

Cape Conran Coastal Park



Visitor Guide, Wilderness Retreats and Camping

Cape Conran Coastal Park offers a variety of opportunities for walkers. Many shorter walks can be taken around the Cape itself or there are longer walks for the more adventurous. There are kilometres of white sandy beaches to ramble along. The park is 11,000 hectares in size, encompassing Point Ricardo in the west and Sydenham Inlet to the east.

Location and access

Cape Conran Coastal Park in Far East Gippsland is located approximately 420 km east of Melbourne and 530 km south of Sydney.

Cape Conran can be reached via the Princes Highway by turning off at Cabbage Tree Creek or via Orbost and Marlo to the west. The eastern section of the park can be reached by turning off the highway east of Cabbage Tree Creek to Bemm River.

Abundant beach walks

Some of the more popular beach walks are around Cape Conran itself. The day visitor areas on the east and west sides of the Cape provide easy access to the beach.

From West Cape beach you can stroll up to Conran Creek or keep going the seven kilometres to Point Ricardo which takes approximately three hours one way. Along the East Cape you can walk up the beach to the Yeerung River which takes approximately one and a half hours one way. From here you can keep walking to Dock Inlet or Pearl Point.



Pearl Point (25 km return)

The walk from East Cape to Pearl Point is recommended only for the more energetic. This can be a difficult walk due to the soft beach sand. Pearl Point features spectacular sedimentary rock formations, rolling sand dunes and an abundance of seabirds and sea life. It is also a popular spot for surf fishing.

Dock Inlet

(14 km, 5 - 6 hours return from the Yeerung River)

Soak up the serenity of Dock Inlet, a unique land locked expanse of fresh water isolated from the coast by a coastal dune barrier. The inlet is fed by the east and west branches of Dock Creek from a pristine catchment. The shallow tannin coloured waters support a diverse range of waterfowl.

Keep an eye out for White-bellied Sea Eagles that are often seen in the area. Follow the posts set in the dunes from the beach or signs on the Powerline Track. This walk can also be a return walk via the Powerline Track and the Yeerung River.

Yeerung River and Estuary

Estuary View Trail
(1.5 km, 1 hour return)

Experience the rich diversity of flora and fauna which is found in the lower reaches of the Yeerung River. A different perspective to the river is especially noticeable at sunset and sunrise when the birds are at their most active and the water is often calm and reflections clear. The track also allows access to the coastline east of the river when the entrance is breached.

Yeerung Gorge - a jewel on the Cape
(0.6 km, 20 mins one way from East Yeerung Track Carpark)

This surprising landform harbours some unusual vegetation associations and contains several deep dark rock pools fed by the babbling East Yeerung River. You can reach the gorge, which is deeply incised into the coastal plain, by crossing the Yeerung Bridge and taking the Powerline Track and the East Yeerung Track to the carpark.



For further information

Parks Victoria
Information Centre
Call 13 1963

or visit our website at
www.parks.vic.gov.au

Park Office
171 Nicholson Street
Orbost Vic 3888
Ph 13 1963

Cape Conran Managers
Cape Conran Road
PO Box 18 Marlo Vic 3888
Ph (03) 5154 8438
www.conran.net.au

Snowy River
Visitor Information Centre
Slab Hut
39 Nicholson Street
Orbost Vic 3888
Ph (03) 5154 2424
or **Freecall 1800 637 060**

Caring for the environment

Help us look after your park
by
following these guidelines:

Stay on walking tracks to
prevent erosion and
damage to plants

All native plants, animals,
cultural and historic features
are protected

Your rubbish is your
responsibility - "carry out what
you carry in"

Firearms are not permitted

Fires may only be lit in
designated fireplaces. No
fires including gas and fuel
stoves may be lit Total Fire
Ban days

This park is in the East
Gippsland Total Fire Ban
District

Please do not handle or feed
wildlife as it fosters
dependence and may cause
disease

Respect traffic speed limits
and No Parking signs

Please remember that all
visitors have a right
to peaceful relaxation

Healthy Parks Healthy People

Visiting a park can improve
your health, mind, body and
soul. So, with over four million
hectares of parkland available
to Victorians, why not escape
to a park today!



