

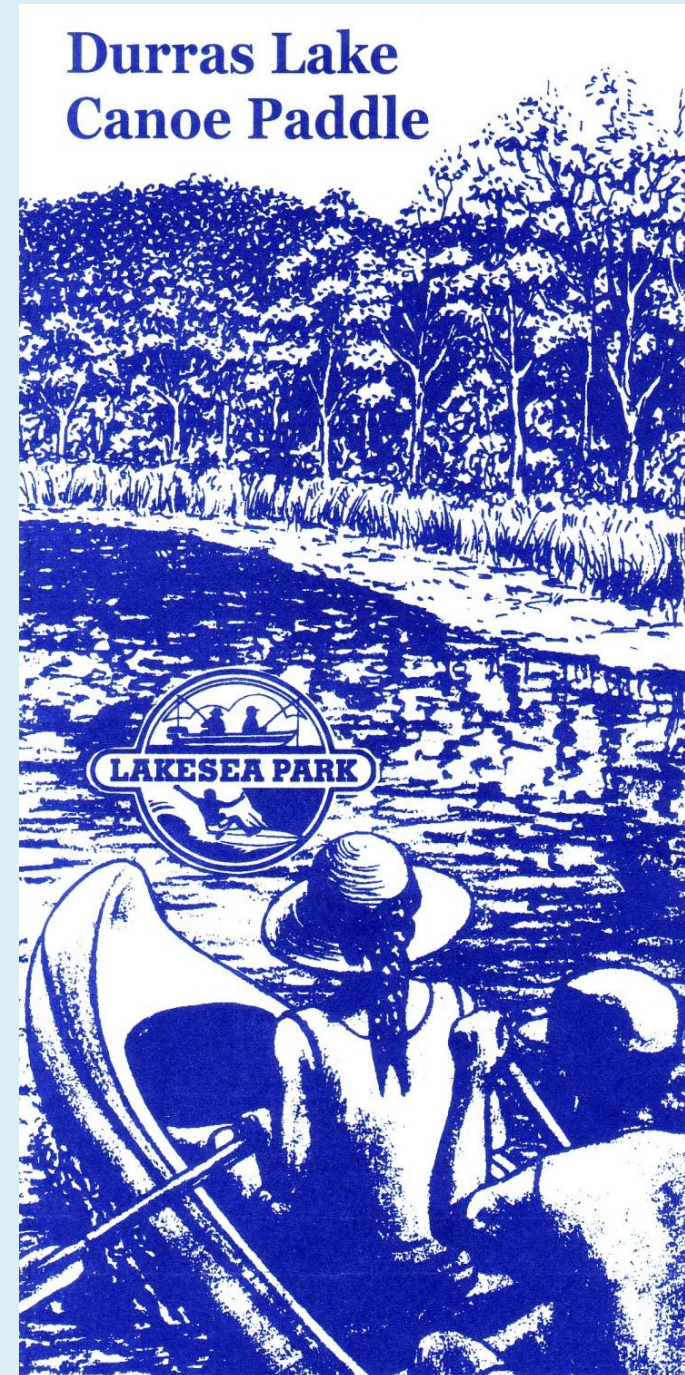
Points of Interest

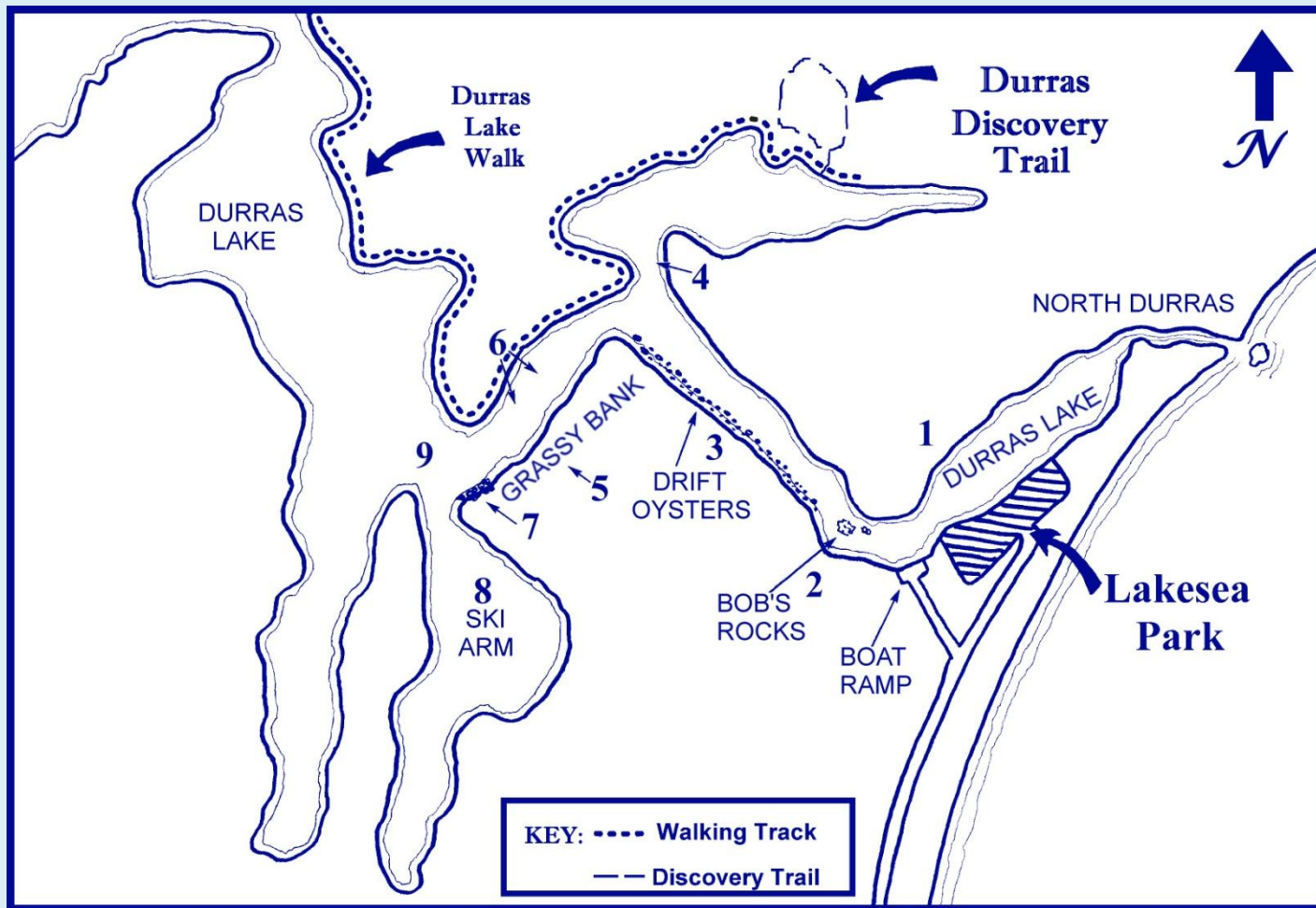
1. Beginning at Lakesea Park, paddling upstream you will soon pass the boat launching ramp.
2. Continuing your paddle you will soon come to the only navigational markers in Durras Lake. The green to your left and the red to your right mark the channel through a section of Lake known as Bob's Rocks, one of the few hazards in the Lake. As a point of interest, you have just passed one of the deepest sections of the Lake at 7m in depth. the average depth of the Lake being only around 1.7m.
3. Passing through the channel markers you will traverse a long straight section of the Lake for about 1 kilometre. To your left you will note shallow sand flats. This is where you will find the drift oysters. Unlike farm or rock oysters, these actually grow attached to old oyster shells. To breed, oysters release thousands of infant spat which float around on the tide and need an anchor point on which to attach, to develop and grow to a mature oyster. Oysters need to live at a water level where they are subjected to tide rise and fall. They cannot survive in a totally submerged state. If you collect oysters from any area of the Lake, it is **vital to the survival of future drift oyster generations that you return the shells to where they came from.**
4. At the end of this section of the Lake you will find an arm running off to your right. This is a sanctuary zone and can be explored including Durras Lake Walk and the Durras Discovery Trail, but **DO NOT take fishing equipment or undertake fishing in this area.** Continue up the main stream to your left.

