

Lake Canobolas



LAKE CANOBOLAS

Located at the foot of Mt Canobolas is Lake Canobolas, a large tranquil lake that provides a range of activities with the changing seasons. The Lake is fed by Molong Creek whose waters flow from melting snow and rain that falls on Mt Canobolas and the surrounding Towac Valley. Following extensive rehabilitation work over many years the Lake environs have an abundance of bird life and are home to a number of species of water fowl and native fauna. Keen eyes may occasionally observe a platypus surfacing on the still waters after it has been diving for prey amongst the silty bed of the Lake, or spot an echidna searching for food or a wallaby browsing.

Lake Canobolas (previously known as Meadow Creek Reservoir) was constructed in 1918 to provide the town of Orange with water; by 1957 the Lake was not large enough to provide the growing City with a sustainable supply and alternative sites were investigated.

FISHING

You can try your luck anywhere around the Lake, however please be mindful of swimming areas and boating activities. The Lake has a number of constructed fishing/fly casting facilities, most notably is the fishing deck on the western side of the Lake at the end of the sealed road. This facility has been established with grants from the NSW Government and with the support of the Institute of Freshwater Anglers, Orange Trout Acclimatisation Society and Orange City Council. Approximately 30 metres from this fishing platform, out into the water, a number of 'snags' have been installed to improve fish habitat, the snags are marked by buoys. Snags are hardwood trees with hollows and root crowns still attached to provide places for fish to breed, hide from predation from cormorants and feed from aquatic life that grows on them.

WATER ACTIVITIES

During the warm months the Lake offers the opportunity for a swim, paddle in a canoe or for the more adventurous an opportunity for sailing. A sandy beach on the western shoreline near the wall of the dam provides a fun place for kids to swim and play in the sand. Pontoons anchored to the bed of the Lake provide an attraction for teenagers to swim too.

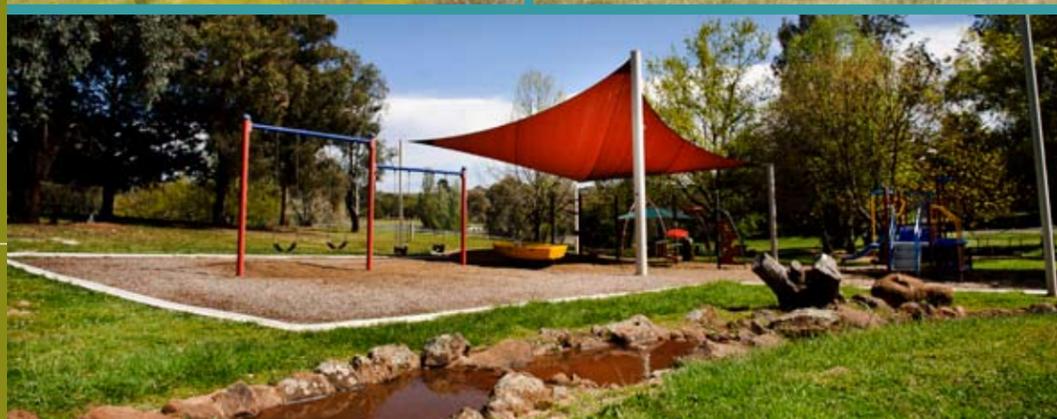
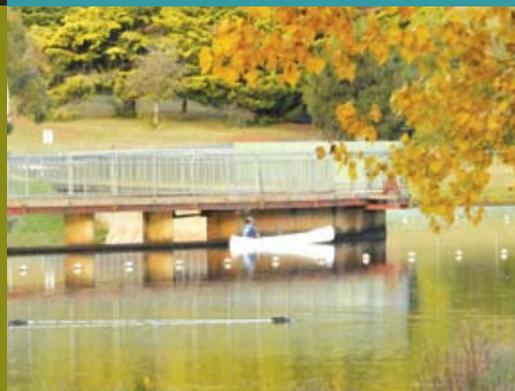
Please be mindful that the water in the Lake has varying temperatures and swimmers can find themselves in deep very cold sections.

WALKING/CYCLING TRAILS

At the northern end of the Lake Canobolas Reserve (near the brick toilet buildings) is the start of a shared off road walking and cycling trail, the first stage, which leads to a suspension bridge over Molong Creek, can be completed as a circuit. Allow approximately 30 minutes to walk this section of the track. The suspension bridge was constructed with the assistance of the 1/19th Battalion of the Army Engineers located in Orange.

Once across the bridge the trail follows a gravel track before meeting sealed roads, follow the red and yellow finger signs, located at intersections to find your way back to Orange. Allow 2 hours to walk the full length of the trail to Orange.

At the southern end of the Lake is another walking trail that creates a circuit around the Lake. This track winds its way to the head waters of the Lake and through areas of major environmental rehabilitation works. For many years the community and Orange City Council have been eradicating willows (*Salix* sp) from Molong Creek and the Lake shoreline to improve biodiversity and fish habitat.



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT



Orange Visitor Information Centre
Cnr Byng & Peisley Sts, Orange

P 1800 069 466
E tourism@orange.nsw.gov.au

Open 9am – 5pm
7 days a week (excl Christmas Day)

www.visitorange.com.au
www.orange.nsw.gov.au
www.tasteorange.com.au

FOR FISHING ENQUIRIES CONTACT

NSW Fisheries
www.fisheries.nsw.gov.au
P 1300 369 365

PLAYGROUND

On the eastern side of the Lake is Apex Playground, the playground has a cableway for kids to glide along, climbing structures and theme play. In the vicinity of the playground are electric barbecues and picnic tables or bring a picnic rug to throw out on the grass and relax on while the kids enjoy their time playing. Apex Playground has a water feature running through it, where children paddle and make their own games and play experiences.

