

Lake Baroon



History

Baroon Pocket was an important gathering place for Aboriginal people in South East Queensland.

In 1843, explorer Leichhardt reported the plain they called 'Booroon' was the rendezvous for fights between hostile tribes who came from near and far to enjoy the harvest of the Bunya Tree.

Leichhardt came across Obi Obi Creek (named after the warrior Ubie Ubie) and the site of several Bora Rings.

In 1845, it is believed explorer and grazier, Tom Petrie, attended the Bunya Festival at Baroon with about six hundred Aboriginal people.

Petrie said the ceremony lasted a month or more and included a political forum of neighbouring tribes. Everyone feasted on nuts, plants and animals. The festival concluded with a large fight, however, before they left, the tribes affirmed their friendship with one another and exchanged gifts.

After the visitors had left, the remaining Bunya nuts were stored in mud and the people would walk down to the coast for about a month. The coast vacation would allow them to vary their diet, and the food resources of their home territory could naturally replenish.



Play it safe

Our rangers regularly patrol our lakes, parks and recreation areas. However, they can't be everywhere to help you so it is important to plan ahead and play it safe when visiting.

Before your visit, please:

- check our recreation and safety notices at seqwater.com.au
- know what activities are permitted and where
- buy permits and carry the right safety equipment
- familiarise yourself with our access rules and policies.

Protect our water supply

Our lakes are also our water supply. To protect our drinking water please:

- leave the facilities as you found them. Do not damage any property, wildlife or plants
- place litter in the bins provided
- leave your pets at home or if permitted, keep them within the designated areas - dogs and other domestic animals can disturb the wildlife that live in our natural areas.

Serious aquatic weeds like water hyacinth, salvinia and cabomba are very invasive and are able to reproduce from even the smallest of fragments or seeds. Help protect our waterways from damaging weeds by:

- cleaning and drying anything that came into contact with the water, especially any visible mud or plants
- eliminating water from all equipment before transporting it anywhere, as the water may contain plant fragments or seeds
- not placing plants, fish or other animals into a body of water they did not come from.



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Visit Lake Baroon

What to do at Lake Baroon

Lake Baroon, located between Maleny and Montville in the Sunshine Coast hinterland, is built across Obi Obi Creek. The dam was completed in 1989 and is 370 metres long. The lake has a surface area of 380 hectares and at full capacity holds 61,000 megalitres of water.

We are the only bulk water provider in Australia that manages open catchments, allowing the community to enjoy recreational activities on the dams and lakes that supply our drinking water.

Lake Baroon provides a range of outdoor recreation facilities for you and your family to enjoy. The dam and recreation facilities are open to the public seven days a week, from 5:30am to 6:30pm (September – April) and 6:00am to 5:30pm (May – August).

We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands and waters around Lake Baroon and Elders both past and present.

At Lake Baroon, you can enjoy:

- BBQs and picnics
- boating (electric)
- canoeing
- kayaking
- fishing
- playgrounds
- walking trails and spillway lookout
- swimming (in designated area).

There is no motorised boating or camping allowed at Lake Baroon.

BBQs, Picnics and Playgrounds

You can take in the hinterland scenery and enjoy a picnic at the following Lake Baroon locations:

- Northern Recreation Area (Narrows Road, Montville)
- Southern Recreation Area (Baroon Pocket Road, Maleny)
- Spillway Lookout Recreation Area (Narrows Road, Montville).

Sites have a range of facilities including picnic tables, shelters, free BBQs and playgrounds.

Tracks and trails

The Martin Williams Walk is located at the Southern Recreation Area off Baroon Pocket Road. The walk was designed and built by the lake's first ranger, Martin Williams himself. On the northern side of the lake, you can take a short stroll down to view Obi Obi Creek and the spillway.

If you're looking for a longer walk, the Sunshine Coast Hinterland Great Walk winds for 58km through the scenic Blackall Range. Entry to the Great Walk is off Narrows Road.

Boating

Boating is a popular activity at Lake Baroon. Electric powered watercraft, sail craft and paddlecraft are permitted on the lake.

For your safety and to protect the riparian areas around the lake, boats and vessels are only to be operated from designated launch points located at:

- Northern Recreation Area (Narrows Road, Montville)
- Southern Recreation Area (Baroon Pocket Road, Maleny).

Note that water skiing, jet skiing, wakeboarding and tubing are not permitted on Lake Baroon.

Please be courteous to our neighbours. Much of the land surrounding the lake is private property. Do not launch, retrieve or beach on land around the lakes, other than at signed, designated recreation areas.

All activities on Seqwater lakes are covered by the Boating Regulations set by Maritime Safety Queensland (www.msq.qld.gov.au).

Swimming

There is a designated swimming area located at the Southern Recreation Area. For your safety, please swim only in the designated area and remember there are no lifeguards on duty.

Fishing

You can fish from your boat or paddlecraft or along the shore of designated recreation areas at:

- Northern Recreation Area (Narrows Road, Montville)
- Southern Recreation Area (Baroon Pocket Road, Maleny)

Remember the lake is home to an abundance of wildlife. It's very important to ensure that all rubbish, especially fishing line and hooks, are disposed of properly to avoid serious harm to wildlife.

Fishing permits

A fishing permit is required at Lake Baroon.

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries controls the fishing rules and regulations in Queensland and administers the Stocked Impoundment Permit Scheme (SIPS).

Please visit daf.qld.gov.au to purchase a SIPS permit or for a list of outlets that sell permits. These permits must be purchased before fishing on the lake.

Blue-green algae and recreation

Cyanobacteria (commonly known as blue-green algae) are naturally occurring bacteria that live in lakes and waterways. Most of the time algae exist in low numbers, however, under certain conditions algae can grow rapidly, called an algal bloom, and sometimes produce toxins that can harm your health if you swim, boat or fish in algae-affected lakes.

You can check blue-green algae levels on our website at seqwater.com.au/recreation/blue-green-algae-and-recreation.