



PADDLE AUSTRALIA WHITE WATER GUIDE BOOK

The hasty backup of AdventurePro's Guide

Paddle Australia - The online guide to Australian paddling...

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General Information

Acknowledgements

This guidebook was copied from the incredible AdventurePro “Paddle Australia” resource. The online guide functioned from the early 2000s through to the start of 2020, at which time it was sadly removed from the web. Luckily, a group of paddlers found the archived version of the guidebook and took on the daunting task of editing and preserving the Paddle Australia guide in a new format. A very large thank-you goes to all contributors to the original; who did the work of developing the guides in the first place! Due to the constraints of copying the data, we have not credited individual contributions, but are indebted to each and every person none-the-less. We hope that paddlers can use this to continue to have fun times and good lines on rivers across Australia.

International River Classification System

Class I	Moving water with few or no obstacles. Passages are wide open and easily seen from the river.
Class II	Rapids with small obstacles and regular features. Passages are open and obvious without scouting, but may require manoeuvring.
Class III	Rapids with regular features that require manoeuvring to negotiate. Passages can be narrow and features such as holes and irregular waves must be run to negotiate the rapid. Risk of injury
Class IV	Rapids with highly irregular features. Complicated passages that often include vertical drops and may require scouting to find safe passages. Linked manoeuvres are required in convoluted passages. Risk of injury and possible risk to your life.
Class V	Rapids with violent and irregular features. Extremely congested passages that almost always require scouting to determine safe routes. Most class V rapids include vertical drops and require running large-scale features in a complex series of manoeuvres. Definite risk of serious injury and possible risk to your life.
Class VI	The difficulties of class V taken to the extreme. Rapids with extremely violent and unpredictable features where experts require considerable advance scouting and planning to determine possible passages. All class VI rapids require the paddler(s) to negotiate vertical drops and very large features. Always a risk to your life. Generally only possible at certain water levels.

Disclaimer

The information in this site is intended to be used as a guide only and is prone to human error. With contributors from many and various backgrounds there are bound to be errors, inconsistencies in grading and changes in local river conditions. All advice and information should be treated with caution and checked locally. The editors, hosts and contributors can accept no responsibility for any loss, injury or inconvenience sustained by any person as a result of information or advice contained in this guide.

The editors expect that paddlers who use this guide will have appropriate training, skills and experience for the rivers they choose to paddle; will use appropriate equipment; and take responsibility for their own safety.

Queensland Rivers

Alligator Creek: Lookout to National Parks Causeway

North Townsville

Class: III - IV

Season: During the Wet (September to March)

Time: 20 min

Length: 1.5km

Level: Flood

Shuttle: 10 min

Character: Three open technical rapids and 800m of tree dodging

Suits: Mid-high volume kayaks - beginner to advanced

Alligator Creek is part of Bowling Green Bay National Park. Access is off the highway just south of Townsville. After four solid days of rain, Mt Elliot was fueling this usually passive creek nicely. From the Alligator Creek picnic area, walk up the boardwalk next to the creek to the main swimming beach. The big pointy rock immediately on your left as you hit the beach needs to have water lapping around it (no sand) for this to go safely.

Put in, paddle up through the two pools past the lookout on river left. From here, carry your boat up past the "tail-flip" drop to the big eddy/pool above the "S-bend" rapid and put in. From here it's about 20 seconds of intense paddling through the "S-bend" to set up for the "tail-flip." Run the "S bend" however you like but usually the "tail flip" needs to be run from just left of the centre rock directly towards the lookout platform to avoid a nasty corkscrew from the right and potential smashed head/teeth/elbow on the left side of the chute. When I ran this I was able to do consistent tail stands in my 3D without even trying. (experienced the smashed elbow on the last run- be careful.) If you swim the "S-bend," there's good eddy's left and right. From here, enjoy the eddy's and pools till the trees narrow the channel. Now have a bit of fun running slalom around the trees and boulders for the bottom section. Good luck finding the right channel on your first go... Lots of fun here and good for practicing eddying in/out and reverse ferry glides. Pull out where the blocked off National Parks maintenance road crosses the creek and walk back to the picnic area for your next go. Best to get an eyeball of this spot on your drive in (on the left before you cross the side creeks inside the gates) so you don't miss it. Wild! If the side creeks are running at the causeways it's a fair chance there's enough water in Alligator to run at least some of this section. I recon the rest of the river from Cockatoo Creek to Devils Pool (above this section) would go at similar levels but haven't had the chance to walk up that far with my boat yet.

Putting In: Paddle and walk up from the main swimming beach

Taking Out: National Parks maintenance causeway

Behana Creek: Clamshell Falls

North Queensland. Gordonville

Class: IV+(p)

Season: Spring and Summer

Gradient: 80m per km, for 1st km then easing rapidly

Level: Visual
Shuttle: Walk in

Character: Steep Granite Creeking

Surely one of the jewels in the crown of FNQ boating, the Behana is a brilliant and picturesque run. The first drop below Clamshell falls is a classic 30 m slot, ending with a 4 m drop! Below, the action comes thick and fast for the next km, with a few large individual drops despite the super steep gradient. Everything is clean and good, although we did portage one early drop; a rockslide into cushion / slot that is possible undercut. Awesome granite boulders with crystal clear water, sweet lines and easy access - wicked. Allow plenty of time for photography / videography!

Putting In: Clamshell Falls. Just south of Gordonville turn off the Bruce Hwy to park at the cairns-water dept gate. Walk up the obvious concrete paved road for 40 mins to the falls. Apparently the go, but we put in above the obvious 30m slot rapid.

Taking Out: It's possible to paddle back to where you left the car, but after the gradient eases the river divides. Below here it's all a bit bony and we soon walked out to the road and back to the cars.

Camping: No camping at take out, scout for wood after floods.

[Barron River: Power Station Bridge to Lake Placid](#)

North Queensland 15kms from Cairns

Class: III

Time: 1hr

Length: 3km

Level: 20 - 60 MW

Shuttle: Road along side river

Character: Boulder Garden through jungle

This is a nice play run at normal flows. Raging Thunder (a local rafting company) arrange water releases roughly from 9:30 till 12:30 every day, so that is the time to be one it, at around 60 MW. There are a few nice boulder gardens and a couple of small but sweet holes to play in. In the dry season the water flow is low to medium and controlled by the hydro power station and goes from a very bony 15 mw to a nice level 60 mw. The water is released usually after 2pm and unless you are in the wet season or the tail end of the wet season don't bother turning up before 2pm. In the wet season the water level is anything from a nice pushy level with some decent play holes / waves to a seriously big water grade 5 paddler only level.

Putting In: From Cairns drive north 15km, following signs to Lake Placid / the power station / Barron Gorge. Walk your boats down from the top car park at the end of this road to put in just below the bridge.

Taking Out: About 3km back down the Barron Gorge Road you will see the last rapid on the river. Immediately below this a foot track winds its way up to the road, It is pretty obvious.

[Coopooroo Creek: Old Boonjie Road to Russel River take-out](#)

Far North Queensland. Malanda

Class: III - IV (p)

Season: Generally end of Wet Season (Aprilish) or when it rains a bit

Gradient: 30m/km

Time: Long day maybe overnight

Length: Coopooroo about 4.5 km, then about 14 km on the Russel

Level: You won't know the exact level until you have hiked in. As a guide Russel River around 2.5m (Bucklands gauge). Check the Russel River railway bridge on the Bruce Hwy. There is very small window with regards to the level. About 2 inches below the block is a good level, about 2 inches over is very high. 8 inches below will probably see the Russel really low and you may need to walk the gravel races

Gauge: Bucklands gauge

Gauge URL: <http://www.bom.gov.au/fwo/IDQ65394/IDQ65394.531024.tbl.shtml>

Shuttle: 1 hour 40 mins, one way. (Palmerston Hwy). Good roads / gravel

Character: Magnificent creek which is box canyon in places. Lots of cool waterfalls.

There are 3 or 4 portages. Magnificent creek which is box canyon in places. Lots of cool waterfalls. There are 3 or 4 portages. Russel: Two waterfalls and lots of class III, but also lots of flat water. One rapid (The Cauldron) of particular note is a nice little waterfall, although the bottom isn't so nice. There is no portage option available! Safety cover is not possible! A higher level trip saw a boat recirculate in the cauldron for about 10 minutes. Ponytail falls (about a 35 footer) is the biggest drop of the day, and is awesome fun. At lower levels the lead-in rapid is a relatively easy boof. At higher levels it's very much borderline. Getting the lead-in wrong can see you end up under a big undercut (on the right), where at least a couple of paddlers have been. Portage option for lead-in rapid: Lower boat to the sloping ledge on river-left between the lead-in and the falls. One person (anchored to a tree above) can have a rope through tail loop and release once paddler is good to go. Last person needs to belay down with boat and can have rope through tail loop, side and / or front anchor points, with 3 or 4 turns to create plenty of friction, followed by a simple quick-release thumb knot. Once you have your deck on simply release thumb knot and bend and away you go. Don't have too much tail which needs to un-thread as you slide off the ledge. Take a rope you're prepared to leave there.

Putting In: Old Boonjie Road (from Malanda take Glen Allyn Road. Google map it). End of the road is a gate. Go back 500 metres, park near where the bush joins the road (there's a power pole there). Walk the tree-line for about 800m and you see an vehicle track. Follow the pink ribbons. Take the one to the right (downhill), Follow the narrow track (and pink ribbons) to the river. Total walk-in is about 2.8 kms. It's rainforest, wear bug spray for the leeches.

Taking Out: Golden Hole, Russel River take-out, which is about 45 minutes south of Cairns. 2km South of Miriwinni turn off the Bruce Hwy onto Bartle Frere Road. Follow Bartle Frere, Price and Biggs Roads for about 10km and you arrive at Golden Hole with picnic shelters and toilet block.

Map: Malanda 1:50000 and Bartle Frere 1:50000

Google Map: <http://goo.gl/5ehTCf>

Camping: Malanda Falls caravan park

Russell River: Mt Bartle Frere Western Trail-head to Golden Hole

Far North, East Coast. Milla Milla, Innisfail, Babinda

Class: IV+ (with significant class V & VI portages)

Season: Summer/Autumn (after the wet)

Gradient: Steep (insanely in parts)

Time: 3-4days

Length: 17kms

Level: Minor Flood (during the wet)

Shuttle: 6 hours

Character: Top section – Bouldery and thin. Bottom section – Big water and pools.

Top section: Three Creek Junction to Tewon Creek Junction. Characterised by boulder gardens with lots of inspection and portaging of strainers - typical North Qld rainforest creek - not much fun. Two significant portages, first on river right to avoid an unpaddable gorge, then on river left to avoid a 60+ ft waterfall. Best bet is to climb the hill to the plateau and rejoin the river via a side creek further downstream. The end of the second portage lands you right at Tewon Creek Junction, after two rope lowers down smaller waterfalls. Bottom Section: Tewon Creek to Golden Hole. Mad Fun. Big pools and bigger rapids with drops of up to 3m. Paddlable all the way (use discretion.) Foaming Fury runs commercial funyak tours on the bottom few kms. This was a wild adventure. If you can bypass the top section and put in at Tewon Creek Junction by dragging the boats down the marked trail to the Cairns Adventure Club's campsite and then into the river. You will get all the good big water without the big portages and rock gardens of the top section.

Putting In: Junction of three unnamed creeks at end of old forestry track leading from Mt Bartle Frere western trail-head

Taking Out: Golden Hole Picnic Area

Map: Bartle Frere 1:50,000

North Johnstone River: North Branch

Nth Queensland. Milla Milla

Class: V

Season: Autumn

Time: 14 Hours

Level: 1.3m lowest paddled, 1.66m an excellent height according to locals, 2.7m highest paddled. 3-4m makes it comparable to the Zambezi

Gauge: Johnstone river height at Tung Oil.

Gauge URL: <http://www.bom.gov.au/weather/qld/observations.html>

Shuttle: Car Ferry - Total approx 45 km one way. Steep climbs up to the Atherton Tablelands and dirt roads over the last few kms at both ends slow the trip.

Character: Technical and steep paddling in the tropics.

Alternative exit - Crawford's Lookout, approx 27 km east of Milla Milla - GR 719522, wide walking track with formed stairs down to river

GR 723528. A good starting point for the lesser experienced groups

Recommended portages

Belin Wall (GR 642633), portage left

Mine Shaft (GR 645612), portage left
 Mushroom (GR 731536), avoid by paddling on the right, other rapids at YOUR DISCRETION
 Named rapids, campsites and emergency helo points, the rapids are not commonly named above Helo pad 1 due to the rafting companies not using the river above this point.
 GR 631661 - High Water Helo Pad site 1
 GR 635656 - Low water Helo Pad site 2 / Miss Management
 GR 639655 - Snake Falls
 GR 642633 - Berlin Wall
 GR 644629 - Camp site 1 / Helo Pad site 3
 GR 642623 - Helo Pad site 4
 GR 645617 - Breccia Falls
 GR 645612 - Helo Pad site 5 / Mine Shaft
 GR 662597 - Camp Site 2 / Helo Pad site 6
 GR 662595 - Moore Doors 1, 2, 3
 GR 662588 - Helo Pad site 7
 GR 673587 - DC Fallas
 GR 675580 - Happy Corner
 GR 679576 - Spinal Flex
 GR 708540 - Camp Site 3 - Helo Pad site 8
 GR 723528 - Crawford's Lookout Access
 GR 731536 - Mushroom
 GR 742557 - Champagne Falls
 GR 744572 - Big Swim
 GR 757580 - Rooster Tail
 GR 757584 - E.J. Falls
 GR 789622 - Nerada Tea Plantation.

Putting In: At the request of the land owner please contact Cairns Kayaking Club president on 0421077621 at least 1 day before running the river with information on how many cars will be parked there and for how long. Landowner has requested no person contacts him directly or goes near his house etc. Instructions will be given as to where to park etc. The land owner is slightly hostile so please comply with this request so we can keep him onside. Turn off the Palmerston Hwy onto Theresa Creek Road, approx 2 km east of Milla Milla. Turn Right onto Ellinjaa Road after 5 km. Walk along the obvious road through three fences until you are walking adjacent to thick bush on your immediate left over the fence. The track starts on the left when you align a tall dead tree 30- 40 m to your right and a large shed on the next feature to your right. For 8 people the walk took a total of 2 hours, Quicker with smaller groups. The track crosses Theresa Creek just before the river, start point for the river is approx GR 598696.

Taking Out: Turn north off the Palmerston Hwy, at the township of east Palmerston onto Pullom Road, approx 34 km east of Milla Milla. Drive 7.3 km to start of walking track on the left. cars can be left at the house on the right before the walking track with permission. Walk from the river to the road takes 20 - 30 mins, depending upon your energy to hump a kayak up a steep bush track.

Map: MALANDA SN 8063-3 1:50000, MILLA MILLA SN 8062-4 1:50000, MENA CREEK SN 8062-1 1:50000, BARTLE FRERE SN 8063 1:100000, TULLY SN 8062 1:100000

Herbert River

Nth Queensland. 200km South of Cairns

Class: IV - V(p)

Season: Best around June / July, earlier if you watch water levels.

Time: 4 – 11 days

Level: 1 - 2m at Glen Eagle gauge. Below 1.2m some of the rock gardens become a bum scrape or portage, above 1.6, some of the drops develop retentive stoppers and some portages are difficult.

Gauge: Glen Eagle

Gauge URL: http://www.bom.gov.au/cgi-bin/wrap_fwo.pl?IDQ60291.html

Shuttle: Almost a full day shuttle requiring 4WD, shuttle driver required.

Character: Superb deep granite gorge with numerous waterfalls and steep bouldery rapids and chutes. The Herbert, along with the Franklin in Tasmania are often thought of as the two classic extended river trips Australia has to offer. "I believe this guide should remain somewhat vague about the specifics and locations of the rapids as to preserve the 'expedition' feeling when exploring the river for the first time"- Mark Wiebenga, June 2014. Most rapids and waterfalls apart from the Herbert falls have been paddled, but few people would paddle all 5 waterfalls at high levels. There is one fall above the Herbert falls. Herbert Falls itself, a spectacular 75m high fall (Un-runnable). Dog Leg falls just below Herbert Falls. The iconic Double Fall, A 20 foot (6m) waterfall just below Double Fall. However, the Herbert River is much more than a Waterfall hucking session. Numerous excellent grade 3 and 4 boulder gardens and smaller drops exist below Double Falls. Beware of a long class 2 entry rapid into a class 5 section. In a couple of places at some levels the river flows between huge boulders in the river and must be portaged.

HIGH LEVEL NOTES:

At 1.6m and above some stoppers become pretty nasty and require close inspection. Additionally, some portages become very difficult, particularly: At higher levels the portage around the second fall of the iconic Double Falls, if not paddled, becomes difficult. Rafters should portage the entire Double Falls river right and lower their rafts in to lower canyon (requires 50m rope). Although portaging the upper fall on river left may be easier, catching the eddy back river R above the second fall becomes sketchy. Kayakers can portage Double Falls River Right and be lowered / jump into the lower canyon (ideally from a small gully ~50m River Right of the waterfall) Additionally, the 20 foot waterfall, becomes a very difficult kayak portage above 1.6. An easy raft line. I presume that above 1.8m portaging this waterfall may become a day-long expedition.

ACCESS:

The river must be accessed from the western side. Ensure you have adequate maps and google satellite printouts. Access to Herbert River Falls requires a 4 wheel drive, be sure to carry vehicle recovery equipment.

Approximate days (if you are taking your time):

Cashmere Crossing – Herbert River Falls: 2 days

Herbert River Falls – Blencoe Falls: 3 days. +1 day for high level raft portage at Double Fall.

Blencoe Falls to Abergowrie: 1 longer day. (Flat water and Crocodiles)

People who know the river can paddle Herbert Falls to Blencoe Falls in 2 days, but if you enjoy camping, scenery, fishing and take time to inspect rapids, you could easily spend a week from Cashmere to Abergowrie take out. A nearby station owns a Chopper and can

assist with takeout at Blencoe Falls. Just a note- Kirrama range road is open again so this trip no longer needs to be approached only from the west. The full trip down to Abergowrie now also has a much shorter shuttle. Coastal access is via Kennedy on the Bruce Highway.

Putting In: The river must be accessed from the western side. Ensure you have adequate maps and google satellite printouts. Access to Herbert River Falls requires a 4 wheel drive, be sure to carry vehicle recovery equipment. Cashmere Crossing - Sand Bar Camp - Herbert River Falls - Double Falls - Blencoe Falls

Taking Out: Walk out or helicopter out at the junction of Blencoe Creek and the Herbert River or Abergowrie take out. The advantage of the Abergowrie take out is an extra half day of rapids. Disadvantages are the long shuttle, long flat water finish and crocodiles. The walkout at Blencoe falls is tough and takes half a day.

Tully River: Upper Section from Koombooloomba Dam to Tully Falls Weir

North Queensland. Ravenshoe

Class: Grade 2 (1st rapid is grade 3/3+ depending on level)

Season: Any - Hydro Power Station Release

Gradient: 1:200 for first 6 km then relatively flat for last 4 km

Time: 3 hours

Length: 10km

Level: 36MW is minimum but river is wide and can handle more water without too dramatic a change in character

Gauge: Contact power station or locals in the know for release times (water is released approximately 4 hours before the timing for Kareeya Hydro release on main Tully: eg. 10am - 1pm release on main section may equate to 6am - 9am release for this section)

Shuttle: 15 minutes on dirt road between put in and take out

Character: Drop pool wide river with dense jungle on banks and no crocodiles

Lovely easy section of river which flows consistently most of the year. Don't be put off by the first rapid (Double Espresso) as this strong wake up is easily portaged around. It is a nice clean run but at 88MW there are some sticky holes to avoid before the main drop (which is pumping) and at 36MW it cracked the helmet of a paddler in our group who missed a roll before the main drop! Rest assured there is nothing as big as this downstream; however, there are some very nice rapids at the grade which can mostly be scouted from the boat. A significant rock bar juts in from river left a few km into the run which requires maneuvering from river left to right above it and then back to river left once passed. We didn't see the main section at 88MW but this rapid possibly could have some decent holes at that level. After 6km most of the rapids are done so be prepared for long pools to finish (which could actually be helpful if you have missed your timing and run out of water by this stage). Only a relatively short section, but could be a great over night expedition for groups wanting to practice paddling with loaded boats. In an emergency you could walk out from around half way up Nitchaga creek southwards to Tully Falls road (approx. 1.5km).

Putting In: Below Koombooloomba Dam

Taking Out: Just before Tully Falls weir

Map: Q Topo 8062-34 Tully Falls

Google Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/6QLgvBYyLiYmFQZE6>

Tully River: Top (Hydro to 10)

North Queensland. Tully

Class: IV

Gradient: 1:20 at first then lessening

Length: 3.4km by the road

Level: All descriptions are for 88 ML release

Shuttle: Easy via Cardstone Rd

Character: Moderately technical, drops to 2m

The levels in this river are governed by the Tully Hydro Power Station releases, which can change very rapidly, especially in this upper section of the river. Most people talk about release rate when describing river levels and they usually vary between 44MW and 88MW (full release). During the wet season (Nov to Apr), environmental flows can increase this above 100MW. Good paddling can be had above 44MW, and it starts getting a bit pushy in places above 88MW.

1) Alarm clock: (IV) Wakes you up. Main drop is pretty obvious after a few small rapids from the put-in. Start eddy river right, (possible eddy immediately left) pass two rocks in centre on river left, avoiding wall on far left then head as far right as you can to avoid a spanking in the bottom stopper. Good photo / videography opportunities on river right.

2) 2 or 20: (III) So named due to minutes taken depending on route. Pick your own way through the rocks, one or two small chutes, might be good to inspect if unsure. Easier start centre, migrate right towards end. Don't go left at low water.

3) Double Waterfall: (IV) Twin waterfalls, easier on left, boof the first to avoid the small recirculation.

4) The Theatre: (IV) Movie screen cliff on right at end OR Theatre of War if you get it wrong. This is actually three rapids in quick succession. Eddy hop down river left, take last drop on left of centre rock, boof. Nasty landing on rocks from right side. Big eddy at bottom to collect carnage. At low levels, shoot 2m right of centre rock at end.

5) Staircase (IV) Three big steps. First head down river left, a few big eddies, play opportunities for shorter boats. Second take any way you wish, just not upside down as it can be a bit shallow. Third hug the centre rock right or left (easier), don't get washed under the huge boulder on river left at the end at high levels. Fairly big water in this one. At low levels, hidden rock behind centre rock on left.

6) Foreplay (II) Rockslide from centre to river right, shallow coming out (don't go under the waiting safety raft).

Tower 12 takeout is on river right here, 150m above Wet-n-Moisty. Look for wide steep track up bank with handrope.

7) Wet-n-Moisty: (IV) A good one to inspect as you'll get spanked if your line is off. OK eddy at top for three-four boats, start at centre. Keep just left, avoiding stopper on left half way through, don't get sucked right or you'll get cheese grated on the wall below or held in the bottom stopper at high levels. Non-stop action.

The Lunch Spot where the rafts stop is here on river right, access to road available.

Picturesque waterfall on left.

8) Corkscrew (III+) Chicken chute right (top section only) Start left of centre rock, zig-zag through rocks heading right towards small eddy on right. Break in, head left hard to drop left over rock just after tall rock, Big eddy left. At high levels, it's hard to get back across to

the corkscrew (left end of pour-over on right) but you can take the straight pour on left. Don't go over on far right as wall is rough and undercut.

9) Midnight Rock (II) fun to be had on the ramp at the bottom, deep landings either side, eddy on left can be difficult to get out of the way of oncoming boats.

Tower 10 takeout is just above the flat water after the next few races, look for wide steep track on right with handrope. The river eases from here down but well worth doing.

Putting In: Tully Hydro Power Station, 10.4km upriver from campground turnoff. Drive all the way up to the power station carpark, park out of the way of the rafting company buses and walk down the track next to the river level warning sign.

Taking Out: Tower 10, river right just after Corkscrew and Midnight Rock rapids, 7.0km upriver from Campground. Most paddlers continue with the upper, middle and sometimes the lower and bottom sections of the river for a good day out. Other river access is Tower 12 on river right just above Wet-n-Moisty and lunch spot just after Wet-n-Moisty.

Tully River: Upper (10 to Flip Wilson)

North Queensland. Tully

Class: III

Season: Any - Hydro Power Station Release

Gradient: 1:50 approx.

Time: 3 hours plus playtime

Length: 6.3 km via the road

Level: All descriptions are for 88 MW release

Shuttle: Easy via Cardstone Rd

Character: Relaxed but challenging for beginners

Please refer to Tully River Top Section for river level details and rapid descriptions 1-9. I've split this section out as it is paddlable mostly by beginners and is a good training stretch. List of Rapids: Route descriptions are for easiest (safest) path, other options usually available. Quite a few unnamed races (grade I/II) are mixed in with these.

10) Tower Ten: (II) Pretty straight forward race, boney.

11) Pipeline: (II or III depending on route) This rapid begins with a chute river left and large basalt rocks on right. Two options, easiest takes the chute straight, staying on river left the whole time into eddy above helicopter rapid. More fun is start in eddy on right, boof across wall in centre to join chute and eddy out left.

12) Helicopter: (III) Good playwave at high levels for short boats doing flat moves but too shallow for enders. Good surfing practice for longer boats. Just blast though, eddying out right into centre stream if you want to play and left lower down for a break. Enter wave with speed from right corner to play.

13) Lava Flows (II, IV, V depending on level) Big wave train over curious but rough columnar basalt. To run, stay centre and paddle like a berserker once you hit the waves. One big wave with tiny eddy on right about half way down can see some big moves but it's very fast and narrow. Don't try to fit more than one boat in this eddy. There's a bigger set-up eddy on river left above this wave. Waves turn stopper at low levels. Any carnage from Lava Flows MUST be cleaned up quickly as Cardstone Weir presents a significant retentive hazard directly below this rapid.

14) Cardstone Weir: (III on far left, V-VI in centre at high levels.) Natural Weir structure adjacent to the old Cardstone township (abandoned). If you decide to run the body of this weir, do not mess up as you'll be down for a long time. Much better option to save your loved ones unnecessary heartache is the left chute. Slide down river left, into small eddy in corner set up straight for drop and don't break your nose on your paddle shaft. Use signals to keep paddlers separate on this drop as it's easy to get stuck at the bottom and you can't tell from above till its too late. Small wave atop weir for experienced paddlers at low levels. Access to road is available here.

14) Slalom: (III) Used to be a slalom course set up here. Start left of centre, picking your way down, ride the green water on left near bottom to avoid rocks centre and right. Eddies left and bottom right.

15) Devils Toilet: (II) Better at high levels, run straight on left or come in from right, ride the deeper wave out right at the end to avoid bum drag. Then follows a long race which is best run on river right at most levels.

16) Kool Moon Ck; (I) Kool Moon Ck on left. Shallow race, start right, move left - basic but prolonged.

17) Double D (cup): (III) So named due to large stopper on bottom left. Chicken chute on far right at high levels, beginning up high. Start centre and pick down over large rocks until the water smoothes and turns abruptly right. Turn and follow right or go over the stopper and stay there! Other option is stay more left to avoid most of the rocks, blast left across the top of the stopper and pause in the eddy. Ferry back right (upriver) across to where the water changed direction and shoot straight down. There is a flat hole below this rapid next the rock in the centre good for enders and such. Further down is a rocky race - stay in centre for least scrapes.

18) De-Vine Rapid: (II+) Vines in centre stream. Start just right of vines in centre to get a good ride while avoiding a dangerous rock pointing upstream in centre, half way down. Wave train finish. Keep out from under downed tree on left further down.

19) Walls of Jericho: (II+) One Move Wonder, rocky ledge diagonally across river, best path in centre with flick left at the wall. Boney.

20) Croc Rock: (III) Chicken chute river left, tricky. Start right of triangle rock, drop down on right of submerged rock half way down, possible photo eddy immediately right. Head back left to avoid boulders to finish. Don't go over the centre rock even at high levels as the landing is rocky.

21) Little Croc: (II) Not much to speak of, start centre, jog right and turn left off small rock to face downstream. Head over left down next two races to avoid bum scrape.

22) Carport: (I) Long race, stay right at end, very Boney.

23) Ski-ramp: (II) Final rapid this section, start right between log pointing down river and flat rock in centre, enjoy the waves to set-up on the ramp rock in centre at higher levels for some 360 action. Play wave half way down at high levels with 1 boat eddy on right.

Next rapid is Flip Wilson with the lookout on river right. This is the end of the easy section. Pull out here or refer to Tully River Middle section for more details.

Putting In: Tower 10, shown by numbers on road and small green marker posts on left (actually 100m back towards campsite from number on post) as you drive up, 7.0km upriver from campground turnoff. If you get to the lunch spot bus turn-around, you've gone too far.

Taking Out: Flip Wilson Rapid, river right with lookout and exposed access up drain. 1.7km upriver from campground. Other river accesses are marked on the road.

Tully River: Top (Flip Wilson to Campground)

North Queensland. Tully

Class: IV

Gradient: 1:50 (Average)

Time: 15 minutes

Length: 1.7km by the road

Level: All descriptions are for 88 MW release

Shuttle: Easy via Cardstone Rd

Character: Two short heavy rapids then prolonged maneuvering

Please refer to Tully River sections Top and Upper for river level details and rapid descriptions 1-23. List of Rapids: Route descriptions are for easiest (safest) path, other options usually available.

24) Flip Wilson: (III) Only grade three due to maneuvering required to avoid wedging in the slot. Chicken chute right, boney. Start on left side, around a few small pours. Move right and stay right to avoid wedge in large rocks on left, to join chicken chute. Ride down past rocks to limited small eddies behind rocks.

25) Sharks Tooth: (III) Water starts getting heavy here as the river narrows. Setup in centre stream and take either side of the sharks tooth, pushing through the wave at the bottom. Pick a way around the big rocks below (it's easy to get broadsided here) and eddy out left above the obvious S-bend rapid.

26) S-Bend: (III-IV) Phun. Good photo opportunity while you inspect (recommended) this one. Start left of centre and either blast through into eddy on right or try to turn hard left to take your chances with the last wave. From eddy, ferry left as far as possible to get setup or you'll get washed onto the rocks right. Avoid the long flat rock at bottom left as it has a perfectly kayak shaped slot in it waiting to eat you if you broadside on it. There's road access river right downstream from here and a small wave for surfing a bit further on.

27) Yankee's Pass: (III) One Move Wonder. Chicken chute right, boney. Set up for the obvious centre drop from left (rafts come in from right) and lift right rail to avoid river bed inspection in the cross flow at the bottom. Inflatables and slow setup will turn left at bottom (be careful of rock immediately left, shallow), better to punch through straight in plastic.

28) Boulder Garden: (III) Longest rapid in this section, mad fun. Most routes are OK, this is the most common one. Follow main current right and then left back to centre, over small pour facing downstream. Follow current left, right back to centre of river, head slightly left into pool above twin pourovers. Take either, coming back in pool below and move right through corridor to next pour. Moving left, set up for final big pour facing downstream. Do not go far left here as the landing is very shallow. Pick your way out of the rapid to river right to finish. Makes more sense when you're there.

29) Coachable Ck Rapid: (III) Sustained boulder avoidance. Setup just left of centre, choose your own adventure through the waves to either go over or around submerged rock in middle before corner. This rock is undercut! Head right, either side of last big rock is OK, strainers and bad landings far left and far right. You can 360 off this rock.

30) Dogs Balls: (II) Don't worry you'll see them. Pretty much your choice. Beware of large strainer tree between the dogs balls and projecting out right from right hand ball. Do not go between the balls at low levels, very dangerous due to tree.

Putting In: Wilson Lookout (Tower 6) 1.7km upriver from campground turnoff.

Taking Out: Campground, concrete ramp on river right after dogsballs rapid. If the stamina is up, you can continue with the lower and bottom sections of the river. Other river accesses are marked on the road.

Obi Obi Creek: Maleny to Lake Baroon

South East Queensland. 25km Nambour

Class: IV

Length: 18.5km

Level: 0.5m minimum; 0.55 - 0.75m good level; above 1.1m the overall river grading starts rising dramatically

Gauge: Gardners Falls gauge

Gauge URL: <http://www.bom.gov.au/fwo/IDQ65390/IDQ65390.540403.tbl.shtml>

Character: Continuous and steeply dropping white water

The first 3km of this 18.5km trip is on fast flowing Grade 1 water providing a handy tune-up for the fun ahead. The final 3km is across the Baroon Pocket Dam catchment to the get out point. This leaves 12.5km of continuous and often steeply dropping white water (with a gradient of about 44m/km at its steepest) that provides one of the most enjoyable trips in South East Queensland for experienced paddlers. The mostly clean rapids start with several fast bouncy rock-slides that progress to steep boulder races and drops until Gardners Falls (a 4.1m drop) is reached. Gardners Falls spills into a deep-water pool (a popular local swimming hole) and is often run by kayakers. Downstream there are consistent drops, chutes, gutters, at least one retentive river-width stopper (requiring an aggressive approach) and numerous steep boulder races – some hundreds of metres long. There are a number of fun rapids along the way where those with more playful kayaks can hone their moves. The lush and often dense semi-tropical vegetation along the banks is somewhat reminiscent of Far North Queensland rivers while the occasional interesting geological formation, including a small but spectacular columnar basalt outcrop, further adds to the visual appeal. Unfortunately the concentration demanded by the continuous rapids, particularly in some of the steeper sections, can make it difficult to fully appreciate the true beauty of the surrounding scenery that sometimes seems to pass in a blur. This is one of the classic runs for highly experienced white water paddlers and (accompanied) Grade 3 standard paddlers with solid skills looking to step up to the next level.

Putting In: The park on the upstream side of the bridge in the main street of Maleny (Bunya Street)

Taking Out: Follow North Maleny Road (becomes Baroon Pocket Road) north from Maleny until you reach a picnic area and boat ramp beside the lake. Take note of the time that the gate is locked of an evening

South Maroochy River: Kiamba to Rocky Creek

South East QLD. Nambour

Class: III - V (VI)

Gradient: 10m / km (20m in last 500m)

Time: 2 - 4 hours

Length: 4km

Level: 1.1 - 1.8

Gauge: Kiamba

Gauge URL: http://www.bom.gov.au/cgi-bin/wrap_fwo.pl?IDQ60287.html#mary

Shuttle: 4km

Character: Pool Drop. Easy grade 2 and trees between larger grade 3 - 4 - 5 rapids. Needs 40mm of rain on a wet catchment and you have to be there within 6 hours of the rain. In high water the first rapid, called the Grinder is a very gnarly grade 5+. At low to medium flow the Grinder is a solid 5 - swimming this one is not a healthy option as one paddler can testify. We have learnt from locals that a number of swimmers (not paddlers) have died in the first drop after being swept under subterranean caverns in the plunge pool. Another thing we have learnt is that if paddlers do the first drop they tend to get washed onto the river left rock protrusion just before the water leaves the plunge pool. This protrusion is undercut and has caused many boaters to flip in the plunge pool after they did NOT lean hard into the rock. Many paddles just do the last chute and not do the first drop. The rapid at the corner immediately after the Grinder is called Downtime. (it is 80m from Kiamba bridge). After someone got pinned in here the name was obvious. He was dislodged after a number of long seconds. The next kilometre is grade 2 through trees - (quite tricky at 1.8m). Kiamba Falls can be heard from the pool as you approach them. All 3 drops after the first one have been paddled at various levels. The undercut wall on the 3rd fall is particularly dangerous. Watch the rock in the bottom of the 3rd fall. Most people just enjoy the scenery and portage on the River Right (Low water only) to shoot the last small drop into the Echidna Passage. Next is You paddle this and I'll paddle something else. At low levels you can sneak down the left - no rocks at the bottom but check for logs. Right after this is Hoot Shoot. It is by far the best rapid on the river and one of the best you will ever paddle. More grade two's and rainforest brings you to Guillotine. It is worth a look as it is difficult to see the Guillotine (potential broach rock) from your boat. Guillotine heralds the start of a great section. The Twister, Deception (2m drop on the right hand channel just after twister) the Maze (a chute leads to two channels) and Rocky Drop follow. All good grade 3 - 4's depending on the level. A rainforest pool leads then to Last Chance - a nice grade 3 with a left turn in the middle of it. More grade 2's and trees bring you to the take out at Rocky Creek on the left. Note: In high water (> 1.5) do not attempt the section below Rocky Creek junction. There is a dangerous grade 5 - 6 canyon that is extremely difficult to portage and with no other rapids it simply is not worth the effort. A great trip for advanced paddlers in SEQ. Best done at lower levels if you don't have someone on your trip who has done it before. Care must be taken as the creek has numerous pinning spots. Runs through private property so please show respect. Some people love this creek - others won't come back.

Putting In: Kiamba Bridge on Image Flat Road

Taking Out: Rocky Creek junction with South Maroochy

[East Ithaca Creek: Gold Mine Circuit to JC Slaughter Falls Park](#)

South East QLD. Brisbane

Class: III - IV (V) (p)

Season: Any

Gradient: Average - 50m/km, Steepest - 80m/km

Time: 1 hour

Length: 1.9 km

Level: Just floatable at put-in at track's end (Gold Mine Cct.)

Gauge: Nil

Shuttle: 3 km approx steep bitumen road

Character: Initially alpine, turning into steep creek (drop - pool)

Suits: Good to expert, bombproof rolls essential

A goer in heavy to torrential rain, particularly if ground is already wet. Fast to rise and fast to drop. Volume increases rapidly. Expect few if any eddies in top half, meaning basically blind running for first 500 - 700 metres (unless you undertake tedious bank scouting - this is possibly unnecessary in the first 300 metres as the volume is so low initially). 80m / km drop rate section half-way followed by technical 5m waterfall with serious consequences (scouting possible on steep ground preferably on river right). More drop / pool thereafter, with eddies, very fast. After several slower sections Slaughter Falls (actually a steep ramp), requires bank scouting (injury risk problems. Un-run at time of posting). This drop can be pre-inspected from the take-out by following a sign-posted walking track up to the falls (expect to get wet doing this inspection). This is technically a 3.5 / 4 grade (apart from the waterfalls). The unrelenting steepness, the initial lack of eddies, and the risk of injury if out of the boat attract a grade 5 grading. Rescue options minimal. Pre inspection in a previous big wet is recommended. If there is enough rain you would be better off spending your time scouting West Ithaca (Simpsons Falls).

Putting In: Gold Mine Circuit, 300m down hill from Channel 9, Samuel Griffith Drive (Mount Coot - Tha road)

Taking Out: J.C.Slaughter Falls Park

Map: Gregory's Brisbane Maps 247 - 248

Albert River: Waterford-Tamborine Road to Chardon Bridge Road

South East QLD. 5kms Tamborine

Class: II - III (p)

Length: 11.1km

Level: At least 0.39m on the Bromfleet gauge is required to complete this run. The rapids in the latter part of this trip can be quite 'bony' at levels below about 0.45m.

Gauge: Bromfleet

Gauge URL: <http://www.bom.gov.au/fwo/IDQ65388/IDQ65388.040938.tbl.shtml>

Character: Flat water stretches, occasional gravel races, lots of fallen trees, two sections with larger rapids of up to Grade 3+ It is 11.1km down to Chardon Bridge and the river is characterized by flat water stretches (some quite long) with occasional gravel race type rapids, lots of fallen trees and overhanging vegetation and two sections with larger rapids of up to grade 3+ standard. The first section of more serious rapids is encountered about 3.5km from the start and consists of a straightforward grade 2 drop followed by a two-stage grade 3+ rapid that requires careful inspection and consideration.

Putting In: Just under 600m south east of the bridge crossing on the Waterford-Tamborine Road turn left into Sonny Kibble Place. A short way along a track leads off to the left (through an unlocked gate) down to the river. If your vehicle is not 4WD capable then you

should carefully assess track conditions past the gate. The easiest river access is about 20m upstream of the bridge and may involve a minor seal launch.

Taking Out: An easy exit point is located on river right just downstream (north east) of the Chardon Bridge Road crossing.

New South Wales Rivers

Oxley River: Tyalgum to Eungella

Tweed Coast. 35km East Murwillumbah

Class: II +

Length: 13.5km

Level: Eungella gauge: 0.70m minimum; 1.3m good level; over 1.6m high (above 1.35m some play opportunities open up on the bigger rapids but many, if not most, of the smaller rapids start to wash out).

Gauge: Eungella gauge

Gauge URL: <http://www.bom.gov.au/fwo/IDN60231/IDN60231.058193.tbl.shtml>

Character: Grade 2 + drops and long bouncy races

This is a picturesque 13.5km paddle through lush temperate rainforest and cleared rural land. On a clear day the final kilometre to the finish provides brief glimpses of the lesser-seen north face of Mt Warning's imposing tor. While possibly a bit much for complete beginners, a well-supervised trip makes an excellent introduction to white water for novice paddlers who have mastered basic boat control. The river has many good Grade 2 drops and bouncy races (some several hundred metres long) and three relatively straightforward Grade 3 rapids. Although generally quite open, watch out for overhanging branches (particularly at higher river levels) and the occasional tree strainer. There is only one long (about 1.5km) flat section, however even this is very pleasant as it occurs along a lushly vegetated stretch of the river. Depending on river level there are several low bridge crossings that may require portaging. The prettiness of the surrounding country combined with the fun bouncy rapids make for a very enjoyable trip indeed.

Putting In: Under E.J. Bartrim Bridge over Brays Creek on Tyalgum Road at Tyalgum. Vehicle parking is available in front of a small park on the Tyalgum side of the bridge.

Taking Out: A dirt track from the river up to parkland on the north-east side of the bridge on Tyalgum Road at Eungella.

Leycester Creek: Hanging Rock Falls

Northern Rivers. Nimbin

Class: III

Season: After heavy rain

Time: 10 seconds

Length: 3m Vertical

Level: If it looks good to go

Shuttle: Climb back up using the sling you hook around rock on river left

Character: Park n Huck

If everything south of here is too high to run, or if you are short on time then it's a bit of fun. Not particularly difficult in any way, straight forward drop, is nice for boof practice or to 'experiment' with new ways of going over a drop. River right chute looks like it would go, probably a bit boney, and nothing special anyways. You would want to move the rope out of

the way first. A good way to salvage an afternoon that may have otherwise been thwarted, and though some may disagree with this philosophy- a good way to avoid wasting the day.

Putting In: Turn off Kyogle Road at the Border Ranges Centre into Link Road. When road forks go left. Park at signposted area on Williams Road, 50m South of Junction with Link Road.

Taking Out: Back track the same way you came in.

Google Map: <http://maps.google.com.au/maps?q=-28.559689,153.117158#&=1&t=h&z=18>

Goolang Creek: Tennis Court & Down

Northern Tablelands. Grafton

Class: III

Season: Spring through to Autumn

Length: 1km

Level: Between 25% and 100% release from the dam.

Shuttle: Walk up the bank, 1 km

Character: A man made river, suits everything from river runs, slalom and play boating
A series of class I to II rapids with one class III rapid at full flow. Hydro electric power station
controls the water release. Good levels for river runs about 25%. Good play boat levels
about 40% or more

Putting In: Nymboida Canoe Centre

Taking Out: Goolang Creek Bridge, Armidale Rd

Severn River: Just before the Junction with the MacIntyre River

Northern Tablelands. Ashford (1hr North of Inverell)

Class: III – VI(p)

Season: November - February (variable flow rates)

Gradient: Steep in the gorge but flat either side of it

Time: 6 hrs

Length: 7km

Level: 400 megalitres minimum (>600 optimal)

Gauge: Pindari Dam outflow

Gauge URL: <http://waterinfo.dlwc.nsw.gov.au/sr/StorageSummary.html>

Shuttle: Car or Walk

Character: Fun and difficult (many long portages for intermediate)

Great little find to do on the way to the Gwydir from Brisbane. Rapids are Gwydir style with less volume. 8 rapids of grade 3 - 6 with one block up as well. Adam Anderson paddled the Severn River Falls (grade 6?) (well... 3/4 of it). The river is a must do if you are in the area and its flowing!!!! Allow some time to gain landholder approval to put in if using the northern side. If you are paddling this river without a topo map and/or doing it for the first time I suggest you access the river on the southern side. Follow the signs to the MacIntyre Falls until you see the turn off to Lemon Trees Campsite - the turn off is just before the MacIntyre Falls - Put in at Lemon Trees and after paddling the Severn drag back (3km) to Lemon Trees from the junction of the MacIntyre and the Severn River via a National Parks

service track. This river is a place for experts as intermediate paddlers will not enjoy this place. However, I do feel it is my responsibility to ensure the grade 6 rapid is not hyped up. The Severn River Falls is a grade 6 rapid with enormous consequences if you make a mistake. It has claimed the life of a dear friend who was a very good paddler. If you ever paddle this river, please be incredibly careful about the inherent and real risks of this rapid.