PUMP HOUSE

On the eastern side of Lake Canobolas, once you have crossed the causeway at the base of the dam wall and ascended the hill to be back level with the top of the dam wall, a road departs from the main traffic route to the left down to the Pump House. The Pump contained within the building was manufactured by Richard Hornsby and Sons Ltd of Grantham and Stockpot England. The pump was despatched for use at Meadow Creek Reservoir from England via Melbourne in 1915. Further details on this historic Pump House are displayed on wall panels inside the building.

PICNIC FACILITIES

Scattered around the Lake are many picnic shelters with tables and free electric or gas barbecues. Having a family picnic and 'kicking back' on a lazy sunny day is a pleasant way to watch the many activities that occur at Lake Canobolas.

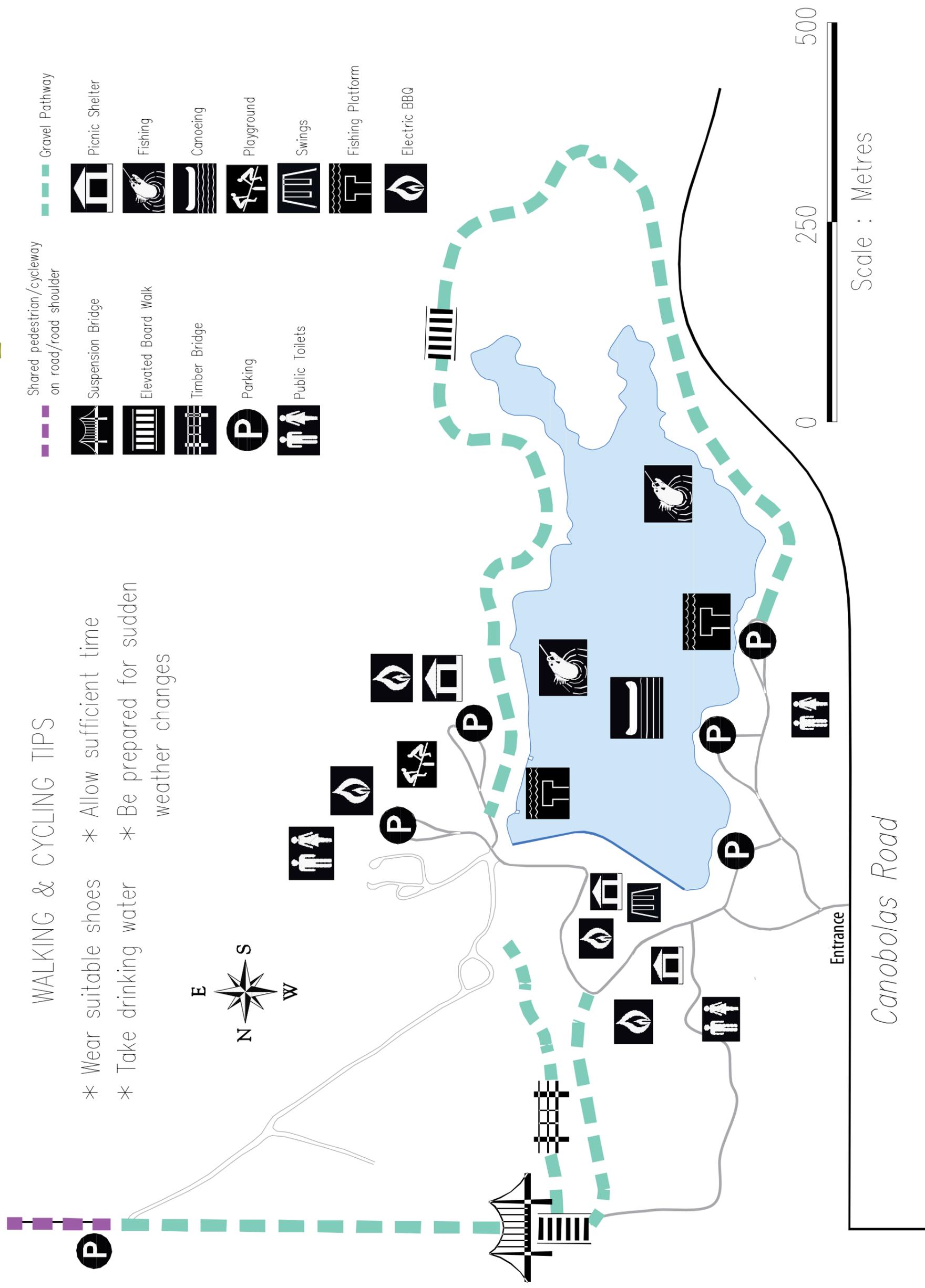


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Lake Canobolas map

WALKING & CYCLING TIPS

- * Wear suitable shoes * Allow sufficient time
- * Take drinking water * Be prepared for sudden weather changes



- Shared pedestrian/cycleway on road/road shoulder
- Suspension Bridge
- Elevated Board Walk
- Timber Bridge
- Parking
- Public Toilets
- Gravel Pathway
- Picnic Shelter
- Fishing
- Canoeing
- Playground
- Swings
- Fishing Platform
- Electric BBQ



Scale : Metres

Canobolas Road

Entrance