Heathland Walk

(1 km, 1 - 1.5 hours return)

The Heathland Walk starts near the Activities Centre opposite the office on the west side of the camp road.

A walk through the heathland can be full of surprises. Many birds feed on the nectar rich plants and occasionally the threatened Ground Parrot (*Pezoporus wallicus wallicus*) may be sighted. Whilst in flower the striking spikes of Grass Trees provide a post for the rosellas to feed from. Lizards and large Lace Monitor's, (known as Goannas) are common around Cape Conran.

East Cape Boardwalk

(0.6 km, 1 - 1.5 hours return)

Cape Conran is rich in our cultural heritage, both Indigenous and post European. The East Cape Boardwalk was a joint project of the then National Parks Service and the Moogji Aboriginal Council in Orbost. The boardwalk rounds the East Cape to Cowrie Bay. Along the way interpretive signs give you a glimpse of the uses Indigenous people made of the many resources around the Cape.

The boardwalk joins the Nature Trail and a complete loop can be made back to the East Cape Day Visitor Area, or continue on to the West Cape and Salmon Rocks Beach. The Salmon Rocks lookout is part of the Batuluk Cultural Trail and has information on Indigenous midden sites.

Nature Trail

(1.5 kms, 1.5 - 2 hours return via boardwalk)

The Cape Conran Nature Trail begins in the East Cape Day Visitor Area and continues across the Cape to the western side. The Nature Trail provides insight into the special nature of the coastal environment. From Joiners Channel and the boat ramp there are trails around to Salmon Rocks Beach.

Beware Reef Marine Sanctuary

Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries are areas of the sea established to protect a sample of Victoria's marine plants and animals, and their habitats.

Beware Reef, located approximately 5km offshore from Cape Conran is a Marine Sanctuary of 200 hectares. The sanctuary is known for its representation of reef environments in Victoria and its values for underwater recreation.

Abundant wildlife

Many plants and animals are found at Cape Conran. There are interpretive panels at the Activities Centre at Cape Conran that explain some of the history of the area as well as the flora and fauna that can be found around the Cape. During May to October whales may be sighted off the coast and dolphins are often seen surfing the waves

Wilderness retreats

Parks Victoria wilderness retreats are low impact and "touch the earth lightly" as they sit on an innovative steel frame that does not require concrete footings. They are completely weatherproof and include a covered hardwood timber deck and a lockable canvas door.

Wilderness retreats are set up for couples but can comfortably sleep up to four people. Each contains a queen size bed, two bedside tables, a blanket box, towel rail, a table and chairs, a single futon chair that converts to a single bed, a single trundle bed under the queen size bed and a small fridge. Toilet and shower facilities are close by.

A well equipped communal kitchen (also a tent) includes stainless steel bench tops, a gas hot plate, a fridge, microwave, toaster and tea and coffee making facilities. All linen and towels are provided, as is crockery, cutlery and cooking utensils.

Cabins

Each cabin is fully self-contained, including a toilet, hot shower and outdoor barbeque. A communal laundry is nearby. You need to bring pillows, sleeping gear and towels.

Additional items you might like to take include folding chairs, sturdy shoes for walking, binoculars, wet weather gear (even in summer), fishing gear (surf and estuary) and insect repellent.

During peak holiday periods, a ballot system is used to allocate cabins and campsites at Cape Conran. Contact the Manager's office for further information - phone **(03) 5154 8438**.

Group accommodation

The cabin complex is ideal for schools and other groups. In addition to the cabins, Olive-berry Lodge caters for groups with its fully equipped kitchen, tables with bench seating and sleeping quarters (17 beds).

Camping facilities

Cape Conran has relaxed bush camping among mahogany gums in a banksia woodland.