Putting In: Private property on north side of river (ask land holders)

Alternative Put In: possible to camp and put in at Lemon trees on the south side of the river in the National Park and then drag back to put in via south side on the closed road from Macintyre Junction.

Taking Out: River Right 4 km downstream from Macintyre River Junction

Map: Rocky Valley 1:125000 or and Inverell 1:250000

Gwydir River: Copeton Dam to Horse Stealer's Creek

Northern Tablelands and Northern Rivers. 30km South West from Inverell

Class: IV – V – VI

Season: Summer

Time: 4 hrs to 8 hrs

Length: 16km

Level: 2000ML/D to 10000ML/D – can be obtained from the Department of Land and Water Conservation Website – see URL below

Gauge: Department of Land and Water Conservation – Website

Gauge URL: <http://waterinfo.nsw.gov.au/drr/gwydir.shtml>

Shuttle: Approximately 8km on 4WD track and bitumen – 40 minutes return Good 4WD recommended.

Character: Big Volume, steep, pushy rapids through huge granite boulder gardens and bedrock. The river is runnable above 2000ML/D but commonly flows to levels of 8000 or 9000 ML/D in mid to late summer which provides the cotton growers downstream with irrigation water. This is true big water paddling, especially at high water levels, and should only be attempted by experienced paddlers in small groups. Access is bad, and a walkout would not be fun. There is limited possibility to set up safety and a swim can mean a lost boat, or worse. Once on the water, there is only about 100m to warm up before the first grade five rapid, "Double Trouble." Be ready, as this is a common point of disembarkment for those not well warmed up. Scout on river right, and watch out for big holes, haystacks and branches in the water..... Double Trouble ends in "More Trouble", a huge hole spanning most of the river, which has a sneak line down river right. About 300m later, just before the river takes a right hand bend, get out on river right to scout "Real Trouble" which is another aptly named grade 5. There is a clean line, but it's hard to find. Now that you have passed "The Troubles," your troubles are just beginning. Next on the cards after a few nice play holes and waves spaced over about 500m, is another Grade 5 – 6 Rapid, ABC, which consists of 3 separate sections. "A" is a good sized drop on river left followed closely by "B", a long slide into a huge cushion wave/eddy, and then "C" only 30 or so metres later, a natural grade 6 weir. "A" and "B" are both nice to run, but "C," is best avoided, though there has been a trend in recent times for people to eject themselves from their boats either in or just above "C." This is not recommended, and should be avoided at any cost. There is an easy line around to the left. Shortly after ABC is Umbrella Falls, a superb 3 to 4 m

drop. Scout on the left, and it can be run (close to the rock on river right) or there is a slightly easier line on the other side of the river, down two closely spaced drops. About 1 km of good class III-IV rapids leads to "Big Mother," a long flume of waves. It is pretty harmless, and has a nice play hole at the bottom, beside a rock on river right. This is a good lunch break spot, though the rafters often use another beach a little further down. From Big Mother, there is about 2 km of easier rapids, where the river passes through groves of trees and care must be taken to avoid dangerous boat pins. Generally, stay river left and follow the major flow on this section. A couple more good sized rapids signal the arrival of "Dead End Falls," an aptly named grade 6 rapid. Its name pretty much speaks for itself. Get out well above on river right to portage, and avoid surfing the perfectly formed surf waves immediately above, which are ever so enticing. After re-entering the water by a massive seal launch, continue downstream to The next major feature is Waimea, a good sized hole on river left, which is shallow and fast, and worth a surf if you're gutsy and have a flat bottom playboat. Just downstream. an even bigger grade 6 rapid, Sapphire Falls, so named due to the massive Sapphire shaped rock on river left, high on the cliff. Catch the small eddy above on river right, and be careful on the approach, a caught edge or mistimed stroke could lead to a nasty swim down a very steep, shallow rapid into one of the biggest holes you'll ever see. Another nice seal launch will see you on your way to the last 4 good sized rapids, the most notable of which are "Tombstone," which has a huge egg or tombstone shaped rock sticking out of the water in the middle of the rapid. Just around the corner is "The Equaliser," where the river sometimes manages to snare a last victim before the rapids ease and the river passes into "The Triffids." This is a long stretch of grade 1 water where trees have grown out into the river. When "Sliding Rock," a huge granite slab high on the hill on river right comes into view, you will know you are nearing the finish, and the "Playwaves." There are two nice play holes, which can entertain paddlers who have endured the rest of the river in a small playboat, and have arrived at the takeout a little early. The takeout is on river left about 100m after on river right. There is a small cleared area where Gordon Salmon will pick you up, if you have organised it well in advance. It is a good 50minute 4WD ride back to the cars. An Epic Day Out!

Putting In: From Inverell, drive west following signs to Moree. On leaving town, you will see signs to Copeton Recreation Reserve. Follow these signs and turn left about 3km out of town. After passing over the Copeton Dam wall, the recreation reserve is on the left. Pass this and after about 100m turn right on to a 4WD track. Follow this track as far as your vehicle permits. From here, follow the track down until it meets the river.

Taking Out: From the put in, drive back out to the recreation reserve and across the dam wall towards Inverell. Follow this road for about 6km until you reach the Gwydir Recreation Park on the left hand side of the road, run by Gordon and Judy Salmon. Gordon Salmon, the landowner will allow access to the river on his property for a nominal sum and to save you, can pick you up from the river in his 4WD and trailer and bring you back to the cars, for about \$10 per person. (We stacked nine people and boats on last time) This is highly recommended, as the shuttle from his house to the river is approximately 50 minutes each way. Call Mr Salmon well in advance and let him know that you're coming and when you will need picking up. His phone number is (02) 6723 6281 and he is always willing to help.

Map: Bundarra 1:100 000

Camping: Camping is at Copeton Recreation Reserve, or on Gordon Salmon's Property - (02) 6723 6281

Bielsdown River: Dorrigo Golf Course to Dorrigo

Northern Tablelands and Northern Rivers. 60kms West of Coffs Harbour

From Brian Cork's *Steep Creeks on the Dorrigo Plateau*

Class: II

Season: Between December and May depending on the season with Easter usually being a fair bet for good water levels

Time: 1-2 hours

Level: High water levels are required

Character: Poor quality unless you like bashing through thick masses of privet trees that clog the river. The river passes through Dorrigo and often catches paddlers attention with slalom gates that are usually hanging over the river right beside the road. Paddling can begin at the Dorrigo Golf course but the section of the river from here to the township is of poor quality unless you like bashing through thick masses of privet trees that clog the river. Rapids are of a grade 1 to 2 standard, taking 1-2 hours.

Putting In: Dorrigo Golf Course.

Taking Out: Dorrigo

Map: Dorrigo 1:25000

Bielsdown River: Dorrigo to Billings Road

Northern Tablelands and Northern Rivers. 60kms West of Coffs Harbour

From Brian Cork's *Steep Creeks on the Dorrigo Plateau*

Class: III (P)

Season: Between December and May depending on the season with Easter usually being a fair bet for good water levels

Time: 1-2 hrs to Dangar Falls, 1-2 hrs from there to Billings Rd.

Level: High water levels are needed

Character: Stands out with one big, yet to be run water fall. (First D in 2019)

The river passes through Dorrigo and often catches paddlers attention with slalom gates that are usually hanging over the river right beside the road. The trip from Dorrigo to Dangar Falls contains many grade 2 rapids with a man made weir, that is quite dangerous, behind the Dorrigo Abattoirs and a grade 3 rapid, 'the cascades' directly above Dangar Falls. Once again, high water levels are needed. The section after this is much more serious with several grade 3 rapids and one waterfall approximately 200m downstream of Dangar Falls that should be portaged. The section also takes 1-2 hours with the pull-out being at the next bridge.

Putting In: Dorrigo, the bridge over the Bielsdown is on the road to Armidale on the West side of town.

Taking Out: Take Coramba Rd, North out of town. Dangar Falls, one of the possible put ins or take out, is passed after about 1km and the bridge over the Bielsdown near Billings road is reach soon afterwards.

Map: Dorrigo 1:25000

Bielsdown River: Billings Road to Nymboida River

Northern Tablelands and Northern Rivers. 60kms West of Coffs Harbour

From Brian Cork's *Steep Creeks on the Dorrigo Plateau*

Class: IV- V (P)

Season: Between December and May depending on the season with Easter usually being a fair bet for good water levels

Gradient: 12m/km

Time: 8hrs

Length: 14km on the Bielsdown and 6.5km on the Nymboida

Level: Above 1.1m

Gauge: Platypus Flat guage on the Nymboida

Gauge: Bielsdown Creek at Dorrigo – At least 0.8m, 1m great level

Shuttle: 1.5 hrs on 2WD dirt and sealed roads.

Character: Open valley, with long pools interspersed with steep drops.

Suits: Short River Running Kayak

Bielsdown River, Billings Road to Nymboida River. Copyright 2008. All Rights Reserved. The only section of the Bielsdown River that is of high quality for paddling is this section from Billing's Road to the Nymboida River with it being one of the best steep creeks in the region. Although rumours exist of a descent in the mid 1970's, the first recorded descent of this section was completed by Melbourne and Brisbane paddlers in early 1997. The section is a long day, taking most parties eight hours. Less experienced parties may even have to allow for 2 days. The river is a drop and pool river, consisting of long, flat pools interspersed by some awesome grade 2,3,4 and 5 rapids. Many of the harder rapids consist of deep, clean waterfalls of 4 to 6m in height, all of which are runnable. There is one almost definite portage, a 15m high waterfall, about two-thirds of the way down the Bielsdown, which is best portaged on the tight. Take care at the lead-in to this rapid. Once the Nymboida is entered, there are some of the best rapids the Nymboida has to offer still to paddle. Allow at least an hour for this section. Bielsdown River, Billings Road to Nymboida River. Copyright 2008. All Rights Reserved. As a rough estimate, if the water levels at Platypus Flat on the Nymboida are above 1.1m, then the water levels in the Bielsdown should be high enough. This depends on how localised the rainfall in the area is. This section is highly recommended.

Putting In: From Dorrigo, head north on the road to Coramba, past Dangar Falls and after about 4km, and just before a bridge across the Bielsdown, turn left into Billings Road. Drive down this for just over 1km till just before the road leaves the river. There will be access to the river next to a pump unit. This is the put-in.

Shorter Put In: Private property located at the end of Davidson Road, which turns west off Lower Bielsdown Road at Tallwood ridge. This is private property and the farmer at the house on the left on the way in needs to be asked. At time of writing there is a family dispute over this land, and the house at the very end of the road is still abandoned and has been for a few years. In a 2x2, park at the farm house on the left and drag your boat a 300m or so through the paddocks down to the river. This will put you about 300m above the steepest 1km of the trip (so only one pool!)

Taking Out: Drive back out to the Coramba Road and turn left. Follow this road to Megan, turn left to Cascade and then left again onto the Moses Rock Road. Follow this road for

approx 5km and then turn left onto Cedar Road, follow this for approx 8km till a right turn signposted Platypus Flat is reach. From here it is only 500m to Platypus Flat and the take out.

Map: Dorrigo 1:25000

Camping: Good camping can be found at Platypus Flat on the Nymboida River.

Cooperbrook Creek: Megan-Brooklana Rd to Bo Bo River

Northern Tablelands and Northern Rivers. 60kms East of Coffs Harbour

From Brian Cork's *Steep Creeks on the Dorrigo Plateau*

Class: II – III+ (VI,P)

Season: Between December and May depending on the season with Easter usually being a fair bet for good water levels

Level: Paddling must be soon after heavy rain as the small catchment means good water levels don't last long.

Character: The paddling is superb creeking for experienced paddlers with narrow, steep drops in a beautiful rainforest setting. This is an excellent, rainforest-clad, steep creek that is crossed on the Megan- Brooklana Rd at GR823486. Take one look at this creek from the road at good water level and you'll see why paddlers have drooled over it for years, it is a creekers dream. The best put in point is on the Megan- Brooklana Rd or at the bottom of a steep ridge which is about 500m east of the river crossing. The second option puts in below a grade 6 rapid soon after this. Cooperbrook Creek is fast, tree infested and quite scary to scout with many grade 2 – 3+ drops and clean rapids. Take out points exist off Kritons Rd or by continuing until the Bo Bo River is reached. The section between Kritons Rd and the Bo Bo is also quite enjoyable. The pull out point after this is at the bridge (GR534853) on the Cascade- Ulong Road.

Putting In: From Dorrigo, head Nth on the Rd to Coramba, past Dangar Falls, across the Bielsdown R., and to the little village of Megan. Turn right here and still following the Coramba Rd within 5km you will cross Cooperbrook Ck. The best put in point is at this bridge or at the bottom of a steep ridge, which is about 500m east of the river crossing.

Taking Out: Take out points exist off Kritons Rd or by continuing until the Bo Bo River is reached. The section between Kritons Rd and the Bo Bo is also quite enjoyable. The pull out point after this is at the bridge (GR534853) on the Cascade- Ulong Road.

Map: Brooklana 1:25000

Bo Bo River: Brooklana to Lower Bo Bo Bridge

Northern Tablelands and Northern Rivers. 50kms West of Coffs Harbour

From Brian Cork's *Steep Creeks on the Dorrigo Plateau*

Class: II - II+

Season: Between December and May depending on the season with Easter usually being a fair bet for good water levels

Time: 2 hrs

Length: 5km

Level: The water level needs to be high enough to paddle under the bridge without scraping the bottom of the river. If it is high enough to paddle into the surrounding paddocks paddling is likely to be dangerous.

Gauge: Visual

Shuttle: ½ to ¾ Hr on 2WD dirtroads.

Character: Tree lined pools and small rapids of grade 1 and 2 standard

Start at the bridge to Brooklana in the Ulong – Megan Rd. Some blind corners lead up to a small, grade 2 waterfall about 1m in height, followed by grade 1 and 2 rapids. Towards the end of the trip a long, shallow pool leads to a high railway bridge where a man-made channel has been cut through the rock. This rapid can approach grade 3 at higher water levels. The take out is about 50m below the point at the low level bridge on the Ulong - Cascade Rd.

Putting In: From Dorrigo head Nth past Dangar Falls and at Meagan take the road toward Coramba. At Brooklana there is a bridge over the Bo Bo, this is the put in.

Taking Out: Continue along the Coramba Rd until the Lower Bo Bo Rd is met just before Ulong, turn left onto this and follow it to the low level bridge over the Bo Bo, this is the take out.

Map: Brooklana 1:25000, Moleton 1:25000

Bo Bo River: Bo Bo Gorge

Northern Tablelands and Northern Rivers. 50kms West of Dorrigo

From Brian Cork's *Steep Creeks on the Dorrigo Plateau*

Class: III - IV

Season: Between December and May depending on the season with Easter usually being a fair bet for good water levels

Time: Allow a whole day for the paddle, including about 2 hours for the car shuttle.

Length: 16km

Level: 0.48m minimum (this minimum level is new due to the addition of concrete ford downstream of gauge)

Gauge: Gauge at the causeway on Frog Hollow Rd

Shuttle: Hard 4WD

Character: Narrow chutes or channels surrounded by rainforest clad pools

Situated on the Eastern Dorrigo Plateau, the Bo Bo Gorge is a creekers dream. The section is approximately 16km in length and consists of long, rainforest clad pool, sperated by steep rapids. Most of the rapids are either waterfalls or narrow channels and chutes carved into a solid rock bed, resulting in tight and technical paddling of about grade 3 to 4 in standard. All up there are about 1 – 5 portages which are quite easy except for a 30m waterfall and 2/3 of the way through the trip. It can be portaged on the right and can be quite tricky if it is wet. To say any more about the creek would spoil the experience, but generally if you can't see the next eddy, get out and look.

Putting In: Put in at the causeway on Frog Hollow Rd where there is a gauge on the right hand side of the river. To reach Frog Hollow Rd, take the Cascade Rd from Ulong. After crossing the Bo Bo River, drive through the pine plantation for about 3km. Frog Hollow Rd turns f on the right and crosses the Bo Bo River.

Taking Out: The take out point is at the junction of the Little Nymboida River. This point is a little harder to find so you'll need a good 4WD a good map and a possible chainsaw. To

reach the take-out, driver through the village of Ulong, continuing through Timmsvale on the Timmsvale Rd. Alternatively the take out can be reached by driving across the river at Frog Hollow Rd (although this is private property). An unmarked road turns off on the left and goes all the way to the junction. The last 500m is very steep and is best walked.

Map: Moleton 1:25000

Blicks River: Hyland Rd turn off to above Dundurrabin Rd

Northern Tablelands and Northern Rivers. 80kms East of Coffs Harbour

From Brian Cork's *Steep Creeks on the Dorrigo Plateau*

Class: IV- V (P)

Season: Between December and May depending on the season with Easter usually being a fair bet for good water levels. This river often gets different rain episodes than other Dorrigo Plateau creeks

Gradient: The gradient of the river averages about 45m/km, dropping from about 1030m to 700m in altitude.

Length: 15km

Level: The best water levels are between 1.1m and 1.3m at Dundurrabin.

Gauge: On river right, about 200m upstream of the Dundurrabin bridge on the Armidale – Grafton Rd

Character: This is the steepest, narrowest and most dangerous section mentioned on the Blicks.

This is a popular river with most groups paddling the section from Dundurrabin to the Nymboida River, near Platypus Flat. The sections higher up offer paddling of a high quality and difficulty but require more rain to flow. Higher put in points can be found on the Merango Rd from Hernani or from any other road that goes down to the river such as the un-named road that leaves the Armidale-Grafton road at GR521551. Water levels can be most easily seen from the bridge on the Armidale-Grafton road, near Dundurrabin. Paddling on the upper sections is quite serious with many rapids up to grade 6 in standard. Tree also pose a problem on several sections. This is a very serious section of river, suitable only for experienced paddlers. Paddling is canyon style with most of the river being less than a boat length wide. This would make this section extremely dangerous if the water level is over the river banks. Many of the rapids require scouting with up to a total of about 12 portage's around big drops. Most of the paddling is of grade 4-5 standard with paddlers needing to be able to run drops of up to 4m. Some of the larger rapids are impossible to portage.

Putting In: Hyland Rd turnoff.

Taking Out: The take out point is on the track at GR520566 (Dun).

Map: Merango 1:25000, Dundurrabin 1:25000

Blicks River: Dundurrabin Section

Northern Tablelands and Northern Rivers. 80kms East of Coffs Harbour

From Brian Cork's *Steep Creeks on the Dorrigo Plateau*

Class: III – IV (IV+)

Length: 8km

Level: The best water levels are between 0.8m and 1.5m at Dundurrabin.

Gauge: On river right, about 200m upstream of the Dundurrabin bridge on the Armidale – Grafton Rd

Character: Excellent, technical paddling.

This is a popular river with most groups paddling the section from Dundurrabin to the Nymboida River, near Platypus Flat. The sections higher up offer paddling of a high quality and difficulty but require more rain to flow. The most notable rapid of the trip is a grade 4+ rapid (Dundurrabin Falls) which is several hundred metres upstream of the bridge.

Putting In: The put in point is on the track at GR520566 (Dun).

Taking Out: Is at the bridge over the Blinks at Dundurrabin on the Armidale- Grafton road.

Map: Merango 1:25000, Dundurrabin 1:25000

Blinks River: Dundurrabin to Nymboida River

Northern Tablelands and Northern Rivers. 80kms West of Coffs Harbour

From Brian Cork's *Steep Creeks on the Dorrigo Plateau*

Class: IV (V)

Season: Between December and May depending on the season with Easter usually being a fair bet for good water levels. This river often gets different rain episodes than other Dorrigo Plateau creeks

Time: Long day, or 2 day for less experienced groups

Length: 22km

Level: Minimum 0.6m, best around 1.1m

Gauge: On river right, about 200m upstream of the Dundurrabin bridge on the Armidale – Grafton Rd

Shuttle: 2wd dirt, approx 20km one way

Character: Rocky rapids with several waterfalls

This section is approximately 22km in length and is usually completed as a day trip, however it may take 2 days for less experienced groups who opt to inspect many of the rapids from the bank. Most of the rapids on this section are rocky and are up to grade 4 in standard although several grade 5 waterfalls are found. Campsites are scarce.

Putting In: From Dorrigo head NW on the Tyringham – Dorrigo Rd and follow it through to the Armidale Grafton Rd, turn right on this and continue for another 3km to a the Bridge over the Blinks at Dundurrabin. This is the put in.

Taking Out: To get to the take out at Platypus Flat head back to the Dorrigo – Tyringham road and back to just before Bostobrick. Turn left onto Moonpar Rd just before Bostobrick. Follow this, crossing the upper Nymboida and after about 7km turn left onto Mills Rd. This will take you down to the bridge over the Nymboida and continue for a further 1km to Platypus Flat. Platypus Flat can also be reached via Cascade if there is heavy rain and the access roads are too boggy

Map: Dundurrabin 1:25000, Marengo 1:25000

Wild Cattle Creek: Slingsby Road to Megan

Northern Tablelands and Northern Rivers. 60kms East of Coffs Harbour

From Brian Cork's *Steep Creeks on the Dorrigo Plateau*

Class: III – IV

Season: Between December and May depending on the season with Easter usually being a fair bet for good water levels.

Level: This section can only be paddled at high water levels but would be dangerous if the water level was too high to paddle beneath the bridge at Megan

Gauge: Visual

Character: Narrow, steep drops and chutes with trees posing a problem in places
Wild Cattle Creek flows through the tiny village of Megan on the Dorrigo- Cascade Road, north of Dorrigo. The highest put-in points are after a one km walk through the National Park off Slingsby Rd for a paddle down to Megan.

Putting In: From Dorrigo, head Nth on the Rd to Coramba, past Dangar Falls, across the Bielsdown River, 3km after this, Slingsby Rd head off to the right. Follow this to the national park, you can then walk approx one kilometre down to the river.

Taking Out: Go back to the Coramba Rd turn right and drive approx 3km to Megan. Here there is a bridge across the river to take out at.

Map: Brooklana 1:25000, Durrumbidgee 1:25000

Wild Cattle Creek: Megan to Platypus Flat

Northern Tablelands and Northern Rivers. 60kms East of Coffs Harbour

From Brian Cork's *Steep Creeks on the Dorrigo Plateau*

Class: III – IV (p)

Season: Between December and May depending on the season with Easter usually being a fair bet for good water levels.

Time: A very long day

Length: 16km + 2.5km on the Nymboida

Level: Water levels are best if tips of the old bridge piers below Megan bridge are just sticking out of the river

Gauge: Visual

Shuttle: Approx. ¾ of an hour on dirt 2WD roads

Character: This section is not highly recommended as the portage's are long and many of the rapids are quite dangerous due to the abundance of rocks in critical places. Wild Cattle Creek flows through the tiny village of Megan on the Dorrigo- Cascade Road, north of Dorrigo. The section from Megan to the Nymboida River is about 16km in length and should only be attempted by experienced parties. This section is not highly recommended as the portage's are long and many of the rapids are quite dangerous due to the abundance of rocks in critical places. This section contains many rapids of a grade 2 and 3 standard with some being harder. A rope and possibly abseiling gear can shorten some of the portage's, one of which can take up to 2 ½ hours. This trip can be done as a very long day trip for experienced parties. From the Nymboida River junction it is about a 2.5km paddle down to the bridge on Mills Rd (GR 704598), or a further kilometre to Platypus.

Putting In: From Dorrigo, head Nth on the Rd to Coramba, past Dangar Falls, across the Bielsdown and then to the tiny village of Megan where there is a bridge across Wild Cattle Ck. This is the put in.

Taking Out: From Megan follow the road to Cascade, turn left onto the Moses Rock Rd and follow this road for approx 5km. Turn left onto Cedar Rd, follow this for approx 8km till a right turn signposted Platypus Flat is reach. From here it is only 500m to Platypus Flat and the take out.

Map: Brooklana 1:25000, Dundurrabin 1:25000

Little Murray River: Fernbrook Loop to Johnsens Road

Northern Tablelands and Northern Rivers. 60kms East of Coffs Harbour

From Brian Cork's *Steep Creeks on the Dorrigo Plateau*

Class: III – IV

Season: Between December and May depending on the season, with Easter usually a fair bet for good water levels

Length: 8kms

Level: Visual (see paddling notes)

Character: Canyon style paddling

This is the steepest of the sections on the Little Murray River and is distinctive for its canyon-style paddling. It is highly recommended for relatively experienced paddlers. This section is very dependent on water levels, which are best judged at the take out point. A basic rule for water levels is that the gauge at Platypus Flat on the Nymboida should be over 2m. Although only about 8km in length, this section offers clean, narrow drops through beautiful rainforest surroundings including large stands of Antarctic Beech. The rapids are mostly of grade 3 to 4 in standard with several being more difficult and three huge waterfalls that are compulsory portage's. Care must be taken on the lead up to the first large waterfall which is early in the trip. A distinctive, guttery-style grade 3 rapid leads to a small eddy at the top of the fall. Either catch this crucial eddy and make the difficult portage over the waterfall using ropes or take the high portage on the right above the guttery, lead-up rapid. This option is longer but safer. The end of the trip is marked by an awesome, chasm-waterfall below a man-made weir. The walk out is made more difficult if it is raining due to the fact that you have to carry several kilograms of leeches on each foot.

Putting In: From Dorrigo head West on the Dorrigo – Armidale Rd, after 15km turn right on to the Fernbrook Loop Rd. Follow this to a point closet to the river and drag your kayaks about 500m through private property.

Taking Out: Return to the Dorrigo- Armidale Rd and head back toward Dorrigo after 5km turn left onto Johnsens Rd. The take out point is where the river runs close to Johnsens Rd. Small forest tracks that leave Johnsens Rd about 500m after there is a fork in the road and Johnsens Rd turns sharply to the left.

Map: Dorrigo 1:25,000

Little Murray River: Johnsens Road to Deervale Road

Northern Tablelands and Northern Rivers. 60kms East of Coffs Harbour

From Brian Cork's *Steep Creeks on the Dorrigo Plateau*

Class: III – IV (p)

Season: Between December and May depending on the season, with Easter usually a fair bet for good water levels

Length: 5kms

Level: Visual (see paddling notes)

Character: Quality steep paddling

The Little Murray River is one of the best steep creeks on the Dorrigo Plateau and is one of the first that can be paddled during periods of rain. There are two easy access points to the river for judging water levels. The first is on the Dorrigo – Bostobrick Road at GR662510 with the other being on Deervale Rd GR648450 which comes off the Dorrigo – Armidale Road approximately 5kms from Dorrigo. Water levels can be judged here and are best if the river is just too high to be able to paddle beneath the bridge. This 5km section provides quality rapids of a grade 3 – 4 standard. One large rapid that is mostly portaged exists about 500m above the bridge on Deervale Rd and can be seen from the road.

Putting In: From Dorrigo head West on the Dorrigo – Armidale Rd, after 10km turn right onto Johnsens Rd. The put in point is where the river runs close to Johnsens Rd. Small forest tracks that leave Johnsens Rd about 500m after there is a fork in the road and Johnsens Rd turns sharply to the left.

Taking Out: Head back to the Armidale – Dorrigo Rd, turn back toward Dorrigo and after 5km turn left onto the Deervale Rd and 5km down this is a bridge over the Little Murray which is the take out.

Map: Dorrigo 1:25,000

[Little Murray River: Deervale Road to Bostobrick Road](#)

Northern Tablelands and Northern Rivers. 60kms East of Coffs Harbour

From Brian Cork's *Steep Creeks on the Dorrigo Plateau*

Class: III (IV+)

Season: Between December and May depending on the season, with Easter usually a fair bet for good water levels

Length: 12kms

Level: Visual (see paddling notes)

Shuttle: 22kms

Character: Steep rocky paddling

The Little Murray River is one of the best steep creeks on the Dorrigo Plateau and is one of the first that can be paddled during periods of rain. There are two easy access points to the river for judging water levels. The first is on the Dorrigo – Bostobrick Road at GR662510 with the other being on Deervale Rd GR648450 which comes off the Dorrigo – Armidale Road approximately 5kms from Dorrigo. Water levels can be judged here and are best if the river is just too high to be able to paddle beneath the bridge. The trip offers paddling mostly of a grade 2 – 3 standard with two grade 4+ rapids near the start of the section. The nature of the river is such that the biggest rapids are at the start and finish of the section with trees posing a problem in some places.

Putting In: From Dorrigo head West on the Dorrigo – Armidale Rd, after 5km turn right onto the Deervale Rd and 5km down this is a bridge over the Little Murray which is the put in.

Taking Out: Head back to Dorrigo, just before the town turn left onto the Tyringham – Dorrigo road. Just past Dorrigo Nth is a bridge over the Little Murray, GR648450, this is the take out point

Map: Dorrigo 1:25,000

Little Murray River: Bostobrick Road to Nymboida River

Northern Tablelands and Northern Rivers. 60kms West of Coffs Harbour

From Brian Cork's *Steep Creeks on the Dorrigo Plateau*

Class: III - IV

Season: Between December and May depending on the season, with Easter usually a fair bet for good water levels

Time: 6-8hrs

Length: 3kms on the Little Murray, 11km on the Nymboida

Level: Above 0.7m (Extreme caution should be taken if the river level approaches or exceeds 1.2m)

Gauge: Platypus Flat gauge, Nymboida River

Shuttle: At least an hours on 2WD dirt roads

Character: Very boulder with a few excellent bedrock rapids

The Little Murray River is one of the best steep creeks on the Dorrigo Plateau and is one of the first that can be paddled during periods of rain. This 3 km section is often used as an alternative start to the Moonpar Rd to Platypus Flat section on the Nymboida River. This is a great section of river that drops almost continuously in parts, however the potential for kayaks becoming pinned mean that the section is only suitable for experienced paddlers. The Most of the paddling is of grade 2 – 3 standard with two excellent grade 4 rapids. Once the Nymboida River is reached a further 11km of the Nymboida must be paddled to reach Platypus Flat (see Nymboida River, Moonpar Rd to Platypus Flat for description) or the bridge on Mills Rd (see section on Nymboida River)

Putting In: From Dorrigo follow the Tyringham – Dorrigo road past Dorrigo Nth to a bridge over the Little Murray, this is the put in point.

Taking Out: To get to either Platypus Flat or the bridge on Mills Rd continue on the Tyringham – Dorrigo road west and turn right on to the Moonpar Rd just after Bostobrick. Follow this crossing the upper Nymboida and after about 7km turn left onto Mills Rd. This will take you down to the bridge over the Nymboida, either take out here or continue for a further 1km to Platypus Flat. Platypus Flat can also be reached via Cascade if there is heavy rain and the access roads are too boggy.

Map: Dorrigo 1:25,000

Little Nymboida River: Bo Bo Junction to Nymboida Junction

Northern Tablelands and Northern Rivers. 65kms West of Coffs Harbour

From Brian Cork's *Steep Creeks on the Dorrigo Plateau*

Class: III - IV

Season: Between December and May depending on the season with Easter usually being a fair bet for good water levels.

Time: Under 4 hrs by experienced parties at high water

Level: The Little Nymboida River can be paddled in very high water due to the more open nature of the surrounding gorge). This is an excellent section of river to paddle when the Nymboida is too high for safe paddling (above about 2.5m at Platypus Flat, see section on Nymboida River)

Shuttle: Expect the car shuttle to take about 2hrs each way

Character: Open gorge with continuous whitewater at high levels

The Little Nymboida River flows from near Lowanna to join the Nymboida River at what is usually (and imaginatively) called 'The Junction'. Several sections have been paddled Between Lowanna and the junction with the Bo Bo river with reports of good rapids but problems with trees overhanging the river and access points being difficult to find. The best of these sections is the 9km section from Battery Rd to the Bo Bo junction. This offers very difficult, canyon style paddling including many portage's around large waterfalls. The most popular section is from the Bo Bo River junction (GR815671 M) to the Nymboida River junction (GR764733 G). This is an excellent section of river to paddle when the Nymboida is too high for safe paddling (above about 2.5m at Platypus Flat, see section on Nymboida River) The Little Nymboida River can be paddled in very high water due to the more open nature of the surrounding gorge. This section is about 17km in length but can be paddled in under 4 hours by experienced parties at high water levels due to the continuous nature of the rapids. In terms of paddling, after an easy first few kilometres a large rapid 'The Gip' or 'Dave's Hole' (grade 4) is met followed by several other wide, fast grades 3 rapids, all of which can be portaged with relative ease. After these rapids, the paddling comprises of an almost continuous grade 2-3 wave train that makes for some of the most enjoyable paddling to be found anywhere.

Putting In: The put in point is at the junction of the Bo Bo River. This point is a little hard to find so you'll need a good 4WD a good map and a possible chainsaw. To reach the put in, take the Coramba Rd from Dorriggo, Nth through Megan, Brooklana and finally turn off to drive through the village of Ulong. Continuing through Timmsvale on the Timmsvale Rd. An unmarked road turns off on the left and goes all the way to the junction. The last 500m is very steep and is best walked.

Taking Out: Make you way back through Ulong to the Coramba- Dorriggo Rd, turn left and follow it and till Lowanna Rd is reached. Drive through Lowanna and follow Cradle Creek Rd till you meet the junction of Black Mountain Rd. Turn left again and follow Black Mountain Rd all the way till you get to the Junction road. The junction road will take you down to the junction but unless you have a 4WD with good clearance leave you car in the car park within 2km of the bottom, very big spoon drains make the descent hairy. At the bottom is the take out.

Map: Moleton 1:25,000, Glenreagh 1:25,000

[Nymboida River: Harness Cask to Moonpar Rd](#)

Northern Tablelands and Northern Rivers. 45km West of Coffs Harbour

From Brian Cork's *Steep Creeks on the Dorriggo Plateau*

Class: II-III (p)

Season: Between December and May depending on the season with Easter usually being a fair bet for good water levels.

Time: 3 – 4 hours

Length: 7kms

Level: Can be paddled even when the lower sections have too much water for safe canoeing.

Character: Rocky intermediate river

The Nymboida River is one of the most popular white-water rivers in Australia due to the high quality of the rapids and beautiful scenery. Around 130km of whitewater provides many sections for paddlers, catering for all abilities. As with all of the rivers in this region, the best water levels are usually found between December and May, depending on the season with Easter usually being a fair bet for good water levels. Even though floods can provide for some incredible paddling, access to the river can become a problem as the roads get very slippery. The is an interesting day trip and is recommended for intermediate paddlers or when the lower sections of the river have too much water for safe canoeing. The trip can start where the river passes under the Tyringham-Dorrigo road (GR6000542 Dun) which joins the Armidale-Grafton road at Tyringham. The trip can also be extended by travelling 200m toward Dorrigo from this bridge and travelling upstream along the Harness Cask Road to Harness Cask (GR573513 Dor). This road follows the river and provides many put-in points. The trip ends where the Moonpar Road crosses the river at (GR651531 Dor). The rapids are mostly of a grade 2 to 3 standard but are quite rocky. About 3km below the bridge there is a 200m section of steeply dropping river which may require portaging. The basic trip is 7km in length, taking 3 to 4 hours with the extended trip from Harness Cask taking an extra 2 hours.

Putting In: The trip can start where the river passes under the Tyringham-Dorrigo road (GR6000542 Dun) which joins the Armidale-Grafton road at Tyringham. To get there from Dorrigo head NW on the Tyringham – Dorrigo Rd, through Dorrigo Nth and Bostobrick, the bridge is about 5km after Bostobrick. The trip can also be extended by travelling 200m toward Dorrigo from this bridge and travelling upstream along the Harness Cask Road to Harness Cask (GR573513 Dor). This road follows the river and provides many put-in points.

Taking Out: Take out where the Moonpar Rd crosses the river at (GR651531 Dor) To get there, return toward Dorrigo on the Tyringham-Dorrigo road just before Bostobrick, Moonpar Rd heads off on the left, follow this to the bridge.

[Nymboida River: Moonpar Rd to Platypus Flat](#)

Northern Tablelands and Northern Rivers. 60kms West of Coffs Harbour

From Brian Cork's *Steep Creeks on the Dorrigo Plateau*

Class: III+ - IV+ (V)

Season: Between December and May depending on the season with Easter usually being a fair bet for good water levels.

Time: 6-8hrs

Length: 14kms

Level: Above 0.7m

Gauge: Platypus Flat

Shuttle: Approx. 9km of 2WD dirt roads

Character: Broad open river with steep rapids

The Nymboida River is one of the most popular white-water rivers in Australia due to the high quality of the rapids and beautiful scenery. Around 130km of whitewater provides many sections for paddlers, catering for all abilities. As with all of the rivers in this region, the best water levels are usually found between December and May, depending on the season with Easter usually being a fair bet for good water levels. Even though floods can provide for some incredible paddling, access to the river can become a problem as the roads get very slippery. This section of river is for experienced paddlers only. Start at the bridge on Moonpar Road and the trip finishes at the bridge on Mills Road or a further 1km downstream, at Platypus Flat (GR 703605) picnic area which is found by continuing along this road. A better start for this section of river is by paddling down the Little Murray river as it provides bigger, more constant rapids, however both are enjoyable (see section on Little Murray). Nymboida River, Moonpar Road to Platypus Flat. Copyright 2008. All Rights Reserved. This section of river is 14km in length and can be done as a long day trip depending on levels and paddling experience. Progress is often slow due to the high number of portage's, all rapids are often run. The first 3km of the river is usually very rocky and if there is enough water to paddle comfortably here, there is often too much water further downstream. For this reason, another place to start is below the Little Murray River by way of any of the logging roads that approach the river from Moonpar Road to the North, however this does require some boat dragging. The rapids below this section are mostly of a grade 3 to 4 standard with some possible grade 5's, mostly consisting of steep, clean drops. In summary, if you paddle this section of river when the gauge is around 1.1m at Platypus Flat you will be experiencing some of the best white water paddling in the country. The bridge at Platypus flat has been fixed for sometime. At lower levels (eg. 0.9m at Platypus) a nice half day trip can be done by putting in just below the junction of the Little Murray off Mills Road.

Putting In: From Dorrigo follow the road West through Dorrigo North and then Bostobrick. Just after Bostobrick turn left onto Moonpar Road and follow this to the bridge over the Nymboida River, (GR651531)

Taking Out: To get to either Platypus Flat or the bridge on Mills Road continue on the Moonpar Road, after approx 3km turn left onto Mills Road. This will take you down to the bridge over the Nymboida, either take out here or continue for a further 1km to Platypus Flat. Platypus Flat can also be reached via Cascade if there is heavy rain and the access roads are too boggy

Nymboida River: Platypus Flat to Cod Hole

Northern Tablelands and Northern Rivers. 60kms West of Coffs Harbour

From Brian Cork's *Steep Creeks on the Dorrigo Plateau*

Class: III+ - IV+ (V)

Season: Between December and May depending on the season with Easter usually being a fair bet for good water levels.

Time: 2.5 – 5 hrs

Level: Should be between 0.5m and 3.0m, can be paddled down to 0.2m and as high as you are crazy enough to paddle

Gauge: Platypus Flat

Shuttle: 3/4 hr on 2WD dirt roads

Character: Open drop-pool rapids surrounding stunning rainforest

The Nymboida River is one of the most popular white-water rivers in Australia due to the high quality of the rapids and beautiful scenery. Around 130km of whitewater provides many sections for paddlers, catering for all abilities. As with all of the rivers in this region, the best water levels are usually found between December and May, depending on the season with Easter usually being a fair bet for good water levels. Even though floods can provide for some incredible paddling, access to the river can become a problem as the roads get very slippery. This is a very popular, 9km, 1 day trip that starts at Platypus Flat and finishes at Cod Hole. The river is very scenic and is classified as one of the best trips in North Eastern NSW. Most of the rapids are of grade 2- 4 standard with three main rapids requiring scouting and mostly portaging. 'Lucifer's Leap' and Rock Bar are about 2km below the start and are possible grade 4-5 rapids, depending on water level. They are only about 70m apart. The 'Devil's Cauldron' usually also requires portaging unless the river is high enough to run the river left channel or low enough to run the centre chute. The rapid is found about 5-6km downstream of Platypus Flat and can easily be seen upon approach. This section is frequently commercially rafted and water levels can sometimes be found by contacting them.

Putting In: From Dorrigo there are 2 ways to get to Platypus Flat either follow the Tyringham – Dorrigo Rd road West through Dorrigo Nth and then Bostobrick. Just after Bostobrick turn right onto Moonpar Rd and follow crossing over the upper Nymboida River after a further approx 3km turn left onto Mills Rd. This will take you down to another bridge over the Nymboida, continue for a further 1km to a left turn to Platypus Flat. Platypus Flat can also be reached via Cascade and Moses Rock Rd if there is heavy rain and the access roads are too boggy

Taking Out: From Platypus Flat head back out the way you came but instead of turning right to the ford turn left up Cedar Rd. After approx 4km turn left onto Retrievers Rd and this will link you with Moses Rock Road. Follow this to Cod Hole Road and down the end of this will be Cod Hole, the takeout.

Nymboida River: Cod Hole to the Junction

Northern Tablelands and Northern Rivers. 60kms West of Coffs Harbour

From Brian Cork's *Steep Creeks on the Dorrigo Plateau*

Class: III+ - IV (V)

Season: Between December and May depending on the season with Easter usually being a fair bet for good water levels

Time: 8 hrs to 2 days

Level: Should be between 0.5m and 3.0m, can be paddled down to 0.2m and as high as you are crazy enough to paddle

Gauge: Platypus Flat (there is no automatic gauge on this so you either have to check it out yourself or ring a rafting company)

Shuttle: 2 hours each way on 2WD dirt roads

Character: Large river in a steep sided valley with steep rapids

The Nymboida River is one of the most popular white-water rivers in Australia due to the high quality of the rapids and beautiful scenery. Around 130km of whitewater provides many sections for paddlers, catering for all abilities. As with all of the rivers in this region,

the best water levels are usually found between December and May, depending on the season with Easter usually being a fair bet for good water levels. Even though floods can provide for some incredible paddling, access to the river can become a problem as the roads get very slippery. This section is about 16km in length and is one of the classic whitewater touring sections in Australia. The river flows through beautiful, steep sided valley, featuring pockets of rainforest and towering granite cliffs with the river itself having a magnificent series of rapids. The rapids are mostly grade 1 to 4 standard with some approaching grade 5. This section is a long day trip or a comfortable 2 day trip with many campsites. This trip is for experienced paddlers.

Putting In: From Dorrigo head Nth on the Coramba Rd to Megan, left to Cascade and then left again onto the Moses Rock Rd. Follow this road for approx 11km and then turn left onto Cod Hole Road. This will take you down to Cod Hole and the put in.

Taking Out: Make you way back to Cascade but instead of turning right to Megan turn left onto the Lower Bo Bo Road. Follow this road till you meet up with the Coramba- Dorrigo Rd, turn left and follow it past Ulong and turn left onto the Lowana Rd. Drive through Lowana and follow Cradle Creek Rd till you meet the junction of Black Mountain Rd. Turn left again and follow this all the way till you get to the Junction road. The junction road will take you down to the junction but unless you have a 4WD with good clearance leave you car in the carpark within 2km of the bottom, very big spoon drains make the descent hairy. At the bottom is the take out.

