

Shallow Inlet Marine Coastal Park



Visitor Guide

Nestled between Waratah Bay and the peaks of Wilson Promontory, the sheltered waters of Shallow Inlet provide a secluded and peaceful setting for a range of water based activities.

Location and access

Shallow Inlet Marine and Coastal Park (2,377ha) is located 180 kilometres from Melbourne. The park is accessible from both sides. From Lester Road off the Foster – Promontory Road or via Sandy Point along the Sandy Point Road.

Enjoying the park

Shallow Inlet is popular for a range of water based activities including fishing, swimming, boating and sail boarding.

Camping

While a range of accommodation is available in the surrounding areas, camping is not permitted within the park. A caravan and camping ground is located on the eastern boundary at the end of Lester Road with easy access to the park.

Picnicking

Picnic facilities including BBQ's, tables and toilets are provided on the foreshore neighbouring the Western Beach parking area.

Boating

A boat launch is located at the end of Lester Road and at Western Beach (Sandy Point). All boats (including wind surfers) must travel at less than 5 knots when within 30 metres of people in the water and/or when within 200 metres of the waters edge.

Please take care when boating. Power boats can cause serious damage to the fragile intertidal areas.

Travelling out of Shallow Inlet into the open waters of Waratah Bay can be very dangerous and should only be attempted by experienced individuals in very calm weather. Before boating, please become familiar with local regulations, tides and conditions.

Walking

*Hourigan Lane - Distance 400 metres
Walking time: 15 minutes each way*

This short walk leads through a sheltered gully of coastal tea-tree and swamp paperbark to the sandy tidal flats of Shallow Inlet.

Fishing

A recreational fishing licence is required to take fish (including bait and shellfish) in all Victorian marine, estuary and freshwaters. Licences are available from the Department of Primary Industries and most retail fishing stores, together with the Victorian Recreational Fishing Guide which specifies size limits and seasons for different fish.

Recreational line fishing is popular within the sheltered waters of Shallow Inlet with anglers seeking King George Whiting, Flathead, Trevally and Australian Salmon. Spearing of Flounder by hand held spear is permitted within the park. A bag limit of 5 litres per person per day applies to the collection of Pipsis.

Remnants of history

The Brataualung Aboriginal clan once occupied the area of Wilsons Promontory and Waratah Bay. A large number of coastal middens containing charcoal, stones and the remains of shellfish are located along the coast and around Shallow Inlet and are up to 6000 years old. Earlier sites have been covered by rising sea levels. The Aboriginal population of the area declined from the 1850s after European occupation of their tribal territory, leading to disease, forced evictions and murders.

Settlers established pastoral runs around Shallow Inlet in the 1850s. Land in the catchment of Shallow Inlet was then extensively cleared and drained from the turn of the century. The Shallow Inlet Marine and Coastal Park was declared in 1986 in recognition of the area's habitat values for migratory wading birds and shorebirds.

Geology

Shallow Inlet is a large tidal bay enclosed from the sea by a sand barrier complex of spits, bars and mobile dunes. The sheltered western side of the inlet is dominated by a salt marsh terrace.



For further information

Parks Victoria
Information Centre
Call 13 1963
or visit our website at
www.parks.vic.gov.au

Parks Victoria Foster Office
Main St, Foster

Parks Victoria Yarram Office
Commercial Rd, Yarram

South Gippsland Visitor
Information Centre
Cnr South Gippsland Hwy &
Silkstone Rd, Korumburra
Phone (03) 5655 2233

Caring for the environment

Help us look after your park by following these guidelines:

