

Personal safety

Always consult tide charts before going boating

When boating, always let someone know before you go, including an estimated time of arrival

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

Beware of strong currents and undertows when snorkelling or at the beach

Diving should only be undertaken by trained and experienced divers

Wear shoes that grip well when walking on rock platforms

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

Be aware of large unexpected waves when walking on shore, especially on rock platforms

Stay away from cliff edges and bases

Always remember to wear a hat, shirt and sunscreen

Caring for the marine environment

Help us look after your park by following these guidelines:

All plants and animals in the park are protected. Please do not disturb or remove any plants or animals

Always replace any organisms or rocks you may have disturbed

Please take your rubbish home - discarded gear and rubbish can endanger birds and marine animals -

Please take care when boating and observe speed restrictions. Power boats can cause serious damage to fragile intertidal areas

Keep clear of bird nesting or roosting areas

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!



The best of both worlds

Marine protected areas aim to preserve examples of our marine environment. The Bunurong group of parks and reserves is being managed so that, while people enjoy the beach and the sea, the unique features and natural beauty of the sea are retained. The table included with the map outlines the restrictions that apply to the Bunurong Marine National Park and the adjoining Bunurong Marine Park.

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. Victorians will also benefit from the positive effects that this protection will have on recreation and tourism, community education and scientific research.

A remarkable coast

These coastal waters share the cool waters of Victoria's central and western coasts but, unlike those shores, are relatively protected from the oceanic south-westerly swell by the position of distant King Island. The gently sloping rocky seafloor is also unusual in Victoria.

The diverse marine habitats at Bunurong include extensive intertidal rock platforms which are covered in pink coralline algae, barnacles and shells, as well as fields of Neptune's Necklace, a green algae that looks like strings of beads

The underwater reefs of Bunurong look different to those in other parts of Victoria. Crayweed, the large brown seaweed that covers many Victorian reefs, is mostly absent. Instead a multitude of more unusual plants and animals flourish in a rich underwater 'garden' of seaweeds, with an abundance of brightly coloured sea-stars, feather stars, crabs, large marine snails, and many smaller animals.



Protecting our Marine Environment

The Victorian Government has created a system of 13 Marine National Parks and 11 smaller Marine Sanctuaries 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.

The waters off Australia's southern coast are unique. Over 90% of the plants and animals living here are found nowhere else on earth.

This coastal area is home to one of Victoria's rarest and most threatened birds, the Hooded Plover. During late August to March, this vulnerable shore bird breeds on the beaches. Their eggs and chicks can die if the parent birds are disturbed. Interruption of feeding and breeding, trampling or predation of eggs or chicks presents the greatest risks to their survival.

Dogs

Unrestrained dog access poses the greatest risk, but even restrained dogs are known to disturb nesting birds. For this reason dogs are prohibited from Bunurong Marine National Park and some sections of the Bunurong Marine Park and Bunurong Coastal Reserve. Seasonal restrictions apply where dogs are permitted, so please take note of the regulations at the park entry.

Horses

Horse riding is not permitted within these areas. An alternative location is at the end of the Five Mile Track, off the Lower Waratah Road, south of Tarwin Lower. Horse riding is permitted between the Ocean outfall pipeline and Arch Rock. See the Cape Liptrap Coastal Park parknote.

Fishing



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)

There are strong penalties under the National Parks Act for fishing in Marine National Parks and Marine Sanctuaries.

You may carry fin-fish on board your boat within Marine National 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. Spear guns are not permitted within any of Victoria's marine protected areas, either in a boat or elsewhere.

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 call the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) on 13 FISH (13 3474)



Healthy Parks
Healthy People



Enjoying the Bunurong Coast

around Wonthaggi, Cape Paterson & Inverloch



Visitor Guide

Discover the fascinating world of the marine environment set alongside a coast of striking rock formations, sandy coves, rugged sandstone cliffs and prominent headlands. The cool coastal waters support a unique range of habitats containing a diverse array of marine plants and animals.

Location and Access

Situated 140 kilometres south-east of Melbourne, the Bunurong group of parks and reserves stretches along 17 kilometres from Coal Point in the west to Wreck Creek near Inverloch.

The Bunurong Marine National Park is 2,100 ha in size and adjoins the Bunurong Marine Park and Bunurong Coastal Reserve. This no-take area follows the coast between the most southern headland west of The Oaks Beach and the headland at the eastern end of Eagles Nest Beach, and extends offshore for approximately 5.5 kms.

Enjoying Bunurong

A scenic coastal drive provides easy access from the adjacent towns of Wonthaggi, Cape Paterson and Inverloch. The Bunurong parks are readily accessible with carparks and beach access tracks provided at popular visitor sites.

Rugged sandstone cliffs along much of the boundary of the park are a striking backdrop for beach activities, featuring sandy coves, rocky headlands, caves and rock pinnacles.

Things to see and do

Diving and Snorkelling

If you can swim, put on mask, snorkel and flippers and venture out into the remarkable world that lies beneath the water's surface. Many areas within the park are suitable for snorkelling, including Harmers Haven with its profusion of large rock pools and The Caves which has a large pool opening out to the sea, accessible at low tide.

Around the rocks at Eagles Nest and Twin Reefs, groups of Port Jackson Sharks rest under the ledges, Rock Lobsters can be seen in the crevices, while Zebra Fish, Sweep and Wrasse dart about the seaweed.



For more information call the Parks Victoria Information Centre on 13 1963 or visit our website at www.parks.vic.gov.au



Healthy Parks
Healthy People

Bunurong Marine National Park / Marine Park / Coastal Reserve



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Data source acknowledgements: State Digital Mapbase. The State of Victoria and Department of Sustainability and Environment.

Cartography by Parks Victoria
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