The right hand side of this is the deeper channel, however if you keep to the left over the shallow water with weed, this is one of the feeding grounds for Garfish. If the sun is out and there is no wind blowing, you may see swirls on the surface as they feed.

5. Making your way over to the left hand shore, you come to an area known as Grassy Bank. In earlier days, regular visitors to Durras would cut the grass here with hand propelled lawn mowers before setting up their camps.
6. This would be a perfect spot to pull up your canoe at one of the grassy areas for a rest and refreshments. The main channel runs along Grassy Bank and is a popular spot for fishing. Flathead, Whiting, Bream as well as Blue Swimmer Crabs are all taken from this section which also produces good catches of Prawns at night when the Lake is open to the sea.
7. If you look very closely right at the water's edge, just above high tide mark, you will notice a small plant with an elongated bead like stem structure. The beads at the top are red where the plant builds up a concentration of salt in these terminal beads and then breaks them away. This enables the plant to eliminate salt from its system, allowing it to survive the harsh salty conditions. The plant is a Halophyte or salt lover.
8. After your rest, continue further along the grassy Bank and you will come to an arm of the Lake running off to your left. This is known as the Ski Arm and its basin like shape is ideal for waterskiing.
9. This is as far as it is recommended to travel for the average canoe paddler. At this point you should turn back and spend a leisurely hour or two making your way back to Lakesea Park.

Durras Lake Canoe Paddle





Left to its own resources, the Lake will remain “healthy” as it has done so for many thousands of years. Here are a few simple hints to help keep it so:-

Fish Cleaning

If you clean fish at the Lake’s edge, make sure you don’t throw unwanted remains back into the Lake. Contrary to popular belief these are not all consumed by other fish and generally remain in a rotting state often right at the feet of other guests and children swimming or playing in the lake. Wrap the remains and dispose of with the rest of your camp rubbish.

Fishing

Take care to dispose of all empty bait packets as plastic bags become a hazard to both marine life and can damage outboard motors. Also take care to remove tangled fishing line to prevent injury to the Lake’s bird life. Fishing line is a major cause of injury to our sea bird life.

Oysters

As mentioned previously, don’t dispose of oyster shells at the Lake’s edge. Apart from posing a hazard to humans, they need to be returned to the sand flats where they were collected.

Litter

What you take with you to the Lake, make sure you take away. This particularly applies to drink containers, especially glass which we don’t want on the Lake’s shoreline posing another hazard.

Canoe Paddling

Durras Lake is ideal for Canoe Paddling; however there are several principles that need to be observed.

1. Before starting out, take note of the wind and tide (when the lake is open). It is very easy to paddle canes up the Lake running with the tide or in still conditions. However, it is extremely challenging to paddle against the tide or a strong Nor-Easter, the prevailing summer afternoon breeze.
2. Make sure all participants are wearing a life jacket before entering the water. **It is the law!!**
3. Don’t forget your hat, sunscreen, a drink and some light refreshments.

Durras Lake

Durras Lake is a clean, unpolluted and delicate infrastructure supporting a wide chain of marine life and birds. The Lake has a natural narrow and shallow entrance to the sea and from time to time will silt up and close. It will open again, usually due to heavy rain combined with big seas.