

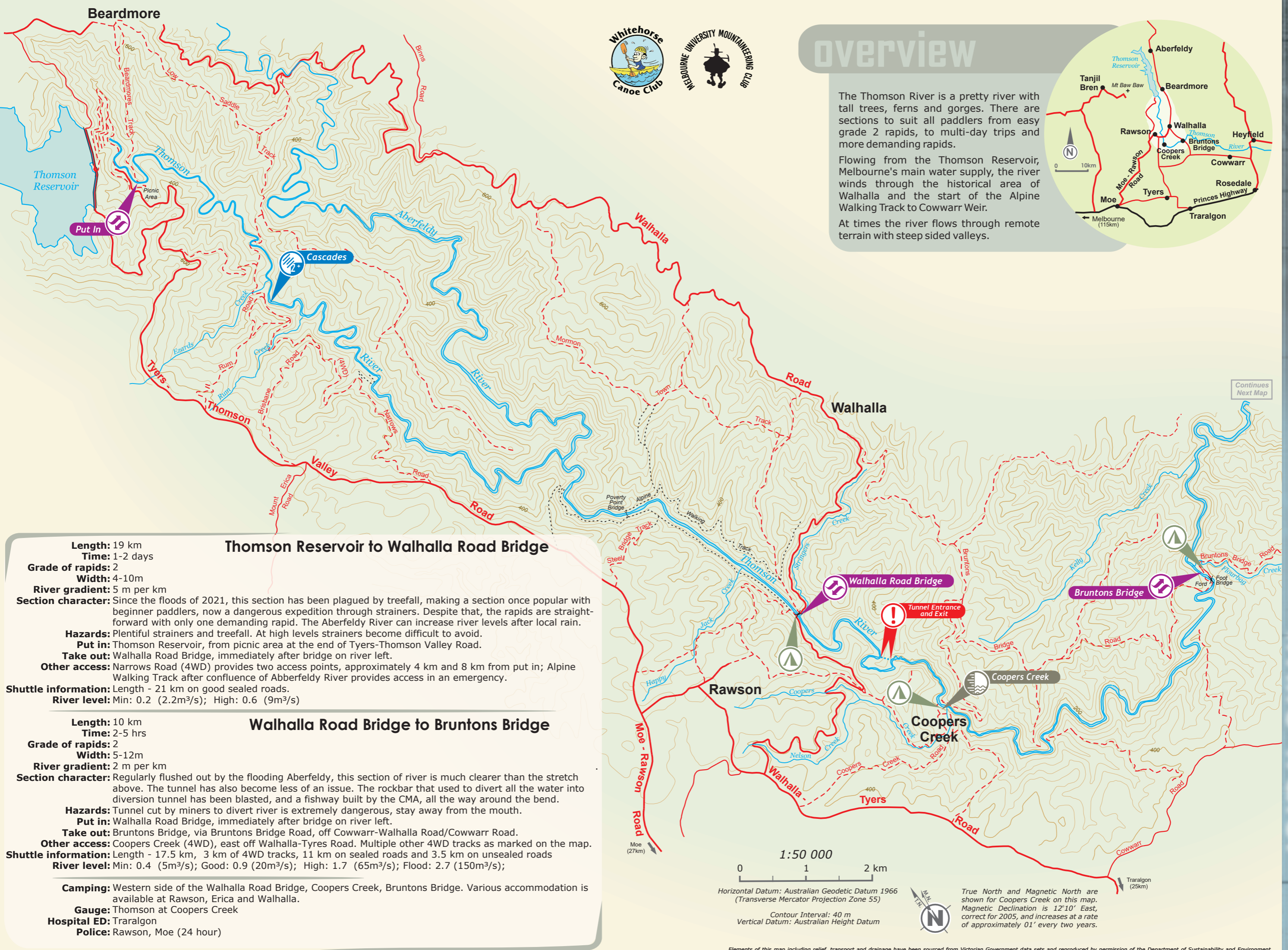
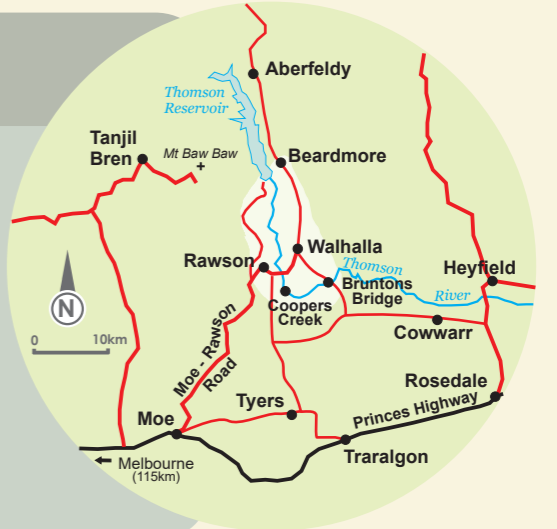


