

Things to see

Heading north from the bridge on the eastern side will bring you to the swimming hole and fishing area which extends 90m upstream from the weir, and is marked by red buoys. On the foreshore of the swimming hole you will find a lovely grassy picnic area with a deck and bathing platform, toilets and BBQ.

Continue on to a short circuit trail around the island formed by the mill race and the Loddon River. On the island walk you will be treated to beautiful views of the cascading rapids, majestic River Red Gums, mossy basalt rocks and billabongs. You will also notice the still-operational flour mill on the high bank. The return walk including the island loop is approximately 2.1km.

South of the highway bridge on the eastern bank take a pleasant stroll along the foreshore of the Loddon which is deep and wide due to the weir downstream. The river here is commonly used by water skiers and contains one of only 5 slalom and jump facilities in the country that complies with international standards and hosts competitive events. The return walk to the caravan park is 1.9km. On the western bank you can stroll amongst the intricately carved wooden figures set into the foreshore. These were carved from pine trees removed from the botanic garden at Inglewood. A little further down you will pass the sites of the old brewery and the Bridgewater Mill Company Limited. The mill burned down in 1905 and was not rebuilt.



Advice for walkers

This is a Grade 1 track; no bushwalking experience is required. The walks can be done as return linear trails or return via adjacent roads to form loops. The trail passes under the bridge negating the need to cross the highway. You may encounter snakes, insects, fallen tree limbs and stumps, potholes, steep embankments, wire and glass.

Should you take a swim at the swimming hole be aware that diving is not permitted as submerged objects could cause serious injury.

Temperatures can be very high in the summer; be sure to carry water, wear a hat and apply sunscreen. Toilets, picnic facilities, water and BBQs are available at the swimming hole and the caravan park.

National Standards easy Cyclists





**The Bridgewater
River Walk flanks the beautiful
Loddon River in the town of
Bridgewater-on-Loddon.
The town is rich in history which
can be discovered in a number
of places along the trail.**

Bridgewater was a crossing point to the goldfield diggings at Inglewood and a punt was used regularly by Cobb and Co. coaches to cross the river. Chinese market gardeners along the river supplied fresh vegetables to the miners and settlers.

A permanent bridge was completed in 1863 and the first train arrived in 1876. By the late 1880's the region boasted a brewery, several hotels, a flour mill and four cheese and butter factories.

The weir downstream of the bridge was completed in 1884 and diverted water to the flour mill as well as supplying water for stock and domestic purposes to the surrounding area. The weir was constructed atop a basalt outcrop which extends downstream of the weir and produces Grade 3 rapids suitable for technical white water kayaking when flows are suitable.



For further information
on walking tracks in Loddon contact
Loddon Visitor Information Centre on 03 54943489
or Loddon Shire Council on 03 54941200.



**LODDON
SHIRE**

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Bridgewater Tracks & Trails
BRIDGEWATER RIVER TRACK
Bridgewater



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