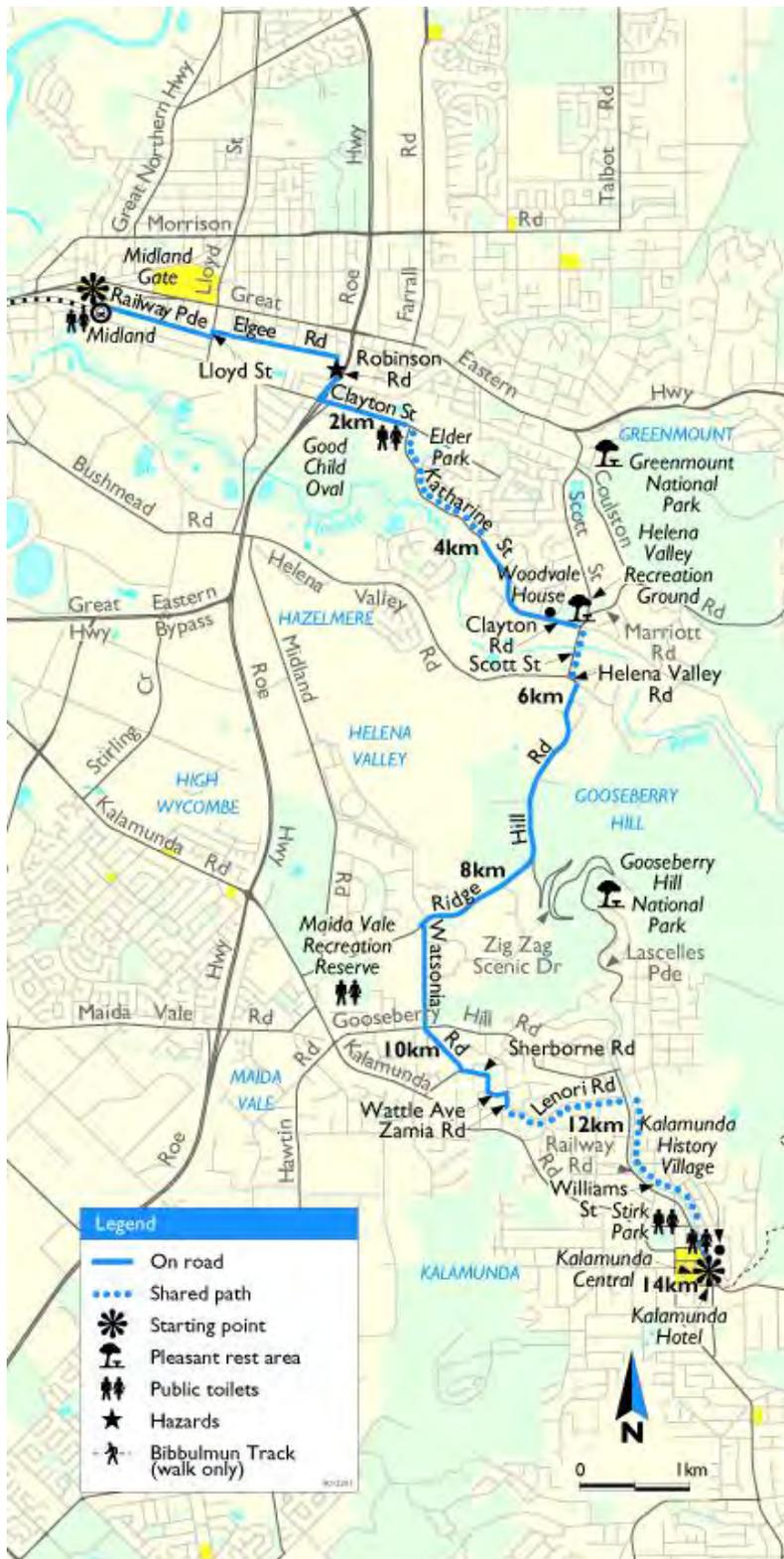


Cycling

Ride through the Hills

Hills Ride 1: Midland / Mundaring Weir Loop

Section 1 - Midland to Kalamunda



Commence your ride or walk at the Midland Railway Station. This is adjacent to the Centrepoin complex where you will find a variety of shops, restaurants and parking areas. Proceed east along Railway Parade past the historic Commercial Tavern to the end. Make a left turn into Lloyd Street and an immediate right into Elgee Road.

