

# Jawbone Marine Sanctuary

## A coastal haven close to Melbourne

West of the beach at Williamstown, there is a small promontory known as 'The Jawbone'. Protected from the rest of the world for over eighty years by the Williamstown rifle range, this area is now a haven for coastal and marine life – right next to the city of Melbourne.

Within this small area a wide variety of coastal habitats are found. On the west of the promontory, there is an extensive saltmarsh and a stand of White Mangroves. Where the water makes its way between the rocks are sections of sandy beaches and some seagrass beds.

As the tide comes in, water flows over the mangrove roots and allows fish and other animals to move in and feed under the mangroves and amongst the seagrasses.

The eastern side is dominated by basalt boulders, a reminder of the volcanic history of this side of the Bay. From those areas high up on the shore, covered in yellow lichens, to submerged boulders and ledges with encrusting worms and mussels, the sanctuary is an important refuge for many species. On the shore, the basalt rock has weathered into smaller rocks, creating pools that support a range of intertidal life.

Pretty gardens of green or pink coralline algae adorn the rock pools. Numerous sea-stars and crabs inhabit the crevices, while shrimps and small fish dart amongst the weeds.

Jawbone Marine Sanctuary is part of a system of 13 Marine National Parks and 11 smaller Marine Sanctuaries created by the Victorian Government to ensure that representative samples of Victoria's diverse, distinctive and amazing marine environment are conserved for future generations.

These parks and sanctuaries now protect 5.3% of Victoria's coastal waters, safeguarding important marine habitats and species, and complementing our world-class national parks system on land.

By keeping some of these marine areas in a natural state, free from potentially damaging human activities, we will protect these environments into the future.

## Enjoying Jawbone Marine Sanctuary

There are many pleasant ways to enjoy this tranquil sanctuary, such as snorkelling over the wide variety of habitat that includes seagrasses, boulders and local kelp forests. As you snorkel over the reefs and seagrass, you may see the globe or porcupine fish, recognisable by its big eyes and fleshy lips, and conspicuous covering of large yellow spines.

Take time out to explore the rockpools, or watch the tide come in from the boardwalk. Discover how the mangroves and saltmarshes survive in this challenging environment.

There are excellent bird watching opportunities from the boardwalk at the Jawbone and nearby hides for a wide range of wader birds including some international migratory waders during the summer months. Birdwatching and dolphin spotting are also possible from Compass Point.

For something different, try sea kayaking and canoeing, with access to the area from nearby Williamstown.



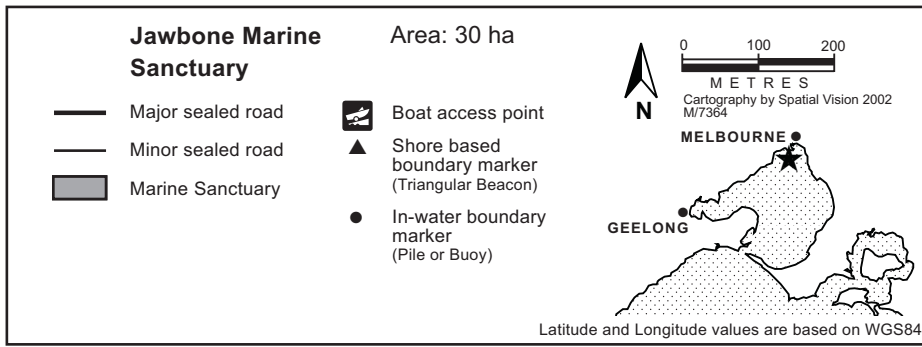
**Parks Victoria Ranger**

*"Victoria's system of Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries provides total protection for their unique inhabitants, offering unlimited opportunities for us all to learn more about this stunning underwater world."*

**For more information  
call the Parks Victoria  
Information Centre  
on 13 1963 or  
visit our website at  
[www.parkweb.vic.gov.au](http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au)**



