift Parrots.

### 9 Pomingalarna Park

With views extended across the city, Pomingalarna Park is a popular recreational reserve.

Pomingalarna is most likely a name derived from the Wiradjuri language. The practice of adopting local aboriginal names by early pastoralists was common. Occupied in the 1850s by John G. Church and later owned by the Copland family, best known for their general stores in Fitzmaurice Street from 1872 to 1953. A late 19th century gold mining trench can be seen on the southern end of the main ridge.

### 10 Flowerdale Lagoon

Flowerdale Lagoon is one of many similar billabongs along the banks of the Murrumbidgee. The Flowerdale residence was erected in 1853. The first occupants, the Best family, were forced to move from the original home on the river bank by a large flood in June 1852.

During the early 1870s, a number of farmers near Flowerdale grew a variety of sorghum known as the 'Planter's Friend', hoping to establish a sugar industry.



### 11 Gooba Beach

A small beach when the river is low. Walking access only.

### 12 Wiradjuri Reserve

A traditional Wiradjuri camping place, Wiradjuri Reserve has access to the river's bank, beach and shallow water.