



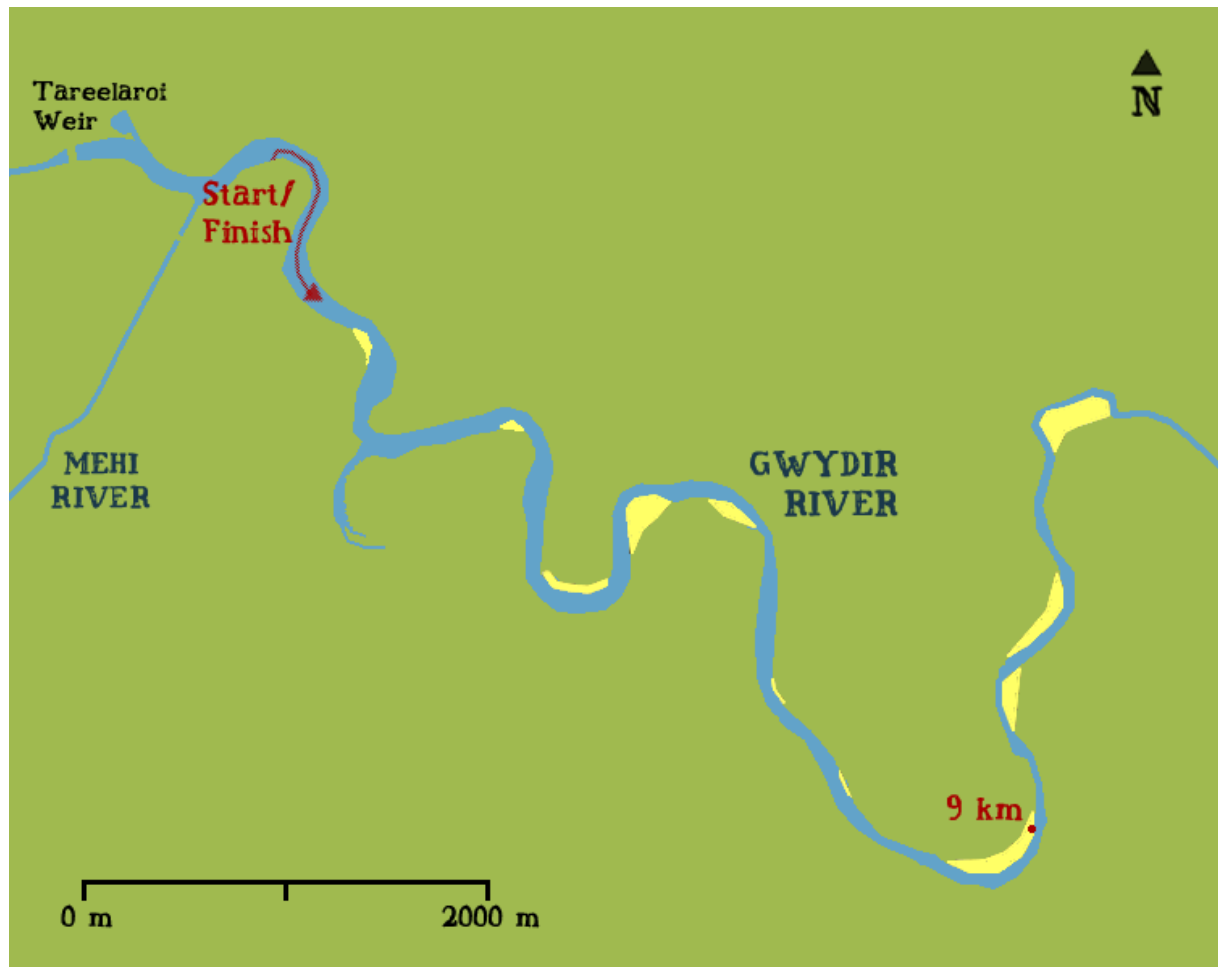
ESCAPOLOGY

Take yourself out there!