[Nymboida River: Buccarumbi to Jackadgery](#)

North East. Grafton

Class: II-III

Season: November - May

Gradient: Gentle

Time: 2-3 Days

Length: 44 km

Level: Minimum 1.35m best at around 1.5 - 2 m

Gauge: Nymboida downstream

Shuttle: Easy 1.5 hours

Character: Easy multi-day trip, mostly flatwater with a handful of grade II - IV rapids

This is an excellent scenic trip that can be done in two long days or three easy days. Put in at the bridge on the old Glen Innes to Grafton Road. The first day of paddling from here to Ramornie consists of mostly flat water, with multiple riffles and grade I-II rapids. The first major rapid is encountered on the second day at Cundlebung creek. This is a dangerous grade IV rapid consisting of a narrow 2m drop followed by a short sweeping left hand bend and a second 2m drop. The section between Cundlebung creek and the Junction contains three easy grade II-III rapids. The first is Exhibition falls, with a clean line on the right followed by a large wave train. The rocky rapid further downstream may be difficult for inexperienced paddlers or large canoes to negotiate at low levels and can be portaged via the left bank flood channel. There is a good campsite on river left on the northern bank of the Mann where it joins the Nymboida. Immediately below the large junction pool is the giant boulder garden known as Bridal Veil Falls. At low water level it can be negotiated on the left hand side by paddling/sliding/dragging the boats over the rocks. This rapid is

reported to be a grade III at moderate river levels and a grade IV at higher levels. New Zealand falls is a grade III-IV rapid consisting of a single 2m drop, with a lot of turbulence at the bottom created by the narrowing of the river between two large boulders. The right hand side of the drop is clean and has been successfully run in Canadian canoes. The falls can be portaged via the right bank. Paddling from here to Jackadgery takes about 2 hours. Unless you have a capable 4WD, its best to ask the owners of the caravan park for permission to bring your vehicle to the top of the track down to the left hand bank and walk the boats up the track.

Putting In: Old Grafton - Glen Innes Road

Taking Out: Jackadgery Caravan Park

Map: Buccarumbi (9438-3-N), Gundahl (9438-3-S) & Jackadgery (9438-4-N) 1:25000

Cobrabald - Macdonald River Headwaters: Glen Morrison Rd to Aberbaldie Rd
Northern Tablelands. Walcha.

Class: II - III- IV

Season: September to March

Gradient: Only 100m over the trip but most of it is in 6 kms in the middle

Time: 5 hours

Length: 19km

Level: 1.8m at least at Woolbrook on the MacDonald River

Gauge: Woolbrook

Gauge URL: <http://www.bom.gov.au/fwo/IDN60235/IDN60235.559000.plt.shtml>

Shuttle: 30-40 minutes each way via Aberbaldie Road

Character: Open gorge with pool drop rapids and sharp sedimentary bedrock geology

This is a descent worth knowing about if you're in the area and there's some local heavy rain and you don't want a committing shuttle or epic adventure run. The Cobrabald River crosses the Thunderbolts Way about 15km South of Walcha in Southern New England. It is one of the many local rivers that get funneled into the Macdonald River gorge or Upper Namoi as some may know it. About 4km downstream from where the river crosses Thunderbolts Way between Walcha and Gloucester you can get in a bit closer to the gorge section that is the highlight of this little river. The river level required is judged only on arrival. If the small rapid above the bridge looks easy to run without hitting rocks there should be sufficient water. It may be run at much higher levels as most rapids are easy to scout from the bank and portage if necessary. Once assessing that the river is flowing nicely and looks paddleable from the Glen Morrison road bridge it will be necessary to do the 45km round trip shuttle. You head south and using your map it's possible to get through to Aberbaldie Road via Niangla Rd. If uncertain of directions it's not much longer to head back towards Walcha along the Glen Morrison Rd and just before reaching town you will see Aberbaldie Road signposted to the left (West). The river starts out gently winding it's way through grazing land for a couple of kms with some easy grade 2+ rapids until you arrive unsuspectingly at the first large 2-3m drop (grade 4). The drop is split by an island and has been run a few times using the river right where it's easy to scout and setup rescue and paparazzi. From here on the rapids gradually become more frequent as you descend down through the gorge. The next significant rapid is a 20m long chute that might spank the unsuspecting punk thinking it's only an easy grade 3. The rapids continue to arrive and for

experienced paddlers are mostly straight forward read-and-run drops. About 6km down the river you arrive at another large drop characterised by three options. Nasty slot on river left, chicken chute down the middle and nasty undercut drop on river right. It has been run a few times down the chicken chute in the middle but until someone sees a much larger volume of flow you'll be limited to the chicken chute or a portage if you like to save on plastic. The last significant rapid before leaving the gorge is about 7.8km down the river and is identified by a pronounced weir stopper shadowed by a willow tree just before a 1m drop that pushes up on river right. The lead in before the weir stopper is rocky and undefined. The weir stopper is quite likely to catch intermediate paddlers off guard and it's wise to have someone waiting nearby to catch swimmers or boats before being swept over the small drop just beyond. After this drop the rapids ease significantly and tend to be grade 2 gravel races or rock gardens. There is the odd tree in the stream not to be underestimated. One in particular ate a whole paddle requiring the owner to hike in after the water had receded to retrieve it from the bed of the river. The last 10kms is a bit slower but gives you time to reflect upon the sweet little gorge that the Cobrabald offers.

Putting In: Glen Morrison Road bridge off Thunderbolts Way South of Walcha

Taking Out: Aberbaldie Road bridge or TSR if you want to cut off the last km

Map: Yarrowitch 1:100000

Google Map: <https://goo.gl/aoZTKs>

Camping: Camping quite possible in the TSR or at Walcha or Apsley Falls National Park

Rosewood River

Northern Tablelands and Northern Rivers. 40kms East of Coffs Harbour

From Brian Cork's *Steep Creeks on the Dorrigo Plateau*

Class: II-IV (p)

Season: Between December and May depending on the season, with Easter usually a fair bet for good water levels

Level: Water levels should be such that there is just enough water to float the kayaks. Any more and the river could be extremely hazardous. River levels at the finish are deceptive as many creeks join the river during the last half of the trip. A good, low water level is if the water level is about 10mm over the concrete bases of the bridge. If the grass island downstream of the bridge is under, the water level is likely to be too high.

Gauge: Visual

Character: Pinball-style rapids through the most awesome, untouched rainforest you'll ever see. This river drops from Dorrigo National Park to join the Bellinger River near Thora. The upper sections have not been paddled due to the fact that the river drops around 200m per kilometre. The put-in points are found by lowering the kayaks down about 400m in elevation to the river from the walking tracks that leave the Never Never Picnic area in the Dorrigo National Park (GR805408, Br) The carry in take about 2 " hours. From Never Never picnic area take the walking track to Cedar Falls before heading due south down a ridge to a saddle. The river flows out into the Bellinger Valley. After about 500m of paddling the first portage is reached with abseiling with abseiling gear making the portage quicker and easier. There are several other portages around gutter-style drops with the rest of the paddling being grade 2-4 pinball-style rapids through the most awesome, untouched rainforest you'll ever see.

Putting In: From Dorrigo head south on the Bellingen Rd, after only about 2km, turn left onto Dome Rd and follow this to the Never Never picnic area. The put-in points are found by lowering the kayaks down about 400m in elevation to the river from the walking tracks that leave the Never Never Picnic area in the Dorrigo National Park (GR805408, Br) The carry in take about 2 " hours. From Never Never picnic area take the walking track to Cedar Falls before heading due south down a ridge to a saddle.

Taking Out: The take out is on the Summervilles Rd, near Thora. To get to Thora head back out to the Bellingen Rd from Never Never picnic area and turn left toward Bellingen. Thora is at the bottom of the escarpment.

Map: Brooklana 1:25000, Bellingen 1:25000

Bellinger River: Darkwood Road to Bellingen Bridge

NSW Mid-north Coast. Bellingen

Class: Most Grade I, a few Grade II / III depending on river level.

Gradient: Upper reaches are 25 m/km, decreases to 5 m/km near Bellingen.

Time: Thora to Gordonville: 2.0 hrs; Gordonville to Bellingen: 3.5 hrs.

Length: Thora to Gordonville: 8 km; Gordonville to Bellingen: 11.5 km.

Level: Upper reaches for experienced to advanced paddlers; Thora to Bellingen is suitable for all comers, but portage the rapid near Rosewood Creek if required.

Gauge: Thora

Gauge URL: http://www.bom.gov.au/cgi-bin/wrap_fwo.pl?IDN60141.html

Character: Beautiful gravel-bed river that is suitable for a variety of canoeing day-trips.

Suits: Open Canadian Canoes & Kayaks

The small Bellinger watershed, on the north coast of NSW, hosts a beautiful gravel-bed river that is suitable for a variety of canoeing day-trips. There is 70-km of accessible river, upstream of Bellingen. The steepest parts of the river--thus the most rapids--are above Thora, accessed by Darkwood Road. Because of the number of low-level bridges along Darkwood Road, there are plenty of options for paddling. Between Thora and Gordonville Crossing (8-km), there is only one rapid (Grade 2) and lots of gravel races and pools. There are shallow sections that warrant the use of a pole. Between Gordonville and Bellingen (11.5 km), there is only one rapid (Grade 1), and longer pools separate the gravel races. The tidal limit is at Bellingen bridge, or thereabouts. The river can rise high very quickly, because the Dorrigo Escarpment that flanks the Bellinger promotes orographic rainfall.

Putting In: Various options: Gordonville; Thora; above Thora on the Darkwood Road

Taking Out: Bellingen Bridge

Allyn River: Ladies Well Section

NSW Hunter Region. Dungog

Class: III + (IV in high flows)

Time: 2-3hrs

Gradient: 25m/km

Length: 1km to 10km+

Level: minimum ~1.5m (Allyn River @ Halton gauge)

Gauge: Halton

Gauge URL: <http://www.bom.gov.au/fwo/IDN60232/IDN60232.561019.plt.shtml>

Shuttle: River is roadside, shuttle by car / bike / hitchhike / walk depending how far you paddle

Character: Consistent small rapids through bedrock

The Allyn River at Ladies Well runs beside the road the entire way. You need a lot of rain for this river to run, but there's also a flood detour, so when it's way too high you can still get to the river easily. Most of the main rapids can be scouted from the roadside before you suit up. The Ladies Well waterfall is the main rapid, with one of the larger rapids just above it and another not far below it. Above Ladies Well is a rapid going under a bridge, this is also one of the bigger rapids. If you're comfortable with what you can see here, the rest of the river is fine. The river isn't extremely steep but it is narrow and consistent. There are a lot of low angle slides around 5-10m long. The river is narrow enough in many places that one tree could fall and block the entire width of the river, and it runs through rain forest where falling trees are common, so take care. There are some wire fences down where the river begins to flatten out and there are some farm properties which you will see. Take care here or get out before you paddle past the first farm property.

Putting In: As far as you can drive upstream beside the river.

Taking Out: As far down as you want to paddle.

[Piles Creek: Somersby down to Girracoool](#)

Central Coast. Somersby

Class: III to V when flooding

Season: When ever it rains heavy for a couple of day's straight

Gradient: Reasonably steep

Length: Short little run. Because you come up to a big waterfall which is not runnable due to rocks but otherwise would be a great waterfall to paddle

Level: When you cant see the rocks exposed

Gauge: Have a look at the creek

Shuttle: Walk in / walk out

Character: Steep & shallow creek even in flood

Suits: People that like steep creeks

From the collapsed bridge down to the little man made dam is a couple of grade 2-3's. There is a waterfall above the bridge but it needs a lot of water. Then when you put in at Girrakoool National Park there is a slide rapid which is a solid grade 4+ when the water is up then it goes down a few more little rapids then it hits the big waterfall. We haven't scouted below it but I am sure there are a lot of waterfalls because the gradient is very steep. LOOK OUT FOR LOGS AND TREES!!!!

Putting In: At Girrakoool National Park car park and walk as far up as you want

Taking Out: At the big waterfall

[Penrith Whitewater Stadium](#)

Sydney and Environs. 35kms from CBD

Class: III

Season: September to June, check times

Length: 600m

Character: Man-made course with fast shallow water and strong features

Penrith Whitewater Stadium was the competition venue for the canoe / kayak slalom events during the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. Located at the foot of the world heritage listed Blue Mountains, about an hour west of Sydney, it is the only man-made river of its kind in the southern hemisphere. The whitewater course has been constructed using a combination of both natural and man-made materials to recreate the characteristics of a wild river. 14,000 litres per second of raging whitewater flowing over a moveable obstacle system has proven to be a challenging and exciting ride even for the best paddlers in the world. The course is 600 metres long and features a conveyor belt to transport kayaks and rafts from the finish pool to the start pool. Consistent big volume Class III rapids with some great play holes, the course is a great place for first timers on big volume water, or crazy play boaters who don't mind going around in endless circles and dodging the many rafts which crash through. The stadium is open September to June operating times vary from season to season, so it is worthwhile phoning ahead to check available of water.

Putting In/Taking Out: To get to the Whitewater Stadium it is simply a matter of getting on the M4 out of Sydney and following the signs just before you get to Penrith.

Woronora River: Heathcote Rd Bridge to Prince Edward Park

Sydney and Environs. 15kms South West of Sutherland

Class: IV

Time: 2-3 hours

Length: 5kms

Level: Above 0.8m

Gauge: Kelso Creek Downstream

Gauge URL: <http://www.bom.gov.au/hydro/flood/nsw/greatersyd%20clickable.shtml>

Shuttle: Check a street directory

Character: long grade 3ish rapids with shortish pools

The river is very overgrown at the start of almost every rapid trees grow over most the river. After picking your way through the start the rapids tend to open up and have some good waves. The banks of the river is lined with trees making any decent eddies few and far between. Because of this it is worth inspecting the rapids on a first run. The last rapid "needles" is an easy grade 4 with some good waves on the right. Check out where you want to play before you run it. There are no eddies. After needles there is about 45 minutes of flatwater. To Prince Edward Park. A good section to do when it rains a lot in Sydney. Watch for trees and floating rubbish.

Putting In: Heathcote Road

Taking Out: Prince Edward Park

Glenbrook Creek: Glenbrook Causeway to Nepean River

Sydney and Environs. 3kms West of Penrith

Class: IV

Season: Summer, generally - after rain

Gradient: 25m/km

Time: 1hr to 3 hrs

Length: 3km

Level: 0.7 upwards. (Has been run at 0.3 but is a waste of time)

Gauge: Glenbrook Causeway

Shuttle: Short (6 minutes 15 seconds) car shuttle on bitumen.

Character: Boulder strewn rock gardens and drops interspersed with flat pools in a deep gorge.

A great after work run for paddlers based in Penrith, this river only runs after very heavy and constant rain for several days. Paddleable above 0.7, at low levels is a tight technical run, with lots of big boulders and trees. At higher levels, it becomes a steep rollercoaster ride with plenty of good holes and waves, ideal for playboats. The river at the put in is flat and placid, but quickly steepens as the gorge narrows and the river drops off the escarpment. Everything can be easily inspected, but be wary of the best drop on the trip (Waterfall Falls – Named due to the 100m high waterfall that enters on river right.) This 2m drop can be run at any level (up to 2.6m to date) and has a nice hole at the bottom that flushes. Get out well above on river left to inspect. Shortly after, where the river runs hard against the cliffs on river left a gnarly drop called 'The Sphincter' which consists of a newly formed sieve where most of the river flows underneath a large rock. At high levels, it forms a 2 metre fall, but at lower levels can be run around the left of the sieve. Inspect from the boulders on river right. Mushroom rapid follows shortly after, and consists of a pillow off a rock on river right which can be boofed off at high water. At low water there is a chicken chute on the left or run the slot beside the mushroom. The final rapid, 'Pearly Gates' which consists of a large twisting chute past the 'C – Rock' and ends in the 'G-Spot' a superb play hole on river left just before the river enters the Nepean River. At the Nepean River, turn left and paddle down towards the M4 motorway bridge. Follow the left bank of the river for about 1 km and a track comes down to the river in a clump of she-oak trees

Putting In: Take the M4 motorway from Sydney or Penrith, heading West, after climbing up the mountain to Glenbrook, turn left onto Ross St, heading for the Blue Mountains National Park, Glenbrook Entrance. Take first left on to Park St and then first right on to Euroka Rd. At the end of Euroka Rd, turn left on to Bruce Road, and follow this to the national park entrance. Go through the NPWS booth and down to the car park just before the 'road closed' gate. If this gate is open, forget the trip, because the river will not be high enough.

Taking Out: Coming from the put in, take the M4 to the Emu Plains exit and turn right on to Leonay Parade and follow this until it reaches the river and turns in to River Road.

Approximately 200m from the southern end of River Road, there is a bitumen parking area on the Nepean River side of the road. Park here. There is a small path down to the river.

Map: Penrith 9030-3N 3rd Edition 1:25000 or Street Directory

Colo River: Wollangambe River to Upper Colo

Central Coast, Sydney Surrounds. Approx. 10kms South of Colo Heights

Class: II (IV - V in high water!)

Season: All seasons

Gradient: 40m over 24km

Time: 4 days

Length: 48km

Level: Minimum: 0.9 m Good: 1.0 - 1.5 m Dangerous: >1.5 m?

Gauge: Colo R at Upper Colo

Gauge URL: http://www.bom.gov.au/cgi-bin/wrap_fwo.pl?IDN60143.html#Colo_River

Shuttle: None --- travel upstream and back!

Character: The river is shallow and sandy for the lower 9km. After that, in the gorge proper, deep pools alternate with boulder-blockup rapids. The Colo Gorge cuts through a huge tract of the Wollemi wilderness in NSW. The steep sandstone gorge is difficult to access. We start downriver at Upper Colo, then pole, paddle, and line the canoes about 24km upstream to the Wollangambe confluence, over two days, sleeping in a rock shelter or beach overnight. The river is shallow and sandy for the lower 9km, and poling is the best way to move upstream. After that, in the gorge proper, deep pools alternate with boulder-blockup rapids. The reverse trip downstream takes only 2/3 the time, and is more relaxing.

SAFETY NOTE: The river can rise dramatically (6 or more metres in 24 hrs -- see here: youtu.be/AoNRqiRtEeU) after rain, which changes the nature of the river DRAMATICALLY, and may require a long walk out, or several days of patience for the river to subside.

Putting In: Upper Colo

Taking Out: Same as put in.

Map: Colo Heights 1:25,000; Mountain Lagoon 1:25,000

Google Map: <http://maps.google.com.au/maps?rls=en&q;=Colo+river,+NSW&oe;=UTF-8>

Colo River: Wollangambe River to Upper Colo

Central Coast - Sydney Surrounds. Approx. 10kms South of Colo Heights

Class: II (IV - V in high water!)

Season: All seasons

Gradient: 40m over 24km

Time: 4 days

Length: 48km

Level: Minimum: 0.9 m Good: 1.0 - 1.5 m Dangerous: >1.5 m?

Gauge: Colo R at Upper Colo

Gauge URL: http://www.bom.gov.au/cgi-bin/wrap_fwo.pl?IDN60143.html#Colo_River

Shuttle: None --- travel upstream and back!

Character: The river is shallow and sandy for the lower 9km. After that, in the gorge proper, deep pools alternate with boulder-blockup rapids. Well suited to Trad Canoes. The Colo Gorge cuts through a huge tract of the Wollemi wilderness in NSW. The steep sandstone gorge is difficult to access. We start downriver at Upper Colo, then pole, paddle, and line the canoes about 24km upstream to the Wollangambe confluence, over two days, sleeping in a rock shelter or beach overnight. The river is shallow and sandy for the lower 9km, and poling is the best way to move upstream. After that, in the gorge proper, deep pools alternate with boulder-blockup rapids. The reverse trip downstream takes only 2/3 the time, and is more relaxing.

SAFETY NOTE: The river can rise dramatically (6 or more metres in 24 hrs -- see here: youtu.be/AoNRqiRtEeU) after rain, which changes the nature of the river DRAMATICALLY, and may require a long walk out, or several days of patience for the river to subside.

Putting In: Upper Colo

Taking Out: Same as put in.

Map: Colo Heights 1:25,000; Mountain Lagoon 1:25,000

Google Map: <http://maps.google.com.au/maps?rls=en&q=Colo+river,+NSW&oe=UTF-8>

Colo River: Canoe Creek to Upper Colo Bridge

Sydney Surrounds. Windsor

Class: III (with 1 x grade 4-5 rapid most portage)

Season: Post heavy rain, Winter – Summer

Gradient: Pool drop with LONG pools

Time: 1-2 Days

Length: 29km

Level: NSW guide min. 1.2m 2.0 - 2.5m Flood conditions

Gauge: Colo River at Upper Colo

Gauge URL: http://www.bom.gov.au/cgi-bin/wrap_fwo.pl?IDN60143.html

Shuttle: 34kms one way (1/2 hour car or 2.5 hr bike)

Character: Spectacular gorge with 14kms Drop pool white water, then 15kms flat water. The Colo is a wide river with a spectacular gorge hugging closely for most of the first 20 odd kms of this trip. This makes exit basically non-existent until you get to the Upper Colo Rd again which exists at various distances from the water on River Right for about the last 7kms. The first 15km contains about 15 or so rapids. Most of these are grade II - III+. At high water, these were high volume rapids with reasonably straight forward lines, however quite boily and had retentive big holes if paddling off course. Some required scouting from the bank, however most could be read from the boat. After 12 or so kms, and about as many rapids there is a very large rapid with a lot more vertical descent. This is known as Kings Rapid. This was definitely grade 5 with massive volumes of water, keeper holes and nothing clear about it. I found portaging and lining River Left was straight forward. There was another minor portage shortly after but after viewing again, it appeared runnable. Soon after the river totally flattens out with some long 4km straights. The number of campsites is quite limited at 2.0-2.5m but I hear there are lots of sandy beaches when quite low. I have heard that this trip is an overnight lilo or simple kayak trip at low levels but have no experience at this level. I paddled the entire section in 6hrs which after the hard walk in was quite tiring. I think either walking in the afternoon before and camping at the junction or camping out along the river over night would be far more enjoyable. Very difficult walk in, remote gorge with no exits, amazing scenery, need overnight provisions in case, long flat sections, clean fun white water in first 14kms. A hard trip in a beautiful National Park.

Putting In: Canoe Creek. Leave boats at take out (see below). Continue 6km on dirt road up river Left side to Putty Rd. Turn left and travel 19kms (check odo) to Grassy Hill Trail. Turn left here and travel about 9kms along forest trail to car park. There is a locked gate here with a sign regarding trail to river. It is about 2km on a good walking track before you drop down to Canoe Creek. (I dragged my boat behind me, so expect many scratches). After the

2km, turn left at the small walking track which drops down. There was a cann marker here. It is now about 400 vertical metres down to the creek. This is hard work and you will need a tow line on both ends and a longer 15-20 metre throw bag to lower your boat at points. You will scratch up your boats!! This last decent will take about 2hrs. Once in Canoe Creek, turn down stream following the easiest path. There is a long 20-25 metre waterfall in here which you should avoid by following foot track on right side. Just before the last pitch down to the Colo, you get a nice view of the River. Descend down here.

Taking Out: Upper Colo Bridge. From Windsor take roads towards Singleton, Follow signs to Colo. Just prior to going over Colo River, take the turn to Upper Colo on the Upper Colo Rd. Approx 14kms is a Right turn to bridge and Upper Colo Reserve. There is good parking on River Left side.

Map: Upper Colo 1:25000, Mountain Lagoon 1:25000

[Fitzgerald's Creek: Rickard Road Ford to Nepean River](#)

Sydney and Environs. 3kms West of Penrith

Class: V

Season: Summer – after heavy Rain

Gradient: Average 40m/km, Max 130m/km for 500m

Time: 3hrs to 5hrs

Length: 5km

Level: Approximately 10cumecs at the put in. Heavy rain required. Glenbrook Creek @ 2.2m should mean runnable. Get it while it's still raining.

Gauge: 2 gauges: 1. At take out, if the water is up to the top of the concrete spillway, or within 10cm above or below, level is good. 2. Just after the put in, Long Angle Creek joins on river left and there is a large boulder straight after on river left, and if 1.5m (1 paddle blade and the paddle shaft) is showing, then the level is good. A 10 cm above or below would be ok, but much more and you'll be struggling in the tree sections and much less and it'll be a little bony.

Shuttle: A short (10km) car shuttle, mainly on bitumen – watch out for slippery roads!!! There is a 25 minute walk in from Rickard's Road National Park Entrance.

Character: Steep, overgrown creek with a mix of flat sandstone shelves and boulder gardens.

3 words to describe a Fitzgerald's Creek trip. Steep, Overgrown, Epic. Despite the mouth of this creek being within view of the café at the Penrith Whitewater Stadium, it took 3 years from the PWS opening until this creek had been conquered. Having scouted it while it had 0 flow in December 2001, it was debatable whether or not this would be a goer, but after 170mm rain in a couple of days, in its tiny 29km² catchment, there was enough flow. In a small group of 3 (Aaron Hemmerle and Andre Hemmerle) we gave it a shot. The river at the put in is definitely misleading; it begins as a meandering stream not more than 6m wide, and carrying only about 10 cumecs. However, after less than a kilometre, the trees close in and the river begins to steepen. The next kilometre is the most overgrown, and though the rapids are not hard, care must be taken to avoid the trees. About 2km after the start, the bottom drops out, as the creek enters its steepest section (45 m drop in 300m) Everything is scoutable, and it is worth checking around the next corner and setting safety because there are a couple of good sized falls at the end of some steep technical sections. Fitzzy's falls, which is 5m to 6m in height has a good suckback and is undercut on river left, so nail the

boof. About 50m later, is 'The Toaster, a 50m long rapid consisting of a 2m drop before a steep slide into a toaster slot that flushes out onto a big cushion wave. The section climaxes with an as yet unrun, 10m fall (Cripple's Falls) at the confluence with Cripple Creek. It can be scouted and portaged on river left. The creek continues for another kilometre through steep boulder gardens and rock ledge chutes before it steepens again. At 'Andre's Accident' a portage is required over a log across the whole river and a seal launch into a fast flowing flume that flows down into a big boulder creating a nasty weir-like hole. Run it, but be wary, it claimed every member of our group. Directly after is Aaron's Undoing, a long steep rapid that created more carnage than was expected. It can be scouted on river left. At the bottom of Aaron's undoing is an as yet unrun drop where the river passes either side of a huge boulder and appears to seive. From the bottom of this rapid, the powerlines at the take out are visible, only a couple of hundred metres away. The comparatively tiny boulder gardens from here down are a nice cool down.

Putting In: Leave Penrith on Old Bathurst Road, drive through Blaxland and turn right at the round about on to Wilson Way (when you reach the railway line) At the next round about, turn right again and continue along the railway line, heading west. Upon reaching Warrimoo, (approximately 2 km later) turn right on to Rickard Road. Drive to the end and park at the gate to the National Park. From here a 25 minute walk with your boat is required. Head into the national park and walk along the 4WD track, turning left down a steep hill. Continue around a couple of hair pin bends until you can see the river below you. Clamber down the steep slope and put in here.

Taking Out: Drive back down the Old Bathurst Road towards Penrith, and after descending the steep winding section, turn left at the first traffic lights on to Wedmore Road. Continue along Wedmore Road until it turns into Riverside Road. Riverside road appears to end in Strathdown St, but follow it down to the left (only 100m) before it turns right (towards the river) Follow it until it ends in a dirt road after a steep climb. Continue along the 4WD track until it reaches some High Tension Power Lines. Park here, and walk down the steep 4WD track to the put in (100m) to check the level.

Map: Springwood 9030-4S 3rd edition or Street Directory

Macquarie River: Kelso Bridge to Eglinton Bridge

Central Tablelands. Bathurst

Class: I - II

Time: 2 hours

Level: 0.3 - 0.5 minimum for kayaks. Over 1m is high.

Gauge: Macquarie River at Bathurst

Gauge URL: http://www.bom.gov.au/cgi-bin/wrap_fwo.pl?IDN60146.html

Shuttle: 15 mins return

Character: Easy

Put in at Kelso bridge and paddle through a part of the Bathurst township then follow the river out into farming land. Nice scenery with splashes of Bathurst history here and there. Easy paddling, would suit a family sunday arvo trip, keep your eyes open for platypus.

Putting In: Kelso Bridge

Taking Out: Eglinton Bridge

Kangaroo River: Hampden Bridge to Bendella

Illawarra. Kiama & Robertson

Class: II

Season: Rain Run

Time: 3 -4 Hours

Length: 7 km

Level: if it looks good at the put-in

Shuttle: easy Bitumen

Character: River is generally flat and 15 - 30m wide pools with 7 class 1-2 rapids

Its a starting point for the beginner, or anyone who just wants to escape Sydney. Good pub in town. There is a good biking trip from Fitzroy falls to Kangaroo Valley (via National park) if you want a little variety.

Putting In: Just above Hampden bridge (in township of Kangaroo Valley)

Taking Out: Bendella Picnic Area (near pump station)

Map: Kangaroo Valley 1:25,000

Kangaroo River: Flat Rock to Gerringong Creek

Southern Tablelands – Kangaroo Valley

Class: III

Season: Heavy local rain is needed and the river rises and falls

Time: 1 - 2 hours

Length: 4 - 5 km

Level: 0.75 minimum. 1 - 1.3m good. Has been paddled up to 3m

Gauge: Hampdon Bridge

Shuttle: Easy dirt road follows river

Character: Beautiful short section with a few interesting rapids along the way. Good play waves and holes depending on the level. This trip is more demanding than the lower sections of the Kangaroo River. It is popular with over zealous novices in flood conditions as there are plenty of trees to catch swamped boats and anything which doesn't get wrapped or pinned will end up in Lake Yarrunga 20km downstream. Launch off the large flat rock or down the creek depending on the level. In higher levels this rock forms a great play wave across the whole river. There are a number of enjoyable Class II and III rapids with a few good drops. Most are straightforward and easy to scout. There are quite a few play options depending on the level. The pull out is at Gerringong Creek Road just downstream of the suspension bridge. The ford has recently been replaced by a brige. Because it is a short trip with an easy shuttle many parties would paddle this section more than once in a day.

Putting In: From Kangaroo Valley drive towards Fitzroy Falls. Approx 1km after crossing Hampdon Bridge (check the level as you drive over!) turn right onto Upper Kangaroo River Rd. Follow this 11km (sealed then dirt) to Gerringong Creek Road. This is the take out. Remaining on Upper Kangaroo River Rd, continue 4km on to a ford on a side creek. There is a locked gate soon after.

Taking Out: Gerringong Creek Rd bridge.

Map: Kangaroo Valley 9028-4-S

Shoalhaven River: Welcome Reef to Peggie Gully Powerlines

Southern Highlands. Nerriga

Class: III - IV

Season: Any

Gradient: 10m/km

Time: 2-6 hours

Length: 7km

Level: 0.9 to 1.3 good level, above 1.3 class 4+ paddlers

Gauge: Hillview. Do not trust it, also look at surrounding rainfall

Gauge URL: http://www.bom.gov.au/cgi-bin/wrap_fwo.pl?IDN60144.html#Central Shoalhaven River

Shuttle: 1 hour

Character: Safe pool drop, easy scouting, easy portaging and few dangers.

The put-in at Welcome Reef is reached by portaging from the road down a creek adjacent to a property. Alternate put-in is at Oallens Ford which adds approximately 6 kms of flat flowing water with the occasional grade 2 rapid. Below Welcome Reef, the fun begins with numerous grade III and IV rapids. Typically clean, river-wide drops of 1-2m with several lines to choose from, culminating in 4m Rodeo falls just above the junction with the Corang River. A couple of rapids (Double Drop, Pimple) are longer and more challenging. Long pools below each rapid allow for easy collection of debris. Overall, a magnificent section of river and a great introduction to big water for intermediate paddlers. Technical difficulty increases up to a level of about 1.2m. Rapids have easier lines from 1.3m, but large holes and boils start to form. A small, experienced team with a guide will paddle this in 1-2 hours. Add an additional hour each for no guide, inexperienced paddlers, large groups, filming stops. Take out river right under the power lines and carry boats 120m vertically up a small ridge just after Peggys Gully. This is a difficult, strenuous climb with poor footing, especially after rain. High Clearance 4WD's can be driven to the edge of the gorge, otherwise park at the ford over Bindi Brook, about 800m from the gorge edge. It also possible to arrange to walk out river left (easier walk), paddle the next rapid, round a left hand bend to find a small beach and track. The land owner charges per paddler to cover road maintenance on this route and will also ferry cars back to Oallen for an additional cost.

River access has changed hands. The property on river left is owned by and still supportive of kayakers. There is a fee to Access the river, but is worth it just to support these guy who brought property to keep access to an awesome river. Contacting in advance is a must as gates are locked and owners are not always there, but a good chance if there is water in the river someone will be there cosgrovemeredith@gmail.com Mobile 0425178218 The land line for Never Die is 02 48445957

Putting In: Welcome Reef (GR Oallen 725048, 35.163117S 149.992132E) or Oallen Ford (GR Oallen 695063, 35.149740S 149.958873E)

Taking Out: Peggies Gully powerlines. Public / Private, a 4WD is recommended and will save a long walk. Turn left after Nerriga and Endick River. Peggys Gully Powerlines (GR Endrick 768088, 35.126227S 150.035627E).

Map: 1:25K Oallen (88271S), Endrick (89274S)

Google Map: <http://goo.gl/8tKPzb>

Shoalhaven River: Jinglemoney to Bombay Crossing

Southern Highlands. Approx. 20km from Braidwood

Class: II - III (p)

Season: All seasons

Gradient: 4m/km

Time: 4 hours (novices)

Length: 8km

Level: 0.9 Mountview gauge, 1.4 Hillview gauge - This level is the absolute minimum I would recommend paddling this section at.

Gauge: Mountview

Gauge URL: <http://www.bom.gov.au/fwo/IDN60234/IDN60234.569019.plt.shtml>

Shuttle: 35 minutes

Character: An easy day paddle suitable for novices, with some interest for more advanced paddlers. From Jinglemoney onwards, pink granite bedrock starts to appear and the river changes character, opening out with fewer tree blockages. This section of the river has numerous grade 2-2+ rapids well suited for novices with 2 notable exceptions. Both larger rapids are easily seen and portaged on the left. At (GR 469732, 35.454199S 149.720605E) is the Weir rapid where a small concrete weir dams the river. The rapid starts with a narrow grade 2 run with a well defined channel, followed by a short pool. The river then drops into a mini granite walled gorge containing a solid grade 3 rapid, runnable down the left. Several large rocks form the last drop making it tricky for novices, but will clean up nicely with a little more water. Will be grade 3+ to 4 at higher levels. Portage on the left by sliding down a flood channel (probably paddleable in higher water). At (GR 472743, 35.444092S 149.723438E) is a 1.5 - 2 metre waterfall with 3 channels. The 2 left channels cascade over rocks. The right hand channel is possibly navigable, steeply dropping into a metre wide slot between granite walls. Difficult to inspect and set up rescue. Shortest portage on left. Overall, a very pleasant trip for novices with a bit of interest for more advanced paddlers. The 6 kms above this section from Farrington are shallow and braided with the occasional grade 1 rapid. Trees blockages are a big problem. Too many trees for novices, not enough rapids for more advanced paddlers. Access may also be possible at the Weir rapid via Sandholes Road.

Putting In: Jinglemoney (GR 455699, 35.484683S 149.705078E)

Taking Out: Bombay Crossing (GR 465761, 35.428125S 149.715576E)

Map: 8827-3S Bombay

Google Map: http://maps.google.com.au/maps?f=d&source;=s_d&saddr;=-35.484156,149.706402&daddr;=Bombay+Rd&geocode;=FQSO4v0dolbsCA%3BFY5o4_0dTnvsCA&hl;=en&mra;=mift&mrsp;=1&sz;=13&sl;=-35.465843,149.724255&sspn;=0.11143,0.173206&ie;=UTF8&t;=h&z;=13

Wingecarribee River: Joadga Creek to River Island

Southern Highlands – Sydeny Region. Mittagong

Class: IV (p)

Season: Rain or Sydney drought. Dependant on dam release or lots of rain

Gradient: Varied from 10m/km to 80m/km for one section

Time: 5-9hrs

Level: 1m on the Greenstead Gage, Wingecarribee River

Gauge URL: <http://www.bom.gov.au/fwo/IDN60233/IDN60233.068215.plt.shtml>

Shuttle: 1.5hrs, all windy dirt roads

Character: Tight Technical with some big drops and slides. Steep stuff is pool drop, then some continuous grade 3 boulder gardens. The first 5 km's is mostly flat picking your way through trees. There are two main gorges that are tight and technical, though everything can be easily scouted - walked from River Left. There is a lot of wood in the river so caution is paramount. Paddle with experienced friends. Grade 4 due to need for continuous line picking. Great river. Deceivingly time consuming, the more water the better. You will hit plenty of rocks. Long day trip through area with no roadside access or mobile coverage. Suits small fast moving groups as the eddies can be small and the gorges tight. Everything is runnable though the wood situation is constantly changing so due caution should be exercised.

Putting In: Confluence point of Joadja Creek and the Wingecarribee. Get a map, the roads are hard to describe.

Taking Out: River Island Retreat. - River Island Retreat 02 48889236 phone day before to ask permission to leave your vehicle on their property.

Murrumbidgee River: Pine Island to Kambah Pools

Southern NSW. 10km South West of Canberra

Class: IV

Season: June through till October

Time: 2 – 4 Hours

Length: 9 km approx

Level: 1.2 to 2.5 m

Gauge: Mt McDonald (B.O.M.)

Shuttle: 14 km easy (bitumen)

Character: A river with a bit of everything for everyone, open and hilly countryside, drops, gorges and all within hailing distance of Canberra. This section has all the great attributes of a river, close to town, great scenery, brilliant rapids to run and the oh my god scary thing, in this case it is known as Red Rocks Gorge or Chasm. The river warms you up, gives you a thrill and then gives a chance to cool down and talk about the wonders of life, and there is a track that runs along river right for its entire length. The rapids on this river are excellent and quite demanding of attention, both for their beauty and their technical difficulty; this is no bouncy ride down rapids. The Red Rocks Gorge is quite noticeable and it is recommended that you do not paddle it, either portage on river left in low water or run river left in high water. The Gorge itself has been run but general opinion is that in low water you will probably get pinned and in high water the hydraulics will hold you longer than you can hold your breath. This is a good playing river and it is worth taking your time on it, so that you can really enjoy yourself.

Putting In: Access is via the Tuggeranong Parkway, follow it south until you reach Tuggeranong –the parkway becomes Drakeford Drive--, follow the signs for Pine Island.
Taking Out: Go back out onto the Parkway and turn left –heading back towards Canberra Central–Turn left at Sulwood Drive –in Kambah–and follow the signs for Kambah.

Murrumbidgee River: Kambah Pools to Cotter

Southern NSW. Canberra.

Class: III

Season: Winter – Spring

Time: 4hrs

Length: 13km

Level: 1.2m, 1.5m and up is much better

Gauge: Mt MacDonald

Shuttle: 20kms

Character: Open rocky rapids

This section is an easier and nice change of scenery from Red Rocks Gorge (which is the preceding section on the 'bidgee). There are a couple of good fun grade III rapids within the first several km, then mainly grade I-II races and a fair bit of flat water until the final 2.5m drop. The middle channel of this drop has several hidden rocks. The left channel is a bit trickier but cleaner, though still a bit boney in low water. The Mt MacDonald gauge is influenced by the Cotter River which comes in at the take out so check the Lobs Hole gauge as well (a reading of 2.0m on Lob's Hole is minimum for the upper Murrumbidgee sections).

Putting In: Kambah Pool

Taking Out: Cotter

Murrumbidgee River: Bolaro to Cooma Pumping Station

Southern NSW. Cooma

Class: II (p)

Season: Whenever it rains a great deal in the catchment

Gradient: Not much

Time: 2 Days

Length: 50km

Level: At the pumping station, there is a park, the fence separating the house from the park where it touches the water is the gauge. If the bottom part of the fence end is touching the water (too Low), if the bottom part of the hurricane wire is touching, good level and if the water is lapping up onto the grass probably too high.

Shuttle: 32km one way on bitumen and dirt roads

Character: Lovely gorges and animal life abound

This is described in the old Canoeing Guide to NSW as an amazing white water experience, for the first 30 km it is almost continuous class III with some IV the reality is it is almost continuous flat with some Grade II with some III. Having said that it is a beautiful paddle with lovely scenery, some very nice rapids (all within the first 30 km). It makes a very nice overnight trip for a good intermediate paddler with some challenging rapids. There are three rapids of note, the first at high levels would go, the second sneaks up on you and

would go in a short boat or with lots of water and the third at the end of the gorge is runnable at low levels if you do not mind smashing the bottom of your boat, but would go at higher levels. The biggest danger is the willows of which there are many and at high levels would provide a very big danger. This is a good first time overnight trip. I would highly recommend getting out at Kissop Flat (accessed from the west side of the river.)

Putting In: 5km east of Bolaro

Taking Out: Cooma Pumping Station

Map: Cooma 1:100000, Murrumbucca 1:100000, Shannon's Flat 1:100000

Corang River: Nerriga to Shoalhaven River

Southern Coast. 2hrs NE of Canberra

Class: IV(p)

Season: Late summer

Gradient: Steep

Time: 2 hours, allow time for photos

Level: Look over the bridge, if there is a reasonable amount of water going under it, paddle.

Hillview 1m+

Gauge: Hillview or under bridge

Shuttle: 1 hour

Character: Cool pool drop stuff.

I have paddled the whole thing, one drop is usually portaged. You will get to a steep section, just scout everything is shallow, but paddleable. If it is up, I will paddle the Corang as a preference unless the Shoalhaven is over 1.5m (then I will paddle the Shoalhaven). The first few km's are full of bushes, some choose to walk around them, I could squeeze between them last year (2002). From where the Corang meets the Shoalhaven, paddle down the Shoalhaven to the Powerlines and get out there, unless your into pain, then paddle out to Tallowa dam in your playboat.

Putting In: Drive from Oalen ford to Nerriga, you will drive over it about 2 mins after.

Taking Out: See Shoalhaven

Map: Nerriga, Corang or Enderick

Peak River: Waterfall Creek to Goobarragandra River

Snowy Mountains. Tumut

Class: IV, V (p)

Season: Spring

Gradient: 50m per km over whole trip, steeper in parts

Time: 4hrs

Length: 4.5kms

Level: Appears low at put-in

Gauge: 1.0 to 1.5 at Lacmalac (guide only) ** Better level: 1.5-1.7 on the Goob**

Shuttle: 3kms along Powerlines Road

Character: Steep creek, waterfalls

Starts off, as a gentle creek but it is no sign for things to come. Rapids become bigger and closer until a clean and paddleable 12m waterfall. There are two recommended portages one before and one after the big drop. Have the cameras out. After second portage river changes into a continuous steep boulder garden. Watch out for logs and strainers. Excellent trip and highly recommended day. River recommended for experienced paddlers only as there is often little room between waterfalls. Make sure you can eddy out your little boat.

Putting In: Walk down the hill to GR 626770 Blowering 1:25000. Stay on the crown land, as neighbours are not friendly.

Taking Out: Junction of Goobragandra River and walk upstream to Mack's crossing. Or paddle down next section of Goobragandra to rock flat.

