

Brolga

• The lakes' margins and samphire flats are extremely fragile — stay on established tracks and obey all road signs. Careless driving off the tracks will result in long-term scarring of these areas.

Camping code

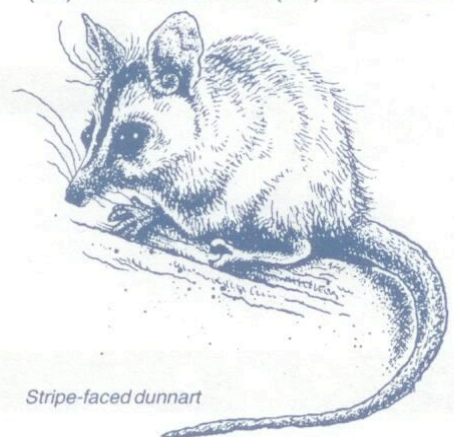
When camping on the road reserve, please follow these guidelines:

- Camp at least 100m from the lake edge.
- Bury toilet waste 15cm deep and at least 100m from waterways, tracks, campsites or lignum shrub at the lake edge. Dispose of paper thoughtfully — it is slow to break down in this arid environment.
- Do not use soaps, detergents or shampoos in the lakes. Bathe and wash at least 100m from the lake edge.
- Remove your rubbish when you leave. Do not bury or burn. Buried rubbish provides food for wildlife and feral animals.

National parks are protected under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*. Penalties apply for breaches of the Act.

Further information

Ranger-in-Charge
Lake Bindegolly National Park
Sams Street
PO Box 101
THARGOMINDAH QLD 4492
(07) 4655 3173 fax (07) 4655 3208



Stripe-faced dunnart

Safety

The arid inland of Australia is known for its extremes of temperatures. In the Thargomindah area, they are often over 40°C in summer and can climb as high as 48°C. Winter mornings can be freezing. Hats and sunscreen are essential in summer. In winter, take warm clothing.

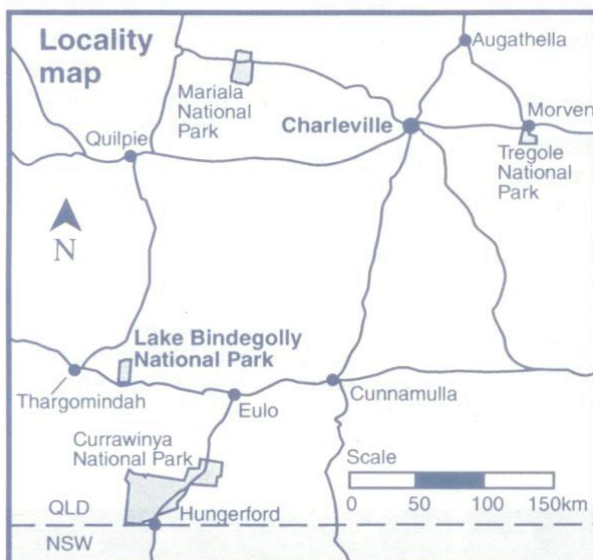
It is extremely important that you carry adequate water supplies at all times of the year and inform a responsible person of your itinerary.

Help care for the lakes

Your co-operation is sought in preserving this area in its natural condition.

- Leave everything as you find it. Everything in the park, living and dead, is protected.
- Leave pets outside the park. They frighten wildlife, annoy other visitors and can become lost on the park. Domestic animals are not allowed on national parks.
- No boating and fishing is allowed on the lakes.

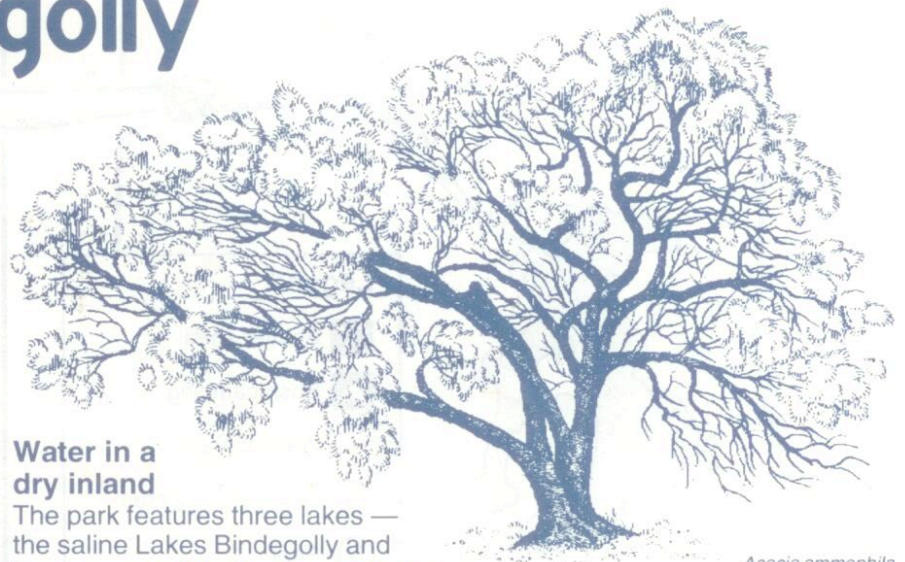
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Recycled paper saves energy and resources.



Lake Bindegolly National Park

Gnarled wattles standing tall above a low shrub layer, break the burnt orange slopes and plains leading down to a series of glistening lakes.

A refuge for waterbirds, Lake Bindegolly National Park centres around one of the most important wetland systems in south-west Queensland.



Acacia ammophila

Water in a dry inland

The park features three lakes — the saline Lakes Bindegolly and Toomaroo and the freshwater Lake Hutchinson. Several unnamed freshwater lakes are found on private property to the south of the park. Each lake is a separate basin, but they join to form a ribbon of water after heavy rain.

Flora

Vegetation on the park includes samphire herbfields, mulga open shrubland and low woodland and gidgee woodland. Samphire plants are important as they trap sediments and nutrients and stabilise the lakes' edges.

The park conserves one of only two known populations of the vulnerable tree *Acacia ammophila*. Several other uncommon shrubs are found on the park.

Fauna

The lake system supports a diverse range of animals, and is an important feeding and breeding habitat for waterbirds. At times, thousands of waterbirds flock to this inland oasis. Birds commonly seen on the lake include pelicans, swans, a variety of waders and, occasionally, the rare freckled duck *Stictonetta naevosa*.

Parrots, galahs, cockatoos, honeyeaters and fairy wrens can also be seen.

Reptiles at home in this harsh environment include the tiny box-patterned gecko, skinks and sand goannas. Wedge-tailed eagles, whistling kites and other birds of prey soar in the sky.

Red and grey kangaroos are easily seen coming to drink from the lakes, while tiny marsupials seek shelter in the samphire plants.

Access

Lake Bindegolly National Park is 34km east of Thargomindah on the Bulloo Development Road.

To protect the fragile lake margins and samphire flats from damage, vehicles are not allowed on the park. Just one pass of a vehicle can scar the flats or dunes for a very long time. Please park your vehicle at the shelter shed near the bridge and walk to the lakes.

Camping

There is no camping ground on the park. Camping is permitted only on the southern side of the Bulloo Development Road reserve. Food, fuel and accommodation are available at Thargomindah.

Things to do

A 9.2km circuit walk skirts the edge of Lake Bindegolly and returns via low, grass-covered sand hills. An observation point is located at the edge of lake for watching some of the 60 species of waterbirds that visit the park.

Note: sections of the walking track may be covered by water when the lake is full.

Please stay on the tracks. Although able to withstand high salt levels and long periods both in and out of water, samphire plants are easily destroyed by trampling.