

# DRIVE

Loxton , Moorook & Kingston on Murray



Your self-drive guide for things to see on the  
way from Loxton to Moorook and Kingston on Murray

*2011*

*Discover the Secrets of Loxton, Moorook & Kingston on Murray*

Disclaimer: Whilst every effort has been made to verify the correct details in this publication, Loxton Visitor Information Centre does not accept liability for any error or omission. Created: February 2011

## LOXTON, MOOROOK & KINGSTON ON MURRAY



### LOXTON VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

MAP: E8

Before you head off on your drive you may like to discover a little of our past. Call into the Loxton Visitor Information Centre and collect your copy of the Loxton History Walk, then wander down the vibrant commercial hub that is East Terrace today. Imagine what it was like in 1908 when the first businesses were established. Step back in time, take the walk, view the plaques, and discover the fascinating past of Loxton.



### LOXTON HERITAGE PARK

MAP: E8

The western entrance to the Riverland town of Loxton has been dramatically transformed with the completion of the Loxton Community Conservation and Heritage Park. Loxton is viewed as the town that introduces the mallee to the river, and that has been adopted as the theme for the park's redevelopment. This community project consists of a 700m trail with its environs featuring an early homestead ruin, native plants, garden beds and ornamental fruit trees which collectively depict Loxton from its settlement through to today. The park was opened as part of the town's centenary celebrations in 2007.



### GRAVES AT PIONEER LANDING DRIVE

MAP: D8

At the junction of Pioneer Landing Drive and Kingston Road stand gravestones marking the resting place of Elisabeth Clara Habel, 3 years, 1895 to 1898 and Barbara Thiele, 2yrs 3 months, 1900. These two small children were from local pioneering farming families.



### HABEL LANDING

MAP: D8

Wilhelm E Habel, one of the most successful farmers in the district, settled on land now known as Pioneer Landing Drive in 1911. Mr. Habel marked the occasion of his daughter's marriage in a manner which caused a great flutter in riverside society, as he specially built a pine hall capable of seating 80 people for the wedding. The steamer, Gem, had 20 of Mr. Habel's guests on board, all the way from Duttontown, near Kapunda. Loxton was the centre of much rejoicing and merrymaking in celebration of the marriage. The original Habel Homestead is still standing, and currently occupied as a private home.



### MILICH'S LANDING (ALSO KNOWN AS DAISY BATES) MAP: D8

Daisy Bates (nee Margaret May O'Dwyer) was born in Ireland in 1859 and travelled to Australia in 1883. A journalist by trade, Daisy Bates spent over 42 years researching and documenting the everyday lives of the Aborigines she lived with, providing an insight into local conditions, half-cast children and health issues. In 1912 she became the first woman ever appointed Honorary Protector of Aborigines at Eucla, and referred to herself as 'The Great White Queen of the Never Never'. In 1934 she was awarded with the Order of Commander of the British Empire. Daisy Bates moved to the village settlement of Pyap on the Murray River in 1936, where for a number of years she continued her personal crusade on behalf of the Aboriginal people and wrote her book 'The Passing of the Aborigines'. Daisy Bates died in 1951 and her old camp site is now marked by a plaque with the area known today as Milich's Landing.



### MOUTH OF KATARAPKO CREEK

MAP: D8

From Milich's Landing boat ramp, you can see to the right, the mouth of Katarapko Creek. An intricate web of creeks and lagoons create Katarapko Island, which is a wilderness area of black box, polygonum and cumbungi, with red gum along the creeks. Numerous canoeing, camping and fishing spots are located along Katarapko Creek, which can be accessed by boat from Milich's Landing or by vehicle from Berri via the Murray River National Park.



### PYAP

MAP: D7

The village settlement of Pyap commenced in 1894, when the national economy was retreating into deep recession. Unemployment was high and wages meagre. In an effort to help people, the South Australian Government proposed a series of communal settlements along the River Murray. Twelve such village settlements commenced between 1894 and 1895, with Pyap being the fourth. As you travel down Goodes Road (also known as Pyap Road), you will see the old Pyap Hall on the left, which was to be the local school for future generations, and the old smoke-stack on the right, built on the top of a hill to channel smoke from the pumping station and to provide a draught, still visible reminders of this idealistic social experiment.



### JOLLY MILLER PADDLEBOAT (SUBMERGED)

MAP: D7

The Jolly Miller steamer, the first iron steamer constructed in South Australia from raw material, as distinct from those imported in sections and reassembled, is wrecked at Pyap. During its years of river trade from 1874 until the 1920's it plied the river selling stores to isolated settlements.



### NEW RESIDENCE

MAP: B6

The last and smallest of the village settlements to be established along the river, New Residence has the longest straight stretch of the River Murray, called the Seven Mile Reach. The original Lutheran Church is still in use and the school building still stands.

