

## Yarra Glen to Spadoni's Nature Reserve

- Access:** Yarra Glen Recreation Reserve
- Length to next access:** 7 km.
- Section character:** The river cuts through farming areas with high banks, consequently little is seen of the landscape. For the entire length the banks are heavily lined with Silver Wattle and willow trees. In the first half of the section, the river banks are heavily eroded with trees often falling into the river. In the second half, the banks improve and paddling is unhindered.
- Hazards:** Be wary of fallen trees which may completely block the river. At low levels and slow current, the resulting obstructions, snags and strainers are navigable but with normal to high levels and fast current, these become substantial hazards hence it is best to avoid this first half of the section.
- Other information:** Cattle are curious observers and can be seen drinking at the river's edge. Numerous small sand beaches that have formed on the inside of bends can be used as convenient places to stop.

## Spadoni's Nature Reserve to Lower Homestead Road

- Access:** Via unsealed road, 200 m walk to river via left track
- Length to next access:** 15 km.
- Section character:** From Spadoni's the river widens and the surrounding farmland gives way to attractive forested hills. Vegetation changes from Silver Wattle to kunzea and eucalyptus. The river then enters Yering Gorge which is notable for tree ferns growing at the river's edge. The pumping station marks the half way mark of the trip and also the beginning of several rapids formed by rock ledges across the river. Beyond the rapids, transmission lines cross the river signalling a return to more settled areas.
- Other information:** Spadoni's Nature Reserve is a small reservation of indigenous vegetation threatened by encroaching farmland and recreational areas. There are few places to stop along the way, but the picnic area opposite the Pumping Station is a good half way break. The pumping station draws water from the Yarra River to supplement Sugar Loaf Reservoir that is part of Melbourne's water supply. When operating, the station creates strong currents in the river and paddlers are warned to keep well clear of it.

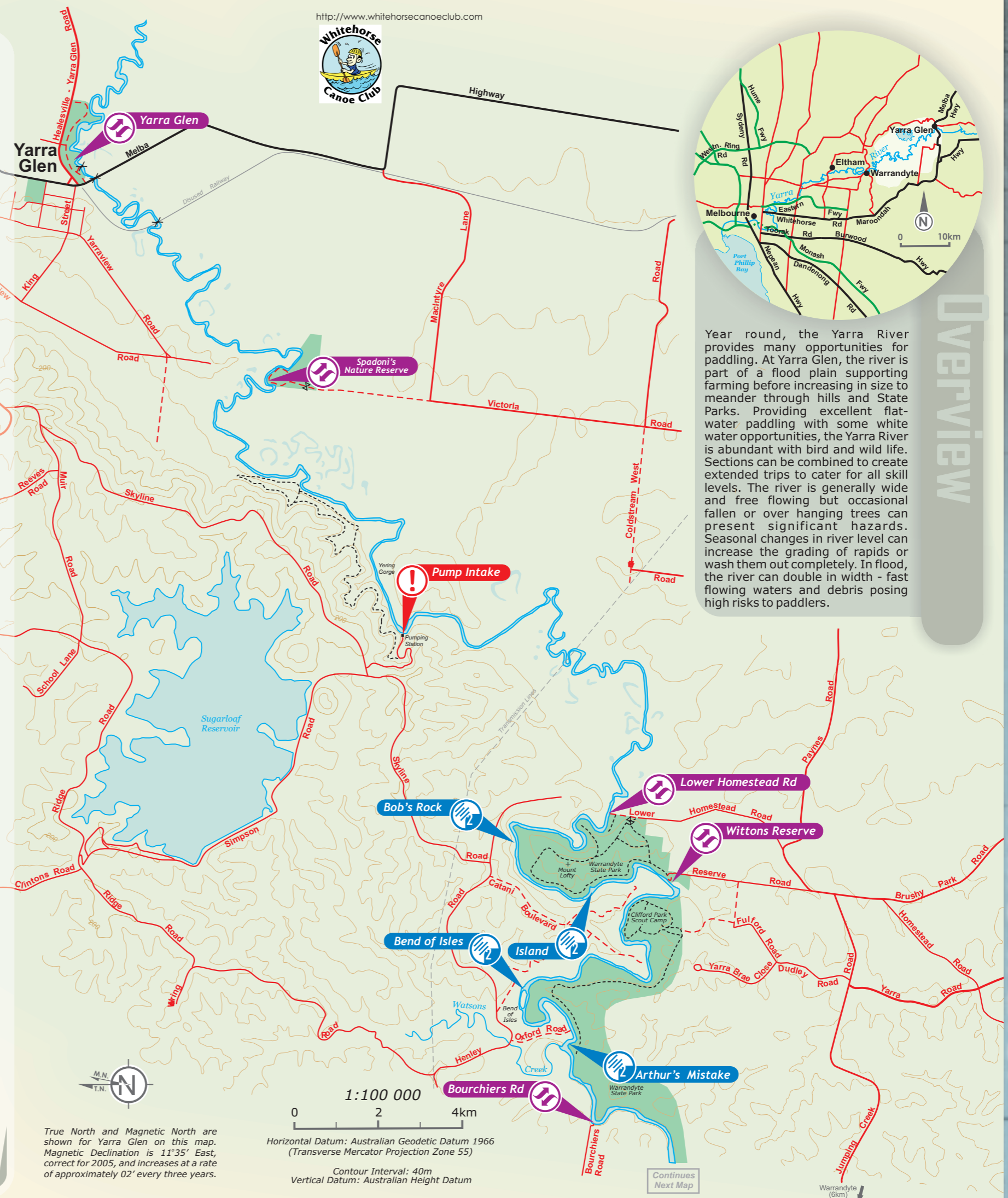
## Lower Homestead Road to Wittons Reserv