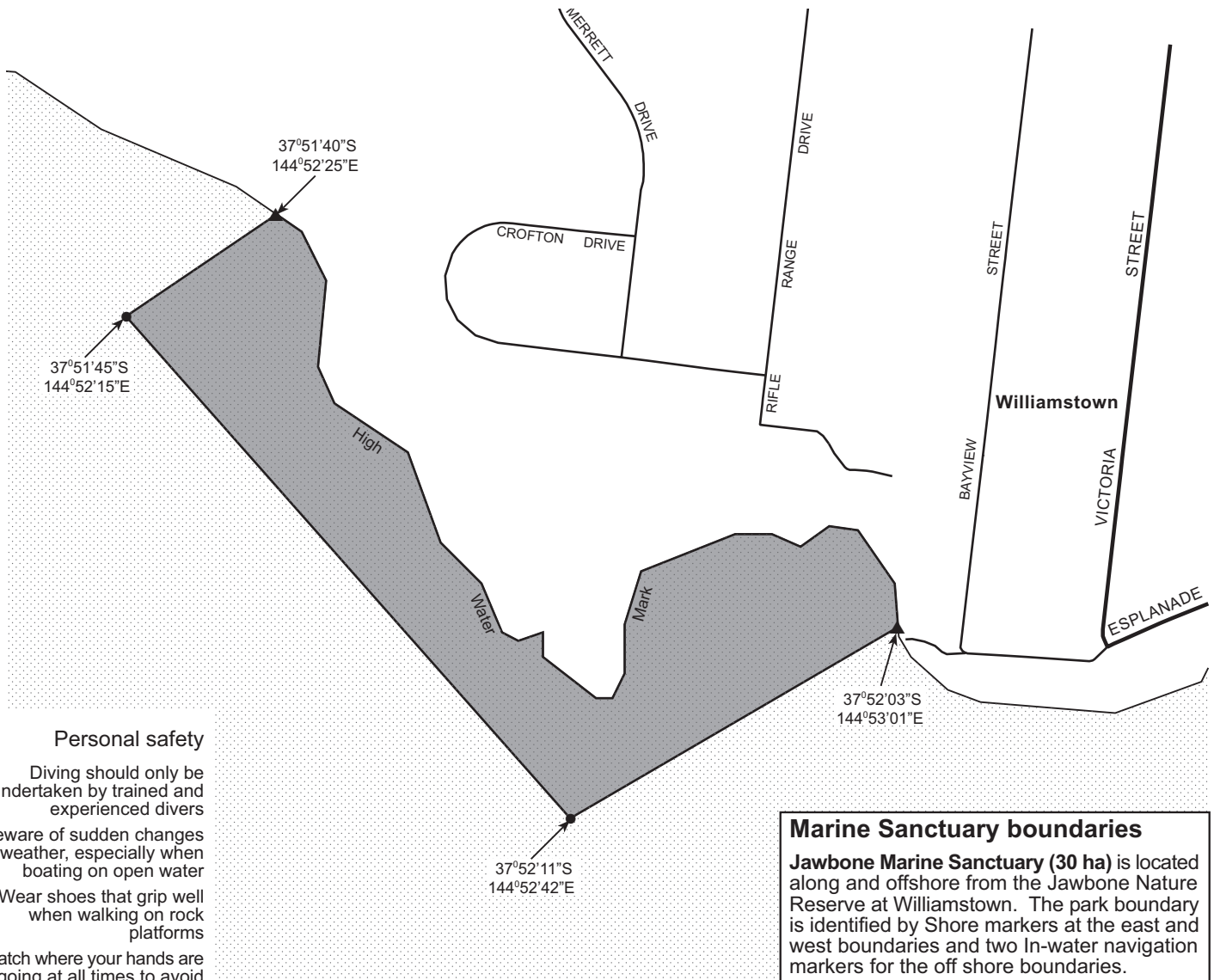
**White Mangrove**



No fishing, netting, spearing, taking or killing of marine life. All methods of fishing, from the shore or at sea, are prohibited.



No taking or damaging of animals, plants and objects (artefacts)



### Personal safety

Diving should only be undertaken by trained and experienced divers

Beware of sudden changes in weather, especially when boating on open water

Wear shoes that grip well when walking on rock platforms

Watch where your hands are going at all times to avoid potentially dangerous creatures

**Marine Sanctuary boundaries**  
**Jawbone Marine Sanctuary (30 ha)** is located along and offshore from the Jawbone Nature Reserve at Williamstown. The park boundary is identified by Shore markers at the east and west boundaries and two In-water navigation markers for the off shore boundaries.

### Caring for the marine environment

Discarded gear and rubbish can endanger birds and marine animals – please take your rubbish home

Always replace any organisms or rocks you may have disturbed

Keep clear of bird nesting or roosting areas

Stay on boardwalks or paths to avoid trampling sensitive mangrove and saltmarsh plants

### Restrictions

For the protection of the marine environment, a number of activities are prohibited within the boundaries of Victoria's Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries.

There are strong penalties under the National Parks Act for fishing in Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries. These restrictions and penalties apply in Jawbone Marine Sanctuary from 16 November 2002.

You may carry fin-fish on board your boat within park boundaries if you caught the fish outside the parks, and you may also carry (but not use) a fishing rod or a spear gun.

You may also have abalone or rock lobster and associated equipment (securely stowed) on board the boat provided that you are travelling straight through the park by the shortest practicable route.

To report a fishing offence contact NRE Fisheries on (03) 9483 4283. Please ask for the Duty Officer and give a short message and leave a contact number.

Parks Victoria is responsible for the day-to-day management of Victoria's Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries. For further information contact the Parks Victoria Information Centre on **13 1963** or visit the Parks Victoria website at: **www.parkweb.vic.gov.au**

Parknotes on each of Victoria's Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries, including boundaries and permitted and prohibited activities, have been produced to assist visitors to these areas.