Continue east down Elgee Road with its sealed shoulders on both sides, right into Robinson Road and over the railway line. Then turn left into Clayton Street. The nearby industrial area is serviced by large trucks so care should be taken.

Follow the concrete shared path down Clayton Street and turn right into Katharine Street where another concrete shared path begins. This path crosses several steep residential driveways before ending at the corner of Wilma Place.

You then need to ride on Katharine Street itself (which becomes Clayton Road). Turn right at the roundabout and into Scott Street. A concrete shared path runs down the side of Scott Street and over a small bridge, then turns left briefly alongside Helena Valley Road.

The path ends at Ridge Hill Road and you take this route southwards (PBN SE3). This is the beginning of a climb and along the road you will see Gooseberry Hill National Park and the Zig Zag Scenic Drive exit on the left. Continue on Ridge Hill Road and turn left into Watsonia Road. Zanthorrea native nursery is on the corner. Follow this road to the roundabout at the intersection with Gooseberry Hill Road. Carefully go through the roundabout and continue along Watsonia Road. Turn left into Sherborne Road. This marks the beginning of a short (2 kilometres) but very steep climb up to the Kalamunda town centre. Take your time and rest periodically or walk your bike if necessary.

Head eastwards up Sherborne Road past some thick bushland and left into Wattle Avenue. Then turn right into Zamia Road and left into Lenori Road. A shared path will take you up the final climb to Railway Road.

Cross over the small park and onto Williams Street which forms part of PBN SE3. A concrete shared path runs down the eastern side of Williams Street, becoming red-paved at the corner of Elizabeth Street. Continue south on the path, past the Milton Park Retirement Village, toward the Kalamunda shopping precinct.

Just on the outskirts of town you will pass the Kalamunda History Village. This attraction is managed by the local historical society and is based around the old Zig Zag Railway which once ran from Midland to Karagullen. The Village includes restored station buildings, a steam locomotive and various railway memorabilia of a bygone era. It is open every day except Friday.



Old locomotive at the Kalamunda History Village

Continue southwards on Williams Road until it joins onto Railway Road near the Kalamunda Hotel. The Kalamunda Visitor Information Centre is located in Headingly Road.