Map: Blowering 1:25000

Yarrangobilly River: Caves House to Ravine

Snowy Mountains. 70kms South-East of Tumut

Class: II, III+ to V (p)

Gradient: Approx. 350m over 16kms

Level: 1m+ (downstream on Yarrangobilly - Snowy Hydro)

Time: Multi-day

Character: The river starts as an easy Grade II steadily descending a very pretty valley in a narrow channel with reasonable eddies. Then a number of log jams to be negotiated and frequent scouting as we could never see the bottom of the rapid sections. The river starts as an easy Grade II steadily descending a very pretty valley in a narrow channel with reasonable eddies. It slowly ramps into Grade III with long rapids. There is a 2.5m Waterfall on day 2-3 which is best to run on river right or centre (left is a death trap). Significant log jams may cause portages due to sieves. Some fantastic wilderness paddling if the levels are right.

Putting In: The put in is at the thermal pool near Caves House - take the Yarrangobilly Caves turn off the Snowy Mountains Highway around 24 km past Kiandra heading towards Tumut. Map Yarrangobilly 8526-IS 1:25,000.

Taking Out: The take out was at Ravine - take Ravine/Lobs Hole Road from the Elliot Way. (around 24 km in from the Elliot Way turn off). We took out at the abandoned copper mine. Map Ravine 8526-II-N 1:25,000.

Google Map:

<http://bonzle.com/c/a?a=p&h=23204&i=554&j=554&nudge=1&x=148%2E376297606438&y=%2D35%2E6847108378373&c=1&p=206495&w=23204&mpsec=0#map>

Spencers Creek: Betts Creek to Guthega Pondage

Snowy Mountains. Jindabyne.

Class: IV

Season: Late Winter – Spring

Time: 3-4 Hours

Length: 4kms to Snowy River, 2kms down Snowy to Guthega

Level: 1m – 1.5m

Gauge: Snowy River (downstream of confluence). Visual at Betts Creek.

Character: Steep boulder garden

A simply beautiful run through steep alpine country. Starts with a little meandering before you leave the road and enter the valley proper. Steepens from there to a consistent gradient through granite boulder gardens all the way to the Snowy River. Typical Australian creek with more rocks than water will guarantee your kayak will be minus some plastic before the confluence. But it is a small price to pay to be paddling probably Australia's highest (altitude 1740m at put in) creek. Spencers Creek seems to double the Snowy's volume and you can expect a very different run from there as the Snowy freight trains you through relatively pushy grade 3 - 4. Paddle out through the Guthega Pondage, watch out for icebergs! Camera mandatory, mostly for the scenery! Alternate put in at Betts Creek, stunning Grade 2 meander through alpine heath.

Putting In: Spencers Creek is 2km from Perisher Village towards Charlottes Pass. Will need to leg it from Perisher if you are keen before October long weekend.

Shuttle: From Perisher Village follow highway back towards Jindabyne for about 20km, turn left following signage to Guthega Village. 35km

Taking Out: Guthega Village

Map: Kosciusko 1:50,000

[Snowy River: Charlottes Pass to Guthega Pondage](#)

Southern NSW. 20kms West of Jindabyne

Class: IV (p)

Season: September till October

Gradient: 18m per km (max 30m per km)

Time: 2-4 hours

Length: 9kms

Level: 1 – 1.2m or if you can float your boat at the start

Gauge: Guthega Dam Wall

Shuttle: 10km Easy (dirt and bitumen)

Character: One of the most beautiful alpine rivers, with tumbling clear water, long technical rapids; contained in gorges that still allow a magnificent view of the surrounding mountains. This river is one of the more serious runs also, and you need to be a small and experienced party of paddlers before attempting to run it. There is a mandatory portage in the beginning of the first gorge and this is done via river left. This is where the snow becomes a problem, if there is lots of snow then you cannot climb out of the gorge and you will need to portage the whole gorge. There is one significant feature about this river that must be attended to before anyone can paddle this river –no matter how experienced-. Due to its location, it gets snow most of the winter, so this closes the road to Charlottes Pass, covers much of the river in snow bridges and makes some portages impossible. That said, if the road is open, there have been some really good snow melting days and you are willing to check out gorges from the bank you will have one of the most splendid runs of your life. Once on the river it becomes a continues run of consistent and challenging rapids, it provides the paddler with rapids that only get better and a few respites between gorges with which to catch your breath. This is a river that earns and demands great respect, and in repayment graces you with the rarest of pleasures.

Putting In: The put in is easy, drive out of Jindabyne following the signs for Perisher ski resort, follow these signs and upon arrival at Perisher; keep driving and follow signs for Charlottes pass. Do not drive down to the lodge but continue right through to the pass itself, this is the car par and from here you need to walk.

Taking Out: The take out is equally as easy, follow the signs for Guthega resort. Once you get to the first car park in Guthega you need to follow the road that leads down to the dam wall, this is the get out point. The shuttle although easy can be a very long drive if you miss the shortcut. The shortcut is back towards Jindabyne from Guthega, a major dirt road leads off to the; about 3 km away from Guthega, take this and it will bring you out at the back of Perisher, from there follow signs as for put in. If this is closed or you miss it, you will need to drive all the way back to the junction to Guthega/Perisher

Map: Mount Kosciusko 8525 – II & III

[Snowy River: Guthega Dam to Munyang Creek \(Power Station\)](#)

Snowy Mountains. 20kms West of Jindabyne

Class: IV+ (V)

Season: Spring

Gradient: 50m/km +

Time: 7 hours

Length: 7 km

Level: Slightly spilling over Guthega dam

Shuttle: 1 hour return

Character: Steep continuous boulder garden

This is an absolutely fantastic section of whitewater, with almost no flat water the entire way. The rapids are mostly long, continuous, big grade 4/4+. Many of the rapids can be boat scouted but care is needed and some will require scouting from the river bank and/or portaging. There are way too many rapids to attempt to describe the lines, and any group paddling it should be confident finding their own way down grade 4. There is one compulsory portage part way down, a rather burly grade 4+ is followed by a short pool ending in a manky sieve/waterfall that is definitely not runnable, the rapid before it could be run but setting up safety before it is definitely recommended. Although only a short section, the continuous nature of the rapids and large number that need scouting make this a long trip. Go with a small group of experienced paddlers and give yourself plenty of daylight.

Putting In: Dirt track down to river below Guthega dam

Taking Out: Munyang power station / confluence with Munyang Creek (Off Guthega Road)

[Snowy River: Munyang Creek to Island Bend](#)

Southern NSW. 20kms West of Jindabyne

Class: IV

Season: Spring through to Autumn

Gradient: 15m/km (first 2km at 20m/km)

Time: 4 hours

Length: 8kms

Level: Between 1 and 4 turbines

Shuttle: Very easy car drive

Character: Delightful Alpine Forest with Bouldery Rapids & **cold water**

Assuming enough water to paddle (see comments), the paddle starts with a hard to scout class four, but is relatively straight forward with a few interesting holes to avoid (or aim for). From here the river gradient stays tipped up for about 2kms, with a variety of beautiful mountain creek paddling with the bonus of potentially very pushy water. Take it easy. A rapid certainly needing closer inspection is signified by a landslide from river left, and a sharp left hand bend (G.R. 275 765). It will be class 5 in higher water - lines exist and it has been paddled, watching out for pin potential. Portage and inspection from river right. After that there are several left and right channels around islands all deserving a paddle. Further down there is an island which holds a larger sieve/droppy/damny thing on the left channel. (Also paddleable). The section from the the Locked gate and gauging station (GR 301782) offers a good exit for cold paddlers, access for less confident paddlers or people wanting to change baby nursing duties for a paddle and cold hands. What a truly amazing paddle, enjoy. This river is one of Australia's greatest paddling assets, offering an exceptional quality of river travel. Cold water, beautiful trees, mossy rocks, unpredictable water levels, interesting rapids, pushy current and ease of access all conspire to make for a truly great day on the river. The unpredictability of the river results from the presence of the Guthega Power Station (also adding an unsettling buzzing) at the put-in. This is the end point for diversion of water from Guthega pondage back to the original Snowy channel. This whole stretch of the catchment must have (if you could brave it in a glass boat!) been sublime paddling prior to the ambitious (some would say fundamentally flawed) Snowy Scheme. (See Seddon 1994 "Searching for the Snowy") It is hard to obtain accurate statements about river levels from any local authority, since no-one will commit to upcoming releases (perhaps due to fear of litigation). Luck pays a good part in paddleable water, since you need at least one turbine to paddle and an ideal level is two (is some debate whether there are three or four turbines - the works crew there told me four in April 2002), and recommend less than more for your first trip (unless some one knows the river and you are comfy with pushy water, cold hands and holding on to your hat!) Sadly if there is no generation going on there is zero water in the stream bed, apart from water in the odd pool (unless Guthega is spilling). It is a further demonstration of an environmental inequity created by humans, then the debate starts about coal fired and hydro!! If Guthega is spilling allowing water to flow in Snowy down to Mungah, be careful, especially if power is generating!!

Putting In: Mungah Creek (Off Guthega Road)

Taking Out: Island Bend, Upstream end of Pondage

[Snowy River: Delegate River to Jacobs River](#)

Southern NSW. Snowy Mountains. Willis

Class: II – III - IV (p)

Season: Local heavy rain or environmental river flows

Time: 4 full days

Length: 80 km

Level: 800 ML/d

Gauge: Burnt Hut Crossing Gauge

Gauge URL: <http://realtimedata.water.nsw.gov.au/water.stm>

Character: One of the most beautiful alpine rivers, with tumbling clear water, technical rapids; contained in gorges that still allow a magnificent view of the surrounding mountains. The trip starts at the Delegate River confluence to avoid the hazardous Stone Bridge which is a large portage. At 800 ML/d at Burnt Hut Crossing the river is passable in a 12 ft raft with 4 people and gear. Corrowong Falls takes about 3 hours to portage on river left channel (dry but full of huge boulders). Snowy Falls takes about 1 hour to portage in the chute just left of the main drop (this would be running and not safe at higher flows). A section of about 200m needs to be portaged in the boulder section between Burnt Hut Crossing and Corrowong Falls due to rock sieves. Several rapids need to be lined or ghost boated. Flows of 800 ML/d are strong enough to pin or flip a laden boat or wash a swimmer into a sieve but not enough to cover some rapids sufficiently to pass over with a laden raft. Safety comes first and some sections can be partially paddled and partially lined. This river has many undercut rocks and sieves. No rapids should be entered blind. Scouting is key. At 800 ML/d most of the river was moving well but some parts can be a tad shallow. Four full days is required to comfortably negotiate the approximately 80km. It is hard to grade the river – the two falls are definitely not safe to paddle at this flow (probably never safe). The paddleable sections are around grade 2-3 and some sections possibly grade 4 due to complexity and risk but can be portaged / lined.

Flush flow from Lake Jindabyne released 6th November. 2,554 ML/d with 8 hour peak of 3,307 ML/d. Dalgety Weir is about 27 km from Lake Jindabyne. It can be seen flush reached Dalgety that same day. The flow didn't reach Burnt Hut Crossing until 7th peaking on 8th November. This is about 90 km from Jindabyne.

Putting In: Burnt Hut Crossing. South side of river. Access is via the old coach road which fords the river but is now a private track as the council has ceased maintaining it. River access crosses private land owned by Mark Mills. Track is usually locked as fires, weeds and erosion can be a problem to farmers. Our party parked our vehicle several kms back at Knockalong sheep station owned by Rowan Wright. Access is from Delegate town via Corrowong Road then Tombong Rd. Knockalong is signed on the left. We then travelled to Burnt Hut Crossing with Rowan and Mark in their vehicle. Parties should contact Rowan (02 6458 8134 or 0427 588 134) or Mark (02 6458 8190 or 0408 487 828) prior to visiting. They are happy to help out kayakers and rafters. Please don't take this for granted so others can continue to enjoy the privilege.

Taking Out: Half Way Flat on the Barry Way (Buchan – Jindabyne road) about 1km downstream of the Jacobs confluence. 2WD access. We prearranged a pick up – our rented Inmarsat phone worked great here.

Google Map: <http://goo.gl/maps/vxx0w>

Thredbo River: Dead Horse Gap to Village

Snowy Mountains. 20kms West of Jindabyne

Class: IV

Season: Spring

Length: 5km

Level: High water

Gauge: Visual – if it looks viable

Shuttle: Easy drive of around 5km

Character: Very continuous narrow and fast boulder run

Fast, steep and bouldery, this run has a fair bit of pin potential. Throw in a some wood and VERY FEW eddies and you have a fairly challenging run. That said, if you are up to it, you're in for a rollercoaster of fun! Don't get on if you're not confident of your ability to get down in one piece.

Putting In: River crossing at Dead Horse Gap

Taking Out: Thredbo Village

Eucumbene River: Down to Lake Eucumbene

Snowy Mountains. Adaminaby

Class: III - IV but depends on level

Season: Spring

Time: 2 - 5 hrs

Length: 15km

Level: Snowy Hydro's gauging 1.45m is good.

Gauge: Visual

Shuttle: 14km

Character: Varied and interesting landscapes, fun rapids.

Being slightly out of the way for those heading to the Jindabyne area, the Eucumbene probably does not receive as much traffic as other runs in the region. That said, it's a great little run that just ventures in to class IV at medium levels (easier at lower levels). Starting off meandering through barren grasslands, the landscape is spectacular, unique and stark - you could be forgiven for thinking you're in the Scottish highlands! Generally class I - II, A short 'surprise gorge' (III+) constitute the only rapids of note in the first 8km. The arrival of the main gorge is pretty obvious and the first 1km or so venture in to the easy end of class IV before setting in to nice continuous III - III+ for some time. Gradually the bedrock and boulder gardens ease off and you can relax for the last few km to the take out. Free of wood and with generally clean, fun rapids, at the right level this is one of the moderate classics of the region.

In terms of river levels, 0.54m at the put in bridge (middle pylon, downstream side) is a good medium level. Apparently at low levels it is a long day out. The normal level of 0.54m should be interpreted as 5.4m (ie 5.2m is low and 5.6m is high). The gauge is a bit odd and doesn't have a decimal point. The point is 56 is more than 2cm higher than 54 on the gauge. I've done it at 53, 55 and 57, which constitutes low, medium and high respectively.

Putting In: Drive approximately 30km west of Adaminaby to the point where the Eucumbene crosses the Alpine Way. There are also two alternative access roads (4wd), the second of which puts you in just above the start of the main gorge. These are best located using a topographic map.

Taking Out: From the put in, drive around 13km back towards adaminiby. Head down an unsealed road (which has two entrances from the highway). Head down the road (marked

Kusiosco NP) for 500m to a ford over a small creek and locked gate. Walk 300m past the locked gate to the faint track on the left (trees are marked with alpine walking track markers). Follow the track trending SE, over the rise and down to the Eucumbene. It is worth locating the take out before paddling! Alternatively, paddle on another couple of Km on flatwater into lake Eucumbene to Providence Portal and take out there.

Indi (Upper Murray): Murray Gates

Snowy Mountains. Khancoban.

Class: III – IV

Season: Late winter, Spring

Time: 4-6hrs

Length: 16kms

Level: 0.8 – 1.8m

Gauge: Murray Gates Gauge. Add 0.35m to Bigarra (Indi) for estimate

Gauge URL: http://www.bom.gov.au/cgi-bin/wrap_fwo.pl?IDV60151.html

Shuttle: Epic. 2 ½ hrs each way. Get a driver from town.

Character: Remote medium volume continuous river through fantastic scenery

So you've heard of "The Gates!". As you might expect of rivers that are commercially rafted on a consistent basis the Gates has a reputation. Tales of epic and woe may be heard from the guides holding up the Khancoabn bar each Spring, and every rock, eddy and wave has been named at least once! But really... the Gates isn't nearly as hard as suggested (especially by previously written guidebooks - Class V & VI!?!) and is a fantastic run with all rapids paddleable at all levels. So... after the put in, the first rapid of note is encountered in the first 500m - "The Wall" (Class II+ - III) or "Pink Floyd". If you can't paddle this then its time to put on your walking shoes and GO BACK! Or you could paddle a couple of kms to the last access track, Murray Gates gauge tk (4WD) on RR 100m upstream of the gauge itself. After the gauge another km or two of easy water brings you to the "Gates". Two cliffs on either side of the river with a creek (Baxter Ck) tumbling from RR. Here the fun begins with "1st Rapid" (II+ - III) or "Headbanger" or if you like "Bobsled". A short pool (a relative term at higher water) before "Guides Mistake" (III). 150m of easy water brings you to brink of "South African Swim". The first Class III - IV rapid easily scouted on RL. 150m of Class II+ - III leads into "Sharks Tooth". A difficult to scout 100m Class III - IV rapid that finishes with the abrupt drop and undercut rock of "The Thing" (III+). The pace eases for a while with "Long Island" (III) leading to "Rockgarden" (II+), a bony scrape in low water, finishing with "Himalayan Wrap" (III). All up about 400m. A couple more pools bring you to a classic section of whitewater. "Tanks Garage" (III - III+) followed by "Hole in the Head" (III - III+) straight into "Hermits Creek" (III+ - IV) finishing with "Easy Over" (III). A small campsite lurks here in the undergrowth between Little Hermits Ck and Hermits Ck on RL. A pool to pick up the pieces before "Swimmers Joy" (III - III+) and "Gorgeous George/Gorge" (III - III+). After all this fun 200m of easy water brings you to "Roller Coaster" (III - III+) with a nasty sieve on RL. A further 400 - 500m and "Jellyfish Rock" (III) is to be found, the last rapid of note in the section. The next 10km has plenty of fun II+ and III to keep you entertained for a couple of hours before you get to the take outs. The first encountered is at Little Bunroy Ck ("Little Niche") and is private access with many of the rafting companies pulling out here. A further 1/2 to 1 hr downstream is Bunroy Ck and 2 - 4 hrs further Damms bridge. Negotiations with the landowner are continuing at "Little Niche" so check with the rafters before taking out

here so you don't stuff it up for everyone else! The Gates have been paddled at levels well above 1.8m, but good knowledge of the river is needed as the whole thing turns into a Class III+ - IV+ steam train with little time to scout and a BLOODY long swim home! During winter many of the access tracks are locked by the NPWS so it's best to check at Khancoban before driving in. Also, during heavy rain many of the tracks at the takeout become Class IV. Good sections of easy whitewater can be had by beginners from Tom Groggin picnic ground to Grassy Flat. Mostly class II with one class III drop ("Riley's Ride) as an easy half day trip. Also from Little Bunroy Ck to Damms bridge as a easy class II day trip. Both these trips have easy shuttles.

Putting In: Grassy Flat Tk

Taking Out: Little Bunroy Ck (Private Access) or Bunroy Ck

[Geehi River: Above Geehi Reservoir](#)

Snowy Mountains. 20kms East of Kancoban

Class: IV - V

Season: Winter - Spring

Gradient: 30m per km

Time: 5 - 6 hours

Length: 10 km

Level: Visual - if it looks like fun clean paddling at the bridge

Shuttle: 11km - Walking

Character: Medium volume creek run with continuous high quality rapids

Almost everything about this run is amazing. Starting off in a deep steep sided gorge, the first three kilometers provide the technical crux of the trip and the most spectacular rapids. There are too many high quality rapids in this section to mention individually, but they are all very runnable and set the scene for the day. The first gorge gradually peters out in to bouldery class III then class II rapids, providing a nice rest and chance to take in the fantastic mountain scenery. A tight left hand bend and change of rock type heralds the entrance to the next steep, gorgey section. Class III - IV+ rapids continue for the next few kilometers until the bridge is reached. From there it is around 500m of fun rapids (probably depending on how high the lake is) and a 1km paddle out on the lake. This trip has all the ingredients of a classic; wilderness, mountain scenery, steep, clean, continuous hard rapids, a walk in and no wood. A five star day out. Whilst there is no readily available way to check the level, the very large alpine catchment should provide good levels reasonably often. The bridge referred to in the description is 2km in to the walk in and is a good place to check the level.

Putting In: From Khancoban it is around a 30km drive along the Alpine way to the turn-off for the Geehi Reservoir. Drive along the Geehi Reservoir Road for 25km until 500m before the dam wall, where a gated track heads off the road on the left. Walk along this track for 11km. At GR 217870 you can see the river on both sides of a ridge. Head down the ridge and put in at the distinctive drops below a large island that splits the river in two.

Taking Out: From the dam wall, drive past the toilets along the boat-ramp track. The boat ramp is the take out.

Map: Mount Kosciusko 8525 II & III

Swampy Plains River: Geehi Rest Area to Waterfall Farm

Snowy Mountains. 40kms east of Khancoban

Class: III(p)

Season: Winter to Spring

Time: 3-5 hours

Length: 19kms

Level: >1.2 m

Gauge: Waterfall Farm Gauge, 100m upstream of the takeout on River Right

Shuttle: 45mins each way on good roads

Character: Fun, intermediate river

Starting at Geehi Flats, the first few km offer gravel races and flatwater, before the main drawcard of this run, 'Devil's grip gorge', is reached. The gorge offers fairly steep and continuous, fun class II and III bouldergarden style rapids for around 5km before the river gradually flattens out. Towards the end of the gorge, about half way in to the run a portage is required around a boulder - most of the river goes underneath this boulder so don't get too keen. Care and an early start are required with large and/or inexperienced groups. One of the easier classics of the region, good conditions on the swampy occur quite frequently in Spring.

Putting In: from Khancoban, drive up the Alpine way for 40mins until you reach the Geehi Rest area

Taking Out: Drive back down to Khancoban, 1km before the town, turn left.

Swampy Plains River: Above Alpine Way Bridge

Southern NSW. 40km South of Khancoban

Class: III

Season: August through till October

Time: 40mins

Length: 3.4kms

Shuttle: 4kms (Dirt & bitumen, track can be a bit rutted)

Character: Fast, Technical boulder gardens and narrow chutes.

There isn't much to say about the technical nature of this river, it is one long rapid and although not really that hard, the absence of good eddies makes it a fast trip that requires good river reading skills. There is no time to plan how you will paddle down a rapid, you just have to be ready for anything. The river is a shallow boulder garden with much potential for further upstream exploration --rumour has it that Boris has sampled in its delights further upstream--. This is a fun, short section of river that has a few thrills thrown in to keep everyone awake.

Putting In: To get to the Swampy Plains River, drive out of Khancoban towards Jindabyne on the Alpine Way,. follow this until the road crosses the Swampy Plains River, the put in is another 4 km (approx) after the bridge and is a small dirt track on the left hand side. Follow this as far as possible --be warned that the ground can be very soft and getting bogged is very easy--. From here walk yourselves down to the river, head upstream rather than downstream as Blackberries make access quite difficult.

Taking Out: The get out is quite simple, before crossing the bridge over the Swampy Plains River, turn right at into the picnic area, there is a nice play eddy a bit further down so get out towards the end of the picnic area.

Leatherbarrel Creek: Alpine Way to Murray River

Snowy Mountains. 2hrs West of Jindabyne

Class: IV (p)

Season: Spring

Time: 6 - 8 hours

Length: 7 km

Level: If it is just deep enough to paddle then it is at a good level.

Gauge: Bridge over the creek on the Alpine Way

Shuttle: 7 km easy bitumen

Character: Narrow, shallow and steep

The Leatherbarrel is an amazing river and as much intense as it is amazing. You paddle away from any roads and the walk out is horrific, so any group attempting this should have enough gear for a night out; just in case. This river is also narrow, shallow and has hardly any eddies, so small teams (4 max) is recommended. Because of the steep nature of the surrounding country, there is a fair amount tree jams and strainers. This and the lack of eddies means that a sharp eye and continual scouting is essential. The river is a series of drops linked with continuous rapids and one hour long portage. The river can take a long time, depending on levels etc, and you are still left with the Murray river to paddle, this is much easier and quite relaxing after the intensity of the Leatherbarrel, see the guide for the Upper Murray (Above Tom Groggin) for the last bit of the paddle. But in short it is a series of bouncy rapids and long flat sections through beautiful granite country.

Putting In: Coming from Jindabyne, head west past Thredbo and across Dead Horse Gap.

About 10 km past DHG you will cross over a bridge on a small creek, there is a car park with toilets there, this is the put in.

Taking Out: Keep driving west until you get to Tom Groggin, turn left into the campsite area and drive as far upstream as you can manage, this is the get out point.

Map: Thredbo (8524-N) 1:50000

Victorian Rivers

Upper Bundara: Bogong High Plains Rd to Electric Corner

East Gippsland and Alpine region of Victoria. Closest to Anglers Rest

Class: IV+

Season: Winter or spring

Gradient: 20.5 m per km

Level: Has been run at 1.3 on the Mitta, where the bottom section of the Bundara was very bumpy. As 90% of the flow comes from higher up than the upper put in would expect the upper section to be paddleable anytime the lower section is. The section between the upper and lower is very shallow and requires more water.

Gauge: No gauge. Visual at bundara bridge

Shuttle: 2WD shuttle (33km) on sealed and unsealed roads. Road may be covered in snow. 4WD vehicles may use an optional "shortcut" via trapyard gap track (14km), but access from the south would involve a decent river crossing.

Character: A beautiful and remote alpine creek, with almost continuous boulder gardens and the odd bedrock rapid. From the very start this river is an almost continuous boulder garden with the odd grade IV rapid requiring bank scouting. At the halfway mark the river eases up a bit and the first short pool is encountered, after a couple of short gorges the river turns south and becomes an easy grade 2+ run home.

Suits: Creeker (or whatever you feel safe in)

Hazards: Apart from the usual (cold snowmelt and remote gorge), many rapids have a fair amount of pinning potential, requiring scouting of most major drops. Minimal wood. No willows. At high levels, the river likely becomes very continuous with almost no eddies - probably pushing up to IV+.

Rock type: Migmatite: Gneissic rock with thin layers and patches of leukogranite and pegmatite in dark biotite-silimanite-cordierite gneiss and schist.

Putting In: Bogong high plains road When the gate is shut, park at trapyard and walk up the road, turning left towards the river after 200m. If the gate is open, an easier alternative is to drive to the sharp right bend 1.7km further along and walk due south. Might be easier with a machete - not sure if this is permitted. The big bend where the Bundara is closest to the road is trapyard bend.

Taking Out: Electric Corner (named after the multiple electric fences near the river following this corner) on Callaghans road, the last part where the road is near the river. Alternatively, paddle through to the lower Bundara. This is a more straight forward drop pool section, but watch out for low bridges and fencing wire across the river and keep in mind that there are a large amount of willows in this middle section of the river.

Bundarra River: Down to Bundarra Bridge on the Omeo Highway

NE Victoria. Approx. 120km Nth of Bairnsdale

Class: III+ - IV

Season: Snow fed, mid winter to late spring

Time: 4hrs

Level: When the Mitta at Hinnomunjie bridge is higher than about 0.9m

Gauge: Mitta at Hinnomunjie

Gauge URL: http://www.BoM.GOV.AU/cgi-bin/wrap_fwo.pl?IDV60151.html

Shuttle: 20 min on 2wd dirt and sealed road

Character: Small Alpine creek, generally narrow and bouldery

For those looking to step up from rivers like the Mitta and the Mitchell the Bundarra makes an ideal first “creek” run. With its catchment in the high alpine environment of Victoria’s High Country, this creek is a must for spring creeking in Victoria. While never being hard and pushy the Bundarra is consistent and fun through its entire length. Most rapids consist of bolder dodges on a moderately dropping river bed over hung by the local vegetation. Logs do play a part in this river although the word is that someone has been recently clearing this section to make it hassle free. There are a couple of rapids that beg inspection but too are generally clean and fun. Definitely a good fun afternoon if you are in the area. If you are in the area and looking for more information about the run or someone to paddle it with, contact local Jeffe Aronson on (03) 51597252 he’s always keen for a blast on the river. Or drop in at his place on the Bundarra Rd, you’ll see the sign.

Putting In: From Melbourne follow the Princess Highway east for 277km and then the Omeo Highway north, through Omeo for 150 km. At a place called Anglers rest Callagans Rd turns of left, follow this for approx 4km till just before the road comes out into farm land. Inside the fence that marks the division to farm land an old track winds it ways approx 200m down to the Put in.

Taking Out: Head back down to the Omeo Highway, turn left and follow this for approx 3km to a bridge over the Bundarra river, just after this bridge a small tk on the right leads to the Bundarra bridge picnic area and the take out for this run.

Map: Shonnavale 1:25000

Camping: Anglers Rest offers fantastic camping while in the area and close access to the local water hole, ‘The Blue Duck’

Snowy River: McKillops Bridge to Buchan River Confluence

Gippsland. 350km East of Melbourne

Class: III – IV

Season: Best in winter & spring although can be done at any time of year with the end of summer being lowest. Heavy easterly rain can bring it up quickly at any time of year.

Time: 3 long days, 4 achievable days

Level: 0.5m is low, 1.5m is high

Gauge: McKillops Bridge

Gauge URL: http://www.BoM.GOV.AU/cgi-bin/wrap_fwo.pl?IDV60078.html

Shuttle: 3hrs one way on rough wheel drive roads

Character: Amazing big river valley with several gorges, spectacular scenery all in a semi-wilderness environment. Being the most popular section of one of Australia’s most famous rivers, this section has earned it’s reputation as a classic. Although very different from its ‘pre-dam’ days, it is rare not to be able to get some type of craft down the river. During winter and spring for rafts and into the summer for canoes and kayaks this river offers a

superb trip through some fairly remote country. At McKillops bridge you are well away from most of the ordinary travellers and as you float down past amazing features like the Little River Gorge, Campbells Knob and into Tulloch Ard Gorge, brief glimpses of distant farm land belie the remoteness. The river itself has been stripped of much of its former glory as one of Australia's few 'big water' rivers with the completion in the 50's and 60's of the Snowy River Hyrdro Scheme far up river. Today the water that feeds it's flow comes from its tributaries such as the Bombala, Delegate and Pinch rivers that feed mainly from rain shadow areas. They can however, with the right weather pattern, coming in from the East, still feed some fantastic floods, so it is always good to check the levels and weather before you go. The river we are left with is still interesting and challenging and should not be underestimated. The rapids in this section of the Snowy are generally class II – III and range from boulder garden to nicely formed drops. The exception is in Tulloch Ard Gorge, generally though of as the crux of the run, steep vertical cliff wall make this part of the river worthwhile of a rest day but would make portaging at high levels epic. The gorge starts with the famous 'A-frame' rapid, an interesting manoeuvre around to big blocks leaning together (NB. The actual run through the A frame itself is a very dangerous proposition as it is full of flood debris and should therefore be avoided.). After widening out a little to create a 'inner sanctum' the gorge continues with 'Georges Mistake', Class III – IV, a large double stage rapid with tricky lines. 'Washing Machines', Class III – III+ follows and for the Grand Finale, 'Gentle Annie', Class III+ - IV+. The gorge opens up quickly after this and continues with its pleasant rapids. All rapids in the gorge are easily propagable at medium to low levels. The Snowy is an excellent trip and for those who have the time you can easily spend longer on the river or extend it by paddling above this section, from Willis or below, to Sandy Pt .or beyond, the Ocean at Marlo. Remember, this is a remote river so let someone know before you go or take communication. Sat Phones are excellent, UHF is limited to high places and CDMA mobile phone is very limited to only the very tall peaks. The walk out would be epic.

Putting In: Follow the Princess Highway 277km East to Bairnsdale, then through Bruthen, 23km and onto Buchan 51km. From Buchan take the Gelantipy Road for 55km until the turn off to McKillops Bridge is reached and follow this down to the river, 25km. (this last section is very narrow and steep although large trucks and small busses do use it, take care)

Taking Out: For the take out head back to Buchan, take the Orbost Road and after 3-4km the Basin Road will be reached coming in from the right. Follow this for 3.2km and turn right onto Old Basin Road (signposted Snowy River). After 6km turn right onto Bailey Hooley Road (also signposted) and after a further 10.5km you will reach the confluence picnic ground. It is a short walk to the Snowy and the take out.

Map: Murrindal- Yalmy 1:50000, Deddick- Deception 1:50000, Lucas Pt 1:25000

Murray River: Limestone Creek to Tom Groggin

NE. 70kms from Benambra

Class: III

Season: Winter through till spring

Time: 2 to 3 days

Length: 60ms

Level: If you can paddle at the put in, then the rest should be great

Shuttle: One of the worst ever, either 40km 4WD or Tom Groggin via Jindabyne (100km) on bitumen and dirt roads

Character: Mostly gentle bouncy rapids through stunning countryside.

I should start this by saying that details of this river are sketchy, a few have paddled it and said that it is a beautiful river and a great touring trip. If it is possible, the shuffle with the 4WD via McCarthy's track would be better. Another option is also to continue right through and make it a full descent of the murray to where it flatens out (see other section in this guide). There are several class III rapids, wide and bouncy with long pools at the end, it is still a river however and treat every part with the respect it deserves (you are a long way from help). In higher water it would become a very fast flowing river and thus its entire character would change. There is not much more to say about this, apart from the nightmare shuffle, it is an amazing tour and through beautiful country. It is also the second half of the Leatherbarrel Creek, which comes in about 10 km from the end.

Putting In: The put in is via Limestone rd (the road that links Black mountain and Benambra). After crossing Limestone creek, turn immediately right and follow the track as far as you can go, there are a couple of fords and this makes the put in car dependent (4WD). As soon as you think there is enough water to paddle, that point on becomes you get in.

Taking Out: Drive to Tom Groggin, this is on the Alpine Way between Jindabyne and Khancoban.

[Aire River: Aire crossing to Great Ocean Road](#)

Victoria's Otway Ranges. Approx. 180km South-West of Melbourne.

Class: III - IV(p)

Season: After Rain

Gradient: 25m/km over middle 7km, peaking at around 40m/km at the end

Time: 1 full day

Length: Approx. 11km

Level: Minimum probably around 0.8m, but wouldn't bother unless 1m

Gauge: Just upstream of Aire Crossing on river right. No telemetric as of September 2003

Shuttle: 25km --- about 45 minutes return

Character: Flatwater, logs, waterfalls and great rapids

Suits: Creek boat is best

The first 2km is straightforward flatwater with picturesque rainforest and a few log jams. The first steep section is marked on the map as 'rapids' then two 'falls'. The first decent rapid is a 2m-drop spanning the river, shot towards the right. Soon after there is a fun two-stage drop far left. The first stage is 1.5m, and then there are chutes either side of a rock, with more water pushing down the left over a 2m-drop. Next is the first waterfall. This is a fall of 7m over a 5m distance. The portage, chicken chute and part shooting options are all on the left side. The second waterfall has a nice 4m slider into a pool river right. This pool rejoins the main waterfall but there is a log protruding river right that makes this fall a bit tricky! The remainder of the fall is about 6m of slide then 3m of vertical (it might be worth taking a saw to make this runnable). Portage is also tricky on river right above a pool. Look for a high-angled log, and descend using a 20m rope. After this second large fall there are a few rapids before the river flattens a bit more and the topography opens, with more log jams

and a few small rapids. Clearwater Creek joins from river left, signalling the start of the second steep section. Aire Falls is a little way into this section, you should inspect from either side, but no matter how you look at it, it is big! A drop of 2m into some messy water in front of a large boulder looks like a place not to go. The water then flies out the main fall left of the boulder. This drop is around 6m. This rapid is probably shootable by extreme paddlers. Portage is on river right (through bush); it is also tricky but can be done without ropes. After this fall the river is fairly continuous grade '3ish' with read and run creeking for approximately 2km (best section of the river). Keep an eye out for logs, and don't be complacent now that you have passed the falls, you could end up pinning a boat or losing a paddle and the walkout is hard! The last 2km are flat, exiting at the bridge on the highway.

The river was running at 1.4 at the put in gauge. Was a great run, the rapids are definitely in the class 4 and 4+ range at this level, with Aire falls still in the 5 to 5+ range. Someone has kindly drawn a gauge on the down stream side of the river right pylon at the Great Ocean Road take out. This marker gives I think a more accurate and useful measure than the one at the put in because of where the one at the put has been placed --- before a weir.

Putting In: From Colac (150km South-West of Melbourne on the Princess Highway) take the Colac-Lavers Hill Rd to Ferguson (41km) (T-intersection). Turn right; 9km on left is Wait A While Road. Follow this for 4km then turn left into Aire Crossing track.

Taking Out: Great Ocean Rd between Apollo Bay and Lavers Hill

Camping: Aire River Crossing

Big River: Enoch Point to Chaffey's Creek

NE Victoria. 170km NE of Melbourne

Class: II - III

Season: August to November depending on the season and local rain

Time: 2 hours

Level: Minimum 0.5m, very pushy and continuous at levels approaching 1.6m

Gauge: Big River Bridge (not an automatic gauge although an approximation is to times the level on the Goulburn at Doherty's by 1.1m) the gauge is located just upstream of the bridge on river right.

Gauge URL: http://www.BoM.GOV.AU/cgi-bin/wrap_fwo.pl?IDV60154.html

Shuttle: 17 km (Dirt roads, last km requires a 4WD)

Character: A narrow river with drop pool rapids and overhanging tea trees.

Forming in the hills behind Lake Mountain and Mt Torbreck and being relatively close to Melbourne the Big River is a very popular 'first' river trip for many Melbourne paddlers after leaving the waters of the Yarra River. This is a very narrow section with small drops, pools and gravel races. The road runs along on the right hand side of the river for most of its length but it is still a steep bush bash to the road. Bounded by tea-tree along most of its length, when the water is high very little room is left for eddies unless it is amongst the foliage. Care should be taken at these levels.

Putting In: From Melbourne follow the Maroondah Highway north east through Healesville till, after 110km the town of Taggerty is reach, turn right toward Thornton and then at Thornton right again toward Eildon. Approx 2km before Eildon turn onto the Jamieson Road

and follow this until the Big River Bridge is reach. Just after the Bridge on the right the Big River Road follows the river upstream. Follow this until Enoch Point track is reached, from here it is 4WD or a 750 m walk down to the river.

Taking Out: The take out is reached by going back down the Big River Road until Chaffeys campsite. (Chaffeys Creek)

Big River: Chaffey's Creek to Big River Bridge

NE Victoria. 170km NE of Melbourne

Class: II - III

Season: August to November depending on the season and local rainfall.

Time: 2 – 3hrs

Level: Minimum 0.5m, very pushy and continuous at levels approaching 1.6m

Gauge: Big River Bridge (not an automatic gauge although an approximation is to times the level on the Goulburn at Doherty's by 1.1m) the gauge is located just upstream of the bridge on river right.

Shuttle: Short, easy 2WD dirt road

Character: Small drop pool river bounded by thick tea-tree.

Suits: River running kayaks, canoes and inflatables

Forming in the hills behind Lake Mountain and Mt Torbreck and being relatively close to Melbourne the Big River is a very popular 'first' river trip for many Melbourne paddlers after leaving the waters of the Yarra. This section of the big river has many class II and II+ rapids with one interesting class III rapid known as 'Slalom Rapid'. A fairly short section, plenty of time can be spent playing. Bounded by tea-tree along most of its length, when the water is high very little room is left for eddys unless it is amongst the foliage. Care should be taken at these levels. Popular also for the fact the road is right beside the river at Slalom Rapid it is a great area running session that involve multiple runs of a section.

Putting In: From Melbourne follow the Maroondah Highway NE through Healesville till, after 110km the town of Taggerty is reach, turn right toward Thornton and then at Thornton right again toward Eildon. Approx 2km before Eildon turn onto the Jamieson Rd and follow this until the Big River Bridge is reach. Just after the Bridge on the right the Big River Road follows the river upstream. Follow this until Chaffe Ck is crossed and on the right a camping area marks the put in.

Taking Out: The take out is back down the road at Big River Bridge.

Camping: Excellent camping can be found at the put in and the take out.

Big River: Big River Bridge to below Burnt Bridge

NE Victoria. 170km NE of Melbourne

Class: II+ - III

Season: August to November depending on the season and local rain

Time: 3 Hours

Level: Minimum 0.5m, very pushy and continuous at levels approaching 1.6m. No point paddling this section if Lake Eildon is above 65% capacity, it turns into flat water very quickly.

Gauge: Big River Bridge (not an automatic gauge although an approximation is to times the level on the Goulburn at Doherty's by 1.1m) the gauge is located just upstream of the bridge on river right.

Gauge URL: <https://www.g-mwater.com.au/water-resources/catchments/storage-levels>

Shuttle: 10 km

Character: Long rapids, rocky beaches and play waves.

Forming in the hills behind Lake Mountain and Mt Torbreck and being relatively close to Melbourne the Big River is a very popular 'first' river trip for many Melbourne paddlers after leaving the waters of the Yarra River. This section has the usual selection of long rapids and after Burnt bridge an excellent gorge. The section after Burnt bridge is only white water if the Eildon dam is low, otherwise it is insinuated with the back flow of the dam. If it is then this can be some of the best paddling on the river. Bounded by tea-tree along most of its length, when the water is high very little room is left for eddies unless it is amongst the foliage. Care should be taken at these levels. If you are only paddling to Burnt bridge, this about an hours paddle from the Big River bridge.

Putting In: From Melbourne follow the Maroondah Highway NE through Healesville till, after 110km the town of Taggerty is reach, turn right toward Thornton and then at Thornton right again toward Eildon. Approx 2km before Eildon turn onto the Jamieson Road and follow this until the Big River Bridge is reach. The get in is just after the bridge on the left at the camping area.

Taking Out: The take out is reached by continuing along the Jamieson Road for about 10 km, a sign for Eildon State Park is by a steep track. Down the track is the get out, it is worth going down to the river and leaving some mark as it is hard to see from the river. Alternatively, if you are only paddling to Burnt Bridge, turn off at the Burnt Bridge campsite (Signposted)

Big River (Upper Mitta Mitta): Timms Spur to Big River Bridge

Bogong National Park, NE Victoria. Mt Beauty, Omeo

Class: II - III

Season: Winter/ Spring or with heavy local rain!

Gradient: 18-30m/km

Time: 1 - 2 days

Length: 21 km or so

Level: At least above 1.4m. Higher the better

Gauge: Hinnomunjie on Mitta Mitta River

Shuttle: Epic! A shuttle bunny is the goods on this one. From Mt.Beauty, head over Tawonga gap, up Mt.Hotham & down to Omeo. From here, head along Omeo highway towards Mitta Mitta until you reach the Big River bridge.

Character: Moderate creek boating to moderate river running

Where do you start on this one... Imagine paddling 21 km of exciting & continuous grade 2-3 water, all nestled in the beautiful backdrop of Mt.Bogong and the Alpine high country.

Between an epic walk in, heavy local rainfall required, a long & potentially tricky paddle, the isolation & the potential snow factor & then the huge car shuttle, it's no wonder its barely attempted. If you can juggle that cocktail, well, chances are that you will have a trip of a

lifetime. The first ~6km was very tight (3-5m wide) with intermittent strainers (most navigable thankfully). The eddies were pretty much non-existent, the water was flowing fast & we could not see very far in front of us due to the overgrowth....but it was mostly clear & awesome fun. After 6 km or so, it started to open up & as we passed the Duane Spur crossing (chain crossing over river). We were then presented with a continuous grade 2-3 'clear' river run.

Exit points: While it is quite remote, there are a few exit points that are reliably known & accessible which include - Survey Hut, Duane Spur & Big River road.

Putting In: Epic again. 1 - 2 days on a 12km hike from Clover Dam (Falls Creek Road), head north east on Big River Fire track for approx 12kms until you reach the Bogong Creek saddle. Descend a further km to where the Big River crosses Timms Spur.

Taking Out: Big River Bridge on Omeo Highway

Map: VICMAP Nelse, Mt.Wills, Fainter

Camping: Timms Spur (put in), Survey Hut, Duane Spur, along river banks for second half of trip

Goulburn River: Pondage Wall to Blue Gum Rapid

NE Victoria. 130km NE of Melbourne

Class: II - II+

Season: Dam release, usually starting around November finishing around early May

Time: 1 - 2hr

Length: 3km

Level: 500megs minimum

Gauge URL: <http://www.g-mwater.com.au/water-resources/managing-water-storages>

Shuttle: Easy 3km on sealed road

Character: Wide open river with mostly man-made rapids

This section of the Goulburn is arguably the most popular river section in Victoria, with lines forming at some of the rapids to surf the better waves. Being an official training site of Slalom squads and one of the few places to paddle in summer it does at times become crowded. The Goulburn is a fantastic venue that suits almost all paddlers interested in a fun day on the river. To paddle from the pondage wall is great for beginners on their first river trip with 'S-Bend' and 'Blue Gums Rapid' providing excellent eddies for practice. With the Blue Gums Caravan park situated right on the river there is the opportunity to park and play for all those wanting to improve their skills. Surfing, freestyle, advanced boat manoeuvring and slalom gates are all available for paddlers in the last 800m of this section. A great place to spend the weekend honing the skills over the long hot summer if you don't mind sharing the place it is a nice spot to visit.

