

# Cape Conran Coastal Park



## Visitor Guide

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.



Coastal walking track through heathlands © Robert Anthony

### 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

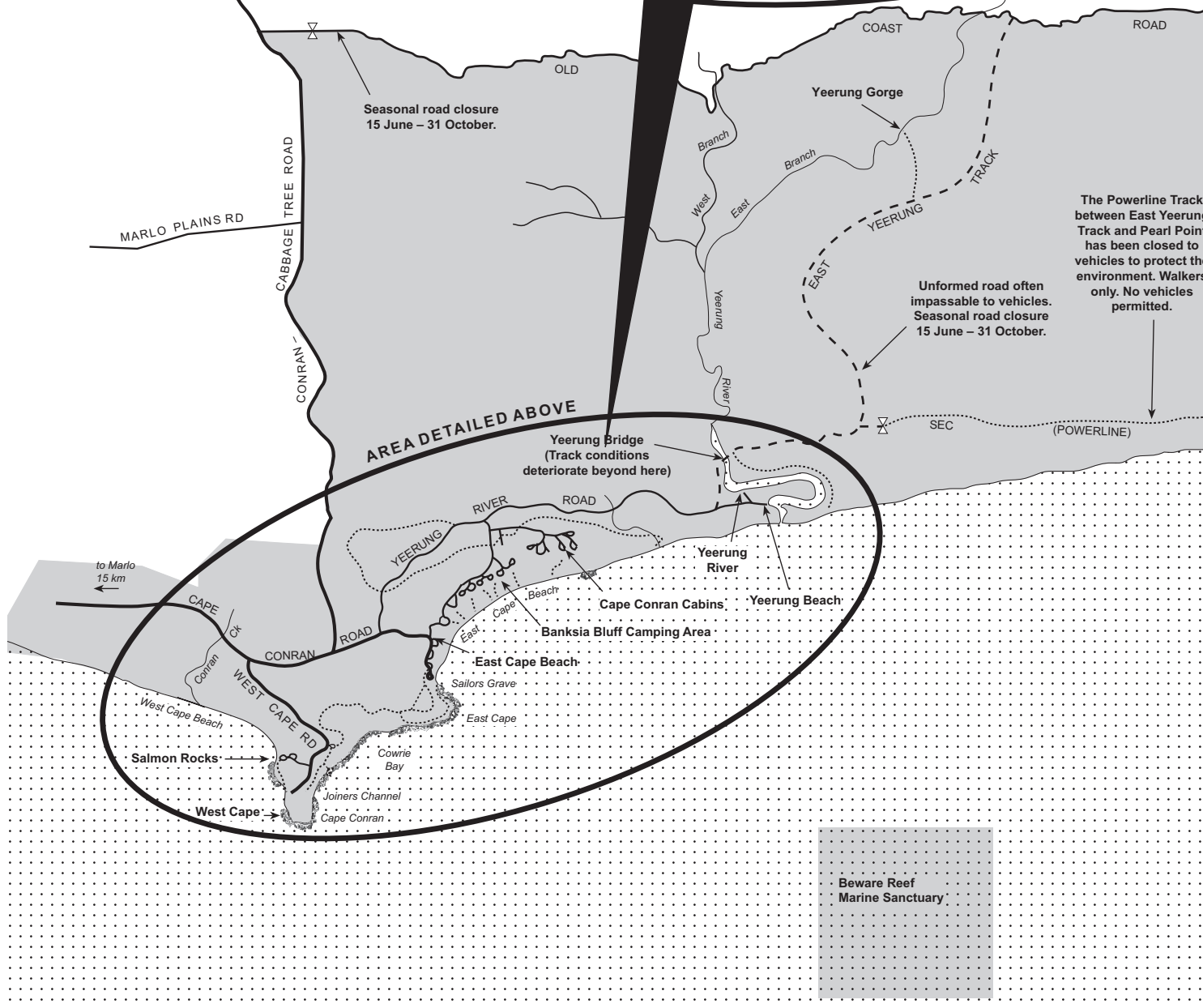
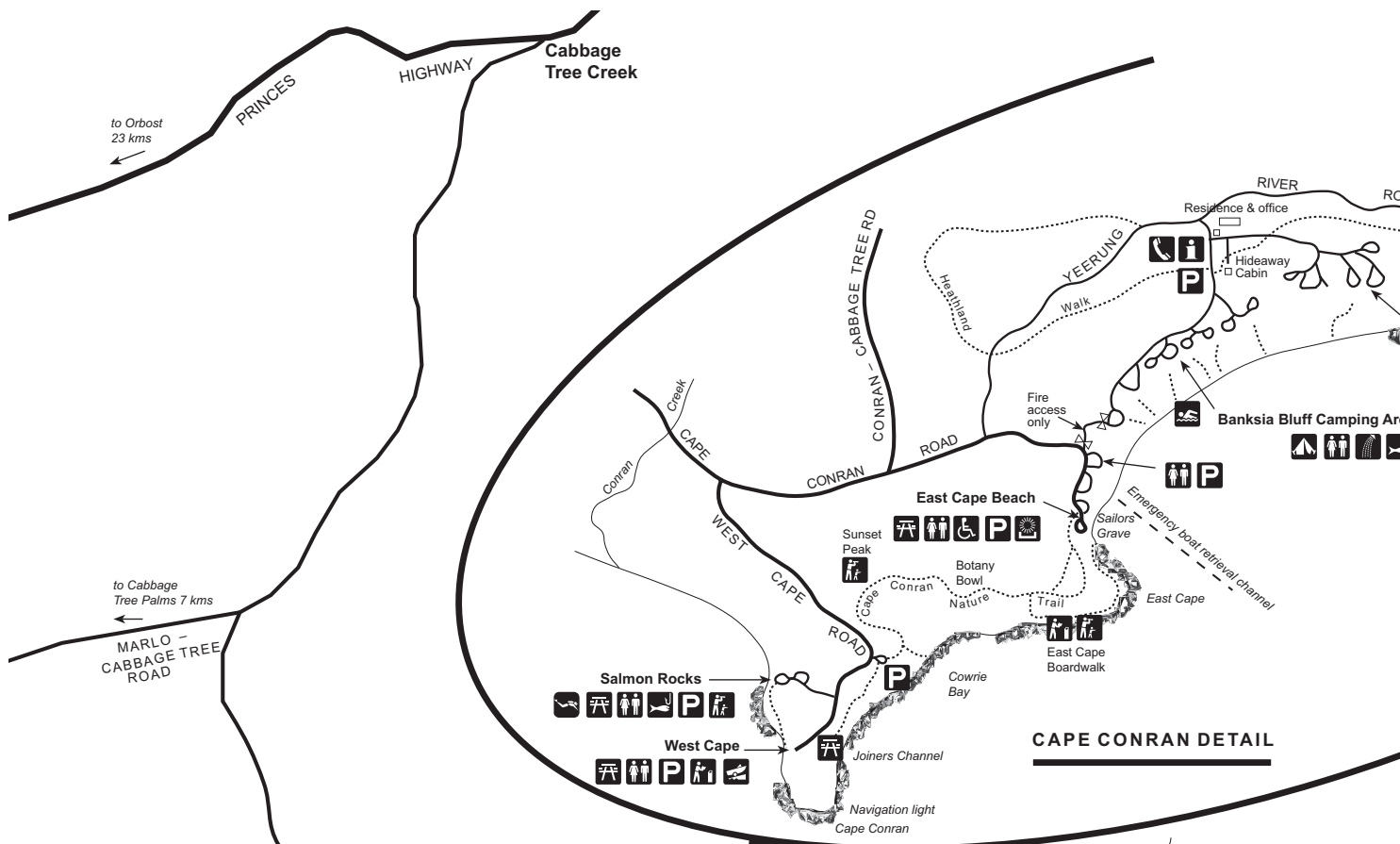
#### Estuary View Trail (1.5 km, 1 hour return)