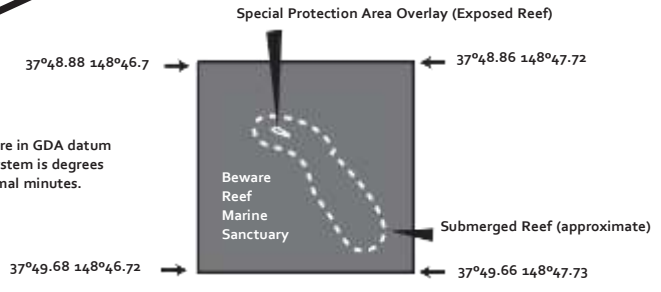
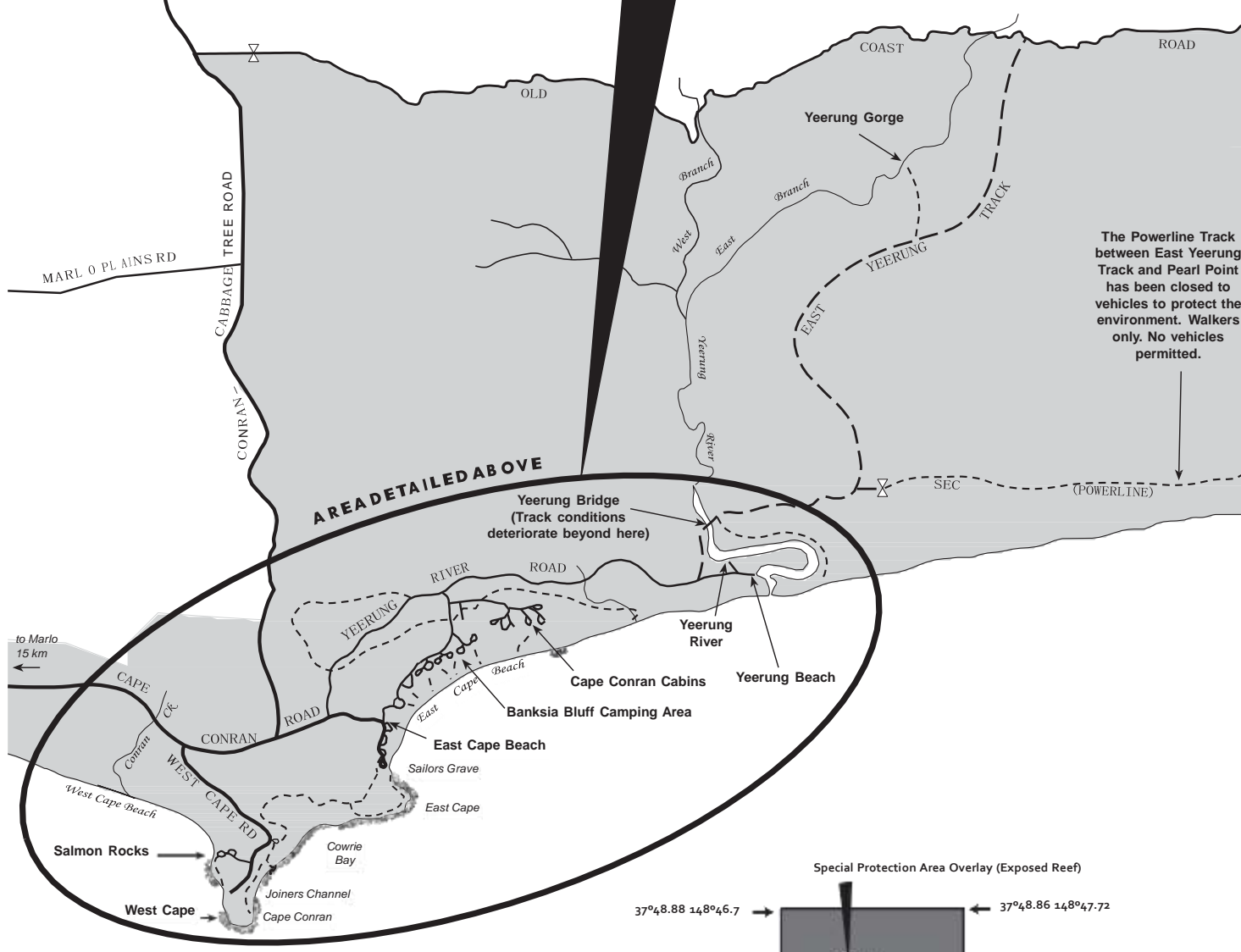
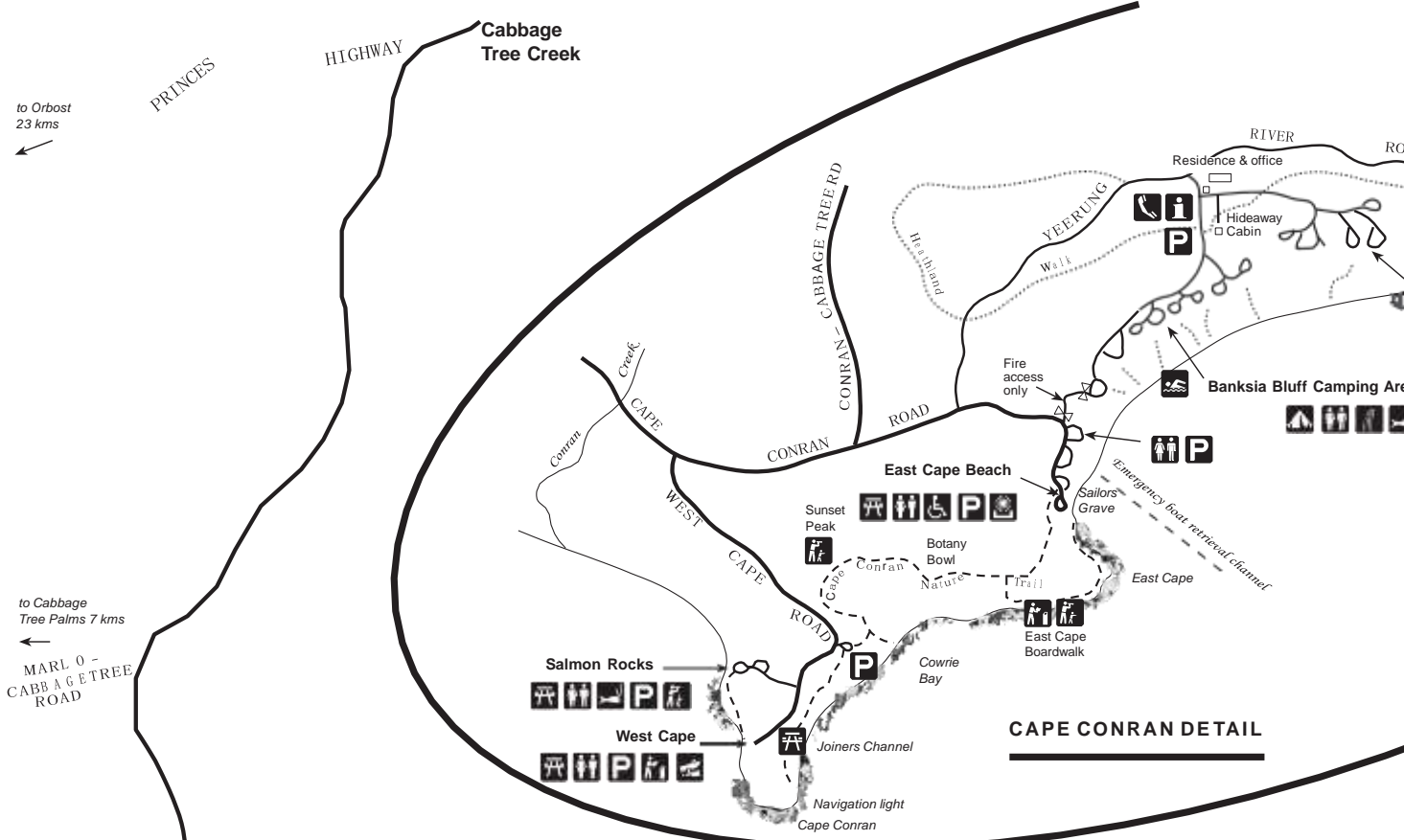
Fireplaces, picnic shelter, bush showers and septic toilets are provided in the Banksia Bluff camp area. Borewater is available, but is not recommended for drinking. The nearest food supplies are at Marlo. Gas, wood, ice and a public phone is available from the Manager's office.