Putting In: From Melbourne follow the Maroondah Highway NE through Healesville till, after 110km the town of Taggerty is reached, turn right toward Thornton and then at Thornton go straight ahead at the cross road onto the Back Eildon Road. Follow this for about 11km till about 1km before Eildon a car park on the right is found. This is just below the pondage wall and the put in.

Taking Out: Go back along the back Eildon Road about 3km to Blue Gums Caravan Park. Access through to the river is through the caravan park and if you want to take your car in you will have to pay about \$5 for a day charge.

Goulburn River: Blue Gums to Thornton

NE Victoria. 130km NE of Melbourne

Class: I – II (although has fast moving water through a lot of trees)

Season: Dam release, usually starting around November finishing around early May

Time: 2 - 4hrs

Level: 500megs minimum

Gauge URL: <http://www.g-mwater.com.au/water-resources/managing-water-storages>

Shuttle: 10km on sealed road

Character: Large open, fast flowing river with many trees in and around the river. The Goulburn forms as a little stream in the mountains around Matlock, not long after it forms it is dammed to form Lake Eildon, one of the biggest dams in the state. Releasing its water in summer the Goulburn below the dam has become one of the most popular sections of whitewater in the state. This section of the river, while not having the whitewater of the Blue Gums section is a favourite for novices and canoeists wanting a small trip. Consisting mainly of fast flowing deep water, the only real obstacle is the trees, and there are many of them. While being mainly class I some skill is required at high level to avoid getting caught in the plethora of strainers. Some work is being done at the moment to remove the willow trees that pose most of the problem.

Putting In: From Melbourne follow the Maroondah Highway NE through Healesville till, after 110km the town of Taggerty is reached, turn right toward Thornton and then at Thornton go straight ahead at the cross road onto the Back Eildon Road. Follow this for about 9km till about 3km before Eildon, Blue Gums Caravan Park is reached. Access through to the river is through the caravan park and if you want to take your car in you will have to pay about \$5 for a day charge. If you want to avoid this you can go downstream for 2km to Point Hill or Upstream for 2km to just below the Pondage Wall (for this upstream section see Goulburn River Pondage to Blue Gums section.)

Taking Out: Make your way back the way you came to Thornton where there is a bridge over the river. You can take out just upstream on river right.

Campaspe River: Turpin's Falls

Central Victoria. 20kms NE of Kyneton

Class: IV

Season: After heavy rain

Gradient: 9m Vertical Waterfall

Time: 5 min

Level: 1.2 min, 1.5 ideal

Gauge: Campaspe River @ Redesdale

Gauge URL: http://www.bom.gov.au/cgi-bin/wrap_fwo.pl?IDV60154.html

Character: Park and Huck

Suits: Boats that like vertical drops

Easy walk to a very sweet waterfall with a deep pool. Put in anywhere above the waterfall, and run the river right chute. There is a rock about 2m down the drop that you have to watch as it tends to kick the boat out flat. At 1.5m this was not an issue at all, and the drop was easy. With a lot of water the left side would be runnable, you'd just have to get the line right to miss the rocks on the drop.

Putting In/Out: From Melbourne get on the Calder Fwy towards Bendigo. Take the Kyneton exit and head north on the Heathcote-Kyneton Road. After about 11km take a left onto East Metcalfe-Langley Road. Continue until the T intersection and take a right (Shillidays Road). After about 1.2km take a right at the road signposted 'Turpin's Falls'. Park

Upper Cobungra River: School Bus to Smith's Crossing

Alpine National Park. Omeo

Class: III – IV

Season: Winter / Spring Snow Melt

Gradient: ~10m / km

Time: 3 hours

Length: 7.3km

Level: 1.2m+ @ Mitta Mitta @ Hinnomunjie

Gauge: Hinnomunjie

Gauge URL: [http://www.bom.gov.au/cgi-bin/wrap_fwo.pl?IDV60154.html#Mitta Mitta Catchment](http://www.bom.gov.au/cgi-bin/wrap_fwo.pl?IDV60154.html#Mitta_Mitta_Catchment)

Shuttle: As Per Upper Cobungra put in but continue south ~4.5km and turn right and follow fence line down to the river.

Character: Boulder Garden Pool Drop

What started off as a planned run of the Upper Cobungra took us by surprise as we missed the turnoff for Smiths Crossing and headed further along Bingo Coach Track taking a right turn about 5km further on and putting on where an old school bus "Into the Wild" style had been dumped next to the river as a camp shelter 7km upriver of Smiths Crossing. With an unexpected new stretch of river to explore we were excited when we came across the first horizonline and the first of a multitude of class 2-3 boulder gardens intermingled with a couple more serious class IV drops requiring scouting and a portage due to pinning potential at 1.2m @ Hinnomunjie. Most drops can be boat scouted at this level. The river loses gradient in short sharp bursts with long pools make recovery easy and it would be a great warm up and skill tester for the boater looking to put on to the upper or lower sections of the Cobungra. Smiles all round at the end of the day we were all wondering why this section of river isn't paddled more regularly. It will become another to add to the tick list of the Middle, Bundara, Upper and Lower Cobungra runs in this area. With more water this run would be more committing and would require good boat scouting skills or bank scouting of most drops due to the lines being obscured by massive boulders or heading around corners. There is a lot of wood around due to recent floods. Most drops were free of wood but it won't take much for logjams to break up and create hazards in the drops. A 4WD will make your life much easier getting to the put in and take out. Recent floods have washed away parts of the road.

Putting In: 37° 3'7.17

Taking Out: 37° 0'54.53

Map: Shannonvale 1:25000, Dargo Plains - Cobungra 1:50000

Google Map: <http://goo.gl/VwSD6R>

Camping: Camp at put in, Smiths Crossing or Anglers Rest.

Cobungra River from Swindlers Creek: Swindlers Creek to Smith's Crossing

Central. Omeo

Class: IV

Season: Winter or Spring

Time: 2 days

Length: 80 km

Shuttle: 40 kms one way on sealed roads

Character: An overnight adventure

The trip begins at the Davenport access trail At Mt Hotham (get a ski trail guide) walk and slide your way down the access track until you go under the blue-ribbon chair, at this point head downhill to Swindlers Creek. Paddle down Swindlers Creek for 4km's until the Cobungra is met this section has several trees and takes about 2- 3hrs. Gradient is constant yet there is only one major rapid which is a class 3 chute. From the junction of the Cobungra the river meanders through alpine meadows, until past the Brandy Creek Fire Trail, this would be an alternative entry point however it requires a 4-5 km walk in. Beyond Brandy Creek Fire Trail the river squeezes into narrow gorge, Epicormic Canyon, named for the large amounts of bushfire regrowth that surrounds the river. The first rapid of the gorge does a reasonable job of collecting most of the debris that comes down the river making it unrunnable at the time of our trip. Beyond the first rapid is the biggest rapid "little bear" which is tight steep grade 4+, -5? this usually has 3 big holes with last backing up off a rock. Beyond little bear the river drops for the next few kms providing mostly runnable grade 4's then slowly changing to grade 3, at this point the river opens into alpine plains and ample camping spots are available. There is also a 4WD track coming in from somewhere near the Mt Hotham airport which could be possible entrance or exit point. However, its exact location is unknown. The section from here to the Victoria River is mostly continuous grade 2-3 with barely a pool of 50m!!!! this would make an excellent beginner overnight section if it weren't for epicormic canyon. From the Victoria River through to Smiths Crossing the river has quite a bit of debris and some steeper grade 3 rapids.

Putting In: Drive to Mt Hotham

Taking Out: Drive to the Blue Duck Hotel (see Lower Cobungra River for details)

Map: Bogong High Plains

Cobungra River: Smith's Crossing to Anglers Rest

NE Victoria. Approx. 120km Nth of Bairnsdale

Class: III - IV

Season: Snow fed, mid winter to late spring

Gradient: 20m/km

Time: 4 – 6 hrs

Length: 4km

Level: Above 1.0m, at levels around 1.8m would be very continuous and fast (there has just been a new gauge put on the bridge at Anglers Rest, apparently when the water touched the bottom of the gauge it is good to go, I don't know Max yet?)

Gauge: Hinnomunjie Bridge on the Mitta Mitta River

Shuttle: Approx 10km on rough 4WD tracks

Character: Drop pool river with open steep riverbed made up of granite boulders.

One of the nicest section of whitewater in the state, right from the put in the Cobungra presents you with challenging, steep rapids in a semi-Alpine environment. The rapids are made up of the granite boulders common to the area and therefore offer tight lines with some potential for pinning. Scouting is needed on most of the larger rapids but all lines are obvious. About half way into the trip an obvious island begs the choice, left or right? Going left takes you to a 2-3m waterfall that has been run but the shallow landing and tricky entry punishes mistakes. Right, the more common choice takes you through some very tight and steep rapids, watch the trench most of the water flows into about half way down, the rock slide is much nicer. After the final big rapid, Roller Coaster, some great play spots and enjoyable class 2-3 rapids lead you the final distance to Anglers Rest. What better reward than sitting on the verandah of the Blue Duck swapping stories over a cold beer?

Putting In: From Melbourne follow the Princess Highway east for 277km and then the Omeo Highway north, through Omeo for 150 km. 1.4km before Anglers Rest and just before the CRB camp hairpin a 4WD track leaves the Omeo Highway on the left. Follow this rough track for 3.6km till another track enters from the right. Follow this the final 2.6km down to Smith's Crossing, the put in. The Park has just regraded the Smith's Crossing road from the CRB/Blue Duck. At present the last bit is

Taking Out: Head back to the Omeo Highway and continue along the Omeo Highway for the 2km to Anglers Rest and the place where the road crosses the Cobungra, this is the take out.

Map: Shannonvale 1:25000, Dargo Plains - Cobungra 1:50000

Cobungra River: Anglers Rest to Mitta Mitta River

NE Victoria. Approx. 120km Nth of Bairnsdale

Class: III+ - IV

Season: Snow fed, mid winter to late spring

Gradient: 10m/km

Time: 2 - 3hrs (+ 4hrs if you choose to paddle the Mitta as well)

Length: 3km

Level: Above 1.0m, at levels around 1.8m would be very continuous and fast

Gauge: Hinnomunjie Bridge on the Mitta Mitta River

Gauge URL: http://www.BoM.GOV.AU/cgi-bin/wrap_fwo.pl?IDV60151.html

Shuttle: 20min walk plus 10min in vehicle (unless you paddle Mitta to Hinnomunjie Bridge and then it is 45min in vehicle)

Character: Drop pool river with open steep riverbed made up of granite boulders.

A short but enjoyable section of whitewater, the Cobungra's lower section can be done as an afternoon blast with a short walk out or as a different way to start the Mitta Gorge. The river starts out with a rather uninviting with a section of flat water that is being choked more and more by willows as the years go on. There is still currently a way through but at

high water or in a few years this may disappear. After this short but unpleasant section the river bumps along with some very pleasant easy warm up rapids, grade II+ to ease you in. The real action starts in the last 1km where the river forces its way through a narrow gorge down to the Mitta River. The rapids in this last section are all very enjoyable boulder problems. These boulders do however create some pinning potential, as one nasty incident indicates, so watch out. With there being excellent camping at the put in, close to a pub, if you have the skills it is a must. By the way, 1.3 is a fantastic level to run it at. I've done it at 1m and 1.6m; 1m is REALLY bony, and 1.6m makes it harder to inspect on the go and makes a couple of the rapids significantly more dangerous.

Putting In: From Melbourne follow the Princess Highway east for 277km and then the Omeo Highway north, through Omeo for 150 km. Anglers Rest is a beautiful camping area about 35km outside Omeo on the banks of the Cobungra River, this is the put in. The Blue Duck Hotel is also a catching feature.

Taking Out: There are two options for taking out: (1) From Anglers Rest drive back toward Omeo along the Omeo Highway about 3km. Off to the right you will find a rough 4WD track, it is hard to spot and rough to drive, so best option is to park at the top and walk up. From the river this option about 750m downstream of the junction of the Mitta, paddle down one rapid only at the bottom of the next pool, on the right you need to get out, hard to spot the 4WD track comes down behind some tea-tree. (2) Paddle into the Mitta and take out at Hinnomunjie Bridge. (see Mitta Gorge section for that take out.)

Map: Sannonvale 1:25000, Benambra- Leinster 1:50000

East Kiewa: Lake Guy (Junction Dam) to Clover Dam

NE Victoria. 110km SE of Wangaratta, 360km NE of Melbourne

Class: III+ - IV

Season: Who knows? Some time in spring when there is lots of water and they decide to let it down that section. It runs rarely but I don't know why it runs.

Gradient: 35m/km

Time: 1 ½ - 3 hrs

Length: 2.5km

Level: When the river bed looks like it has enough water for clean paddling. (Not, I imagine when it is super high)

Shuttle: About 10min on sealed roads

Character: Bouldery, steep river bed with numerous young willows growing in and around the river. Surprisingly clean lines though. The section of the East Kiewa between Lake Guy and Clover Dam is not a section that is often thought of as having good whitewater as it seldom seems to have much water flowing down its bed. Having no 'natural flow' the only time you will be able to paddle it is when water is released from Lake Guy. (the when and why they release is a mystery to me). If however you have far more insight into the workings of the Bogong Hydro scheme, or are just lucky enough to be driving by and see it running, you are in for a treat. There is a short walk along a walking track from Bogong Village to the put in just below the Dam Wall, but you will hear it before you see it. The problem with put-in's of this nature, thousand's of litres blasting into a small pool, is that all that noise makes it quite intimidating. Not to mention the fact that probably the hardest rapid is the first one. With a combination of; a very boily and turbulent put-in eddy (from

the Dam outlet), willows and blackberries along the banks, being hard to scout, and the only good line having willow branches overhanging it, the first rapid makes any option hard work. (Although 10 minutes and a bow saw would see things improve somewhat). Anyway with the first problem out of the way what you will find yourself left with is a very pleasant jaunt down a lovely stretch of whitewater. The first 1 ½ km will give you some intricate, bouldery Class III – III+, hemmed in by willow but with surprisingly clean lines. Just before a bridge at the 1 ½ km mark is a fantastic, slightly bigger rapid, with four very nice drops woven in amongst the boulders. After the bridge and a man-made rock weir another approx 800m of fairly steep, class III+ - IV will leave you with no doubt you have had a work out and a good paddle.

Putting In: From Melbourne, travel North up the Hume till just after Glenrowan BP, turn onto the 'Snow Road' and follow the signs towards Falls Creek, pass through the town of Mt Beauty and start heading up the mountain. About half way between Falls Creek and Mt Beauty is the mountain hamlet of Bogong. Drive into Bogong and park just after the café by the lake. From here a walking track follows the Lake shore to the Dam Wall. It then drops down the Dam wall and half way down a side track leads around to the release valve and the put in.

Taking Out: To get to the take out drive out of Bogong and head back down to Mt Beauty, about 4km down is Clover Dam and the accompanying power station, there is a parking area here and a good take out.

Map: Bogong Alpine Area (Outdoor Leisure Map) 1:50000

East Kiewa – Clover Dam to Mt Beauty

NE Victoria. Mount Beauty

Class: IV

Season: Spring

Time: 5 - 6 hours on 1st descent

Level: Clover dam spilling

Gauge: Visual

Shuttle: Easy 20 min each way 2WD on bitumen

Character: Small alpine river

After the put in (carefully ignoring the no access and no trespassing signs) the river takes on a fairly friendly yet consistent nature. Lots of easy class II with some straight forward read and run Class III. Rapids of significance are encountered about halfway to Ropers track with two drops of note. Both were portaged on river left, but a line exists - although the second drop (about 4m) is difficult to scout due to cliffs surrounding the main rapid. After these rapids are negotiated several more Class III - IV sections are paddled before Ropers track serves as an intermediate access point. Below Ropers track the river becomes more willow choked with some tricky Class III "tree sieves" that need to be run blind. This section of the river suffers the same fate that many of the classic sections upstream have - dammed and usually dry! But with enough snowmelt and rain (and the power stations broken down) you might be lucky enough to get enough water flowing over the Clover dam spillway. It's a fun run that has seen little action (and little water!) throughout the 90's. Small parties of strong paddlers would be best suited to the run, as scouting is difficult and laborious and the walk out epic on river left to the road! Of special note is the adventures of the 1st descent party

in 1996 - including one member swimming 2km of the river after losing his boat, to find it conveniently eddied out at Ropers track. Another nearly mortally wounding himself falling through the rocks trying to avoid being bitten by a tiger snake whilst valiantly looking for the lost boat.

Putting In: Base of Clover dam spillway

Taking Out: Mt Beauty township

East Kiewa - Pretty Valley Branch: Nursery to Orange Bridge

Victorian Alps. 15km from Mt Beauty

Class: IV (V) (p)

Season: Spring - Summer

Time: 4 - 6 hours

Length: 4 km

Level: If it looks low at the Orange Bridge, its a good level

Shuttle: 6 km Bitumen

Character: Long committing rapids and waterfalls in stunning scenery. This is a stunning river, both to paddle and just to be in. Once you put, the river just delivers excellent rapids one after the other with nice pools after most of them (at low levels). At high levels this river would be extremely committing and class VI and continuous. The nature of the river is that of a lot serious rapids, some of which are very difficult to inspect and therefore the group needs to be small 4 to 6 maximum and all paddlers need to be well versed in river rescue and solid paddlers. We paddled at a low level and we are glad for it, if the bottom rapid seems boney, then you have a good level, please let me know if anyone has paddled it at higher levels, but I image the pools would disappear and you would have 4 Km of continuous class V & VI. There are many portages and the only way to know is to inspect everything. There is one rapid about half way down, a two tier drop with a large rock ledge on river right. This has flat rocks in both drops that are not obvious and I highly recommend portaging (Easy on the ledge). There have been a few comments about levels, it has been paddled at higher levels than our boney level. Most seem to agree that it becomes cleaner, but much more scary, serious and faster. This is a classic run, but it is also a serious bit of water, maybe a good guide is, if the bottom drop looks paddleable, then have a go. Use your own estimation of your ability.

Putting In: Drive as for Falls Creek, once you have crossed the Orange bridge it is about 6 km to the put in. The river is accessed by a jeep track leading off at an angle on the right hand side of the road. It is a walk in to the river partly via a track until you hit the pylons, then make a beeline straight down to the river.. If you get as far as the nursery then you have missed the track, turn around and it is about 1 km before the nursery.

Taking Out: Park your car at the Orange Bridge, the get out is under the Orange bridge on river right.

Map: Bogong Alpine Area 1:50000

Camping: There are a few Caravan parks in Mt Beauty, or alternatively you can camp at the diversion dam on the West Kiewa (see West Kiewa guide for directions).

East Kiewa - Pretty Valley Branch: Orange Bridge to Bogong Village

Victorian Alps. 15km from Mt Beauty

Class: III+ - IV+, possibly V at high levels

Season: Snow Fed, August to December

Gradient: 40m/km

Time: 2-3hrs

Length: 1.5km

Level: Although there is a gauge it appears damaged so for now visual. If you can paddler the first 100m under the bridge you should get down, if it is bank to bank with solid waves and no exposed rocks it will be big and continuous and very dangerous.

Shuttle: 2km on sealed road.

Character: Steep bouldery creek

This is the river you always drive over when you go to Falls Creek, and wonder what lies down around those corners. The reality is, at the right level, the East Kiewa below the Orange bridge is a good challenging run for experienced kayakers. It is important to at least start with the right level, at high levels it becomes continuous whitewater with few eddies and some very big rapids. This section is made up of many steep challenging rapids, after a short warm up the river drops away in three steep drops, the last one being the most challenging, although a rock slide sneak is available on the right. The river continues after this with more solid rapids. About three-quarters of the way down a very steep rapid, made up of rocks cut loose in the building of the road high above, is encountered. Portagable on the right, with some good route finding, though, it can be a good hard run. A few more good rapids bring you to the end. By Victorian standards this is a great run with some good challenging paddling, don't underestimate it but enjoy the run.

Putting In: From Melbourne go up the Hume till just after Glenrowan and turn onto the 'Snow Road' and follow the signs towards Falls Creek, pass through the town of Mt Beauty and start heading up the mountain. Pass Bogong village after 16km and then cross the East Kiewa – Pretty Valley Branch a further 1.8km after this, this is you put in.

Taking Out: Drive back down the Falls Creek road and enter Bogong Village, drive into the village, turn right toward the tennis courts, cross the East Kiewa – Pretty Valley branch and the take out is the park in the fork of the two rivers.

Map: Bogong Alpine Area (Outdoor Leisure Series) 1:50000

East Kiewa - Rocky Valley Branch: Spion Kopje Track to Little Aurthur Fire Track

Victorian Alps. 15km from Mt Beauty, 10kms towards Falls Creek

Class: IV - V(p)

Season: Winter - Spring

Gradient: 115m per km

Time: 4 - 5 hours

Length: 1.3 km

Level: Low to medium

Shuttle: Walk or same as lower section of Rocky Valley

Character: Very steep, very technical, and bouldery with some bigger drops

Don't be deceived by the length - this run is exceptionally steep and much of it requires continuous bank scouting. It has something for everyone; steep boulder gardens, must make move class five, one huge waterfall and everything in between. The rapids at the put in set the scene for the next few hours and there is very little let up. There are a number of class V rapids, including one huge showstopper, which depending on the level will be paddlable or just plain ugly, and you finish with a bang at the two drops upstream of the regular Rocky Valley run.

Putting In: From Bogong Village, drive up the Kiewa Valley hwy towards falls creek.

Approximately 4km along the road you'll come to a point where two tracks leave the road on the left. The top one is the Spion Kopje Track and it is about a 2km walk to the put in.

Taking Out: Either get out at the obvious Ford [little Arthur fire track] and walk back up to the car [1km] or paddle the lower section down to lake Guy and do a shuttle.

Map: Bogong Alpine Area 1:50000

East Kiewa - Rocky Valley Branch: Little Aurthur Fire Track to Bogong Village

Victorian Alps. 15km from Mt Beauty, 10kms towards Falls Creek

Class: III+ - IV

Season: Snow Fed, August to October

Gradient: 25m/km

Time: 2-3hrs

Length: 2km

Level: Visual, if it is paddleable but rocky at the take out then it will be good, if it looks bank to bank with no rocks it will be high.

Shuttle: 5km on sealed road plus 1km walk in.

Character: Steep bouldery creek with narrow canyon

Forming in the hills around Falls Creek this section of the East Kiewa is dammed above the put in, Rocky Valley Dam, and this dam does not release into the river. Through creeks entering downstream of the dam the creek does manage to pick up enough water to paddle, during periods of melt and heavy rain, and thus give us a fantastic little short run in an awesome area. After walking into the creek the first thing that will attract your attention is the two very nice, 2-3m, drops directly upstream of the put in, both have been run and provide an interesting start to the trip. The rest of the river, once you have pulled yourself away from running waterfalls, is a very good trip with one tight little gorge. Other than the first boulder choke, all the rapids are runnable with some tight lines. The gorge itself would, however, become very pushy and dangerous in really high water. Not to be underestimated this is a great and scenic afternoon run. For a nice grade 3 creek run, drive / walk 1km up the track marked 'Rocky Valley Walking Track' (I think that's what it's called) and walk down to the bank just before the walkway starts at the end of the road. This road is rough in sections and a 4WD may be necessary. To get to the track, follow the take out description for the Pretty Valley branch of the East Kiewa and keep driving over the bridge, you should then be able to see the track.

Putting In: From Melbourne go up the Hume till just after Glenrowan and turn onto the Snow Road and follow the signs towards Falls Creek, pass through the town of Mt Beauty and start heading up the mountain. Pass Bogong village after 16km and then cross the East

Kiewa - Pretty Valley Branch, and after a further 1.7km three tracks enter on the left. Park your vehicle here. Shoulder your boats and follow Little Arthur Fire track down to the river. Put in at the ford.

Taking Out: Drive back down the Falls Creek Road and enter Bogong Village, drive into the village, turn right toward the tennis courts, cross the East Kiewa - Pretty Valley branch and the take out is the park in the fork of the two rivers.

Map: Bogong Alpine Area (Outdoor Leisure Series) 1:50000

West Kiewa: Dungey Track to Diversion Dam

NE Victoria. 11km SE of Wangaratta. 260km NE of Melbourne

Class: III – IV

Season: Snow Fed, August through to October

Gradient: 33m/km

Time: 3-4hrs

Level: 0.8m min, 0.9m is a really good level and 1.0m it really starts to move

Gauge: Gauge 150m upstream of Diversion Dam, take track just before Dam for about 300m

Shuttle: If before October, 6km on 2WD dirt and 8km walk. After October all driven.

Character: Steep boulder rapids in open valley

This stunning, narrow, steep section of river makes the walk in definitely worthwhile. It features continuous class III-IV drop pool rapids, with fun drops and short pools. One distinctive bigger drop appears towards the end of the trip. Everything is runnable; some of the drops are quite tricky to portage due to steep banks. At 0.91 or so, we found it quite pushy and considering that there is much log potential and the rapids were reaching what we thought to be very meaty grade 4.5's (above grade 4 for us), we would think twice about running it any higher level. Curiously, we didn't find it so much 'drop pool' like the description. For us, it was like stern concentration the whole way as we negotiated the ~10km of continuous rocky rapids with minimal time to relax (rivers changed a bit?). The occasional drop did add some nice spice though. The distinctive bigger drop looked too rocky for our liking this time round. Some of the blackberries & steep banks do make the portages tricky.

Putting In: From Melbourne go up the Hume till just after Glenrowan and turn onto the 'Snow Road' and follow the signs towards Falls Creek till you get to the town of Mt Beauty. About 1km the Melbourne side of Mt Beauty, Simmonds Creek road turn off to the right. Follow this for about 9km and turn right onto the Pyramid Hill Fire Tk. After 3km on this Dungey Tk enters from the left. Dungey Tk is seasonally closed so if it is closed park your vehicle at the gate and shoulder your boat.

Taking Out: Backtrack to Simmonds Creek Rd and follow it a further 3km to its end at the diversion dam. This is the take out.

Map: Bogong Alpine Area (Outdoor Leisure Map) 1:50000

West Kiewa: Diversion Dam to Mount Beauty

NE Victoria. 11km SE of Wangaratta. 360km NE of Melbourne

Class: III+ to IV

Season: Extra rain or big melt between August and October

Gradient: 23m/km

Time: 5-8hrs

Length: 10kms

Level: Visual, if you can float a boat well under the bridge at Mt Beauty. Warning – High flows would make this section very dangerous.

Shuttle: 12kms on good 2WD dirt road

Character: Small rocky river in very tight valley, very overgrow in sections

The west Kiewa is another one of those rivers that is very rarely seen by anyone. Draining Mt Feathertop and the West side of the Bogong High Plains the river runs through some very remote country and instead of bursting out into the world as a roaring river, most of its flow is diverted and fed underneath the mountains to feed power stations. Suffering badly from the loss of water, the run from the diversion dam down to Mt Beauty does come into its own during periods of high flows when the water spills over the dam and the river bed comes alive. During periods of high melt or warm rain would be the times to do this run, although do beware of too much water. From the diversion dam for the first 6km the river meanders its way through some beautiful country and class III – III+ rapids. Though this section is nice the overgrown nature of the riverbed, a result of long periods of no flow, does make you wonder why you decided to put on. It does however improve, as the gradient increases and the gorge narrows the trees disappear and some fantastic boating up to class IV can be had, making all the bashing worthwhile. At some points the way the gorge walls close in and river keeps dropping you start to wonder weather you'll ever get out. Just as you think it will never end you are spat out onto the plains around Mt Beauty. Quite a long and testing section but well worth any problems. The Lower West Kiewa is not a little overgrown, but a fricken forest of death strainers and a few really classy rapids, but putting 3-4 on it is a little understating the situation. For the section of the west kiewa from the diversion dam down, an alternate put in that avoids most of the trees, while still getting in most of the classy rapids is accessed, I believe by following the road sign posted "west kiewa power station" from the falls creek road between Mt Beauty and Bogong Village. From this access point down is a narrow gorge with excellent class III-IV read and run rapids, and takes about an hour.

Putting In: From Melbourne go up the Hume till just after Glenrowan and turn onto the 'Snow Road' and follow the signs towards Falls Creek till you get to the town of Mt Beauty. About 1km the Melbourne side of Mt Beauty, Simmonds Creek road turn off to the right. Follow this for about 12km all the way to the diversion dam.

Taking Out: Head back to Mt Beauty and on the Kiewa Valley Highway is a bridge over the West Kiewa, you can take out here. (You can continue down to the Mt Beauty caravan park if you are staying there and take out at the park and have a very nice spa)

Map: Bogong Alpine Area (Outdoor Leisure Map) 1:50000

[Kiewa River: Ryders Bridge \(Tawonga Caravan Park\) to Red Bank](#)

NE Victoria. High Country – Tawonga

Class: II (p)

Time: 3 hours

Level: Minimum - 0.7 Maximum - 1 m @ Mongans Bridge

Gauge: Mongans Bridge

Gauge URL: http://www.bom.gov.au/cgi-bin/wrap_fwo.pl?IDV60154.html#Kiewa_Catchment

Shuttle: 8.5km on sealed roads, 9 mins, Kiewa Valley Highway

Character: Shallow mountain river flowing through cleared dairy farmland, fairly choked / snagged with willows. This section of river is very beautiful, is very cold in terms of water temperature in any season but summer, is extremely choked with willows and is absolutely teeming with trout. Definitely worth a paddle although there are not many interesting rapids and in a few cases the willows prevent anyone but the foolish from running a couple of the rapids. In higher water the willows would make for a dangerous trip, at recommended levels portages are present and most of the rapids are runnable with a few being a little scratchy. It is nice to paddle a rural alpine river for a change. The water is fast moving in most sections and the paddling and rapids are of a grade 2 standard with nothing particularly notable. There are a couple of particularly troublesome willows in this section. This section of river needs serious clearing. The Kiewa River at Mongans Bridge river height gauge is located off the Redbank-Mongans Road, not at Mongans bridge but around 500 m 1 or 2 km upstream on the river right, down a gated track and then down some stairs on the river bank, it is hard to find, however the gauge information seems to now be available on the BOM River Height Bulletin webpage, a recent addition, and is also available daily in the Border Mail local newspaper. Canoe-able conditions seem to present year round with the hydro-electric flows providing sufficient levels midweek, particularly in the AM peak hours early in the week and in winter owing to snow melt.

Putting In: Adjacent to the bridge on Ryders Lane / Mountain Creek Road, adjacent to the Tawonga Caravan Park, there is parking across the road.

Taking Out: Just downstream of the Redbank-Mongans Bridge on the river at a beach above a rapid.

Google Map: <https://maps.google.com.au/maps?q=Tawonga&ie=UTF-8&hq;=&hnear;=0x6b24146dfb4e2439:0x50579a430a0d2f0,Tawonga+VIC&=au&ei;=8eKUUFyKQsqpiAfD84D4DQ&ved;=0Cl0BELYD>

Sevens Creek: Poly McQuinn's to Goorum Falls

Strathbogie Ranges. 2.5hrs NE of Melbourne

Class: III+ to IV+

Season: Local Rain

Time: 5-8 hours

Level: 0.9m – 1.0m

Gauge: Poly McQuinn's

Character: Stunning Granite gorges with steep drop pool rapids and large waterfalls. Located away from the Victorian High Country, Victoria's traditional source of gradient and water supply, Sevens Creek at first glance doesn't inspire. Starting with a meandering course across the plateau of the Strathbogie Ranges this fantastic creek come into its own as it tumbles off the side of the plateau through 'granite country'. With localised heavy rains of 25mm and greater this little creek becomes arguably one of the best hard river trips in Victoria, numerous sections of continuous class III & IV and 4 large waterfalls 15m and higher keep you busy right to the take out. From the put in at Poly McQuinn's, a small weir,

the creek continues its meandering course across the plateau, interspersed with some nice, but often shallow class III rapids. After about 2km an obvious horizon line begs inspection and presented below you is the first and biggest waterfall. An easy portage on the left over a small knoll cuts out this whole gorge (so far unpaddled). Paddling, looking, portaging will basically sum up your trip on this river. Don't despair about the amount of walking you will be doing, just as your getting sick of it along will come some rapids that will make it worthwhile. Don't, however, come expecting not to walk, the waterfalls are big and it will take someone very gutsy to run them all. Mostly the portage's are obvious, although the second falls does require some interesting down climbing on the right to get to the fantastic rapids just below the falls. This run is long and taxing so come prepared and remember some of the best rapids are just near the end. A word of warning as well, when this river is at runnable levels it is in flood so paddle accordingly and watch for the occasional log across the river.

Putting In: Start by heading to Euroa, 160km North of Melbourne on the Hume Highway, then head SE on the Euroa- Mansfield Rd, for 16km, turn left onto the Galls Gap Rd (signposted to Strathbogie) and approx 5km up this road you will cross Seven's Ck at Poly McQuinn's weir. Parking and toilets is just before bridge.

Taking Out: Head back down the Gall's Gap Rd to the Euroa -Mansfield Rd, turn left and within 3km will be a track on the left signposted Goorum Falls picnic area (there are 2 of these picnic areas, take the downstream one), follow this 200m down to the river and leave car here.

Rubicon River: Upper Section

Central Victoria. 150km NE of Melbourne

Class: IV (+)

Season: Snow fed, although requires additional rain to bring it into condition

Gradient: 60m/km

Time: 40mins

Length: 500m

Level: 0.8m – 1.2m

Gauge: Rubicon at Rubicon

Shuttle: Walking usually

Character: tight, steep and continuous, this is a short blast

This section of the Rubicon will never become a popular classic as the window of opportunity for running it is tiny and to look at it is horrendous. But for those lucky enough to catch it in 'condition' and to know the lines the buzz will stay with you for a long time. Basically one long rapid this section starts below the "drops", four or so small waterfalls on a section of river above the 2nd Rubicon power station. From this start to its finish, at the 2nd Rubicon power station, the river drops between the classic Mountain Ash forest of the region and cascades between the log jams and over hanging branches. Rarely more the a boat length wide and with few eddies to catch prior knowledge is definitely a must. Many hours of log clearing have taken place to make this section go and there are many logs just waiting to take their place. So, if you know someone who knows the lines and has checked it for logs recently and you are after a wild ride it definitely worth the ride.

Putting In: From Melbourne follow the Maroondah Highway through Healsville, over the picturesque Black Spur and approx 110km from Melbourne turn right at Taggerty for Thornton. After about 9km turn right again toward Rubicon and the road that goes up the Rubicon Valley. This road winds up past the old power town of Rubicon, turns to dirt and after about another 3km splits. Take the right fork, pass the second Rubicon power station and park just before the gate 200m further on. This being a seasonal closure road most of the time you can run the river the gate is closed. Shoulder your boats and start walking. The best put in is only about 700m up this road just below the 'drops', it is a steep slide of 50m down to the put in eddie just below the last drop. Really if someone in your party doesn't know where it is then you probably don't know the river well enough to paddle it.

Taking Out: At the second Rubicon power station, near where you start walking from.

Map: Rubicon 1:25,000

Rubicon River: Royston Road to Camp Jungai

NE Victoria. 150km NE of Melbourne

Class: III+

Season: Snow fed, although requires additional rain to bring it into condition

Gradient: 27m/km

Time: 2hrs

Length: 3kms

Level: Visual, if you can float a boat at the put-in, it is high enough to paddle. If there are no rocks visible it is high

Shuttle: 3kms dirt road

Character: Very continuous bouldery river

This section of the Rubicon is a fantastic little blast to run if you happen to be lucky enough to be there at the right time for it to be running. Although draining quite a large area of high Alpine country this section suffers from the fact that a lot of its water is diverted to run the turbines of the Rubicon Power Stations and supply us all with electricity. As a result, this section will only run after 24hr of solid rain or in spring a good solid dump a warm rain on a decent snow pack. If you do manage to catch it, what you will find is a very continuous section of water. With quite a high gradient, there are surprisingly few big rapids with the height being lost in the gutter style race down hill. At low level, you will get quite a work out weaving in and out of the many small boulders that make up the river bed and at high levels, duck your head (under the overhanging branches) hold onto your hat and enjoy the ride. There are two bigger rapids, one 2/3 of the way down and one just before Jungai. Being steep a fast flowing, one thing you will notice is the lack of decent eddy's on the river, this combined with the fact that a lot of the banks are almost impenetrable Blackberries means you will want to have a good leader. It is very important to note that this section regularly has large logs across the river, and with very few eddies and some blind corners it can be very dangerous. If you don't KNOW that there are no trees down it would be inadvisable to paddle at high levels. All in all, though, given the right conditions and the right team this is a really nice afternoon out.

Putting In: From Melbourne follow the Maroondah Highway through Healsville, over the picturesque Black Spur and approx 110km from Melbourne turn right at Taggerty for Thornton. After about 9km turn right again toward Rubicon and the road that goes up the

Rubicon Valley. This road winds up past the old power town of Rubicon, turns to dirt and after about another 3km splits. Take the left, Royston Rd which almost immediately crosses the river. Put in downstream of the bridge on river right.

Taking Out: Make your way back down the way you came for about 3km, just after the road becomes sealed again a little road on the right will take you down to the river near the bottom power station. Park next to the power station as across the river is a private school camp.

Map: Rubicon 1:25,000

Eurobin Creek

Mt Buffalo, Victoria. 40kms East of Myrtleford

Class: III – IV+

Season: Snow fed, winter to late spring

Time: 1-4 hours (depending on put in & water levels)

Length: 2 km

Level: None we know of. Need substantial local rain to run

Gauge: None we know of. Nearest is on Ovens river at Eurobin as a guide of recent rainfall

Shuttle: 5 minutes on main sealed road

Character: Small boulder choked creek with steep narrow chutes & tight exciting lines

This gem of a creek comes crashing down in fine style from the Eurobin Falls at Mt. Buffalo gorge courtesy of the icy waters of Lake Catani above. The creek is very typical of other semi alpine creeks with its granite like boulders & therefore tight lines & resultant pinning potential..... but awesome fun. From the put in, start the day by paddling through the big tunnels under the bridge for a bit of novelty factor. The first kilometre or so delivers an almighty steep & boulder choked section that should give any paddler some grave thoughts! For the brave, there are occasional rewarding lines but with badly placed boulders & occasional strainers, scouting is essential with mostly portaging being on the cards (rough but manageable on the left bank). The paddling gods do smile at one point (about 1/2km in) when a gnarly ~40m rapid opens up with a runnable tight chute on river right, incorporating a small drop & a rockslide & signified by a middle chute at its entrance (we nicknamed it 'slender bender' for being skinny & zig-zagy) After a km or so, the creek eases to fun grade 2-3.5 technical boating for another km until the finish point at the Mt. Buffalo Toll gate (if you reach a small bridge, you've gone a bit too far). Due to the main Mt. Buffalo road hugging the right bank all the way, it's an easy escape should any problems occur. Jogging up the road to the car in your paddling gear provides many stares from curious ski bums leaving the mountain. It's a novel little creek & rarely paddled but well worth the shot if in the local area with significant rainfall/water flow & you're looking for a mission!

Putting In: Mt. Buffalo National Park is located along the Great Alpine Road near Porepunkah & Bright in Victoria. Head south east of Wangaratta after turning off the Hume Hwy between Albury & Melbourne. At the Porepunkah roundabout, follow the Mt. Buffalo signs & continue until you reach the Toll Gate. Drive for a further 2 km's to where the road crosses the creek at a small picnic area. You could easily start your journey further downstream with the easy river access, bypassing the major nasties. Beware of the steep bank!

Taking Out: Mt. Buffalo Toll Gate 2km downstream. It is an easy jog for a fit paddler for the car retrieval

Map: Eurobin 1:25,000 VICMAP

Yarra River: Homestead Road to Wittons Reserve

Melbourne and environs. 30kms North East of Melbourne

Class: II - III

Season: All year, best from late Autumn through till Spring.

Time: 1 to 2 hours

Level: 0.7m to 3.5 m

Gauge: Warrandyte

Gauge URL: http://www.bom.gov.au/cgi-bin/wrap_fwo.pl?IDV60154.html

Shuttle: One of the easiest, it is actually possible to walk this one, but a car is better. 5 km (Easy bitumen and dirt)

Character: A series of gravel races, long rapids and long flat sections.

This section of river has two features that make it good, the first is that at low levels it has some very nice rapids to learn on, flat sections to regroup and it's quite short so in winter people aren't in the water for hours. It is possible to walk the entire length of this section. There are two rapids of note; Bob's rock and the island rapid, both are deserving of a look and at higher levels the island rapid can be quite pushy. At high water Bob's rock becomes one of the best play waves in Melbourne.

Putting In: The best way to get there is via the Maroondah Highway. Drive to Mooroolbark and turn off at Exeter Road, follow this and then turn right onto Lyons Road. This becomes; it becomes Homestead Road, continue to follow this until a sharp right hand bend appears and a dirt road leads off to the left (Lower Homestead Road); drive until water is found, this is the river.

Taking Out: The same as the get in, except that you turn off onto Reserve Road; 750m before Lower Homestead turnoff. Drive along this until you hit the river

Evans Creek: Evans Creek Track to Lake William Hovell

Upper King River Catchment, NE Victoria. Near Cheshunt

Class: III - IV

Season: Runnable after heavy rain any time of year excluding winter when Parks Victoria lock the gates.

Gradient: Steep!

Time: 2.5 - 3.5 hours

Length: 5-6kms

Level: Minimum 1.4 Maximum 1.7

Gauge: King River at Lake William Hovell D/S

Shuttle: 30-45 mins with a good 4WD only!

Character: Steep low volume creek in a remote gorge.

This creek was discovered whilst 4WDing in the upper reaches of the King River and first paddled by local King Valley resident and fellow paddling stalwart, Bruce Baxter. Just getting into this creek can be a mission, as it is only likely to be paddleable after heavy rain when

the King River below is above 1.4m. The 4WD track in is steep and slippery, requiring some good skills and a set of chunky tyres to successfully negotiate. One option could be to leave a car at the top of the hill and cut off the last 200 - 300m of the steep descent down to the put in. This is all assuming you originally got past the gate at the start of Evans Ck Tk that is likely to be closed between mid June to October. If you manage to successfully overcome these obstacles and get to the river, strap yourself in for a few solid hours of steep creeking that will stay with you long after the trip is over. This is a committing paddle with a steep gradient and plenty of solid rapids to keep you guessing. There is no real warm up to the trip as you will find yourself picking lines and scouting in your boat from the get-go. All of the rapids that we opted to scout from the bank proved to be worthwhile causes as some of the lines are blind through the bigger drops. The highlight of the trip has to be the newly named "Bax's Falls". This 6m drop is in the middle of a tight little canyon about 1/3 of the way down which we were fortunate enough to be able to scout first from river right before running. This may not be possible at higher levels as the eddy would be harder to get to without the risk of washing over the drop blind. The drop is clean with a soft landing and a real highlight of this trip. There are plenty more technical rapids throughout this trip, some which require scouting from the bank before running and several which require portaging due to the presence of sieves or strainers etc. Paddlers need to remain cautiously vigilant throughout the journey as there are many fallen trees across the river in some awkward locations that can be tricky to maneuver and/or portage around. Despite all the hazards and obstacles along this journey, there is some great paddling to be had and exciting clean lines to run.