## LOXTON, MOOROOK & KINGSTON ON MURRAY



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### YATCO LAGOON

MAP: B5

Yatco Lagoon is a large permanent wetland located on the west bank of the river, approximately 454 km from the mouth of the River Murray. The Lagoon comprises two main water bodies with a total surface area of approximately 346 ha. Experience the peace and tranquility of this area at Yatco Holiday Cabins, in your very own private, self contained, secluded cabin. Ph (08) 8583 9247 for bookings. With abundant bird life, the lagoon offers easy access to the longest straight stretch of the Murray, excellent for ski-ing, canoeing, fishing and exploring the beauty of this picturesque river country.



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### MOOROOK

MAP: B4

Moorook was the eighth village settlement to be established. A simple village was built where there was no money for currency and mutual help was mandatory. The settlers grew fruit, vegetables and cereal crops. A school was built in 1896. Today, the town's shady riverbank is perfect for picnics and camping, with free barbecues, tables, seating and toilets, and a nearby general store for provisions. The mural on the outside wall of the general store was painted by Jarrod Loxton and depicts the paddle steamer P.S. Marion and river life.

**The Moorook & District Club Inc.** is a community club where visitors are always welcome. Enjoy a scrumptious bistro meal, have a flutter on the pokies or sit back and relax in the Beer Garden while the children enjoy the games, large screen TV and a fabulous playground. Open seven days a week. Phone (08) 8583 9210.



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### MOOROOK GAME RESERVE AND WACHTEL'S LAGOON

MAP: B4

On the River Murray floodplain and encompassing a large open swamp known as Wachtel's Lagoon, the Moorook Game Reserve conserves wetlands for conservation and management of waterfowl. Fishing and canoeing are popular recreational activities. The popular Kaliwira Wetland Trail is an enjoyable way to see and learn about wetland environments. Roads within the park are accessible to conventional vehicles, but can become impassable in wet weather. Campers are required to use designated campsites along the river and creeks. Permits are available from self registration stations, the Berri District Office and selected Riverland Visitor Information Centres.



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### STURT MEMORIAL & KINGSTON-ON-MURRAY BRIDGE LOOKOUT

MAP: B3

One of Australia's great explorers Captain Charles Sturt, and his heroic crew, rowed their 27 foot whale boat past this point in 1830, during their historic voyage of exploration of the Murray River. The lookout that marks the spot, offers good scenic views of the Murray River backwaters.



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### KINGSTON ESTATE WINES

MAP: A3

Visit one of the largest family owned wineries in Australia, as well as the tenth largest Australian wine producer. Home to many award winning wines, you will also find Australia's single largest planting of Petit Verdot, ripened to perfection by the Riverland's warm climate. Purchase premium wines, enjoyed by wine consumers the world over, who love Kingston Estate's flavoursome, outstanding quality and varietal wines. Sorry, no cellar door tastings but sales are available Monday to Friday 9.30am - 5.00pm.



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### KINGSTON-ON-MURRAY

MAP: A3

Originally called Kingston, this town was part of the new village settlement scheme started in the 1890s. The tag "on-Murray" was added to distinguish it from the town Kingston in the state's South East. The town was named after Charles Cameron Kingston who was Premier of South Australia from 1893. Stay awhile at the Kingston-on-Murray Caravan Park. Take a refreshing dip in the pool, hire a canoe to explore the back waters, creeks and nearby canoe trails, cook up a feast at the camp kitchen, discover the local bird life, or just relax by the river and throw in a fishing line. A brilliant spot for all water sports.



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### M.V. LOCH LUNA

MAP: A3

Loch Luna Game Reserve was established in 1985 and comprises 1,905 ha, with a range of water bodies including narrow creeks and shallow swamps. Cruise the Nockburra and Chambers creeks on board the M.V. Loch Luna. View birds and animals in their natural habitat. Light refreshments served. Cruise leaves at 9.00am and 1.30pm Sunday to Friday (Sunset Cruises at 5.00pm during Daylight Savings), from the Kingston on Murray foreshore. Phone Carl or Narelle on 0449 122 271 or (08) 8583 0155.



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### BANROCK STATION WINE & WETLAND CENTRE

MAP: A2

Enjoy an outstanding wine, food and nature experience at Banrock Station. Four self guided walking trails allow you to experience magnificently restored wetlands with story centres, information huts and bird viewing hides. Visit the impressive interpretive and wine-tasting centre that also serves light meals. The Wine and Wetland Centre overlooks the vineyards and panoramic wetlands and is a perfect place to relax. Open 9am to 4pm Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm weekends and public holidays. Closed Christmas Day, New Years Day and Good Friday. Phone (08) 8583 0299 for further information.