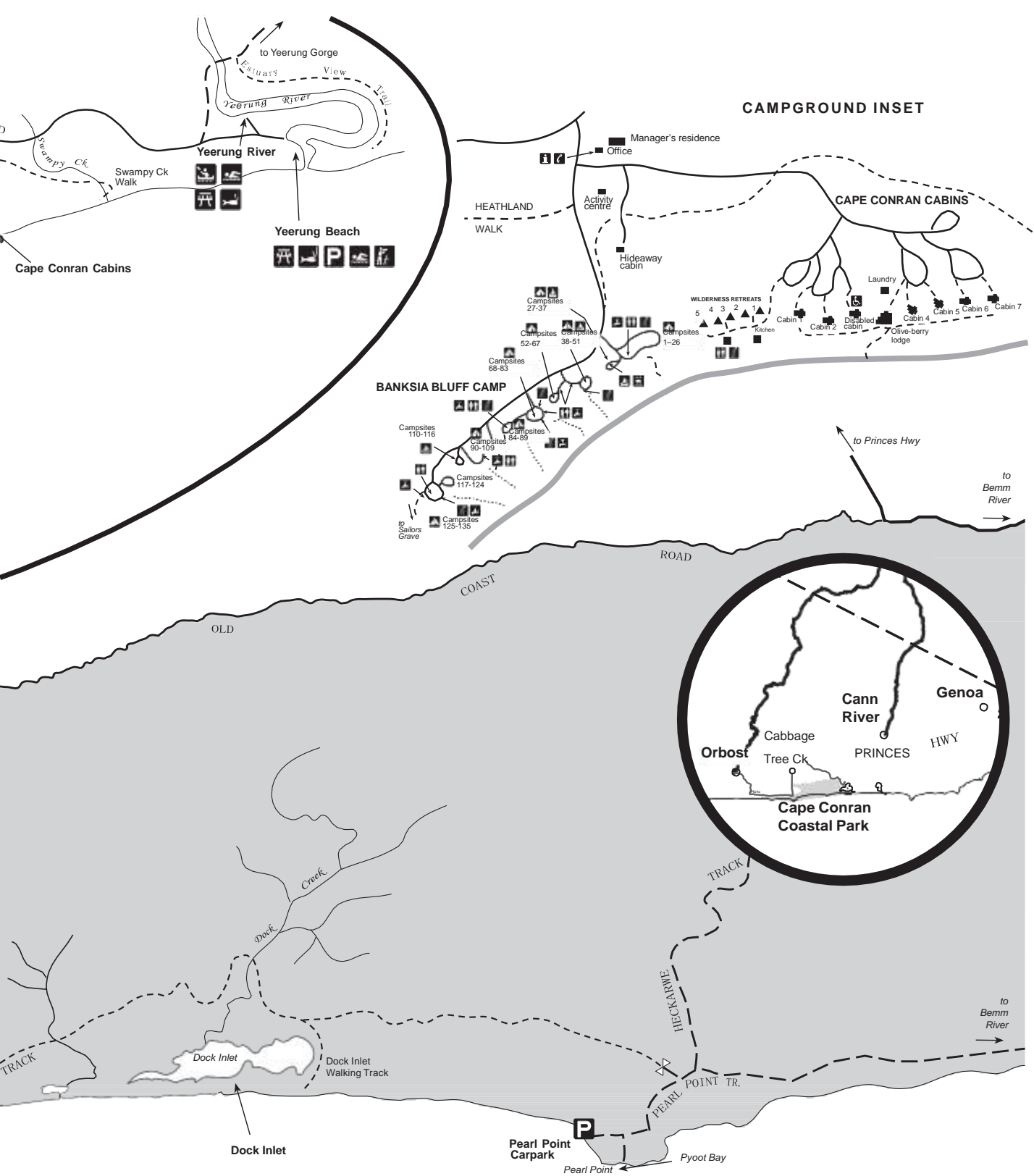
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Healthy Parks
Healthy People





Cape Conran Coastal Park		Recreational Facilities	
	Highway		Picnic area
	Major road		Park information
	Minor/unsealed road		Toilets
	Vehicle track		Camping
	Walking track		Lookout
	Cape Conran Coastal Park		Guided walk
	Beware Reef Marine Sanctuary		Shower
			Scuba diving
			Disabled access
			Swimming
			Boat ramp
			Telephone
			Canoeing
			Fishing
			Car park
			Gas barbecue

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 Nature Tourism Services 99/4

MELBOURNE