overview

The Thomson River is a pretty river with tall trees, ferns and gorges. There are sections to suit all paddlers from easy grade 2 rapids, to multi-day trips and more demanding rapids.

Flowing from the Thomson Reservoir, Melbourne's main water supply, the river winds through the historical area of Walhalla and the start of the Alpine Walking Track to Cowwarr Weir.

At times the river flows through remote terrain with steep sided valleys.



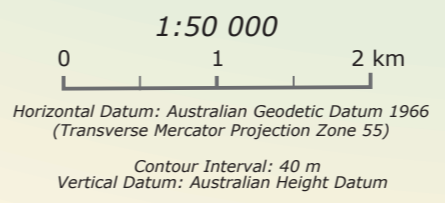
Thomson Reservoir to Walhalla Road Bridge

Length: 19 km
Time: 1-2 days
Grade of rapids: 2
Width: 4-10m
River gradient: 5 m per km
Section character: Since the floods of 2021, this section has been plagued by treefall, making a section once popular with beginner paddlers, now a dangerous expedition through strainers. Despite that, the rapids are straight-forward with only one demanding rapid. The Aberfeldy River can increase river levels after local rain.
Hazards: Plentiful strainers and treefall. At high levels strainers become difficult to avoid.
Put in: Thomson Reservoir, from picnic area at the end of Tyers-Thomson Valley Road.
Take out: Walhalla Road Bridge, immediately after bridge on river left.
Other access: Narrows Road (4WD) provides two access points, approximately 4 km and 8 km from put in; Alpine Walking Track after confluence of Aberfeldy River provides access in an emergency.
Shuttle information: Length - 21 km on good sealed roads.
River level: Min: 0.2 (2.2m³/s); High: 0.6 (9m³/s)

Walhalla Road Bridge to Bruntons Bridge

Length: 10 km
Time: 2-5 hrs
Grade of rapids: 2
Width: 5-12m
River gradient: 2 m per km
Section character: Regularly flushed out by the flooding Aberfeldy, this section of river is much clearer than the stretch above. The tunnel has also become less of an issue. The rockbar that used to divert all the water into diversion tunnel has been blasted, and a fishway built by the CMA, all the way around the bend.
Hazards: Tunnel cut by miners to divert river is extremely dangerous, stay away from the mouth.
Put in: Walhalla Road Bridge, immediately after bridge on river left.
Take out: Bruntons Bridge, via Bruntons Bridge Road, off Cowwarr-Walhalla Road/Cowwarr Road.
Other access: Coopers Creek (4WD), east off Walhalla-Tyers Road. Multiple other 4WD tracks as marked on the map.
Shuttle information: Length - 17.5 km, 3 km of 4WD tracks, 11 km on sealed roads and 3.5 km on unsealed roads
River level: Min: 0.4 (5m³/s); Good: 0.9 (20m³/s); High: 1.7 (65m³/s); Flood: 2.7 (150m³/s)

Camping: Western side of the Walhalla Road Bridge, Coopers Creek, Bruntons Bridge. Various accommodation is available at Rawson, Erica and Walhalla.
Gauge: Thomson at Coopers Creek
Hospital ED: Traralgon
Police: Rawson, Moe (24 hour)



True North and Magnetic North are shown for Coopers Creek on this map. Magnetic Declination is 12°10' East, correct for 2005, and increases at a rate of approximately 01' every two years.

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