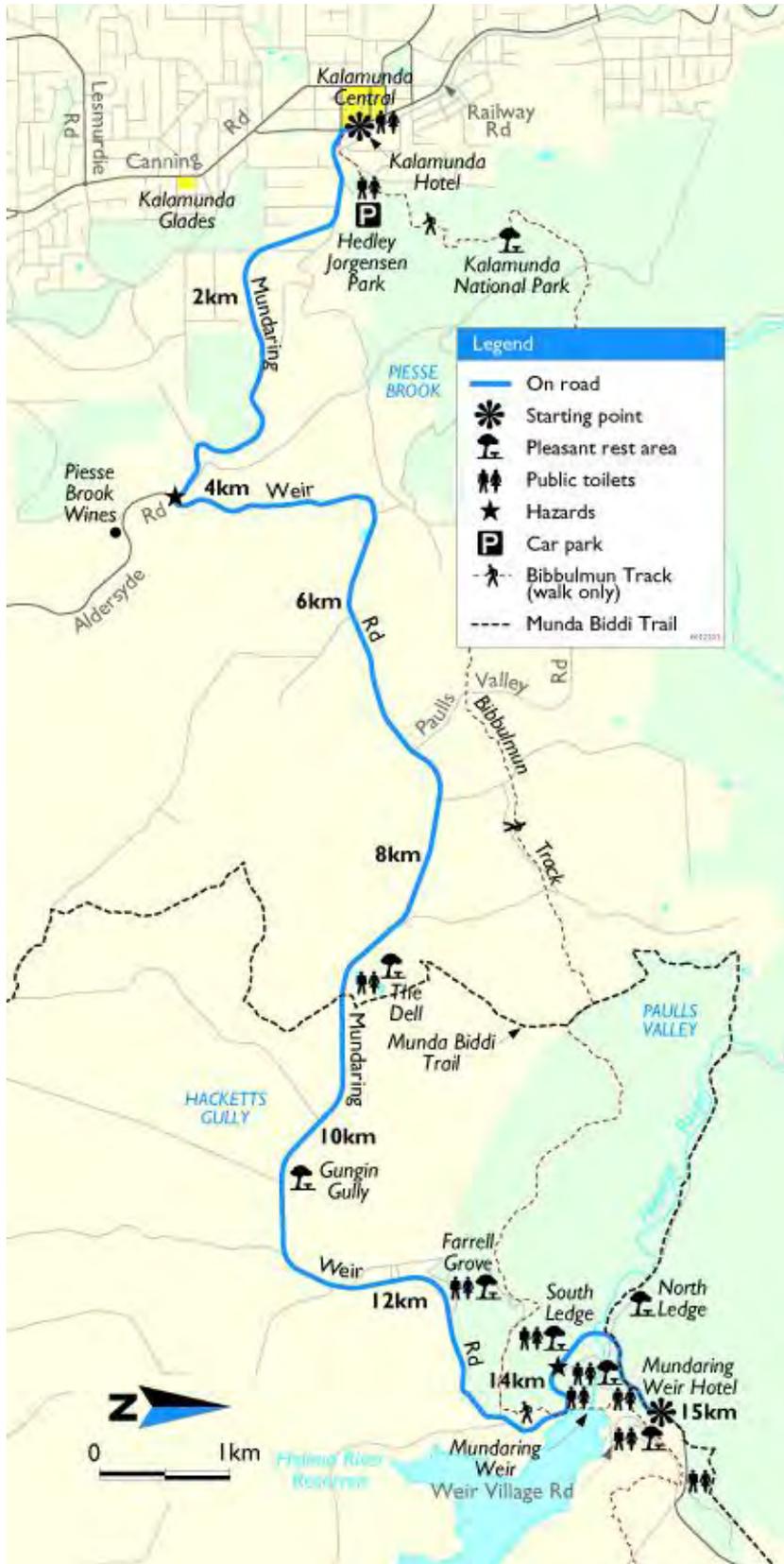
Remember Cycling Courtesy:

On the road, obey all traffic rules, signal your intentions early and don't ride more than two abreast.



Historic Commercial Tavern on Railway Parade

Section 2 - Kalamunda to Mundaring Weir



Commence your ride at the Kalamunda Hotel. Take the shared path south to the roundabout located next to the Bibbulmun Track northern terminus. This popular walking trail winds itself 963km through some of the State's most picturesque scenery to Albany. Bikes are not permitted on the Track.

Turn left at the roundabout and head eastwards on Mundaring Weir Road. Traffic on this road can get busy on weekends and public holidays, although it is quiet during the week. Particular care should be taken when approaching sharp bends. Follow the road as it winds through State Forest, past Chalet Rigi and begins a steep descent. Once the road levels out, there are a couple of picnic spots on the northern side of the road called The Dell and Gungin Gully.

A camel farm and tea rooms (open Thursday to Sunday) can be found a little further along by taking a short detour down Paulls Valley Road to the Bibbulmun Track crossing.

Further along Mundaring Weir Road you will see a turn off on the left to South Ledge. This is an excellent picnic site with good views across the valley and toilet facilities. About a kilometre from the turnoff, the road begins a steep and winding descent down Weir Village Road to the weir. Riders need to negotiate this slowly.

Mundaring Weir was formed by the damming of the Helena River in 1903. Originally the brainchild of engineer CY O'Connor, the Weir was built to supply water to a rapidly expanding Goldfields region.