All plants and animals in the park are protected

Fishing and the collection of shellfish for bait is permitted

Horsesriding in the park is by permit only

Please take your rubbish home

No fires including barbeques may be lit on days of Total Fire Ban

This park is located in the West & South Gippsland Total Fire Ban District

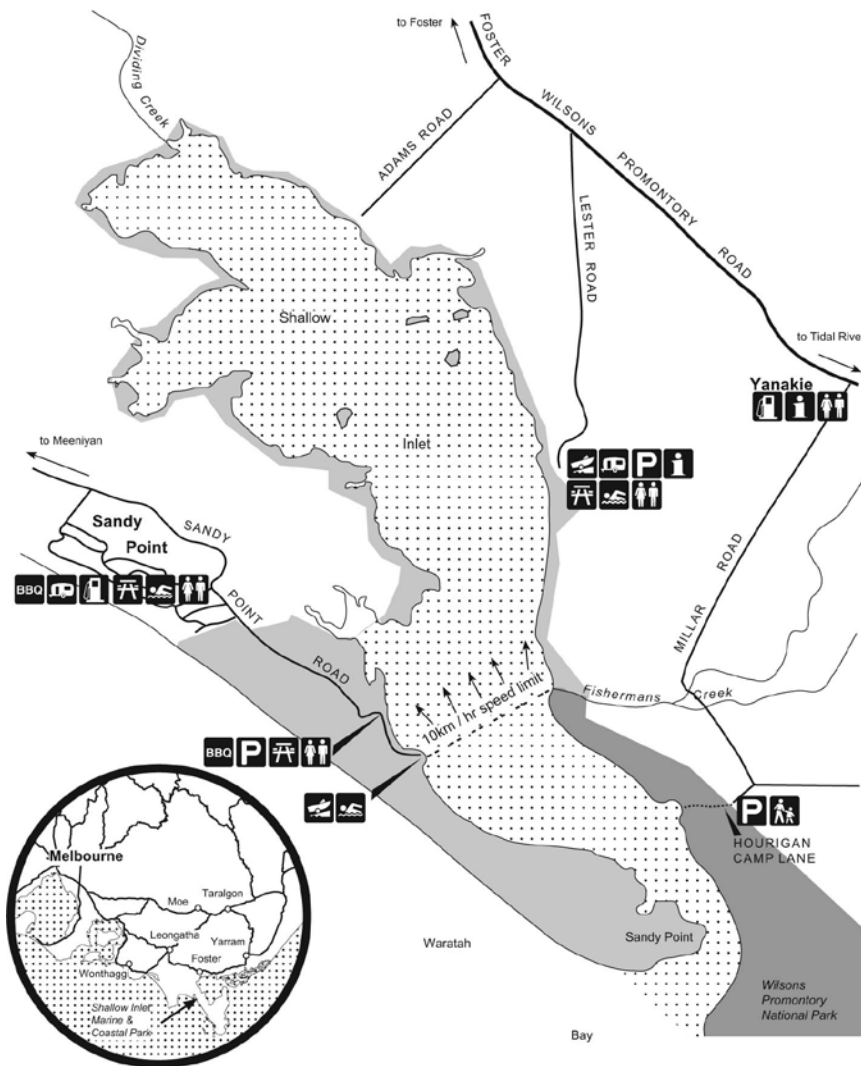
Please take care when boating; power boats can cause serious damage to fragile intertidal areas

Please don't throw this park note away. Keep it, return it for others to use, or recycle it

A haven for plants and animals

The park protects a diverse range of vegetation including foredunes of Spinifex, heathy woodlands of Messmate and Coastal Banksia, Paperbark swamps and saltmarsh communities. Extensive mudflats and intertidal areas are exposed at low tide. These areas provide important feeding grounds for a range of migratory wading birds. Below the waves are extensive seagrass meadows.

Shallow Inlet and the adjacent ocean beaches are significant areas for breeding shorebirds. Over 180 species of birds have been recorded in the park. Many wading birds make spectacular migrations, breeding in the arctic during the northern hemisphere summer and migrating southwards to arrive in Australia in late August and September. Pied Oystercatchers and Red Capped Plovers nest in the dunes and on the spit. A diverse range of mammals including the Koala, Common Ringtail Possum, Common Wombat, Swamp Wallaby and Echidna can be found in the woodlands and heathlands along the shoreline of Shallow Inlet.



Shallow Inlet Marine and Coastal Park

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — — ■ ■ ■ 	<p>Recreational Facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BBQ Barbecue Boat ramp Caravan park P Carpark Fuel Information Picnic area Swimming Toilets Walking track 	<p>0 0.75 1.5 KILOMETRES</p> <p>Cartography by Charles Walsh Nature Tourism Services (8/08)</p>
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