Putting In: Put in where the creek is closest to Evans Creek Track at the camping area 4-5 kms up the road from the gate

Taking Out: At the ford on the road between Evans Creek Tk & Buckland Spur Tk in the headwaters of Lake William Hovell

Map: VICMAP Whitfield 8124-S 1:50,000

Moroka River: Horseyard Flat to Wonnangatta River

Gippsland. 200km East of Melbourne

Class: IV – V (p)

Season: As the catchment is in a rain shadow the season is limited to as the snow melts in August/Sept (provided they get snow) or when there is a big rain in the area

Gradient: Approx. 20m/km (max 100m/km)

Time: 3 days paddling

Length: 32kms

Level: If you can just paddle the first rapid after the first waterfall then there is enough water to get down, good flow here will may give you too much water later on. (This is definitely all guess work)

Shuttle: Epic, shuttle bunny required

Character: Very steep alpine river that plunges through a narrow gorge with seven big waterfalls and lots of tight bouldery rapids. Rising on the back of Mt Wellington, the Moroka meanders its way along various high plains before plunging its way through the spectacular Moroka Gorge. Long known to bushwalkers and four wheel drivers alike as a spectacular area for exploring the waterfalls and dipping in the cool water, with lots of hard work it reveals itself, when caught at the right moment, to be a spectacular and rewarding river

trip. After negotiating the road up, which can get blocked by snow, probably exactly when it is best to paddle, the first obstacle is the walk in. Whilst 3km is not too far, doing it with fully loaded kayaks for a 3 day trip is challenging. There is an excellent walking track that leads from Horseyard Flat down into the gorge. The put in is the first waterfall you come to. Basically this is a full-on trip, the rapids are very steep with logs and pinning rocks being a constant problem. With a lot of water, the river would at times become an almost constant cascade. With this in mind, though, at relatively low water levels there are a surprising amount of runnable rapids that will keep your interest. While there are many steep and interesting sections on this run, the two 'crux' sections would definitely be: about 1km after the start; and the kilometre of river after the last marked waterfall. The first section soon after the start, while not being super steep is a very intricate tangle of boulders with a few logs thrown in for good measure. While there is a way through it all, extreme care should be taken by scouting. The second 'crux' section comes right after you down climb the last marked waterfall, the river is very steep here, around 100m/km, and the gorge is tight. With high water some rapids would be very hard to portage or scout. In both sections there are far too many rapids to describe. The rapids, gorges and waterfalls continue for quite a long way after the last marked waterfall, Clear Country Ck being the point you can really relax for the paddle out. There are two other waterfalls not marked on the map, one at GR958548 and one at GR930556. This is one of those trips that you need to research well and plan thoroughly! It travels through some of the most remote, and spectacular country in the state with a 1000 vertical metre walk out being the easiest option of escape in some places. Catching the right water level is also something you will have to research well, studying weather charts over the winter before to see if it will run. Rope skills are also a must, as several of the portage's have some quite intimidating down climbs and boat lowers --- at least 20m of good rope is required. For those who have the skills, dedication and that little bit of luck to do a trip on the Moroka, it will be a trip they will remember well for all time.

Putting In: From Melbourne follow the Princess Highway 162km East to Traralgon where you turn North and head 98km via Heyfield to Licola. Take the Snowy Plains Road up through Tamboritha Saddle to Arbuckle Junction, turn right and follow the Moroka Road all the way to the turn off to Horseyard Flat. It is about 2 hrs from Licola to Horseyard Flat with Arbuckle Junction being about halfway.

Taking Out: Head back the way you have come all the way to the Princess Highway. Continue East, 22km East of Stratford, turn off to the left toward Fernbank and Dargo. There are also signs on this turn off to the Mitchell River National Park. Follow this road North for about 10km to the 'Fingerboards' intersection and turn left toward Dargo. Once on this road it is about 45km of winding road till Waterford is reached, turning off this onto the Wonnangatta Road and another hour or so up to Eaglevale. You can take out here, or continue further up the river on 4WD tracks closer to the junction of the Wonnangatta and Moroka, the road stops short of the junction as it has been washed away at GR932669 and doesn't continue as far as marked on the map.

Map: Tamboritha – Moroka 1:50,000

Gardiners Creek: Warrigal Road to Burke Road

Melbourne Central.

Class: III

Season: Local Rain

Time: 40 mins to 1 Hour (no playing)

Level: 0.8m at the High St Bridge (or 0.9m or greater, some features may become sticky above 1.5m at Great Valley Road, under bridge)

Gauge URL:

http://www.melbournewater.com/content/rivers_and_creeks/our_rivers_and_creeks/our_rivers_and_creeks.asp

Shuttle: The best bit, can either be driven or you can jump on the train at Gardiner station and catch the train back up to Holmesglen station. Otherwise the drive is best done with a map or local knowledge.

Character: A fast river with many drop, weirs and holes to play in. A great quickie paddle. A river in the centre of Melbourne, Gardiners creek offers the city dweller the chance to paddle before or after work. It requires heavy local rain in the Eastern Suburbs of Melbourne and must be paddled as it is raining. An easy start with good warm up eddies; leads half way through to the start of the weirs. The creek contains some 5 or 6 interesting weirs, some with stoppers that beckon and promise lengthy embraces. Some also promise and give excellent surfs, Eddies are plentiful, but in high water, the stoppers could be keepers. The creek drains much of the eastern suburbs and as such rises and falls very quickly. Water quality is questionable! Park and Play boaters often leave the car at Great Valley Road and walk upstream to give an excellent short run through the last five (and best) drops."

Putting In: There is a carpark on the north side of the bridge at Warrigal Rd. Put in on the upstream side of the bridge.

Taking Out: You can either drive and park next to the bowling club, or you can catch the train back to your car. (alternate take out ,Great Valley Rd, just after the final drop)

Map: Melways Page 60

Howqua River: Eight Mile Gap to Sheeppark Flats

Central Victoria. 50kms East of Mansfield

Class: II

Season: Winter - Spring

Gradient: Not much

Time: 5 hours

Length: 10 km

Level: If it looks runnable, have a go

Shuttle: 10 km dirt

Character: Scenic small river run

The Howqua will never be described as one of the most exciting rivers, but it is a beautiful and scenic place. The rapids are all simple runs and plenty of places to stop and have lunch. A great place if you are new to paddling but would still like to do a river run. The one detracting thing is the black berries along the river bank, very unsightly although tasty in season. Also be on the watch for logs as they tend to fall into the river, there are at the time of this entry a few log jams, all are easily seen and avoided.

Putting In: 20 km after Mansfield, heading towards Mt Buller, there is a turning off to the right towards Mt Howitt/Howqua area. Follow this for another 16 km, you come across Sheepyard flat which is the get out point. Following the road for another 10 km will bring you to Eight Mile Gap (signposted). This is the put in.

Taking Out: As above for sheepyard flats

Map: Mt Buller South 1:25000

Howqua River: Sheepyard Flats to Running Water Creek Reserve

Central Victoria. 50kms East of Mansfield

Class: II

Season: Winter - Spring

Gradient: Not much

Time: 5 hours

Length: 10 km

Level: If it looks runnable, have a go

Shuttle: 40 km

Character: Scenic and easy paddle

Like the section above it, the Howqua is a beautiful paddle with great scenery and some very pleasant rapids. The black berries are rather thick here, but it is only a minor detraction from the scenery and views. There are several log jams at the time of writing, all easily avoided. There are now probably 20 portages required to complete this section, mandatory at any level, with some through thick blackberries. This is unfortunate as turned what is otherwise it is a lovely run into a real slog.

Putting In: 20 km after Mansfield, heading towards Mt Buller, there is a turning off to the right towards Mt Howitt / Howqua area. Follow this for another 16 km, you come across Sheepyard Flat

Taking Out: Just out of Mansfield on the Mt Buller Road is a turn of for Jamieson, follow this until the Howqua River is reached, turn left after the bridge and follow the road for 10 km until Running Water Creek is reached (signposted)

Google Map: <http://goo.gl/maps/VSx1c>

Tarra River: Fernholme Caravan Park to the Cliffs RR

South Gippsland. Approx. 15km North of Yarram.

Class: III

Season: Following heavy local rain

Gradient: The river drops around 237m over its 56.3km length

Time: 3hrs

Length: 7km

Level: Min 0.45m, ideally above 0.6m

Gauge: River left upstream of Water Authority Pumping station Wier

Shuttle: 10 mins following the river

Character: Surprisingly steep river with numerous long rapids and several drops

The next time that it rains 70mm+ in between Traralgon and Yarram in South Gippsland, head to the Tarra River Valley for a cracking little paddle. This surprisingly steep creek is

located in the heart of the very scenic Tarra Bulga National Park only 2-3 hours from Melbourne. Heavy local rain is required to bring this top quality paddling trip, to life. The most convenient put in is where the road crosses a little creek that joins the river from river left about 1.5km below Fernholme Caravan Park. Above this may be paddable also but at the time we paddled it, it contained a few strainers and not quite enough H2O. The first 1-2km warm up stretch of river contains several small rocky grade 2 rapids followed by a concrete ford crossing that will require portaging. Soon after this, the first of several horizon lines appears. As with most drops on the river, it is basically a cascading river wide shelf with an overall drop of 3-4m which is easily run on river left. With a grin ear to ear, you will then encounter 1-2kms of narrow, rocky grade 2 creeking before another horizon line begs inspection. This exciting rapid is a big slide that drops 5-6m over 8-10m. Run guts on this one and have the camera at the ready. After some more rocky paddling for a little while another horizon line heralds the arrival of the weir at the gauging station. This 8ft drop can be run in the middle with a soft landing despite the fact that it looks a little shallow. Run this several times and take some more photos, as after this there is a lot more rocky creeking with only one other significant rapid which is a 30m long ramp run easily on river right. The road follows the river the entire trip, so, the put in and the take out can be altered however you like, but we took out at where there are some steep cliffs on river right, very close to the road. Although this is a fairly straightforward run, there are a few trees and logs in the river which may require portaging or some clever manoeuvring around.

Putting In: 1.5kms below Fernholme Caravan Park

Taking Out: On the left just before the steep cliffs on river right

Stringers Creek/Happy Creek: Rail Yards to Thomson River Confluence

Gippsland. Walhalla. Approx 136km East of Melbourne

Class: III+ (p)

Season: Very heavy local rain

Time: 1-3hrs

Level: 1.3m

Gauge: Coopers Creek

Gauge URL: http://www.bom.gov.au/cgi-bin/wrap_fwo.pl?!DV60079.html

Shuttle: Easy sealed road, 3kms

Character: Narrow, fast, steep low volume creeking

Known as either Stringers Creek or Happy Creek, Stringers Creek is never more than three or four meters wide, and weaves it's way through a small, narrow gorge which offers steep & quite dangerous paddling from the put in to the take out. Logs & strainers are a big problem, and with two narrow & technical drops of over four meters high, it is mandatory to inspect the whole creek beforehand, which can be done quite easily by walking along the scenic railway line. Aside from the drops the creek is a continuous wave train and if you are feeling uncomfortable when you arrive at the scenic railway station half way down, get out, as after this the gradient picks up and the creek becomes even more difficult. There are very few eddies, and when we did it we often had to resort to grabbing blackberry bushes (but don't let that put you off!). The drops could be paddled but would easily push the grade to 4+ or 5.

Putting In: The rail yard on the Walhalla Road where the creek goes through a short tunnel

Taking Out: Thomson River confluence

Map: Vicmap Walhalla 8122-2-2

Buchan River: Greenhills Track to Mick Roberts Bridge

East Gippsland. Buchan.

Class: III (IV)

Season: Any time of the year there is rain to get it flowing.

Gradient: Medium

Time: Allow 8 - 10 hours

Length: Approx. 35km

Level: Min: 1.6m; Max; 2.4m. 1.8 to 1.9m is a great level to get to know river

Gauge: Buchan River at Buchan

Gauge URL: <http://www.bom.gov.au/fwo/IDV67202/IDV67202.584020.tbl.shtml>

Shuttle: 2WD access but in wet weather a 4WD may be needed. In dry weather a 4WD is a must if you want to avoid the 2km walk in. A chainsaw should be carried for the put in drive in case the road has not been cleared for a while

Character: Cross between a river and a creek.

This is a run destined to become a classic, and at a good flow is a little like the Murray Gates in difficulty and nature. It is a big day so start early. There are not many options to get out (seldom used hard 4WD tracks) but you may be able to get out through private property on Gillingall (the farmland that meets river around half way down the run time wise and is visible on a satellite map). Gillingall is often a good spot for lunch. The first more main rapid is Freeman's folly. Be wary that there is a crack in the boulder of this one which if run on the left may wedge a kayak and kayaker (usually run right). From here numerous high quality grade 2 & 3 (a couple grade 3+ / 4 at high levels) are encountered. 3 very significant rapids are come across on a right hand bend about 4km past Holy Hell Creek and about 1.5km before the Mt. Dawson track. These rapids in order are: Holy; Buchan & Hell. The coordinates for the top of the 3 large rapids close together (Holy, Buchan & Hell): - 37.43987,148.14853. They may be grade 3+/4 depending on the level. Be on the lookout for the last eddy on the left before Holy which is come across after a corridor of trees. At 2.1m it is fine to catch with a raft but if you miss it you may get a surprise and find yourself muttering Holy Buchan Hell. Holy has a lot of water compressing into a wall but is generally quite runnable. Buchan has a very nasty sieve at lower levels on the left. Below 2m it may be run through the narrow chute on the far right. Above 2m the left side is possible and gives you a turbo boost off the shallow water at the bottom. Hell is a ledge which has an irregular hydraulic at the bottom. It has been run left, middle and right. Have a look as it depends on the level. The nice rock protrusion on the right which launches you past everything can be hard to get to at some levels due to the eddy / pillow above it. Be aware that the landing below is not that deep. For local conditions and advice talk to Lynton Hill from Snowy Rver Expeditions at Karoonda Park 03 5155 0220

Putting In: Greenhills track off Glenmore Road. 2km walk in from top of Greenhills track unless you have 4WD and track is dry.

Taking Out: Mick Roberts bridge - <https://goo.gl/Y4Vtgd> End of Sunny Point Road, off Gelantipy Road (signposted)

Google Map: <https://goo.gl/5n8Yh1>

Cann River: Gauge Track to Furnell Jetty

Eastern Victoria. Cann River.

Class: IV+

Season: July to September (Small window rises and falls fast)

Time: 6 - 7 hours

Level: 1.1 to 1.5 m (1.1m is a good level)

Gauge: Weeraga

Shuttle: 1/2 hour on good gravel roads

Character: A bit of everything, technical and big volume rapids.

Great trip plenty of interesting class 3 rapids. About 5 km from the put in you come across the waterfall which drops about 10m in total over several large drops, with the safest line being hard right. This is paddleable but must be inspected from the bank. It is worth checking out the rest of the lines here as there are plenty. I've counted 7 possible lines. After the excitement of the waterfall is over, there is a great class four rapid directly below. The river calms down for a bit for a few km's until the Cann River Gorge is entered. There are several rapids of class 4+ that are worth a look, watch out for trees. By the way this section was never grade 6. The gorge can take quite a while to paddle and has plenty of great holes and waves to play on. After the gorge, the river suddenly changes character and the smell of the sea is upon you. For the next few hours you could do with a book to read, but apart from the long flat water paddle at the end, it's a great trip. Great trip if your lucky enough to catch it in flood.

Putting In: End of gauge track is about 10 kms south of Cann River township, on the road to Furnell Jetty.

Taking Out: Furnell Jetty

Deep Creek: Sunbury Road to Quarry

Melbourne. 40mins NW Melbourne

Class: IV

Season: Winter and after local heavy rain

Time: 1 - 2 Hours

Level: 1.1m - 2.5m (or much higher) - Playboat min 1.2m

Gauge: Sunbury Road Bridge

Gauge URL:

http://www.melbournewater.com.au/content/rivers_and_creeks/rainfall_and_river_level_data/site.asp?SiteID=13&bhcp;=1

Shuttle: 4.5 km (easy Bitumen)

Character: Consistent and delightful boulder runs with small drops.

Located on the edge of Melbourne airport, Deep Creek is a heavy rain feed river with many technical and boulder strewn rapids. You need to be paddling during or just after the rain. One paddles the first couple of kilometers, expecting at each corner to be assailed with terrifying white water, only after 10 minutes to be told that the first 2 km are easy. The start of the good stuff is intensive, with a good 2m drop with plenty of holes and side surfing, this

continues quite consistently with a rapid every 200m. Most of the big ones have a kick in the tail and that keeps you thinking. A great paddle and close to Melbourne. The river finishes by running through saplings and the channel can become less than obvious. Scouting and portages are easy, but the rapids are long and the eddies can be small, best suits small parties. Can be paddled much higher – around 4m. It changes the river a lot though. The rapids are of a whole different style, rather than it been creek style with a few drops and holes, it is just BIG water! Massive waves and holes all over the place to swallow any kayak. Nothing dangerous, but definitely big enough to hand out a beating and enforce a swim which you do not want.

Putting In: Drive out to the airport, following all the signs for Sunbury, the put in is on airport side of the bridge at Bulla, the carpark turnoff is 50 m before the bridge.

Taking Out: The get out is at the quarry on Loemans Road. For the shuffle, drive over the Bulla bridge and take the first left turn (1km after the bridge) and then drive straight on, even as the main rd (Bulla - Diggers Rest Road) veers to the right. Cars can be left by the gate to the quarry, this is on the left hand side 0.5 km before Loemans Road makes a hard right hand turn. For the paddler, the quarry appears on the right, the walk out to the car is up the road leading out of the quarry.

Delatite River: 2.5kms Above Merrijig to Hearn's Road Bridge

NE Victoria. 215km NE of Melbourne.

Class: III

Season: August through to October depending on snowfall.

Time: 4 – 6 hrs

Level: 0.8m is minimum, at levels around 2.2m river is fast and continuous and through the trees.

Gauge: Tonga Bridge

Gauge URL: http://www.BoM.GOV.AU/cgi-bin/wrap_fwo.pl?IDV60150.html

Shuttle: ½ a hour on sealed roads

Character: Diverse river with three different styles of river; continuous and narrow, ledge drop pool, and gorge with bouldery rapids. Forming on the side of Mt Buller and Mt Stirling this river has a surprisingly small catchment for its size. For this reason it rises quickly after rain and snow melt so to catch it at a good level you have to be quick. When running, this river does offer some very fun paddling with lots of variety. Starting out as a little creek style river with some continuous rapids it then transforms with very distinct ledge drops. Some good surfing can be had on some of these ledges. Its final transformation occurs just before a small gorge where the river drops through some bedrock and through some steep walls. One of the premier intermediate rivers close to Melbourne, this is a fun day out.

Putting In: From Melbourne take the Melba Highway Nth through to Yea and onto the Goulburn Valley Highway. Follow this to the Marrondah Hwy and follow it to Mansfield. Continue through Mansfield toward Mt Buller and just after Merrijig you will cross the river for the first time, 2.5km further on from this is a sign in amongst a line of houses the states 'river access'. This is the put in.

Taking Out: Go back down the Mt Buller road toward Mansfield for about 8km, turn left onto Hearn's Rd And follow this to a bridge over the river, this is the take out.

Delatite River: Access from Buller Road to Mirrimbah

NE Victoria. Mansfield/Merrijig

Class: III

Season: Spring and after heavy rain

Gradient: 40m per km

Time: 2 hours

Length: 2kms

Level: 1.2 on Delatite gauge

Gauge: Delatite gauge at

Shuttle: Easy via Buller Road

Character: Interesting paddling on timber choked river

This is a 'works in progress' and carries interesting paddling, hampered mainly by fallen timber and flood debris. The challenging access is sure to prevent this becoming a regular. There are several rapids worth paddling, with no great surprises - these come more from log jams! Access is not for the faint hearted and will be assisted by a flip line!! This section needs expansion, and could happily be explored via beautiful walking track that follows up the river. Some might say a mountain bike would be handy. Access may also be easier from Stirling Road

Putting In: Drive Three Kilometres up Buller for dropoff on sharp right

Taking Out: Parklands just upstream of Buller gate.

Delatite River: Mirrimbah to Sawmill Settlement

NE Victoria. 215km NE of Melbourne.

Class: III (p)

Season: August through to October depending on snowfall.

Time: 2 – 3 hrs

Length: 5km

Level: 0.9m is ideal for a first attempt, higher levels will make the river pushy and the lack of eddies will make it difficult to avoid strainers and logs. At least 1.3m is ideal.

Gauge: Tonga Bridge

Gauge URL: http://www.BoM.GOV.AU/cgi-bin/wrap_fwo.pl?IDV60150.html

Shuttle: 15 minutes on sealed roads

Character: Narrow and continuous, tight and technical; cold and pretty with many strainers and logs. Forming on the side of Mt Buller and Mt Stirling this river has a surprisingly small catchment for its size. For this reason, it rises quickly after rain and snow melt so to catch it at a good level you have to be quick. This is a very fun run! Continuous small to medium sized technical rapids with a couple of bigger drops along the way. The run can be fairly full on for Grade III, but the road is never more than 100 metres from the river. There are not many decent eddies and portaging can be a little difficult through thick bush and blackberries, but thankfully we only encountered two short portages. Definitely a good choice if you're in for a little adventure paddling!

Putting In: From the take out continue 5 km towards Mt Buller to Merimbah. The bridge across the river is the put in.

Taking Out: From Melbourne take the Melba Highway north through to Yea and onto the Goulburn Valley Highway. Follow this to the Marrondah Hwy and on to Mansfield. Continue through Mansfield toward Mt Buller. 7.8km past Merrijig and 1km past Pinnacle Valley Resort is an unnamed picnic area close to the river. This is the take out – you may need to mark it as it is easy to miss from the river.

Snowy Creek: Gauge to Mitta Mitta

NE Victoria. 8kms South of Mitta Mitta

Class: II+

Season: Winter through till Spring

Gradient: 6mts / km

Time: 3 - 4 hours

Length: 9.5km

Level: Best between 0.9 and 1.5 m

Gauge: 8km on the side of the road heading towards Omeo from Mitta Mitta

Gauge URL: http://www.bom.gov.au/cgi-bin/wrap_fwo.pl?IDV60154.html#Mitta_Mitta_Catchment

Shuttle: Easy 10min on sealed road

Character: Many different features from boulder gardens to narrow races.

This section is wider than the section above and has less wood in there. It is a clean fun paddle with beautiful scenery.

Putting In: At the gauge beside the road

Taking Out: Can take out at Mitta Mitta however the last 1km is flat and not very exciting. Recommend driving up the road a 1km and finding a pull out there.

Mitta Mitta River: Bundarra Bridge to Hinnomunjie Bridge

NE Victoria. Approx 120km Nth of Bairnsdale

Class: III - IV

Season: Snow fed river, running from August through to January depending on the season

Gradient: 6m/km

Time: 6 – 8 hrs

Length: 16km

Level: Minimum 0.75m, above 2.0m it becomes continuous and flooded

Gauge: Hinnomunjie Bridge

Shuttle: Three- quarters of a hour each way and good roads

Character: Fast drop pool river in steep sided valley.

Flowing from its source among the highest mountains in Victoria the Mitta is a classic snow fed river. Rising quickly with the onset of spring the river's flow depends largely on that seasons snow pack. While best flow re around September October any warm spring rain can really get the river pumping. This section of the river has for a long time been one of the best sections of whitewater in the state not only for the kayakers but also for many a raft company. The rapids start straight away after leaving Bundarra Bridge and classics like

'Bump and Grind', 'Graveyard' (can be class IV) and 'Dislocation' have been the scene of many an adventure. After this first 5km of rapid is Black Duck Hole one of the few egress points on this section. While few people choose to walk their boats out of the very steep track to the Omeo Highway, it is common for this spot to be used to break up what can be a long day trip. After leaving the Black Duck hole the river narrows considerably and the descent into the 'gorge' starts. While not the 'sheer sided rock wall' type of gorge, this section of whitewater is famous for its continuous clean rapids that make raft relatively straightforward and play spots plentiful. Ending with a bang in 'The Waterfall' and 'the Gobbler' this is a nice section of whitewater. But like all good classics this section is not a lame duck, it still is a section that requires good skills, many people have come unstuck over the years think they can just bump down the river. As levels approach and exceed 2.0m this section does become fast and continuous with some quite big rapids. A definite for the tick list if you are in the area.

Putting In: From Melbourne follow the Princess Highway east for 277km to Bairnsdale and then Nth on the Omeo Highway, through Omeo for 150 km. About 30km out of Omeo you'll come to a place called Anglers Rest, 2km after this Bundarra Bridge, just after the bridge on the right you will find a turn of to a picnic area and the Put in.

Taking Out: Follow the Omeo Highway back toward Omeo, just over 10km before Omeo the Bingo Connection Rd appears on the left. Follow this down to the Omeo Valley Road turn left and follow this to Hinnomunjie Bridge. The take out is on river left just down stream just downstream of the bridge.

Map: Shannonvale 1:25000, Benambra - Leinster 1:50000

Mitta Mitta River: Dartmouth Regulating Dam to Rest Area

NE Victoria. Dartmouth

Class: III

Season: Whenever the dam releases

Time: 30 mins minimum

Length: Short

Level: Above 1.75m

Gauge: Mitta Mitta at Colemans

Gauge URL:

http://riverdata.mdba.gov.au/sitereports/401211a/mdba_401211a_site_report.html

Shuttle: Easy 5 mins bitumen

Character: 1 very nice rapid, one very nice play wave

This section of the Mitta Mitta flows often due to the irrigation downstream. The put in is an awesome site, as it is located 100m downstream of the regulating dam. This section consists of a fantastic play wave / play hole (or both depending on the level) and a nice bouncy 200m long class III rapid 'sharks-tooth', separated by occasional pleasant grade I to II rapids. This can either be a river trip or for those that enjoy park and play, all kinds of play moves are possible.

Putting In: From Wodonga, head east along the Murray Valley Highway following the signs to Mitta Mitta. About 3 km before the township of Mitta Mitta is a turnoff on the left; signposted 'Dartmouth'. Follow till a large rest area is reached on the right, about 5 km

before Dartmouth its self. Drive in and follow the canoeist's access track from the regulating dam car park after ignoring the dangerous weir sign, head to the bottom of the track.

Taking Out: A small roadside area around 10km from Dartmouth Dam

Mitta Mitta River (Lower): Roadside stop to Mitta Mitta Caravan Park

NE Victoria. 10km from Mitta Mitta

Class: I - II & III

Season: Summer (when irrigation water is being released from Dartmouth Dam)

Gradient: 1.5mts / km

Time: 2 to 5 hours

Length: 13kms

Level: 1.2 @ Colemans (BOM Rainfall & River Conditions)

Gauge URL:

http://riverdata.mdba.gov.au/sitereports/401211a/mdba_401211a_site_report.html

Shuttle: 10kms sealed road

Character: Lots of overhanging willow trees

There are 2 good rapids in the first few kilometers, then after Callaghan Creek or Watchingorra Creek at the Witches Garden the standard decreases to 1 to 2, this point might be a good spot to start an easy trip. The river is very over grown & as the level of the river goes down the only paddleable part of the river tends to be under the trees. The river tends to remain at this standard to Lake Hume, with a few grade 2 between Mitta & Mitta North. In normal years they let water out of Dartmouth Dam from January to March. There is no such thing as a normal year these days. Snowy Creek is canoeable for much of the year in normal years.

Putting In: Roadside Stop or Callaghans Creek

Taking Out: Magorra Caravan Park Mitta Mitta

Tambo River: Haunted Stream to Old Coach Road Bridge

South East Gippsland. Swifts Creek.

Class: II+ to III

Season: Winter to Spring, after easterly weather

Gradient: Not pushy

Length: 5kms

Level: 3mts

Gauge: Tambo River at Swifts Creek

Gauge URL: http://www.bom.gov.au/cgi-bin/wrap_fwo.pl?IDV60154.html

Shuttle: Sealed road alongside trip

Character: Drop pool, with an emphasis on the pool

The Tambo is that often shallow, willow choked stream often below the road on the way Omeo via Bruthen & Swifts Creek. Usually it doesn't have the water to be paddled. We caught it just under 3 metres in July and found it could have done with a couple more inches. (I'm guessing THE MORE THE BETTER). Its banks over the years have become home for a lot of willows, although thankfully it looks as though this problem is being addressed.

The section above would be expectable if it wasn't for the willows...Not a bad paddle, but probably a frustrating one. Stick to the smaller suggested one.

Putting In: Haunted Stream

Taking Out: Old Coach Road Bridge

Barwon River: Buckley's Falls

Central. Geelong – 5kms West of the City Centre

Class: III

Season: Winter - Whenever it rains - Whenever there is a flood warning on the Barwon

Time: 30 mins

Length: 1 km

Level: >1.3m

Gauge: Pollocksford

Character: Big Volume Falls

The white water on the Barwon River starts at a small weir approximately 500m above 'Buckley's Falls'. The Weir can be surfed and a few more easy rapids follow until the obvious horizon line of Buckley's Falls. The falls are not hard but being upside-down could be painful so be careful. Below the falls is an excellent 200m long (class III) rapid, followed by a couple of hundred meters of flat water then another 100m long (class II) rapid. Take outs and put ins are best worked out using a Melways - all the rapids are marked and it involves driving around the back streets of Geelong. The rapid below Buckley's falls has apparently been used for slalom in the past.

Putting In: Check Melways for Geelong area

Taking Out: Check Melways for Geelong area

Map: Melways

Buffalo River: Lake Buffalo to Johnson's Bridge

Central. Myrtleford

Class: IV

Season: Anytime that Lake Buffalo is releasing good flows

Gradient: Gradual

Time: 1-1.5 hours

Length: 4km

Level: Requires good flows from the spillway (at least above 1.5m on

Gauge: Lake Buffalo D/S (fairly inaccessible).

Shuttle: Park & play or approx 4km by road for the entire paddle

Character: A cruisey paddle with some potential grade 4's and play spots

Have you ever driven across the dam wall spillway at Lake Buffalo, excitedly glimpsed some white water & thought – 'Damn! Theres some rapids down there'. The Buffalo is mostly a sedate river of grade 2'ish rapids from where it starts below Mt. Selwyn right through to Myrtleford. As with all dams though, there is potential action at the emergence of the spillway where it throws up a couple of surprises. It starts with a 10m waterfall, probably a 4-5m class 4+ drop. For the next couple hundred metres is a couple of juicy solid grade 3-4

rapids on which you can play if there is good water release. They are reasonably clear cut & open. To encounter these rapids is 'out of character' from the rest of the river & so it's a nice little spot to 'park & play'. From here, you can venture on for a short paddle downstream through farmland for about a 3/4 hour or so before you reach the pull out bridge & the 'Washing Machine' rapid. Once again, in good flows this is quite a surprising rapid with a nice drop & a tricky narrow chute. A large pillow of water can form on the big mid-river boulder which can make it more fun to boot. About 50m below the bridge on the left hand side is an easy single track to walk out from. While this paddle won't rank highly in your repertoire, if you're in the area & looking for a quick paddle or play on some fun rapids, it may just deliver! If you are venturing through Bright after your paddle, have a blast at the Ovens River water slide at the main park in town. It's a great way to finish the day. One more thing. It's rumored that the 'Johnsons bridge' has changed its name. Either way, the take out is the last bridge you crossed when you reach the Spillway, driving from Myrtleford.

Putting In: The Buffalo is near Myrtleford which is located along the Great Alpine Road between Wangaratta & Bright. From Myrtleford, head south along the Buffalo River road for about 15km (passing Johnson's bridge) until you reach Lake Buffalo Dam. There is a vehicle track on the eastern side with a locked gate that you can walk in along. Put in just below the treacherous waterfall.

Taking Out: Head back along the Buffalo River road to Myrtleford for about 4km's until you reach Johnson's bridge again. Turn right after the bridge on a dirt track and park 50m down on the right side.

Map: 1:100,000 National Mapping – Buffalo

King River: Top Crossing to Lake William Hovell

Whitfield. 25kms South

Class: II

Season: Winter - Spring

Time: 2 hours

Length: 6 km

Shuttle: 4wd 7 km

Character: Sub alpine forests and easy rapids

This is a really beautiful paddle, lots of ferns and tall trees with the odd rapid to get excited about. There are log jams so keep your eyes open, but they are easily seen and avoided.

Putting In: Drive to Whitfield and then follow signs for Lake William Hovell. Once you are there, drive on the right hand side of the lake and follow the track (this is where it becomes 4wd). Follow the buckland track as the river side road requires a crossing (too deep if there is enough water to paddle). Follow the signs for Top Crossing.

Taking Out: The take out is 300m past Evans creek crossing, a track on the left goes down to the lake. Alternative is to paddle the entire lake.

Map: Lake William Hovell 1:25000

King River: Lake William Hovell Dam Wall to Picnic Ground

North East Victoria. 60 km south of Wangaratta; 300km NE Melbourne

Class: III (+)

Season: Winter Spring
Gradient: 10m/km
Time: 2 – 3 hours
Length: 5 km
Level: 0.9 m – 2 m
Gauge: Lake William Hovell
Shuttle: 5km on sealed road

Character: Continuous bouncy whitewater

This is the best section of the King. 5km of consistent class II - III whitewater, this section is a great bouncy run with many play spots for boaters who are that way inclined. The short shuttle means the section can be run a couple of times in one day. The river is dam controlled, but frequently flows over the spillway – an awesome sight at the put in. The spillway should not be run. The river is clear and cold, can rise very quickly with rain or dam release, and is mostly paddled in wintery conditions. At 2 metres, the section is almost one continuous rapid, at 0.7 it is an easy, but bony run for beginners. About 500 metres from the put in is a river wide weir which should be checked out before running as it can be munchy at some levels.

Putting In: From the takeout continue on about 4km towards Lake William Hovell turn left towards the observation site. Do not drive down to the weir, but park in the carpark and follow the walking track to the put in just below the spillway. There are no toilets at the take out or put in, but there are toilets and picnic facilities at the Lake William Hovell reserve about 1km up the road.

Taking Out: From Whitfield drive through Cheshunt towards Lake William Hovell. About 13km past Cheshunt, just before the forest begins is a 'River Access' sign, this is the take out.

Upper Crooked River: Jeff Davis Track to Talbotville

Dargo/Wonnangatta

Class: II - III

Season: Winter, Spring or sizeable rain event

Gradient: 15m per km

Time: 2-3 hours

Length: Approx. 10km

Level: No gauge. high flows on Mitchell a good gauge

Shuttle: 1hour. Back south along Dargo high Plains road, west to Grant & onto Talbotville

Character: Continuous grade 2 alpine

Fair to say a little Alpine Gem. This little known & rarely paddled river provides a speccy grade 2 alpine run that will have you basking at the Dargo pub with a cold brew hours later... Easy access for an Alpine river, reasonably clear (at time of writing) of logs and a steady run of nice little rapids. Seems like most of the alpine paddles on the southern side of Mount Hotham (eg. Dargo, Wongungarra etc) have this reasonably gradual and consistent gradient drop that provides endless grade 2 & 3 water. After sliding your yaks down Jeff Davis Spur Track for a km or so, the crooked invites you on its merry crusade. Picking your lines around the many rocks while taking in the sub alpine environment. The very fact that

the McMillans walking track follows its river left bank gives kudos that its a scenic little valley. There are no notable stand out rapids that we encountered - just a merry slide of white caps. Watch out for the old stone hut ruins/ stone walls on both banks - evidence of a bygone era of the audacious gold miners who scratched out a living here. Amazing stuff. Bulltown Track (with its ruins) comes in on river left & from here on, a 4wd track criss crosses all the way to Talbotville and beyond.

Putting In: Jeff Davis Track. You can drive to within about 1.5km or so. rough/ closed 4wd track remainder of way.

Taking Out: Talbotville (or paddle further to Wongungarra or Wonnangatta)

Map: Rooftop - Dargo/ Wonnangatta

Avon River: Nagivation Creek to Wombat Flat Crossing

Gippsland. 46km North of Sale (which is 213km East of Melbourne)

Class: II - II+ (III+)

Season: Heavy Localised Rain > 50mm (as it is in a rain shadow usually easterly rain)

Time: 4 - 6 hours

Level: Above 2.0m, 2.5m is an excellent level.

Gauge: Avon River at the Channels.

Gauge URL: http://www.BoM.GOV.AU/cgi-bin/wrap_fwo.pl?IDV60079.html

Shuttle: 1 hour one way on rough 2WD tracks (recommend 4WD when wet, which is when you paddle it)

Character: Open valley with short bedrock rapids and one tight, short gorge.

Being the sad little trickle in the big river bed that you always drive over at Stratford when going to East Gippsland, to catch this river with some water in it is a rarity. With its catchment in the Avon Wilderness this is another of the Gippsland streams that is in a rain shadow, with the right Easterly weather pattern, though, it can come up to be a very big river. Beginning at the very beautiful, and quite remote camping area of Huggett's Crossing the is basically drop pool with some nice rapids with some good play waves. Trees are a feature in all of the rapids but there always seems to be clear passages that aren't too difficult. After approx 2 km, the biggest feature of this run is encountered, 'The Channels'. A popular swimming and picnic area in summer, with water in it, it is basically a series of 4 drops, the last being the hardest, that descend into a short 3m wide gorge with vertically walls up to 3m high. The approach to this is obvious and portaging and scouting is easiest from the river right. A foot pad goes all the way along on the right. This could also be used as a place to start and finish a trip as there is a picnic area and road access up the hill on the right (see put in notes). From the Channels onwards the river continues with fairly regular, interesting rapids for the next 5 -6 km before the gradient flattens out and the pools get bigger. Paddling this river at high flows is definitely a rare opportunity that is worth the effort, the remote setting, the lack of willows and blackberries and the fun rapids will give you a good day.

Putting In: With the mass of unnamed track in the area this is not always easy. From Sale head North 16km to Maffra and then West 8km to Tinoramba. At Tinamba turn right and head North again crossing the Macalister and then through Newry, 5km after Newry, turn left into Warragul - Toms Creek Road, which is also signposted 'The Channels'. 6km further

turn left into Green Hill Track (also signposted The Channels), and left again after 500m, (also signposted The Channels). 3km further on Dermody's Rd (goes down to the river) leaves on the right and then 100m further 'The Channel's' Road leaves on the right as well. If you want to go and check out the channels before running it the carpark is 2.5km down this road. To get to Hugget's Crossing continue on Green Hill Track for a further 8.5km till the river is reached. This is the put in.

Taking Out: This is not easy either, head back past the Channels Road, past the 2 Dermody's Road intersections and past Boundary Track. About 400m after coming out of the bush an unnamed road leaves on the left heading east, follow this for 2km and turn left again. 500m after this turn right and 700m after this turn left into Mather's Lane. (confused yet?) 1.6km down Mather's Lane turn left again into Knackers Road and 2km down this turn left into Wombat Road. 500m down here you will come to a low-level bridge over the Avon which is the take out.

Barkly River: Mount Skene Creek to Glencairn Bridge

Gippsland. Licola

Class: II - III

Season: Winter, Spring or localised heavy rain.

Gradient: Gradual

Time: 4 to 6 hours

Length: 13km

Level: 2.2 minimum - see comments

Gauge: Macalister River at Glencairn

Gauge URL: http://www.bom.gov.au/cgi-bin/wrap_fwo.pl?IDV60154.html

Shuttle: Easy 15 minute drive

Character: Very scenic grade 2 water with strainer potential.

The Barkly River meanders its way south from near Mt Skene and Mt McDonald to its confluence with the Macalister river ~ 15km upstream of Licola. It's one of those classic wilderness paddles that you'll be glad you did by days end. While it might not rate too high in the rapid stakes, it has some stunning scenery with overhanging cliffs & rock formations that resemble many a famous postcard. Its pleasant grade II rapids just keep things rolling over to give it a nice flowing journey. ...but be warned! This river is notorious for Strainers being narrow with reasonably steep banks ... but don't let this put you off. All the way down, the Barkly throws out reasonably continuous grade II (possibly a higher grade at higher water levels) which keeps things reasonably upvibe. About half way down on a sharp left hand bend, a grade III 'chutey' rapid appears which has been dubbed 'The Centrifuge' which is a good little blast. As the colourful cliffs peter out and you feel the need for a good leg stretch, the bridge finally appears. Bear in mind that a lot of the Barkly is reasonably remote & would require a fairly hefty walk out. The Glencairn / Licola Road does run parallel to the river approximately 4-5km to the east, so that would be the best option if required. There is a gauge just upstream of the Glencairn bridge (Minimum here @ 0.7m, best @ 1.2m) but this is not read on a daily basis, so the Macalister River gauge at Licola tends to be the best indicator. The section above Mt Skene creek bridge looks well worth a splash if the water is high enough to catch it on.

Putting In: From Licola, head Nth along the Jamieson Rd for about 9km & then turn right to Primrose gap. From here, turn left over the cattle grid & follow the road for approx 5km until you cross the Barkly at Glencairn bridge (take out). Then head along this Licola/Glencairn road for ~9km and turn far left down Middle Ridge track (this track is usually fine for 4x2 but a 4x4 may be preferable). After a few switch backs, you reach the put in bridge near Mt. Skene creek.

Taking Out: Head back out to Glencairn bridge the way you came

Map: Rooftop Jamieson to Licola, Vicmap Licola / Wellington

Macalister River: Barkly River to Licola

Gippsland. 50km north of Traralgon

Class: II

Season: Winter to Spring

Time: full day

Length: 15 km

Level: >1m

Gauge: Licola

Gauge URL: http://www.bom.gov.au/cgi-bin/wrap_fwo.pl?IDV60079.html

Shuttle: 25 km Dirt

Character: Scenic paddle with gentle rapids

This is a lovely paddle with great views and some really nice rapids along the way. Its major hardship is the willows along the way, these need to be looked out for, otherwise a great paddle. It can be done as a day trip, but again an overnight would make it better.

Putting In: From Melbourne, head east on the Princess Hwy to Traralgon. Follow the signs to Heyfield and then to Licola. Once you get to Licola, go through town and follow the road out the other side of town. After about 8 km, a road forks off to the right, follow this to Primrose gap, turn left and down to the Barkly River. Where you cross the Barkly is the get in point, from here you can walk down to the Macalister, but why walk when you can paddle down the Barkly.

Taking Out: You can get out at any place, but Licola is easy.

Map: 1:50000 Licola Wellington

Macalister River: Licola to Cheyne's Bridge

Gippsland. 50km north of Traralgon

Class: II

Season: Winter to Spring

Time: One to two days

Length: 30km

Level: 1.6m very low, 1.8m average, 1.9 good level, anything above 2m quite high

Gauge: Licola

Gauge URL: http://www.bom.gov.au/cgi-bin/wrap_fwo.pl?IDV60079.html

Shuttle: Easy sealed road, 20 mins return

Character: Pretty beginners river, fun rapids

Once a classic, but now often overlooked. This section of the Macalister consists of fun and straight-forward rapids, an easy shuttle and whilst not short, can be done in a day. Inexperienced groups, rafting or for those who would like to just amble along, two days is best. With the exception of half a dozen larger bedrock rapids in the 'gorge', the rapids tend to consist of easy wave trains and gravel races. At levels of 1m or greater, the river tends to move along and the next rapid is never really that far away. Watch out for willows.

Licola – Basin Flat:

Mainly flat for ~ 13kms with a few small rapids through picturesque farm country. Good warm up day for the gorge section ahead.

Basin Flat – Cheynes Bridge:

A solid days paddle (~17km) that has a fairly continuous stream of grade 1-2s with a couple grade 2.5s depending on water level (above ~1.4 they would be solid grade 3). The first grade 2.5 is on a sharp right hander about ~ 1km after where the only track crosses (good lunch spot). It's got 3 nice waves and then a dog leg. The next is about 0.5km later on a left hander with the left chute being the safer line to avoid a grabby hole on the right. The fun keeps rolling with plenty of nice little waves, features and grade 2s as you pass Wollangarra Outdoor Education center (a couple of flying foxes cross the river) and then push out to the bridge. Bear in mind, at Basin Flat, you need to 'jump the fence' to reach the river, the land owners don't appear (?) to mind as its commonly done. The Macalister is an old classic, which is still worth a splash if you are looking for a beautiful grade 2 river.