- Access:** Car park at end of road.
- Length to next access:** 5 km.
- Section character:** This is one of the most popular sections of the river because it contains several grade 2 rapids with easy access. These are technical rapids that require careful manoeuvring to pass through them. This section of the river marks the start of its passage through Warrandyte State Park.
- Hazards:** Avoid the left-hand side of the island at the Island rapid as it is heavily snagged. Also, a large tree-root ball in the main chute, to the right of the island, can be dangerous for inexperienced paddlers.
- Other information:** Two rapids are of special interest - Bob's Rock, a 60 cm drop over a ledge. In high water, the rapid creates a strong pressure wave of up to 1 m to provide excellent play boating, and a good place to stop for a break. Further on, the Island rapid has a smaller drop but also requires careful negotiation. The river forms a loop around the base of Mount Lofty and it is possible to avoid a car shuttle by walking the 1 km from Witton's Reserve, over Mount Lofty, back to Lower Homestead road. There is also a walking track close to the river that is easily reached if needed.

## Wittons Reserve to Bouchiers Road

- Access:** Car park at reserve
- Length to next access:** 7.5 km.
- Section character:** The river becomes more isolated as the hills and surrounding forest determine the river's path. This section combines long flat-water passages with some of the best rapids on the river.
- Hazards:** Both rapids should be inspected to identify a safe route though them before proceeding. It is possible to portage around these rapids although this is difficult, across rocks, water and undergrowth. Be certain to avoid the trees in the middle of the Bend of Isles rapid.
- Other information:** Of the several rapids, two are notable - The Bend of Isles is a drop of over a metre through a fast flowing chute. The rapid is heard well before it is seen and is best approached through a zig-zag of rocks from river right. Further on, Arthur's Mistake is also approached from river right but requires a sharp left turn to pass through its narrow chute. The car shuttle between Wittons and Bouchiers is long and tedious.

**River Level:** Min: 0.5 m Good: 0.8 m High: 1.8 m Flood: 2.8 m  
**Gauge:** Warrandyte - Approx 50m upstream of Forbes Street (see next map).



True North and Magnetic North are shown for Yarra Glen on this map. Magnetic Declination is 11°35' East, correct for 2005, and increases at a rate of approximately 02" every three years.

Horizontal Datum: Australian Geodetic Datum 1966 (Transverse Mercator Projection Zone 55)  
 Contour Interval: 40m  
 Vertical Datum: Australian Height Datum

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Year round, the Yarra River provides many opportunities for paddling. At Yarra Glen, the river is part of a flood plain supporting farming before increasing in size to meander through hills and State Parks. Providing excellent flat-water paddling with some white water opportunities, the Yarra River is abundant with bird and wild life. Sections can be combined to create extended trips to cater for all skill levels. The river is generally wide and free flowing but occasional fallen or over hanging trees can present significant hazards. Seasonal changes in river level can increase the grading of rapids or wash them out completely. In flood, the river can double in width - fast flowing waters and debris posing high risks to paddlers.

Overview