Moree

The artesian spas aren't the only refreshing waters in Moree. The Gwydir River flows through its plains, offering the paddler an invigorating way to experience a slice of outback life.

WATERWAY	Gwydir River
REGION	North West Slopes & Plains
DISTANCE	18 km return
ESTIMATED TIME	4 hours approx
START/FINISH	Boat ramp Tareelaroï Weir Road MOREE
PARKING	Plenty
TOILETS	Near start/finish
CONDITIONS	Flowing fresh water river, not much wind protection
OTHER PADDLES	<u>Walgett</u> <u>Pindari Dam</u>



A street map & directions to Tareelaroï Weir Road, Moree can be downloaded from www.whereis.com.

www.escapology.com.au



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Step By Step



The Gwydir might not be a household name like the Darling or Murray but it is one of NSW's great rivers. It rises on the southern side of the Northern Tablelands near the town of Uralla and runs a massive 668 km before joining the Barwon River. Along the way it flows through Bundarra, Bingara, Graveshead, Pallamallawa, and an inland branch makes its way to the northern NSW town of Moree.

This paddle starts at the Tareelaro Weir on the Gwydir, 23 km outside of Moree. To get there head east out of town on the Gwydir Highway for fifteen minutes, then go north at Tareelaro Weir Road. When you reach the fork in the road go right and make your way to the launch spot. If you see a grassy

picnic area by the river you've found the right place. For exact directions to get here we suggest entering the details shown on page one of this guide in www.whereis.com.

Turn right once in the water and go upstream. This part of the river takes a meandering course through the vast open spaces of Moree Plains, one of the state's largest shires.

Depending on water levels, parts of the paddle could be one or two feet deep and muddy sandbars often form. They are a favourite haunt of pelicans on the lookout for the next meal. Spoonbills are at home in the shallows and svelte azure kingfishers scoot above the river with amazing speed and vigour.

Look to the sidelines and you might glimpse wallabies that come to the water's edge for a drink or a nibble on riverside vegetation. A rarer sight is that of an exotic mammal. You may spot a fox, but it's unlikely to be Megan.



There are heaps of sandy banks that provide opportunities to check out the river's surrounds. Whilst it's overstating things to say the ground's made of quicksand, leave the boat and it won't be surprising if your feet cop a therapeutic mud bath. They say it's good for the pores.



It's up to you to decide when to turnaround and the spot we've marked on the map is 9 km from the weir. On the return leg, a still and sunny arvo could have you kicking back a gear to enjoy the sun sparkling on the water. The outward leg is against the flow so the homeward journey will be noticeably easier.

Moree is located on the banks of the Mehi River, which diverts off the Gwydir at the Tareelaro Weir. Its name supposedly means "long waterhole" in the tongue of the Kamilaroi people, the original inhabitants of the area. The town was one of the stop off points of the famous 1965 "Freedom Bus Ride" protest, which the great aboriginal activist Charlie Perkins led. It gave much needed media coverage to the inferior living standards and discrimination that indigenous people had been putting up with in rural Australia.

The rich black soil of the Moree Plains has helped the town become an agricultural juggernaut. It produces loads of beef, wool, cotton, wheat, and olives, and the Trawalla Pecan Nut Farm is the largest of its kind in the southern hemisphere. Moree is our Artesian Spa Capital with its hot mineral baths the big drawcard. They have been open since 1895, the year workers stumbled across the therapeutic oasis whilst on the hunt for irrigation water.



Need Stuff?

PADDLE GEAR & ADVICE	Hardman Windscreens & Outdoors 435 Frome Street Moree (02) 6752 1066	ACCOMMODATION	BUDGET	Mehi River Caravan Park 28 Oak Street Moree (02) 6752 7188	SOMEWHERE TO EAT	Thub Thim Thai Restaurant 348 Adelaide Street Moree (02) 6751 1220
PUB/HOTEL	Victoria Hotel 337 Gosport Street Moree (02) 6752 5177		FLASH	Moree B&B 7 Alice Street Moree (02) 6752 1644		Explorers Restaurant Newell Highway Moree (02) 6752 3377