The No. 1 Pump Station is now housed in the original pump-house near the bottom of the dam wall. Also in this vicinity are public toilets and drinking fountains.



Dam wall that forms Mundaring Weir



The famous Bibbulmun walking track begins in Kalamunda. It is not open to bikes.



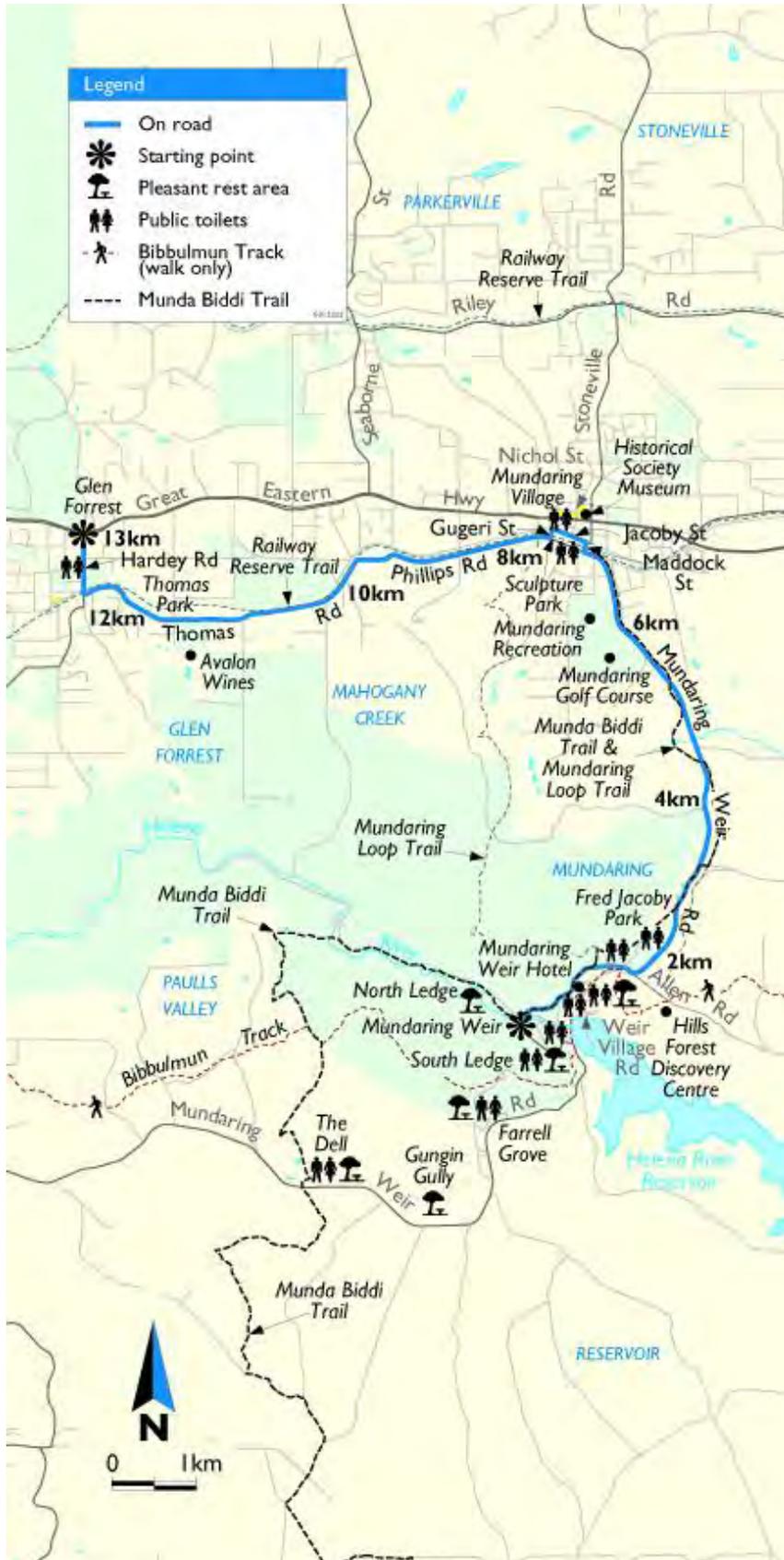
No. 1 Pump Station at Mundaring Weir

Further up the hill is a driveway to the century-old Mundaring Weir Hotel. Here you will also find a coffee shop, art gallery and public telephone.