Putting In: From Melbourne, head east on the Princess Hwy to Traralgon. Follow the signs to Heyfield and then to Licola. Approx 25km before Licola you cross the Macalister at Cheynes Bridge (This is the get out). Drive a further 12km along the road, over the mountain until you see the river right next to the road. The put in is at a Canoeing warning sign.

Taking Out: Cheynes Bridge - See above.

Map: 1:50000 Licola Wellington

[Loddon River: Newbridge to Bridgewater on Loddon](#)

NW Victoria. 50kms west of Bendigo

Class: II

Season: Autumn through to Spring, but only after heavy rain

Time: 2 - 3 Hours

Level: 1- 1.5 m -- at higher levels, it becomes very pushy through log jams

Gauge: Bridge at Newbridge

Shuttle: 15 km (easy Bitumen)

Character: Bordered by steep banks, the Loddon is made of gentle runs, with a short gorge and then copious log jams. The Loddon is one of two white water rivers in the area, its nature can go from a gentle bumle down the river to a raging torrent of water through log jams. If the depth of water at the bridge is deeper than a metre, it becomes the raging torrent. Initially, the river is easy gravel races and gentle banks, this changes about half way along into beautiful rocky gorges. This is the short but enjoyable gorge section, good lines are important if you are not to leave too much plastic of the sharp volcanic rock. After the gorge, the logs begin, at low levels these are fun to explore and navigate through. As a whole, the river is a fun day out and although an unlikely place for white water, is worth a visit.

As an alternative at higher levels, the mill race at the flour mill(Bridgewater) is an great place to paddle a harder rapid. Follow the signs in Bridgewater for the mill. This only runs however after very heavy rain.

Putting In: Drive to Newbridge, the put in is on the river right bank of the river at the bridge.

Taking Out: Drive through Newbridge heading west, just after town, take the Newbridge - Bridgewater rd on the right. You can either paddle all the way to Bridgewater or follow this road for 15 km and on your right is a picnic area. If you are using this alternative, it is worth finding landmarks as it is hard to spot from the river.

Caledonia River: Dingo Hill Track to Macalister River & Beyond

Gippsland. Licola

Class: II to III

Season: Winter, Spring or sizeable rain event

Gradient: Aprox 15m per km

Time: Aprox 6 hours + (for Caledonia) and 1/2 to 1 day on the Macalister below (depending on take out)

Length: Depending on take out: ~40km, ~32km or shorter

Level: Above 0.7 at Macalister, Glencairn or 1.8 at Licola

Character: Reasonably continuous 2-3 alpine

A little gem. Great scenery, continuous grade 2 with some grade 3 with little strainers/ timber. When the gate is closed at Dingo hill, its a fairly hefty drag or carry in with boats, especially with overnight gear, which can take up to 5hrs. We were treated to an alpine gem that is rarely, if ever paddled. Typical to many Gippsland alpine rivers, the Caledonia follows the script of gradually losing its gradient in a consistent manner, without any major gorge or major rapids. What you are left with is a reasonably continuous 15km of grade 2 - 3 cascade, that has you grinning, as you slide and weave through the rapids while gazing at the beautiful cliffs on either bank. Shaw creek enters about halfway down which adds more flow (Shaw creek always flows well - worth a walk up and paddle itself). Shortly after a few short grade 3 rapids appear to add some more spice. After many more km's, the landscape levels out a bit and you soon enter the Macalister river which gives you a nice run down to 2 options for the take out (Barkly confluence/ ?? name) or onto where the Macalister meets the Licola/Tamboritha road picnic spot). Typical of alpine rivers, there are few logs/strainers, but nothing that can't be portaged. No doubt harder at high levels, but overall its reasonably clear at the time of write up. We chose to paddle onto where the Macalister meets the Licola/Tamboritha road (roughly a further 20km's) but you could pull out at the Barkly confluence and carry ~1km back to Glancairn bridge (?). The Macalister is also a nice grade 2 run. The river has plenty of rapids formed by rock shelves and outcrops. It took us 1/2 day to walk in, and 1.5 days down to Licola/Tamboritha road. Slightly heavy boats with overnight gear but managable. Like any remote alpine long paddle, run this one with care, good planning, emergency comms etc.... Another possible put in is the upper Caledonia Fire trail, which would add many more km's of paddling upstream. Another possible take out is accessing the upper Macalister via the 4wd tracks or remote properties.

Putting In: April/ May - November gate closure at Dingo hill track ~15km drag/ carry/ tow, otherwise a drive in on reasonably good 4wd trail. Very steep last few km's

Taking Out: Where Macalister meets Licola/Tamboritha road (~40km total) OR Barkly/ Macalister confluence (with 1km walk to bridge) OR accessing upper Macalister tracks

Map: ROOFTOP: Dargo/ Wonnangatta, VICMAP: Moroka

Genoa River: Cann Valley Highway to Wangarabell (The Genoa Gorge)

Gippsland. 500km East of Melbourne

Class: III – IV (IV+)

Season: Anytime East Gippsland gets a lot of rain, ie >50mm

Time: A long day for experienced parties or a comfortable 2 days.

Length: Approx 47km

Level: 1.2m – 1.7m

Gauge: Genoa Gorge

Gauge URL: http://www.BoM.GOV.AU/cgi-bin/wrap_fwo.pl?IDV60078.html

Shuttle: 122km on good 2WD sealed and gravel roads.

Character: Fast, continuous, big volume boating in remote gorge.

This river rises in the hills around the far east border region of NSW and Victoria and is blocked from the usual westerly weather patterns by the Victorian and NSW Alps. On those rare occasions when the weather swings and comes in from the East and the rain pours down, the Genoa Gorge will run. To know too much about the run would definitely take away one of the great reasons for doing it. It is a river with lots of fast long Class III – IV rapids that if you didn't have the skills to read and run would take a long time to scout. There are a couple of bigger rapids that do need to be scouted but everything is runnable, in fact that's one of the beautiful things about this river, 95% of the lines are fantastic clean solid line that will leave you smiling. There are some big holes and some big waves out there and it is definitely Australian big volume paddling. It is also worth noting that when there is enough water to paddle this river it is running through the trees on the bank and the water is brown and murky. It is flood paddling and when you are on it, it will be rising or falling fairly quickly, good levels don't seem to hang around. If you are determined enough to do the long drive and lucky enough to catch it at the right level you will have a great time. If you catch let us know.

Putting In: From Cann River, (446km East of Melbourne on the Princess Highway), follow the Cann Valley Highway Nth, after 44km you will cross the border to NSW and a further 8.9km after this an old dirt roads heads off on the right. This is the old road and it doubles back the way you have come and gets closer to the river. The best put in is 1.7km down this road where a little Ck leads 20m down to the river.

Taking Out: Head back to Cann River and the head East again on the Princess Highway, after 47km the Hamlet of Genoa is reached and 2km past this a dirt road leaves on the right signposted "Wroxam, Wangarabell & Nagatta Sth". Follow this road for 18km, the take out is a point where the road comes close to the river just below a big rapid.

Jamieson River, North Branch: Upper Jamieson Hut to Wren's Flat

NE Victoria. Approx. 240km NE of Melbourne

Class: III - IV

Season: Although snow fed, its season is short from late winter to early spring.

Gradient: 16m/km

Time: 6 to 8hrs, easier over 2 days

Length: 19km

Level: Above 1.4 or 1.5

Gauge: Gerrans Bridge

Gauge URL: http://www.bom.gov.au/cgi-bin/wrap_fwo.pl?IDV60150.html

Shuttle: Epic, shuttle driver recommended

Character: Crystal clear water, continuous rapids, stunning surroundings.

Emanating from its catchment among the alpine peaks of central Victoria, the Jamieson, along its whole length is remote. Only in the last few kilometres, before it flows into the Upper Goulburn river, does it near any sealed road or settlement. This remoteness is definitely one of the things that make a trip on any of its sections special but it's also the thing that will test your commitment. From the put in, just off Brocks Rd, the first things you will notice about this river is how superbly clear the water is and how different the surroundings are. Overhanging mosses and ferns surround well formed and interesting rapids of up to class III+ and even, in the case of the two gorges, (one about 4km in and the other about 1km from the end), pushing into class IV. The basic lay out of the trip is excellent paddling in the first 4-5km and then the gradient flattens out and massive logjams become a problem. For 3-4km a handful of straightforward portage's may be required depending on the distribution of the logs. Then the gradient of the river steepens up again and almost continuous class II-III rapids will take you through some very remote country till the last gorge is encountered within 1km of the end. This 500-600m long gorge has some very nice rapids around some big boulders and may require scouting. The end is then very close and is just after the Mitchell road bridge. The shuttle for this trip is truly epic but if you have a good friend who would enjoy a very nice day out driving some remote Victorian 4WD tracks, you will get enjoy a section of very worthwhile water that's is very rarely paddled. A good map and compass is a must for this trip. A really great weekend.

Putting In: From Melbourne take the Melba Highway North through to Yea and onto the Goulburn Valley Highway. Follow this to the Marrondah Hwy and follow it to Mansfield. Continue through Mansfield toward Mt Buller and just after Merrijig turn right onto the Howqua Track. This will take you over the hills, through past Sheepyard Flat, where it becomes Brocks Road, up the Howqua, over Eight Mile Gap and down toward the Jamieson River. About 1km after you reach the Jamieson River Valley a track off to the right, Low Saddle Track will take you down to a bridge over the Jamieson and the start point.

Taking Out: There are 2 ways to the take out, one a lot longer but easier and one that's definitely 4WD only. For those without a 4WD and who don't mind a long drive, return to, just before Mansfield, turn left to Jamieson. At Jamieson hook up with the Mt Skene Rd to Licola and follow this for 31km till the Mt Sunday Road is encountered and this will take you down to Wren's Flat. The other much more scenic, but wilder way is too follow the Low Saddle Track from the put in to Low Saddle, and then follow the Mt Sunday Road from there to Wren's Flat. Warning this road often has snow on it when the river is right to paddle and trees often fall across it, come prepared.

Map: Skene Nth 1:25000

Jamieson River: Wren's Flat to Brosnans Track (East of Jamieson)

NE Victoria. Approx. 240km NE of Melbourne

Class: III – III+

Season: Although snow fed its season is short from late winter to early spring.

Time: A long day or more comfortable 2 days.

Length: 28km

Level: 1.5m or above (to do in a day need around 1.9m)

Gauge: Gerrans Bridge (4km upstream of township)

Gauge URL: http://www.bom.gov.au/cgi-bin/wrap_fwo.pl?IDV60150.html

Shuttle: 1 hr one way on rough 2WD dirt roads.

Character: Very beautiful fern laden valley with one gorge and the rest gravel races. Emanating from its catchment among the alpine peaks of central Victoria, the Jamieson, along its whole length is remote. Only in the last few kilometers, before it flows into the Upper Goulburn River, does it near any sealed road or settlement. This remoteness is definitely one of the things that make a trip on any of its sections special but it's also the thing that will test your commitment. Marginally more accessible than the section immediately upstream, from Upper Jamieson Hut, this section does, however, retain the amazing surroundings this river seems to have in abundance. Absolutely crystal clear pools and lush hanging fern gardens make it worth the trip just to be there. The paddling is, for the most part, gravel races and the occasional grade 2 boulder garden with one bigger gorge put in just to test. Located in the first few kilometers of the run, the gorge consists of 3 to 4, class III to III+ in succession. All of the rapids are runnable with the last being the most challenging, scouting and portaging are both possible with the last drop requiring a seal launch at high levels to re-enter the water. Be very careful approaching this section at high levels as the eddy's are small and the water is fast. The best take out is Brosnans Track, this is about 4 km east of Jamieson township. There is a gauge which is on river left about 200m upstream of Brosnans Track. Overall this trip is worth doing if you have the motivation, a stunning day out. Considering the best time to paddle is Winter or Spring this is not the best place to stop. You have to carry boats about 800m uphill to get to the road.

Putting In: From Melbourne follow the Maroondah Highway North East through Healesville till, after 110km the town of Taggerty is reached, turn right toward Thornton and then at Thornton right again toward Eildon. Approx 2km before Eildon turn onto the Jamieson Road and follow this the 61km to Jamieson. At Jamieson hook up with the Mt Skene Road to Licola and follow this for 31km till the Mt Sunday Road is encountered and this will take you down to Wren's Flat. (Warning, although 2WD this road can get very slippery in wet conditions)

Taking Out: Head back toward Jamieson and 4km before Jamieson on the right is Brosnans Track.

Hollands Creek: Ford's Bridge to Hume & Hovell Memorial

NE Victoria. Near Mansfield

Class: III+

Season: Winter and Spring after heavy local rain

Time: 3 hours

Length: 6 km

Level: 3+ metres. Drops quickly!

Gauge URL: <http://www.bom.gov.au/fwo/IDV67208/IDV67208.582001.tbl.shtml>

Shuttle: Bitumen riverside road access most of the way

Character: Fast flowing creek through open woodland and farmlands

Hollands Creek flows from the sub alpine hills of Toombullup from an elevation of 1000m. We paddled it on a hunch that something would transpire and weren't disappointed. This section spills out of the remote forest valley after most of the gradient has been lost. There are 4 notable larger rapids of grade 3/4 on this section, linked by constant grade 1 & 2 rapids for most of the trip. The last of these rapids is right at the takeout made obvious by the steep left rocky bank, seen from the road. This can be inspected by an easy 20m walk through a paddock (respectfully). I mention this as we decided on the day we were there not to run this rapid because of the keeper at the exit of the rapid. At lower levels this may not be such an issue. Very user friendly as the road follows the river the entire length never more than a couple of hundred metres away. This trip could make a worth while variation to a Delatite River weekend as the standard is very similar, (if not better) with slightly bigger rapids and isn't choked by willows. Holland's level rises and falls quite quickly but if you notice rain in the Mansfield region take a glance at the Hollands @ Kalfeera gauge.

Putting In: Ford's Bridge

Taking Out: Hume & Hovell Memorial near Wrightley

Freestone Creek: Dargo Road to Quarries Campground

NE Victoria. 50kms North of Sale

Class: II+ (III)

Season: any time Gippsland receives >50mm of rain

Time: 3 - 5 hours

Length: 10km

Level: >2.5m

Gauge: Freestone Ck @ Briagolong

Gauge URL: http://www.BoM.GOV.AU/cgi-bin/wrap_fwo.pl?IDV60079.html

Shuttle: 10km good gravel roads

Character: simple big volume

Rising in the hills behind Maffra, Freestone Creek, as the old guidebook says, is more of a river than a creek. The river consists mainly of long wavetrains and rapids with the occasional weaving in and out of islands. Strainers are an issue, as when you paddle this it is in flood, however the size of the channel (>10m wide in most spots) and the simple nature of the rapids means that hazards can be avoided quite easily. There are several excellent playholes/waves and there are a couple of larger, longer rapids towards the end. Just past Blue Pool (approx 5km) there is a low level bridge which will need portaging at gauge heights below 3m. The river is fast flowing, as it is in flood, so the pools move quite quickly, however at lower gauge heights they could be a pain. As the road follows the river for most of the way, shortening (or lengthening) the run is quite simple and some good alternate put in locations are the Blue Pool reserve and the Low level bridge approx 4.5km upstream of the take out (this is visible from the road)

Putting In: From Melbourne drive along the Princess Fwy to the turnoff to Maffra around 20km before Sale. Head through Maffra, following the signs to Boisdale. Head along the Maffra - Briagolong road, crossing the Avon River at Bushy Park and drive a further 6km until you reach the Gorge Road. Turn right and drive in to Briagolong. When you reach the Dargo Road, turn L and drive a further 4km until you reach the 'Quarries' campsite (this is the take out) drive a further 10km along the Dargo Road until a track leads down 30m to a clearing/carpark just after a left hand bend in the river. This is the put in.

Taking Out: The Quarries campground

Map: Cobbannah- Tabberabbera 1:50000

Darebin Creek: Bell Street to Yarra River

Central Victoria. Central Melbourne

Class: III

Season: Winter through till Spring

Length: 5km

Level: 0.7 and above @ the Bell Street gauge - 0.760 m on the visual Bell Street gauge = 0.560m on the automatic Bundoora gauge

Gauge: Upstream side of Bell St Bridge

Gauge URL: <http://www.bom.gov.au/fwo/IDV67204/IDV67204.586172.plt.shtml>

Shuttle: Bell Street - Latrobe Golf Course (Park outside of gates)

Character: Fun wave train for 5 km

Darebin Creek flows predominately north south rising between Merriang and Woodstock just out of Melbourne. By putting on here you start at the gauge and paddle a surprisingly fun wave train express to the mouth of the Yarra River for around 5kms. Although the creek is surprising clear of debris, thanks to the Friends of Darebin Creek one should take care as this is a creek and it can become log jammed easily. Points to note don't drink the water! Like Gardner's Creek its' flow is mainly storm water from the surrounding areas, and can only be paddled after large local storms. There are a couple of bigger rapids of grade 3.. These rapids appear in order. After heavy rains about ½ km from Bell Street on river right there is a do - able seal launch double drop of around 10m down a concrete slide.

(Alternative put in at Clarendon Street Melways ref: B6. There is also a gauge here.) The rapid underneath the Abercorn Ave foot- bridge may be tricky at high levels and is of grade 3 standard. Trees need negotiating. Start river right above bridge and cross over river left above big willow tree and on through holes. Melways ref- C8. The other main hazard en route to the Yarra is at Rockbeare Reserve D9, there is an extremely stupid low foot- bridge that at high levels is ugly. This can be paddled around far right. As you pass underneath the very high Train Bridge at Alphington you are nearing the end of your trip. There is one last rapid just before the mouth, this rapid is made up of little steps, great surfing waves and is a nice way to end a surreal paddling experience. Must be one of the only trips where the shuttle can be done in a hot-wired golf buggy.

Putting In: Drive to Bell Street Bridge

Taking Out: Park outside the LaTrobe Golf Club

Map: Melways

Plenty River: Bridge Inn Road to Hathfelde Boulevard

Melbourne. 25km North of Melbourne CBD

Class: II (IV)

Season: After local rain

Time: 1 hr

Level: Min 1.1, good 1.4 to 2.0, flood above 2.0

Gauge: Melbourne Water Rainfall and River Level Data @ Mernda

Gauge URL:

http://www.melbournewater.com.au/content/rivers_and_creeks/rainfall_and_river_level_data/site.asp

Shuttle: 10 mins

Character: Fun grade 2 rapids with 1 or 2 bigger rapids on Melbournes outer north.

The Plenty is a small river with continuous grade II Rapids. After passing the old rail bridge, one rapid of note will appear. This rapid has two sections the upper section is 2 or 3 half meter drops followed by a small pool. The lower section is a single drop of about 3 meters. In high water, above 1.7 the two sections merge. 4 or 5 rapids after the one listed above the river rounds a bend and there is a long pool, in front of this pool is a dirt track, follow this track up to the ridge, then it is a 15 min walk across the grassland to Hathfelde Boulevard.

Putting In: Bridge Inn Road Melways 390 K10

Taking Out: Hathfelde Boulevard

Mitchell River: Waterford to Angusvale

Gippsland. 80km North of Bairnsdale, 320km East of Melbourne

Class: II (III)

Season: Depending on the season it could be run any time of year with late February and March being the most marginal. August through to October is high water.

Time: A very long day or 2 days for mortals.

Level: 0.86m is minimum, above 2m is high water.

Gauge: Glenaladale Gauge on the Mitchell River

Gauge URL: http://www.BoM.GOV.AU/cgi-bin/wrap_fwo.pl?IDV60154.html

Shuttle: 40km on sealed and dirt 2WD roads

Character: Open valley with mainly gravel races and sweeping bends, one bigger rapid.

From Waterford, this section of the Mitchell is basically a wide river with sweeping bends and small class II rapids. The only real exception to this is 'Surprise Rapid' or otherwise known as 'Tabberabbera Rapid', either way this rapid really does surprise, with many people coming around the corner and being funnelled straight into it. At higher levels the trees on the sweeping bends can cause a problem. Overall this is pleasant section for those out for a cruise, just watch where you camp there are some landowners that do not take kindly to people camping on their land.

Putting In: From Melbourne follow the Princess Highway east for 250km, and turn off to the left toward Fernbank and Dargo. There are also signs on this turn off to the Mitchell River National Park. Follow this road Nth for about 10km to the 'Fingerboards' intersection and

turn left toward Dargo. Once on this road it is about 45km of winding road till the Mitchell river is reach. Within the first 1km of reaching the river is a picnic area which is the put in.

Taking Out: Follow the Dargo Rd back approx 24km to a dirt road on the left marked 'Angusvale' is reach. Follow this for 16km to Angusvale and the take out.

Map: Cobbannah – Tabberabbera 1:50000

Tasmanian Rivers

Anne River: Mt Anne to Huon River

Central. 150km West of Hobart

Class: IV (V)p

Season: Late Spring through till early Autumn, when there is not too much water about

Gradient: 20m per km

Time: 2 days

Length: 16 km

Level: 52 cm below the 5th span of the foot bridge (+10/-5 cm for max min).

Gauge: Foot bridge over Anne River

Shuttle: 250 km Bitumen one way. Shuffle bunny territory.

Character: Continuous and technical rapids through stunning country.

Suits: Steep Creek boats

This is an amazing river and an incredible trip. Having said that, a walk out from this river would be an overnight trip and not a pleasant night at that. Paddle this river only if you are experienced in wilderness and steep creek paddling. The paddling is tee tree infested for the first km, turn a corner and you enter 6 km of continuous paddling with few eddies (only the shallow nature of the river gives you a respite from its continuous nature). This is definitely a small party river, anymore than 6 people would be impossible. This is not a river for doing as a flood run.

Putting In: Drive as for Scotts Peak Dam, the second Mt Anne circuit car park is the start of the walk. Pack boats onto your back (this is not a drag river) and 2 or so hours later you are at The Anne River.

Taking Out: The get out is for the Picton River, head south from Hobart towards Geevston, from there follow the signs for the Tahune Air Walk. The Tahune bridge is the get out. I told you it was a long shuffle.

Map: Old River 1:100000

Camping: There is a great campsite at the bridge over the Anne River, the mossies are a pain, so take either a tent or tarp and mozzie net. There is also good camping at the junction of the Huon and Anne rivers.

Arm River: Arm Falls

West Coast. Mole Creek

Class: V+

Season: All year round

Time: 2 hours

Length: 10km

Level: Assess on site

Shuttle: Nil

Character: Park and huck

Suits: Boats suited to vertical flight

Easy walk to a very sweet waterfall with a deep pool. Can also paddle from the falls down to the road. Is basically a very rocky grade 2 creek, with some technical grade 3 bits, takes about 30 min. I would like to add to the comment that the section upstream is very pretty g3 creeking with a g5+ gorge (portaged) just before the falls. And also another 2k of g2 after the falls to the c171 road, which is where the gauge is.

Putting In: The put in is about 8k upstream at a bridge on arm river road or walk in about 3k upstream at cattlegrid on the road (flat from bridge to that point).

Taking Out: Take out at falls or paddle 2k of fast g2 to the C171 road at lkm parangana.

Camping: At the Arm River Camp or at the weir near the road.

Blythe River: Upper

North West. South Riana

Class: IV +

Season: Winter - Spring

Time: 4 hours

Length: 6km

Level: Need lots of water. Rapid at take out bridge should have minimal rocks showing.

Shuttle: 10km

Character: Tight, steep, bouldery rapids - lots of sieves

River starts with a nice granite bouldery rapid and then changes to a nasty conglomerate.

Rapids are made up of boulder dams, with very scratchy rocks, tight lines and lots of potential for broaches and pins. Think tight bouldery rapids on the upper broad, but with super abrasive rocks. Difficult class 4 with high consequences and not much fun. Below the junction with Laurel Creek the last 2km are very fun hard grade 3. This river is different but not worth the hassle and the wear on your boat.

Putting In: To access the river find Hilders Road, near Upper Natone on the Inglis map. Follow the road all the way down until you hit a forestry gate. Walk in a further 2km and then scrub bash down to river.

Taking Out: Drive from South Riana towards Upper Natone. Take out where the road crosses the river.

Map: Inglis

Broad River: Upper Section

South Hamilton

Class: V

Season: All winter and anytime after local rain

Gradient: 70m km with some steeper sections

Time: 8 hours

Length: Long

Level: Ask a local - 1 hour walk down a steep hill

Gauge: At take out at bridge

Shuttle: Short

Character: Steep Creeking

This is one very long, very continuous treat of grade 4 and 5 steep creeking, with only one compulsory portage but many recommended. The fastest times on the water for this river are around 3 hours for a small tight crew who know the river very well and scout little if anything. A more realistic time is 5 (with a local who knows the river very well). Start early! - At the takeout by 8am is a very good idea.

Putting In: Ask a local

Taking Out: Bridge on way to put in

Broad River: Lower Section

South-West. Hamilton

Class: IV

Season: Winter - Whenever it rains

Gradient: 80m per 1km

Time: 3 Hours

Length: 5 km

Level: Need rain in the southwest, check rainfall report for Tasmania

Gauge: Take out bridge, if it is level with bridge base on river right it's a good level, could go an inch lower or higher.

Shuttle: 15 min on good dirt road

Character: Fun clean creek run only 1.5 hours from Hobart

If you survive the walk in you will love this gem of a run. Starts quickly so get onto it. Should come across a tree in the first 500m, better duck. Anyway from there it drops, there are about 6 good drops in about 500m of paddling none are over 4m but most are rocky with technical lines. All the rapids are runnable on this section. After the last main drop (called THE DEATH STAR) the river flattens out and the run is fun or just damn rocky depending on the water level from this point on. This run is creekboating so make sure your switched on or at least driving some fat plastic or you could get flogged. Do not get in too high unless you are keen for a solid class 5 epic on the upper Broad.

Putting In: Drive up the Derwent to Hamilton, from there head out of town, cross the narrow bridge over the lake then take the first dirt road on the right, head along this until you find the takeout bridge. The put in is about 10min drive up the same road, (but take the left road at the fork about 4min upstream of the bridge) look for a broken piece of machinery on the left hand side of the road and a very small carpark on the right (this is about 1km up from the white gate). From here you must bash down to the river, the track is marked for a little bit but it is mainly just a bush bash until you hit the river.

Taking Out: Take out at the bridge.

Lea River: Upper Lea

North West. Moina

Class: IV (p)

Season: Winter

Time: 3-4hrs

Level: High to medium level on Lower Lea

Gauge: If Iris has enough water to paddle, level will be fine

Shuttle: Long, bad dirt roads

Character: Combination ledge/boulder steep creeking

An extremely high waterfall, Horsetail Falls, is about half way down the river, still unrun. portage on the right. Need rope to lower yourself and boats down. This is a beautiful river and quite fun, however, not as good as the Iris. Worth doing if the Iris is not quite high enough and you don't want to just to the normal Lea.

Putting In: Drive over Iris River at normal put in. Follow road, taking a right, then a left, then another right whenever the road forks. Should come to a quarry, with a small road going down to right. River is at bottom of hill down this road.

Taking Out: Normal Lea take out

Lea River: To Lake Gairdner

North West. Moina

Class: IV+

Season: Winter and Spring

Gradient: 30 metres/km

Time: 2 to 4 Hours

Length: 2.5 km on river, 2 km out on lake

Level: Running clear, high enough to paddle first 200 meters.

Gauge: Visual

Shuttle: 1.5 km walk

Character: Steep bouldery rapids interspaced with drop pool.

This river looks quite placid at the put in, but don't be deceived. Pretty quickly the river narrows and enters a steeped-sided gorge. The rapids are probably half steep bouldery and half drop pool, ranging in height from 2 to 5 meters. All the larger drops are carved out of solid rock and combined with the steep walls of the gorge and the tannin coloured water make for a spectacular run. As abruptly as it started it stops as you paddle around a corner into Lake Gairdner. Just follow the right hand bank back to your car.

Putting In: Approximately 17 km South of Wilmot on Cradle Mountain Rd (C132), turn right onto Moina Rd. Follow this until you cross Ti Tree Creek and come to a locked gate, park here. To the left of the gate is an overgrown track leading into a forested block with a gate constructed of barbed wire and wood supports. Follow this track all the way up until you come to a three-way intersection of forestry roads. Continue straight ahead (middle road) for about 500m. Once the track levels out, turn right onto another forestry road and follow it to the river.

Taking Out: Paddle back to your car

Map: Forth 1:100 000

Leven River: Leven Canyon

NW. Ulverstone

Class: IV

Season: All Year round

Time: 3 - 6 hours

Level: 0.45 minimum, 0.6 optimum, 0.7 maximum

Gauge: Bannon's Bridge

Gauge URL: <http://wrt.tas.gov.au/wist/ui>

Shuttle: 30 to 40 minutes one way

Character: Technical paddling with some large falls in it.

A nice 6m seal launch to enter the river. First part of the run is very steep and pushy with a big water feel about it. Everything can be portaged above the falls but are usually run. There are two falls, the first is about 10m high and is very sucky, pushing into the right cliff. the best line is to start far right and drop in the middle (angling left). The next falls is about 12 - 15m high. Very clean with a nice landing. best route is far left but any part of it is good. Below the falls the river becomes very steep and low volume, much more technical than the top. At 0.45 the bottom is quite a drag with some flat and shallow bits, at 0.6 there's no worry. The river could be done above 0.7 with a suitable boat for paddling steep pushy water and punching holes. Very good paddlers have walked out at high water. This is an excellent trip, especially in summer when the the scenery is magnificent and the rapids are sensational. Probably the steepest popular Tasmanian river trip the Leven canyon is not to be taken lightly. After the seal launch into a dark and steeply cut out gorge there is no going back and it just gets more full on from there. At first the river creeps easily around a corner but after that it drops away steeply so that you can only see the next eddy you are about to fall in to. The river here demands a high level of skill and confidence even before you hit the first waterfall. This drops you into a suspended pool with overhanging walls and the only option out is to paddle the huge waterfall below. Look for the kayaker in the picture to see how high this is! This river is certainly a total blast for the competent steep creek paddler and also very spectacular but the inherent risks of dropping from a great height should be seriously considered before you are too committed to have much choice. The gauge at Bannon's Bridge is no longer available. However, there is now an online gauge available at the WIST. <http://wrt.tas.gov.au/wist/ui> Search for water flow, select Leven River and the gauge at Bannon's Bridge. Get the information in cumecs, can see it as a graph, which is very handy. 8 cumecs would be paddleable but dirty. 10 is a realistic minimum. 12 is ideal. Over 14 starts to get chunky. Over 18 and you'd better know the river and have your big boy pants on! Graph can show how fast or slow the river is rising and falling, and there's probably a 12 hour gap between the start of the canyon and Bannon's Bridge. If the level is 10 cumecs and dropping on the gauge, the level will be too low at the put in.

Putting In: Leven Canyon Valley floor track

Taking Out: Hop Farm at Gunns Plains

Little Henty River: Strahan-Zeehan Road to Trial Harbour

West Coast. 10km South of Zeehan

Class: IV

Season: Autumn through till spring

Time: 7-9hrs

Shuttle: 40km on dirt roads (4WD eliminates long boat carry)

Character: Another west coast classic, big rapids, big drops and stunning scenery

This has got to have one of the best finishes of all, a walk along the beach to Trial Harbour. If it doesn't sound like much, then image paddling out of the bush and onto the beach, with giant waves crashing on the either side of the sand bar. There are many significant rapids, worthy of looking at, they are committing and long and any paddlers need to be paddling well as a team. This paddle deserves to be a classic, it has a little bit of everything, remoteness, beauty, good rapids and consistent fun. This is also a big river which at higher levels would become very fast and pushy and quite big holes (Tasmanian big), If it has been raining heavily for any length of time, then this river would be very committing and easily Grade 5.

Putting In: Drive north out of Strahan, heading towards Zeehan, you cross the Henty first and then the Little Henty, the put in is across the bridge on the right.

Taking Out: Continue driving into Zeehan, take the turning on the left after the main town, signposted Trial Harbour. Follow this all the way to Trial Harbour and go through the town and park just after the 4WD track on the right. If you have a 4WD then you can go down this road until it reaches the beach, access along the beach is possible, however the actual bit off the beach is very boggy. The walk along the beach is very pleasant anyway, its the track bit that is hard work.

[Pencil Pine River: Pencil Pine Falls](#)

Central. Derwent Bridge

Class: IV

Season: Winter-Spring

Level: Assess water level at bridge over river next to Cradle Mountain Lodge

Character: Park & Huck

Get in above bridge. First falls is Pencil Pine Falls (8 m). Second falls is Knyvet Falls (4m). Third falls is now called "Melbourne Bitter". Shortly after is a bridge, walk out on river left back to carpark. Watch for the pin rock in the approach to Pencil Pine falls. Apparently, there's another 3 or 4 good rapids then a large nasty waterfall. Portage waterfall on River right using track and re-enter on the Dove.

Putting In/Out: Park at Cradle Mountain Visitor's Centre

[Derwent River: Waytina](#)

Central Highlands. Wayatinah Village

Class: IV

Season: Winter

Time: 2 hrs

Length: 8km

Level: 1500 - 3000 cusecs

Shuttle: 30 minutes on dirt road

Character: BIG stoppers

Put in is near the Wayatinah dam. If the gate is closed, you need to carry all paddling gear across the dam (stop and have a look at suicide falls from top of the hill on the far side). Shoot it if you are crazy/stupid enough. I value my life so I wasn't going to touch it. Follow

the road down to the U turn and bush bash out 100m to a clearing where there is a slow moving eddy on river right. From here you can walk around to the right and scout the first rapid called the thermal suck off. (Apparently it sucked someone's thermal underwear off). It is very close to the put in. Depending on the flow rate it is a drop into a suck and munch stopper. It can vary from high grade 3 to a solid 4. At 2700cusecs it is weakest in the middle. At 2900cusecs it is HUGE on the right and a little nicer on the left. BE WARNED. This baby sucks you backwards. Hit it with speed. If you swim it be prepared for a long down time and an even longer swim when you get spat out. From here on it is smooth sailing for the next half of the trip. (nothing over grade 2+) lots of small wave trains and pillowing rocks to bounce off. A few play holes. The river looks like it is flattening out before you hit the second big rapid. Depending on the water height there is an island closer to river right. If the island isn't under water then it is a great place to land and scout the rapid. If there is no island then you can eddy out on river left and walk up along the cliff. (we have never had to try this). This rapid is called the Juggler. It ranges from a grade 4 up to a low 5. *It is my favourite rapid in Tassie*. Continuous and VERY steep. I think a total of 20m drop from the top to the bottom. The best approach is launch off the right hand side of the island hard across left for the first drop. 3m into what can be a monster stopper. From here there is a number of lines that you can take; stoppers, waves, drops and boiling turbulent water galore. This leads out the base (50m later) into some 2m high standing waves. No exaggeration. Hit them through the middle and you can lose sight of a raft completely. We got it on film. From here there is a paddle out on grade 2 fast moving water out onto Lake Catagunya. You paddle across the lake to a clearing on the left just before the boat ramp. Nearest pub for the buying of jugs is in Ouse.

Comments: This section does not flow very often. Wayatina Lagoon must be spilling which doesn't happen very often. Check with Hydro control. I have done this rapid twice this year (2004). The first time at 2700cusecs was exciting but nothing over grade 4. With just 200cusecs more it was pumping. I have never seen such a change from such a low amount of water. If it doesn't give you nightmares about stoppers so powerful they can suck you into them from meters away then it should.

Putting In: Below Suicide Falls (spill way on Wayatinah Dam)

Taking Out: Clearing about boat ramp on Lake Catacunya

Don River: Denny's Gorge

West Coast. Devonport

Class: IV(p)

Season: Winter - Spring

Gradient: Steep

Time: 1 hour

Level: Flood Only

Gauge: Should be about 5 foot of room between water and bottom of the bridge.

Shuttle: Easy

Character: Rocky steep creeking

Awesome little trip, very close to Devonport. Needs heavy rain. First up you have a grade 3, then the major rapid, which is Big Dog, difficult approach with a very technical move to land

on a big drop (grade 5). Next major rapid is Little Dog, which is a straight forward grade 4. There are two other, much easier grade 4 rapids and three or four grade 3's. Then a couple of kilometres of flat water to get out. Don't drink the water! River has only been run twice, but it is very worthwhile. If you hurry you might still get a first descent on Big Dog. The portage for Big Dog is around the right at water level, need to wade at one point, use paddle to check depth.

Putting In: Drive south from Devonport towards Sheffield - just before crossing the Don River, you'll cross a small creek with a white rail bridge called coal creek. Get in there or keep on going to the Don and paddle a bit more flat water.

Taking Out: Head from Devonport towards Sheffield. Just after leaving Spreyton turn right towards Eugenana then take the first left (Busters Road). Take out is the bridge over the river about 1/2 km from turn off.

[Iris River: Cradle Mountain Road to Lake Gairdner](#)

NW. 2 hrs West of Launceston

Class: III – IV

Season: Winter/Spring

Gradient: 21m/km

Time: 4-5hrs

Length: 13kms

Level: After and during VERY heavy rain

Gauge: Visual – if the Lea River is flooding (if the rocks at the takeout are under it will be high enough)

Shuttle: 4km dirt then 14km to the turn off to the start then 1km dirt to the put in. Or 20km to the Bridge over the Iris

Character: Continuous, narrow, low volume. Harder towards the finish.

If you've come up to paddle the Lea but it's too high this is the run for you. Bring a dry top and even some extra fleece, it will be cold. Eddys are small and few, especially to begin with so the river is better suited to small groups. For the first 1km or so the river is not much more than a boat length wide with continuous gr2+, as it descends out of the alpine heath and into rainforest rapids become larger. Beware of the occasional tree or log jam across the river. The volume and width of river increase and the rapids become more technical, meanwhile you become colder and begin to wonder if you are inside a Dombrovski's wilderness calendar. Just as everything becomes hazy around the edges a big boulder on river left announces the rivers hardest section, scout and/or walk the first rapid on this side. At higher levels this drop is runnable but at low water a nasty rock at the bottom is waiting for a good pinning. From here down has the best and biggest white water, finishing just up from the take out.

Putting In: Drive towards Cradle Mountain from the take out until the road crosses the Iris. Alternatively, turn off right, on to a rough 4WD track shortly before the road crosses the Iris. Follow this for 1 km to the river.

Taking Out: Drive towards Cradle Mountain from Moina and after approximately 3 min, turn right onto a gravel road. Follow this until it crosses a river, this is the Iris. (same directions as for the Lea River)

Map: Cradle Mountain 1:100,000

Mersey River: Standard Hill

North West. Mole Creek

Class: IV

Season: Winter-Spring

Time: 2hrs

Level: Around 2m at the Kimberley gauge, or anything above that - or anything above that - or visual at the put in, high water

Gauge: Mersey River

Shuttle: 20mins

Character: Big Volume Falls

Starts out flat before the river heads in between some big cliffs and narrows up. Several big volume grade 4 rapids and then the river flattens out into grade 2 for a long paddle out. Catch some waves in the main section, they're big!

Putting In: Bridge at Liena. Drive past King Solomon's Cave down to the river

Taking Out: Union Bridge - from Mole Creek head west until you turn right onto the C137 (to Sheffield). Get out where the bridge crosses the Mersey

Mersey River: Lewis Falls

North West. Mole Creek

Class: IV

Season: Winter

Time: 10 seconds

Length: 15 m downwards

Level: After Rain

Gauge: Check the water under the bridge at the start.

Character: Hike and huck. Suits adrenaline junkies

Try and scout from both sides. Almost impossible to get to the bottom of the falls without ropes, so safety is not really possible.

Putting In: Above the falls, Drive up the Mersey Valley past Lake Rowallan. Instead of turning left to the Walls of Jerusalem, keep on going along a poor forestry road until you see a spot with some car parking on the left and a locked gate over a track going down the hill to the right. Walk down the hill, across the river, then turn left and follow the track for a couple of km. Turn off for Lewis Falls is marked by blue tape but easy to miss. Falls are about 300 m from main track, noise is clearly audible at high water.

Taking Out: bridge you walked over at the start

Mersey River: Alum Cliffs

North West. Mole Creek

Class: IV(p)

Season: Winter - Spring

Time: 4 hours

Level: minimum would be 1.8 on the Kimberley gauge - 2m or higher is great

Gauge: Mersey River

Shuttle: 30 minutes

Character: Big Volume

Lots of flat at the start, however some small waves and whirlpools to play in. When it enters the cliffs the river narrows and drops a bit more. Lots of big volume wave trains and holes. Keep an eye out for surfing waves, there's lots, but the eddies aren't much good. Major rapid is impossible to scout from boat. It's a small drop with a filthy stopper backed up by an undercut cliff (grade 5). Do the easy walk on the left. Immediately below this the river goes through an S-bend down the right hand side. Eddy out on the left below the big boulder and sneak left. If you don't sneak left there is a really bad stopper in the centre which is more than capable of killing someone, so watch it! At low water it's not there and at high water it flushes through, but take care. Once the big rapids end you've got a fair amount of flat water to the end.

Putting In: Union Bridge (take out for Standard Hill)

Taking Out: Bridge on the C159 road near Weegeena - easy to find on a road map.

Alternative Take Out: Drive from takeout bridge up road to the East and take a small dirt road to the right. Take the left fork and you'll arrive at a small farm bridge over the river with an area to park and a small stockyard. This will save a couple of km of flat water.

North Esk River: White Hills to Corra Linn

NE. 15mins South of Launceston

Class: III - IV

Season: Winter / Spring

Gradient: 10m/km

Time: 1-3 hours

Length: 6km

Level: 0.6m is low and scratchy, 0.9 – 1.4 is ideal, up to 3m is big water IV+

Gauge: Under the bridge at Corra Linn – river left, just downstream

Gauge URL: http://www.bom.gov.au/cgi-bin/wrap_fwo.pl?IDT60129.html

Shuttle: 3km bitumen

Character: Technical, bigger volume (for Tas)

Don't be deceived by the low gradient, most of the drop is in the second half. It is a great trip for intermediate paddlers wanting to run that first class IV. Before you do this trip ring Adrian and Sally Chugg to let them know you are coming, the put in is at the end of their driveway. Ph 03 6339 4233. The trip begins as class I moving onto class II at a good set of play waves, best from 1.4 – 1.8m. Further down, the banks become more gorge like, from here on is class III. Horseshoe falls and diagonal stopper mark the start of the steepest section, run both on river right. 200m on is an enormous boulder on river left, first and second drop are just below. Scout on river left. After the twin falls it is class III until the finish. At higher flows it is highly recommended to get out at the bridge, there is a nasty stopper on the next corner.

Putting In: From the take out, continue up the road towards Blessington for 3 – 4km to a green gate on the left belonging to Adrian and Sally Chugg, stop here and walk down their driveway to the river. Ph 03 6339 4233

Taking Out: Follow signs to Ben Lomond out of Launceston and onto St Leonards Rd, another 10km or so should have you pretty close to Corra Linn Bridge. To take out further down turn right just before the bridge and follow down to the river.

Map: St Patricks 1:100 000

South Esk: Cataract Gorge

Launceston.

Class: IV

Season: Autumn - Spring

Gradient: Steep

Time: 2 hours

Level: Probably between 126.7 and 127.2 metres (around 127 ideal).

Shuttle: 10 mins

Character: Big volume paddling in the heart of the city!

Second rapid is big weir, paddle down the right hand side, but on the far left. Further down the river divides into 2. Left is a creek, but easy section, while right is much steeper and harder. This river can be quite intimidating, but bank scouting is easy if required. Many of the rapids are quite long, or involve multiple moves. Big volume paddling in the heart of the city! Can be paddled at levels much higher than recommended, especially the last two rapids. However it becomes very committing, with rapids linked and extremely powerful.