Remember Cycling Courtesy:

Know where your local shared paths are - but leave the footpaths for children under 12.

Section 3 - Mundaring Weir to Glen Forrest



From the north side of the weir, proceed north along the Weir Village Road for about a kilometre and you come to the intersection with Allen Road and Mundaring Weir Road. The Hills Forest Discovery Centre can be found a short ride down Allen Road. There is also an outdoor cinema nearby.

The Discovery Centre is an initiative of the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM). It offers visitors a range of outdoor, nature-based experiences. There are barbecues and toilet facilities within the complex.

Return to Mundaring Weir Road and head north through some picturesque State forest. This stretch includes a couple of tearooms and the entry road to North Ledge lookout. A little further along on the left you will see Mundaring Golf Course and some small orchards. Continue on Mundaring Weir Road and turn right into Maddock Street then left into Jacoby Street. A right into Nichol Street will bring you to the town centre.



The Discovery Centre offers visitors a taste of the forest.



Mundaring Visitors Centre is housed in the old school building.



The Munda Biddi Mountain Bike Trail begins in Mundaring.

Mundaring has a number of interesting sights within easy walking or riding distance. The Visitors Centre and Historical Museum are housed in the old primary school building, opposite the main shopping village. Sculpture Park on the southern side of town provides an excellent spot to relax with toilets, picnic facilities and a public telephone. The park is also the northern terminus of the Munda Biddi Mountain Bike Trail that winds through 182 kilometres of picturesque forest to the town of Dwellingup. Eventually the Trail will stretch all the way down to Albany.

The best route from Mundaring to Glen Forrest is along PBN SE4. From Sculpture Park, head west along Phillips Road. This then becomes Thomas Road and travels alongside the old Railway Reserve that is now a mountain bike facility. At the end of Thomas Road, turn right into Hardey Road and then ride about 600 metres to the Glen Forrest shopping centre.

Remember Cycling Courtesy:

When using a shared path, keep to the left at all times.

Section 4 - Glen Forrest to Midland



Return down Hardey Road and then turn right into Glen Forrest Drive where you rejoin PBN SE4.

Continue along Glen Forrest Drive past the primary school and right into Ryecroft Road.

At the end of Ryecroft Road, turn right into Leithdale Road with its steep descent and right again into Glen Road. This will take you past Darlington Primary School, an art gallery and coffee shop, north over the railway reserve and then immediately left into Darlington Road.

Continue heading west past Darlington Park and the nearby tennis club before turning left into Coulston Road. Follow this until you reach a roundabout where you go straight through and onto a concrete shared path running along Marriott Road.



Section four starts at the Glen Forrest shopping centre.



Darlington Art Gallery

At the junction with Scott Street, the shared path runs southwards past the Helena Valley Recreation Ground. Turn right at the roundabout onto Clayton Road and begin to retrace your steps back into Midland.



The old Midland rail yards have been restored.

Follow Clayton Road as it becomes Katharine Street. Continue heading west on the shared path that runs along the side of Katharine Street. At the end of the path, turn left into Clayton Street and follow this under Roe Highway. Immediately after the underpass, turn right into Robinson Road, over the railway line and then left into Elgee Road which has sealed shoulders.

Follow Elgee Road to the end making a left turn into Lloyd Street and an immediate right into Railway Parade. On your left over the far side of the railway line, you will see a long red building. This is the main building of the restored old Midland rail yards and includes a rail museum that is open to the public on selected weekends. Conclude your journey back at the Midland Railway Station.

Remember Cycling Courtesy:

Travel in single file on shared paths unless overtaking.