Putting In: Trevallyn Dam reserve

Taking Out: Tamar River. Find a car park on river right just past the bridge.

Rubicon River: To the sea

West Coast. Devonport

Class: IV(Vp)

Season: Winter - Spring

Time: 2 hours

Level: Flood Only

Gauge: Need water flowing river wide, including on the right hand side (not much). The higher above that you go the scarier its going to be

Character: Continuous wave trains and holes with few eddies.

This is definitely a flood run due to the low gradient. However, a huge flood is a little scary. Should be just splashing your feet on river right underneath the bridge. Much lower wouldn't be fun. Starts with long continuous sections of grade 3 and easy 4, with long races and the water into the scrub on either side. Try not to run too much of it blind. There's an eddy above a decent grade 5 drop (definitely paddleable) and then the river resumes, flattening out towards the bottom. Some portaging due to scrub growing in the river is needed lower down. The last major rapid is very obvious as the river widens out and splits into two. Right has a log jam at the bottom. Left has a nice grade 4 then a fast run into an easy grade 5 with no real eddies. Portage is down the middle but a little tricky. Might have

to throw and go at higher levels. after that there is a weir that isn't a hassle and you're done. Very fun little trip, apart from the scrub towards the bottom. Keep on your toes at the start, eddies are few and that grade 5 is waiting, (maybe call it "Up the Wall", it looks a bit weird in the bottom of it).

Putting In: Turn off Bass Highway onto Smith and Others Rd near Sassafrass, take first right and then stay right as the road turns to gravel. Get in at the bridge.

Taking Out: Trace steps back until you hit a large dam on the right, just before the gravel ends. Turn right and follow your nose until you hit the Frankford Highway. Turn right until you cross the Rubicon River.

Styx River: Bridge to Glenora

Central. 100km West of Hobart

Class: IV

Season: All Year Round

Time: 6 - 8 Hours

Length: 14km

Level: Min level is water at the bottom of the sloping base of the bridge at Glenora. Max would be at the base of the vertical wall of the bridge

Gauge: Glenora Bridge

Shuttle: 70km Bitumen and dirt (one way)

Character: This is an energetic and sustained paddle with long rapids with little of no eddies on them. As the upper section is tranquil, this section starts fast and furious and doesn't let up until close to the end. The rapids tend to be long and sustained, with little time to slow down to scan ahead, most finish with a drop of some kind. This is a very technical section, requiring small parties of very experienced paddlers. I have not included details of any particular rapids, there are many and all deserve mention, just paddle this river with great respect, scouting is difficult, some time should be allowed for more than you expect. At high levels, this river would be Class 5 easily, the rapids would run into one another, remember that this river is along way from any roads. The shuttle for this river is a nightmare, there is a road just south of Westaway that leads into the bridge and would make the shuffle quite easy and short, at the time of writing this the road was locked (even though it is supposed to be a public road). The locked gate that is mentioned is usually open in the week, or a key can be obtained at the Noske Skog paper mill just outside New Norfolk at Boyer for a \$100 deposit. Another entry point to the river is via a foot track about 100m from the junction of Jaques Road and Styx Road (towards Maydena). The track is marked with some ribbon and is fairly easy to locate. This will add about 2 hrs to the trip (8-10km) and is mainly easy grade 2-3 in stunning rain forest. Rapids are not that steep (peak gradient 30m/km) no drops of note, just cascade type rapids, and there are sufficient eddies unless in flood. Class III at low levels Class IV+ at high levels. about 5km from beginning there is a haystack against a wall on river right that can be tricky, not far after this is 'Volvo Falls' a solid rapid with a house sized boulder in the middle, portage is not too hard. After 'Volvo Falls' it is fairly flat with occasional class II / III rapids. The last 7km are pretty much flat with a few weirs.

Putting In: Drive as if to Mt Field National Park, the turn off for the Styx River is after the Mt Field Park entrance. The turn off is to the right, even though the river is to the left of you.

Follow the signs and the road will lead you to the Styx, you cross the Styx. Follow this road for another 30km until you come to the bridge, that's the get in. (it is worth checking out the road mentioned in the paddling notes, just in case it is open).

Taking Out: Park by the bridge at Glenora

Map: Tyenna 1:100000

Bradys Slalom: Bronte Lagoon to Bradys Lake

Central Highlands. Wayatinah Village

Class: III

Season: All Year

Gradient: Steep

Time: 10 min

Length: 200m

Level: 15 - 45 cumecs

Shuttle: Dirt road running the length of the run.

Character: Fast moving with big holes

Designed by a fluid mechanics engineer, Bradys slalom was constructed as a competition kayaking course making use of the water that needed to be moved between two lakes. The international kayaking community deemed the course too difficult and dangerous for competition shortly after construction. There is a powerful hydraulic generated by the spilling water which is very dangerous. The course decreases in difficulty with more water. All but the first hole named Jibbers that grows considerably. It can easily be avoided if you don't want to shoot it. There is a chute to the right called the chicken shoot. It bypasses the cruncher. The cruncher is a steep drop with a minor one foot two tear lead in. The wall on the right is notorious for flipping rafts. There is a large eddy on river right that is hard to avoid at the bottom. It has a very powerful eddy fence and at high water can flip a raft trying to break out into the flow. There is a feature called the cheese grater that sits in the middle of the cruncher producing a fat rooster tail. Keep as high in the water as you can if you swim it. Doing it upside down in a kayak is asking for trouble. So my advice is don't - unless you are wearing a face mask which is quite common with many kayakers that shoot it. From here down is Melafont street. It is a mildly technical stretch of consecutive stoppers. This passes out under the walkway bridge into the largest stopper on Melafont street before you hit Bradys lake. This is a taster for big water. If you came across it on a remote river it would be classed a low grade 4, but due accessibility it is bumped down to a solid 3. You can walk the whole length and scout all the rapids before putting in and select points to setup safety.

Putting In: This is on the main highway between Hobart and Queenstown

Taking Out: Same as put in

Esperance River: Upper

Far South. Esperance

Class: IV

Season: Winter

Gradient: Medium

Length: 1.0 km

Gauge: Take out bridge

Shuttle: 1.0 km

Character: Continuous Creeking

If the lower is too low, the put in for the lower is the takeout for the upper. Simply follow the road upstream for another km, get in and paddle down. Can scout the river from the road. Looks very continuous so make sure you scout!

Putting In: 1.0 km up road from the takeout

Taking Out: From highway, turn right, takeout is at the second bridge you cross

Esperance River: Lower

Far South. Esperance

Class: II - (IV)

Season: Winter

Gradient: Low

Time: 4 hours

Level: Very high

Gauge: Visual at put in

Shuttle: Easy

Character: Play run with one hard rapid

If you see rocks at the start you're probably in trouble, do the upper instead (bring a creekboat). Need lots of rain for this to work, otherwise it'll be low, with sharp manky rocks.

Putting In: Turn right at highway and drive up to second bridge over river

Taking Out: Highway bridge over the river

Andrew River: Queenstown to Franklin River

Tasmania's West Coast... Approx. 35km South of Queenstown.

Class: III

Season: Winter or Spring

Time: 2 Days

Length: 22 km

Level: If there is water running under the bridge, it's runnable

Shuttle: 30km of dirt and a few hours of walking up steep tracks --- 4WD required!

Character: Delightful paddling and portaging through rainforest and shingle banks

First paddled in the 70's by 'Mugga', this river only received its second known descent in 2000. This is a great pity, as it provides excellent access to the Franklin River while being a gorgeous river in itself. The class is given as class 3 - the river itself is class 2 but a class 3 section of the Franklin is also part of the trip! The first couple of hours are not actually on the Andrew, but on Crotty Creek. This is a wonderful drag and slide trip over mossy logs, in a tunnel of overhanging trees and ferns. Once on the Andrew, the only real change is less logs and double the width of river. The banks are crowded with vegetation and at first one worries about camping, however shingle banks abound and although a little lumpy, provide good camping. The river has a small catchment, which means it should be quite stable.

There are two major features; a cataract on the Crotty and a small gorge on the Andrew. The cataract is easily portaged and the gorge is a lot of fun and also the end of the Andrew and the beginning of the Franklin. The Franklin River is A MAJOR WILDERNESS RIVER; its height can change by the metre in hours. The take out at Mt McCall is not far past the confluence, but if the Franklin is high, that is very scary water! As such, anyone paddling the Andrew must be paddling class 3 comfortably. The take out at Mt McCall is on river right; look for a ladder and ropes on a large boulder. This is the beginning of some very hard uphill walking. Alternatively, you can continue several more days paddling the Franklin and Gordon Rivers to St John's Falls or Heritage Landing as per Franklin River notes.

Putting In: Once in Queenstown follow the signs for the dam; it is about 35km to the put in. After the dam the road becomes dirt. Follow this until a long straight section of road. The put in is a little wooden bridge over the creek, which is easily missed!

Taking Out: Continue along the Dam road until it is impossible to go any further (Mt McCall) and leave vehicles here

Franklin River: Lyell Highway to Sir John Falls

West Coast. 170km West of Hobart

Class: IV (V - VI)(p)

Season: Usually late November through till April. It can be paddled in winter, but rain is even more likely and therefore floods.

Time: 10 Days by raft, 5-6 days in Kayak. Be prepared to have to sit out floods.

Length: 110 km

Level: The Franklin has a large catchment and is subject to rapid changes in river heights. This is why summer is the best time to paddle, the chances of major floods are reduced; but still a good chance. Increases of one metre per hour are quite common. As a rule .6 to .8 is low water, .8 to 1.2 are ideal and anything above is flood and therefore very pushy.

Gauge: The Collingwood bridge on the Lyell Highway

Shuttle: 87 km (Easy bitumen)

Character: This has to be one of the classic paddles in Australia. Set in a steep sided valley, surrounded by towering mountains and containing some of the most beautiful and most spectacular rapids you can find. The first thing to be said about the Franklin is how to get out of the Franklin Valley. This is important as it is very difficult to do and is worth knowing straight off. There are 5 main escape routes and are listed as follow, they need to be compared with a map for full details.

1. Junction Camp -- Donaghy's Hill to Lyell Highway.
2. Bub's Hill track (Irenabyss via Raglan Range to Lyell Highway).
3. Fincham's track (to Lake Burbury)(virtually non existent 22/02/2005).
4. Mt McCall track.
5. Eagle Creek track (from Flat Island to the Gordon River).

Junction and Mt McCall seem to be the best options with Bub's track the runner up. Having noted all these escape routes, note that some of them are multi day walkouts and should only be attempted in conjunction with a map. Now about the river... The river is 110 km of some of the most spectacular river country I have ever seen, deep gorges, towering mountains and extremes of weather that deliver everything from beach weather to snow, and that's in summer. You need to register at the put in and you need to have paid your

park fees. The first section of the river is possibly the most important, if you are finding the paddling difficult on the Collingwood, then it is best to leave the river now, using the junction track, the paddling becomes more committing. The Collingwood contains many gravel races, logs, a few class 3 rapids and one notable drop, all of which form large stoppers in high water. The Franklin does not get washed out, it just gets bigger. Once on the Franklin proper, the first rapid of note is the Gordian Gate, scout this on river right as it contains logs at its base on river left. Boulder brace can also be scouted on river right. Nasty Notch is the next major rapid, this can be scouted / portaged on river right. Descension Gorge is the next big thing, a series of class 3 rapids that can be scouted on river left which ends in Irenabyss, a deep slow gorge. After Irenabyss, the river is a series of class 3 rapids. Hind leg slide and Duck shoot are the two rapids of note, duck shoot has a log across part of it, run river left in high water, river right in low water. More class rapids leads to Rafters Race, after this the river has numerous rapids, and logs abound this section. And now the Great Ravine begins... You know you are entering the Ravine by the pockmarked cliffs of the Bend of Martins. The following are major features of the Ravine. Side Slip - Left bank for scouting / portaging / lining, the central block is undercut. The bare face of Oriel Rock is a sign that you are at the start of the Churn. High water portage - on river left, a track starts after the hanging rock and goes up and across before dropping down at the end of the rapid. Low water portage - river right. Coruscades - Scouting / portaging on river left, it becomes a series of class 4/5 rapids in high water. The Faucet - A must to paddle, scout / portage on river right. The settled waters of Transcendence Reach mark the end of the Coruscades. Side Winder - Scout / portage on river left. Thunderush - Potentially runnable, but get it wrong and welcome to a world of hurt (most portage to be safe). The low level portage is river left, lining rafts to it isn't a bad idea. The Sanctum links the Thunderush with the next rapid, the Cauldron. The Cauldron - Pull out on river left at the high portage track, a climb to the Eagle's nest camp site, if the rocks on river right are exposed then you can use the low portage, otherwise 3 hours of climbing is in store for you. This is the end of The Great Ravine and most of the hard portages, there are a few drops and rapids down to Rafters Basin. As a side note for kayak paddlers, the portage can be a nightmare. A good way is for someone to paddle onto the wild thing rock, all the other paddlers paddle onto the right bank (opposite the portage point) and lower their boats down by joining throw bags. The person on the rock gathers all the boats and sits there while the others tie off the line so the our man on the rock can pull himself back up the river. They then swim across and do the high portage, once they come back down to the river, our man throws the boats into the river for them to pick up, he then pulls himself up the rope, swims across and does the high portage. The Andrew river enters just below here (see guide for that river, an excellent alternative entry point for the Franklin.) and the Mt McCall track (a possible take out). A couple of kms after Mt McCall is Ol' Three Tiers, a surprising drop that can be scouted / portaged on river left. After this there are a few rapids and then you reach Ganymedes pool, after this is Trojans, a long rapid that is best run on river right. ABC is a fairly straight forward run, except for the log which can be avoided by staying river right. Pig Trough although having been run is considered a mandatory portage, the drops look clean but have pinned many people (claiming two lives), portage on river right. Newland Cascades, this is a series of drops and holes that just get bigger as the level increases. Scouting / portaging on river right are easy and the large pool at the bottom makes for an easy clearing up, the photo potential is excellent. The river becomes limestone and sharp limestone at that, rafts and other inflatable take care. There a few more rapids such as Little

Fall, Double Fall and finally Big Fall, this is one of the most innocuous drops and yet it has killed two and easily hold rafts and kayaks, this is a mandatory portage in anything but very high water when it washes out. That is the last of the majors rapids and the Gordon is soon met, a relaxing paddle down to Sir John's follows. As you approach Sir John's, if you here a buzzing sound, paddle immediately to river right bank and continue, this is a landing site for the seaplanes and there is little warning, so listen. If you are being collected by the yacht, then Sir John's is the end of your trip, otherwise the extra 22km to Heritage Landing can take up to 2 days for rafts. Remember to de-register at Sir John's As a final thought, many of the rapids are quite runnable and yet many don't. The question of whether to run or not will come up, remember that you are miles from any where and rescue is exceedingly difficult, with that in mind make your own mind up, but remember you are paddling with others and they are the ones who will collect the pieces. The above guide was based on the book 'The Ever Varying Flood' By Bruce Baxter and Peter Griffiths.

Firstly, in regard to the possible exit routes. Fincham's track to Lake Burbury is pretty much non-existent. We hoped to extricate a paddler there but the track was very overgrown & thick. We had people try from both ends but fearing an epic, they retreated. Rumour has it that Bub's Hill track is much the same but at least it's more open across the plateau & maybe therefore plausible. Junction camp & Mt McCall track seem to be the only realistic exit options. Secondly, in regard to the picturesque Franklin itself, everyone knows that it can become a raging torrent & much care needs to be taken. As well as the Great Ravine & Newlands Cascades, also be wary of Descension Gorge. In high water, it can easily rate grade 4 & above & with minimal eddies, no / minimal scouting points & no portage tracks, it understandably has caused grief to many parties (especially being the first gorge that you come to). It's no wonder that the pioneers Dean & Hawkins met grief here on many occasions. We were held up at Huon Pine camp for a couple days to wait the storm out (this location was apparently a portage point for miners & not really a camp). Thirdly, be very careful at the Debacle bend small rapid (marked on maps just before Jericho walls). It is a very simple rapid but it is surprising how many groups that have had their rafts nonchalantly slashed on its sharp pointy rocks. Lastly, in regard to camping etc, I'd recommend at least 4 sets of thermals, maybe consider sleeping in a hammock under a tarp (during storms you still get vary wet on tarp / in tent due to very wet ground). Be sure to take more than enough fuel for your stoves, as hot food & drinks can become an absolute premium. It's an awesome trip. It delivers many tough times as well as exciting times & that makes it all the more a rewarding experience. The commercial take out from Sir John Falls to Strahan is now only with Stormbreaker (operates on demand) as both seaplanes are no longer flying. Other options are to paddle ~21kms of flat water, often into the prevailing Westerly to Heritage Landing and cruise out with World Heritage or Gordon River cruises and their day trippers. It is best to pre book both the previous options. There are, if you are very lucky there are sometimes private yachts at SJF.

Putting In: Driving from Hobart, follow the sign to Queenstown (Along the Lyell Highway), some 30 km short of Queenstown you cross the Collingwood River, this is the get in.

Taking Out: The get out for the Franklin involves a bit more than paddling to the bank and there is the car, it involves a yacht and 6 hours of sailing. Where you leave the car is easy, continue on from the Collingwood, pass through Queenstown and head to Strahan. Drive through to the docks in the centre of Strahan, this is where the boat comes in. There are

plenty of places to leave your car. You can either be picked up by West Coast Yacht Charters at Sir John Falls, the Ferry at Heritage Landing or rafters can be collected by Wilderness Air Seaplanes at Sir John's, all of the above need to be booked beforehand.

Map: 'Franklin' and 'Olga' 1:100,000

Camping: MINIMAL IMPACT CAMPING. The Franklin is delicate area and needs to be treated as such, you should be carrying everything you bring in; out, that means everything including all that excrement A poo tube is an excellent addition to kit. Many of the campsites on the Franklin are high above the river, there is a reason for this and you need to make sure that both you and your craft are well secured and if its raining be prepared to have to move craft. The following are a list of campsites on the Franklin river, they are sometimes occupied by large parties and/or commercial groups. You need to allow enough time in each day to look for alternatives if they are full. Junction Campsite - on the junction of Collingwood and Franklin river. Angle Rain Cavern - River left soon after entering Aesthesia Gorge. Nasty Notch - River left directly above the notch. Huon Pine Camp - River left above the entry to Descension Gorge (small parties only). Irenabyss - River right and left just before Tahune Creek. Maud Creek - River right just upstream of the junction. Rafters Race - River right in the pool after RR, a track leads off a beach. Crankle - River right just before the Crankle. Camp Arcade - River right in the extensive pool. Dean and Hawkins Camp - 15 minutes after Blushrock Falls. The Churn - immediately after the churn on river left, high up under and overhang, with many small caves. Serenity Sound - River right towards the end of the Sound. Coruscades - River left immediately above Coruscades Rapid. Eagle's Nest camp site - River left just above The Cauldron, follow as for the portage. Rafter Basin - Both sides of the river. Ganymedes - Opposite the entrance to the pool. Pig Trough - a small campsite after the rapid on river right. Newlands Cascade - immediately after the cascade on river right is a large cave, suitable in all water levels and very dry in any weather. Calder Ferry - River right by the pool above the rapids. Blackmans Bend - river left on the acute left hand bend of the river, a track running from a small sandy beach. These are the last of the major campsites, in low water there are many little beaches, in higher water more work is required to find a place to sleep. The final campsite is on the dock at Sir John Falls, beware of the man eating possum. As a note, camping in Tasmania is very easy and many side roads offer easy camping.

[Nive River: Above Tarraleah](#)

Central Plateau. Tarraleah

Class: IV

Season: Winter - Spring

Time: 3 hours

Length: 30 KM

Level: Need high water

Gauge: Look for a strong current and high water at the put in.

Shuttle: 20 km

Character: Continuous big volume rapids

Starts flat, then starts to build into grade 2, then 3, then 4, then hard 4 and continues on like that for most of the trip. Lots of huge waves and holes, plenty of surfing opportunities.

Putting In: Just north of the turnoff to Bronte Park the road drops down a valley, with the Nive at the bottom

Taking Out: At the Tarraleah power station

North West Bay: Huon Highway to Channel Highway

Hobart & South Coast. 10 km South West of Hobart

Class: IV(p)

Season: After lots of Easterly rain

Time: 40 mins to 2 hours

Length: 4 km

Level: Spilling over weir at put in for minimum, see description for max level

Gauge: Weir at put in

Shuttle: Easy bitumen along Sand Fly Road

Character: Flood run, lots of play holes and great rapids

After two days and two nights of heavy rain, Hobart paddlers start to get a fever. NWB fever !!!! Just 10 minutes out of town is the best reason to chuck a sickie you can imagine. This river can be fully big if around the 'phone a sucky' graffiti on the Huon highway bridge and at high levels should only be attempted by some very serious paddlers. At a moderate to scratcy level this river is a fun, continuous ride through some beautiful bush and rural scenery. Watch out for logs and willow trees! There is a weir at the put in that you need to be aware of before putting on. It gets very sucky at mid to high flow - steep angle into it. Easily portaged by walking down the bank from the put in. A second weir marks the half way point. River wide and nasty. Portage river right - an alternative get out to road. Class 4+ at very high flow, class 3 at mid flow. There are little - if any eddies on this section. Don't swim!

Putting In: Just before the Sand Fly turnoff on the Huon Highway. Again it is best to use a map of Hobart and surrounding country for the drive there.

Taking Out: On the Channel Highway just before Margate

Map: Longley

Picton River: Upper Bridge to Tahune

East Coast. 80 km South of Hobart

Class: II (III)

Season: All Year Round

Time: 1.5 hours

Length: 7 km

Level: 0.7m to 2 m

Gauge: Tahune Bridge

Shuttle: 7 km bitumen and dirt. The shuttle can be done on a bike in about 40 mins.

Character: Beautiful Rain forest, wide open rapids and great surf waves...

A mini gorge punctuates this wonderful trip. The gorge contains a large hole that only gets bigger as the level increases. This is a great paddle on any level, at lower levels the river is a very scenic paddle with lots of long rapids to add spice to an otherwise relaxing trip, as the level increases the rapids get bigger and longer and the holes and waves likewise.

At the higher level, this river is play heaven, with many holes and waves to play on, but this is a big river and as the level goes up, it becomes a very pushy and cold river, so treat with great respect. For a shorter trip, there is a bridge half way down the river.

Putting In: The drive to the get in is via Geevston, it is now well signposted due to the Tahune forest walk. Just before the air walk is a turning to the left (signposted South Picton Rd), follow this and veer left again along the Picton Rd until you come to the top bridge. This is the get in point, a staircase leads down onto some rocks.

Taking Out: Drive to the Tahune Air Walk, the bridge is the get out point.

Map: Huon 1:100000

Little Fisher River: Lower

North East. Mole Creek

Class: III

Season: Winter to Spring

Gradient: Steep

Time: 4hrs

Gauge: Look at the put in, need to be able to paddle properly there

Shuttle: Long

Character: Rocky, continuous, very few eddies

Very continuous long sections of rocky rapids with few eddies. River just keeps dropping, but no real rapids or logs. Towards the bottom the river tightens up a little and there are some very nice, technical grade 3/4 rapids, often with multiple moves. Ends up in the Fisher River, so you get to paddle most of that as well. Very fun little trip, could easily be done as a flood run (maybe a little scarey down the bottom). At lower water levels you'll be doing lots of rock boofing. If you have to pull yourself over rocks at the start its too low, do yourself a favour and don't keep going.

Putting In: Drive past Lake Rowallan towards Walls of Jerusalem. Turn left onto Dublin Rd. Follow it until you turn right with a sign pointing to the Little Fisher River. Get in at the bridge.

Taking Out: Drive past Parangana Dam. Take the very first turn off to the left, which is a gravel drive down into a picnic area with a table, and camping areas further down. The valley entering from the other side of the lake is the Fisher River

Forth River: Upper

Northwest. Sheffield

Class: III+

Season: Winter

Gradient: Not Much

Time: 2-3 hours

Level: At least 1.6 or above

Gauge: Just up from the takeout is a logging bridge across the river. Just downstream on river left is a hydro guage.

Shuttle: Long, extremely bad road. Bring a proper 4WD, a chainsaw and digging equipment!

Character: Easy technical creeking, some play spots.

This is a great river but rarely done, due to the problems with access. Everything is boatscoutable, but portaging would also be easy. At 1.6 the river is creekly but nice, at higher water would develop more waves and a more continuous feel. One log jammed across the water that would be dangerous at higher levels.

Putting In: From Lemonthyme Power station, follow your map and drive up along the river. Drive over the hump next to the locked gate and keep going. Eventually the road will bend back towards the river and you'll see a steep track leading down to the right which goes almost to the water. This track is marked on the left by some blue tape.

Taking Out: Lemonthyme Power Station.

Guy Fawkes River: Lenah Valley Fire Trail to Old Farm Road Bridge

Hobart

Class: IV (p)

Season: Heavy rains

Time: 2hrs

Length: 4kms

Level: Flood only

Gauge: if it looks flooded, then it's a go

Shuttle: Drive down 1km of dirt road

Character: Rainforest river in town!

A quite steep creek, very narrow - with a series of small drops. Many portages around logs.

Putting In: Lenah Valley fire trail at the top of Old Farm Road. It is easiest to use a road map of Hobart on this one.

Taking Out: Bridge on Old Farm Road

Huon River: Scotts Peak Dam to Tahune Bridge

Central. 170km West of Hobart

Class: III

Season: All year round

Time: 2 days

Length: 60km

Level: Minimum level of 1m at Judbury - Max is dependent on ability (it is a large volume river)

Gauge: None

Shuttle: 250 km Bitumen one way. Shuffle bunny territory.

Character: A beautiful large volume river, with a great gorge section and plenty of stunning views to look at. The first day of paddling gets you to the junction of the Anne river, where good camping can be found. This upper section is a mixture of gravel races and gently grade 2 rapids, the surrounding forest is simply stunning with many moss covered logs and giant ferns to gaze at. The lower part from the Anne junction down is equally beautiful, with the addition of the Gorge. This is a mighty granite one, you know you are in a gorge. The Huon is a large volume river and as such can absorb great amounts of water, the question is

whether you can. The gorge can be completely portaged except in high water, so only paddle this river at high levels if you have a great deal of experience in big volume, remember that this is a wilderness trip. There are a few big rapids to surprise you, so keep your eyes open. They junction with the Picton River lets you know that you have only nearly there, as does the Air Walk appearing on your right. If you have the experience, the Anne river is a well worthwhile alternative to the first day on the Huon, however the Anne can only be paddled when the Huon is at low levels.

Putting In: There is an indistinct, steep track that leads down to the river just downstream of a small gorge about 2kms from the Huon campground. It is not possible to put in below the dam due to the lack of water.

Taking Out: The get out is for the Picton River, head south from Hobart towards Geeveston, from there follow the signs for the Tahune Air Walk. The Tahune bridge is the get out. I told you it was a long shuffle.

Map: Old River 1:100000

Wilmot River: Upper

North West. Moina

Class: IV - V

Season: Winter

Gradient: Steep

Time: Allow 10 hours on the water (at least)

Length: Approx 20 km

Level: Wilmot Dam needs to be spilling

Gauge: Need 30cm of water spilling. Upstream of takeout bridge on the right is a big boulder with a cable attached. Should be approx 45 cm of gap between bottom of cable and water level

Shuttle: Approx 1/2 an hour

Character: Very pushy, big volume steep creeking

Below the dam the river starts flat before hitting the first gorge, without half a dozen easy grade 4 rapids, finished up with a logjam. Below the logjam the river flattens out for a while before hitting the major gorge. The major gorge is approximately 10km long, is continuous hard grade 4 with some easy grade 5, with massive big cliffs all the way through (no walkouts). Each rapid has a pool below it which means the rapids themselves are very steep. Be very careful about running rapids blind, some of the rapids pinch in or otherwise have unrunnable sections. Every single rapid in the gorge is steep, pushy, and filled with massive stoppers, curlers, diagonals, etc. Last major rapid in the gorge has a massive boulder in the middle and a hard grade 5 line down the left (with a sketchy scout). Eddy out in the middle, climb onto the boulder and scout the right hand line, very clean and fun. Below the gorge there are some more easy 4's (spaced out) and then it's basically flat for approx 5 km (lots of growth in the river).

Comments: This river has been done twice due to the fact it's dammed. We spent 6 hours with a really good probe (in a C1, so he could boatscout easily) and we absolutely hammered through the river, by the end of the gorge we were all shattered. Next time I

would take it a bit easier through the gorge, allowing say 8 hours to paddle, with 2 hours in reserve (any portaging you may do will in general be horrendously hard). This river is big, hard and isolated, walkouts would be IMPOSSIBLE for much of it, and the rapids are of an extremely serious nature. DO NOT TAKE ANYONE WHO IS FEELING UNSURE ABOUT THEMSELVES. That being said, this is absolutely one of the very best rivers in Tasmania, without a doubt.

Putting In: From Moina, drive down to Wilmot Dam, walk past locked gate about 500m

Taking Out: Spellmans Bridge, near Wilmot

Donaldson River: Main Section

West Coast. Waratah

Class: IV

Season: Winter - Spring

Time: 6 hours

Level: Need high water at the put in, you want a noticeable current.

Shuttle: long, gravel roads

Character: Big volume rapids, interspersed with flat water

River starts out flat then gradually builds up to some hard grade 3 and easy 4 rapids. Then flattens out again before dropping through some long, big volume grade 4's. Then flattens out again. When you hit the Pieman River turn left for a 5km paddle upstream (no current though). Try and find a power boat to pick you up! Amazing rainforest, fantastic rapids, sea eagles, a great trip. The flat at the end is a killer though.

Putting In: Take the Western Explorer (Road to Nowhere) north from Corinna until you cross the Donaldson River

Taking Out: Pieman River at Corinna.

Tyenna River: Westerway to Meadow Bank Road

Central. 150km North West of Hobart

Class: III

Season: All Year Round

Time: 1.5 hours

Length: 12 km

Level: min .5 m max 1.5 m.

Gauge: Bridge at Westaway

Shuttle: 7 km bitumen and dirt.

Character: Willow trees abound for the first part of the river, these give way to a delightful series of rapids. The first part of this river is gravel races and willows, this can be quite off putting, the second half of the river makes up for it. The second half of this river has one significant rapid called the Cruncher, it sneaks up on you so keep your eyes peeled; it is a two stage drop. There are two weirs on this river and like all weirs should be treated with extreme caution. The other warning is for the willows, at high levels they would be very hazardous. It might be possible to put on lower down, but this would require phoning

farmers first to ask for permission, at the time of writing this, no access below the willows had been found

Putting In: Put in at the shops at Westaway, to get there, head towards Strathgordon.

Taking Out: 7 km before Westaway is a turn off to the right, this is called Meadow Bank Rd, follow this until you cross the bridge, this is The get out.

Map: Tyenna 1:100000

Northern Territory Rivers

Florence Creek: Buley Rockholes to Florence Falls

Top End. Batchelor

Class: II - III+

Season: Wet

Time: 1 hr

Length: 2km

Level: Minimum level is when the creek is just flowing over the footbridge at the start of the Sandy Creek walk near Florence Falls.

Shuttle: 5km between Buley Rockholes carpark and Florence Falls carpark

Character: Narrow drop pool

The run is all read and run apart from the falls themselves that are probably worth a look.

The drop on the lead in to the falls and the main falls are best run on river right.

If you are not keen to run the falls, you can pull out at the footbridge above the falls and save yourself a walk back up from the plunge pool.

Putting In: Top of Buley Rockholes

Taking Out: Florence Falls plunge pool

Camping: Either at Buley Rockholes or Florence Falls

Todd River: Junction Waterhole to the Telegraph Station

Central. Alice Springs

Class: II – III

Season: Summer – only when it rains enough to flow

Time: 2-3hrs

Length: Approx 8kms

Shuttle: 4WD access to Junction, bitumen to Telegraph station

Character: River in flood, includes trees, tea tree and dead cows

The Todd is a dry riverbed that is only runnable for around 4 to 8 hours after sufficient rains.

Flowing down from the Bond Springs catchment the otherwise flat river descends rapidly from Junction waterhole to the plains around and below Alice Springs. A chocolate milk express, it includes some quality rapids with plenty of spells between but minimal flat water. It is a river in flood and includes trees, tea tree, dead cows and other exciting hazards. It flows only a few times a year.

Putting In: Junction Waterhole (or Wiggles waterhole at halfway). Junction waterhole is a 30-minute drive on mostly bitumen road from Alice Springs, telegraph station is on the town's outskirts.

Taking Out: Telegraph Station

Fergusson River: Upstream from Stuart Highway Bridge

Katherine. Pine Creek

Class: II

Season: Wet season (December - April)

Gradient: Not much

Time: Park and play

Level: Needs to be flowing over the old causeway to be worthwhile

Gauge: Visual

Gauge URL: <http://www.ipe.nt.gov.au/whatwedo/water-resources/surface/telemeteredsites/daly.html>

Character: Short section of rapids - some nice playwaves

Park and play - short section of rapids - some nice playwaves. Saltwater crocodiles could come upstream to this section of river. Local advice should be sort if possible.

Putting In: Several hundred metres north along the Stuart Highway from the Fergusson river bridge there is a truck parking area on the east side of the road. There is a dirt track from the northern end of this parking lot that heads down to the old causeway. Stop before the causeway and carry boats several hundred metres upstream to the rapids.

Taking Out: At the old causeway

Katherine River: Galloping Jacks

Katherine.

Class: I - II

Season: Wet Season

Time: Park and Play

Level: 0.6m to 1.3m at the Katherine town bridge (waves get washed out at higher levels)

Gauge: http://www.bom.gov.au/cgi-bin/wrap_fwo.pl?IDD60022.html

Character: Some small surfable waves

Saltwater crocodiles possible - Seek local advice.

Putting In/Taking Out: 2km before Katherine heading from Darwin on the Stuart Highway take a right down Zimin Drive. After 2.5km turn right onto Florina road. After about 12km take a left down Cossack Road. 2 - 3km down Cossack Road on the left is a rusty gate. GPS coordinates: (14.54108 S, 132.13907 E)

King River: Downstream from Old Victoria Hwy Bridge

Katherine. 30km West of Katherine

Class: II

Season: Wet Season

Time: Park and Play

Level: Visual from bridge - if the bridge is underwater it is stonking

Gauge URL: <http://www.ipe.nt.gov.au/whatwedo/water-resources/surface/telemeteredsites/daly.html>

Shuttle: Walking

Character: Gentle grade 2 with some small surfable waves

The King River is gentle grade 2 with some small surfable waves, Crocodile situation variable - caution is advised.

Putting In: 30km West of Katherine down the Victoria Highway, turn off right into a rest area. Take the old Highway out the back of the rest area (veer right - will be running nearly parallel to the new Victoria Highway). Follow this for a few km until you get to the bridge, the put in.

Taking Out: Walk back up to the bridge

Edith River: Edith Falls

North West. 50kms South of Katherine

Class: IV (p)

Season: 'The Wet' - Summer

Time: 1 hour

Length: 1 km

Level: Walk to look out, if it looks fun

Gauge: visual

Shuttle: Walk, 45 mins

Character: Spectacular bedrock gorge

Short but spectacular! Gorge scenery dominates this very enjoyable run, the highlight being 3 large drops. The middle drop has a line but will require some bottle - otherwise portage down rocks on river right

Putting In: From the Edith Falls tourist carpark, walk up the Sweetwater walking track. After you cross the second creek, the river will be 20m to your right - put in here.

Taking Out: Edith Falls carpark

Western Australian Rivers

Drysdale River: Drysdale Station to Bulldust Yards

The Kimberleys, North East W.A. Gibb River, Kalumburu, Kununurra

Class: I - V (p)

Season: Wet season or early Dry season

Gradient: Fairly gradual the whole way with Solea waterfall and a few large rapids absorbing most of the fall.

Time: 6 - 12 days

Length: Approximately 215km

Level: Wet season = metres over road, dry season = just below road

Gauge: River Crossing at Drysdale River on Kalumburu Road

Shuttle: Wet season = plane, Dry season = long 4WD trip (permit permitting)

Character: Typical isolated 'Top End' river, prone to vagaries of the great Wet. Can be huge volume down to a small creek flow. It's one of those classic wilderness paddles. Any time in the Kimberleys is time well spent and to see it from the quiet bliss of a river would have to be one of the best ways to see the region. Just rippa. It has many moods ranging from slow flat water half a km wide, or densely overgrown with pandanus trees every few metres, to 12m waterfalls and grade 5 rapids. It's offers the whole spectrum of river features & Kimberley landscape. Perfect for an expedition. From the put in, the first few days is littered with pandanus trees and the regular grade 2 (maybe 3) rapids. There are two notable rapids before Croc pool (~8km) and another just after the Gibb River confluence. As the trip goes on, you may glimpse a 'freshy' crocodile which are here and there but nothing to worry about. At some stage a very nasty grade 5 looms up around a left hander. Powerful water and big holes. There appeared to maybe be some chicken chutes on river right otherwise portage on river left was straight forward. At ~ the 145km mark on the right bank, you will reach Bango Creek (as opposed to Banjo Creek near the 100km mark) This makes a great detour as a couple km's upstream is the beautiful Bango Falls, well worth a gander. So many of the camping spots are 'beachy' gems right on the waters edge with plenty of good firewood (be careful with fires with so much dry wood around). Just don't forget to tie your boats up at night incase the headwaters cop a deluge. In the later stages of the trip, be on the lookout for aboriginal caves and paintings. There's supposed to be a few aboriginal gems around the creeks at Grid Ref 276.8.373 on Carson map. After another days meandering or so, you'll be in earshot of Wallis's Peak on a left hand bend in the river. Well worth a gander (add a rock to the cairn). This bend gives you the last rapid for the next 20km before you reach the gorge. Before you get too concerned, it's a gorge that's well and truly manageable. What you don't want to run is easily portagable (lining, walking the boats or overland). It's mainly a selection of grade 2 - 4 rapids (at the height we caught it at) with Solea Falls (~12m) smack in the middle. Solea Falls is easy to spot and features a great camping spot on the LHS (where you also portage) on some smooth flat rock overlooking the river. Pearla spot. After the falls, there would be another 8 or so rapids before it all subdues again to where it all flattens out and then carelessly meanders its way to the ocean some 80km's later. From here, there is no known particular rapids, the landscape not as beautiful and diverse, vertically no access points and .. some of those leather handbags start to appear, so it seemed a good spot to finish the trip. Yep, there is arguably saltie crocs from

Solea Falls down (we saw none though) but the presence of Barramundi does indicate the possibility (upstream is mostly Sooty Grunter fish). In the rapids between Solea Falls and Bulldust Yards, if there was any concern of capsizing, we naturally portaged - taking no risks. Once you reach Bulldust yards (its actually a few km's west but its easy to navigate to), there is an old 4WD track (labeled private) that runs you past Carson River station and out to Kalumburu Road or back to Drysdale station. Well, paddling through Drysdale National Park is all good but its how you get on and off the river is where you typically need to be careful. It almost depends on who you talk to as you get many different answers. We liaised with Drysdale River station and they let us camp at the river crossing nearby. Access/ Permits through Theda station and Carson river station is a no go at the moment, but it seemed OK to walk out along Carson's track to the Kalumburu Road but I'd definitely call ahead and ask (especially if you plan to use a 4WD along this track). The same applies for Kalumburu Aboriginal Corporation where you need a permit to enter, but often they say get one when you're there and you get there & they say 'where's your permit' - go figure? Once again call ahead and at least 'calm the waters'. Also, it would be in your best interest to check in with Ellenbrae and Doongan stations as well. Overall, it's a classic wilderness trip that you will thoroughly enjoy. Be prepared and run it smartly and none of the remoteness or rapids should cause any concern. Except for major floods maybe, you can always paddle safely near the bank and stop before/ portage around rapids and minimize the risk. Ensure that you take a mighty comprehensive boat repair kit because the rocks (especially from portaging) and any mishaps can and will cause boat damage.

Putting In: River crossing at Drysdale River on Kalumburu Road

Taking Out: Bulldust Yards or Moonlight Yards

Map: 1:100,000 series includes Carson, Woodhouse, Collison, Drysdale, Ashton

Murray River: Lower

WA's South West. Near Dwellingup.

Class: III – IV

Season: Winter – July – September

Gradient: 90m over 10kms

Time: 3-5hrs

Length: 12kms

Level: 11.3m and up. Ideal between 11.8m – 12.5m

Gauge: Bayden Powell Pool

Gauge URL: <http://members.iinet.net.au/~rokhor/canoe/murrwatlev.html>

Shuttle: About 19km

Character: Drop pool with a few rock gardens

From Scarp Pool paddle approx 2km along relatively flat water until you reach an obvious right hand bend in the river. Views of the valley beginning to drop in front of you are an indication of things to come. Drop over a 2m ledge called "The waterfall" 150m downstream is "Maddogs" rapid. A great play hole at 11.6m – 11.9m. (Obvious grass lawn of property on left) Continue on for 500m and pass through "Tricky Dickys". It's an obvious drop on far river right with a rockwall on the left of the rapid. (Tip – Lean Forward as it easily back loops a lot of boats). Another 600m of smaller rapids will bring you to a major Y in the river. "Time Warp" (a small narrow channel river left) OR "Fast Eddies" (a drop river right). Both rejoin to

go through an obvious sticky hole called "Columbines". Take the right channel out of the Columbines pool and follow it for 250m to the top a section know as "The Steps". Take the main channel. First main rapid is known as "Haystackes". Best fun is straight through the middle. Continue immediately over an unnamed ledge stretching across the whole river with a huge rock on river right. Behind the rock a calm pool. The rapids exiting this pool is known as "The Eyes". Take either 'eye' (both the same) then over a larger drop called "Gobly Guts", follow main flow immediately right, then left into large circular eddy known as "Pancake Eddy". Exit via a 2m drop on river left out of pool straight into the "Rockgarden" (follow main current) until obvious pool at end. This completes "The Steps", one of the biggest sections on the river. Another 2km of grade 1 – 2 rapids will bring you to a series of rapids known as "Dave's". Stay mainly river right throughout for the best lines. A 3m rockslide / drop (with an obvious elbow smashing wall on the right) is "Dave's Waterfall". A great spot for a happy snap. 100m on is an obvious horizon line. This is "Dave's Delight" Water pours over obvious boulder in the middle of the main line. Boat scouting can be done at the top right of the rapid. A few entries to the drop exist. Take your pick. Be sure to boof over main drop. Left or right of the rock is fine. A chicken line down the right exists. However the hole at the bottom has caught out even experienced boaters. Another rockgarden called "Rumbles" is just around the corner. Another 800m brings you to another obvious horizon line. This is "Andy's Drop". Paddle right down the tongue that looks like the ridge of a nose. Anything left of the tongue is considered stupid. Another 2km of grade 2+ rapids brings you to the top of the last section known as "Terminations". This is a 1km grade 3 – 4 section. Local knowledge is really needed here as there are many channels. Most kayakers stick generally river right the entire way. You're at the end when you see green grass on river left. Great play hole exists here. The higher the better it gets. That's if you have enough energy left to play. Paddle under the farmer's bridge. Another 2.5km of flat water will bring you to the public takeout. Relax in front of the fire at the Premier Hotel in Pinjarra. This river really needs local knowledge to run as there are lots of channels. Even with the notes it will still be confusing.

Putting In: From Perth drive about 85km along SW Hwy (starts as Albany Hwy) till you reach Pinjarra. Turn Left onto Pinjarra - Williams Rd (Premier Hotel at this intersection) Drive up the hill for 16.9km and turn right onto Scarp Rd. Drive for 1.7km till you reach the end. This is the put in.

Taking Out: Drive back out and turn left onto the Pinjarra - Williams Rd. Drive 6.6km and turn left onto Burnside Rd. Drive 5km then turn right onto Coolup Rd East. Drive 3km then turn left onto Newman Rd. Drive 2.5km and turn right onto Skidmore Rd. At the end of this road is the public takeout.