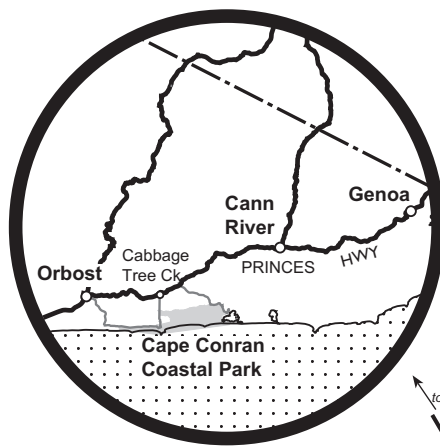
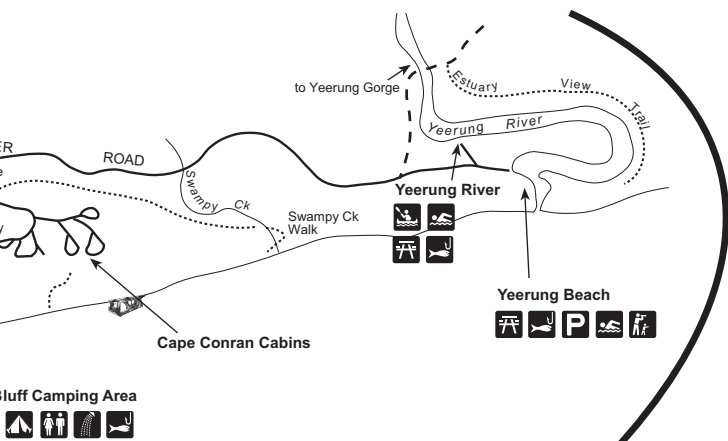
Experience the rich diversity of flora and fauna which is found in the lower reaches of the Yeerung River. A different perspective to the river is especially noticeable at sunset and sunrise when the birds are at their most active and the water is often calm and reflections clear. The track also allows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

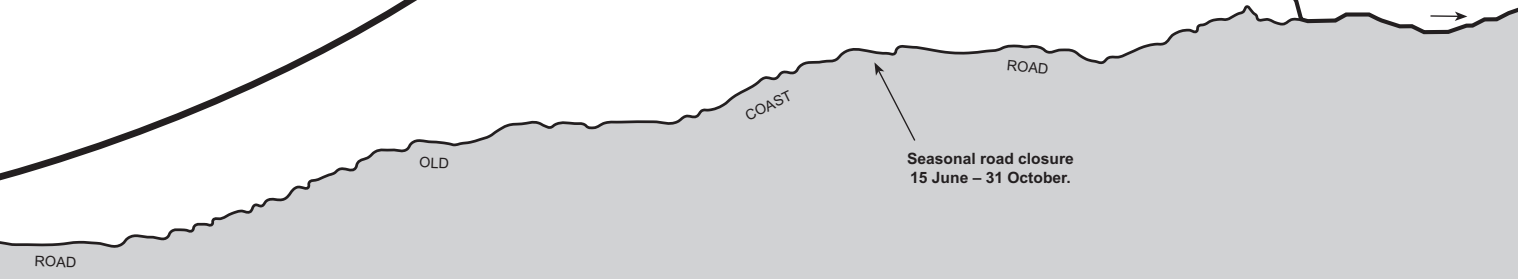
This surprising landform harbours some unusual vegetation associations and contains several deep dark rock pools fed by the babbling East Yeerung River. You can reach the gorge, which is deeply incised into the coastal plain, by crossing the Yeerung Bridge and taking the Powerline Track and the East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





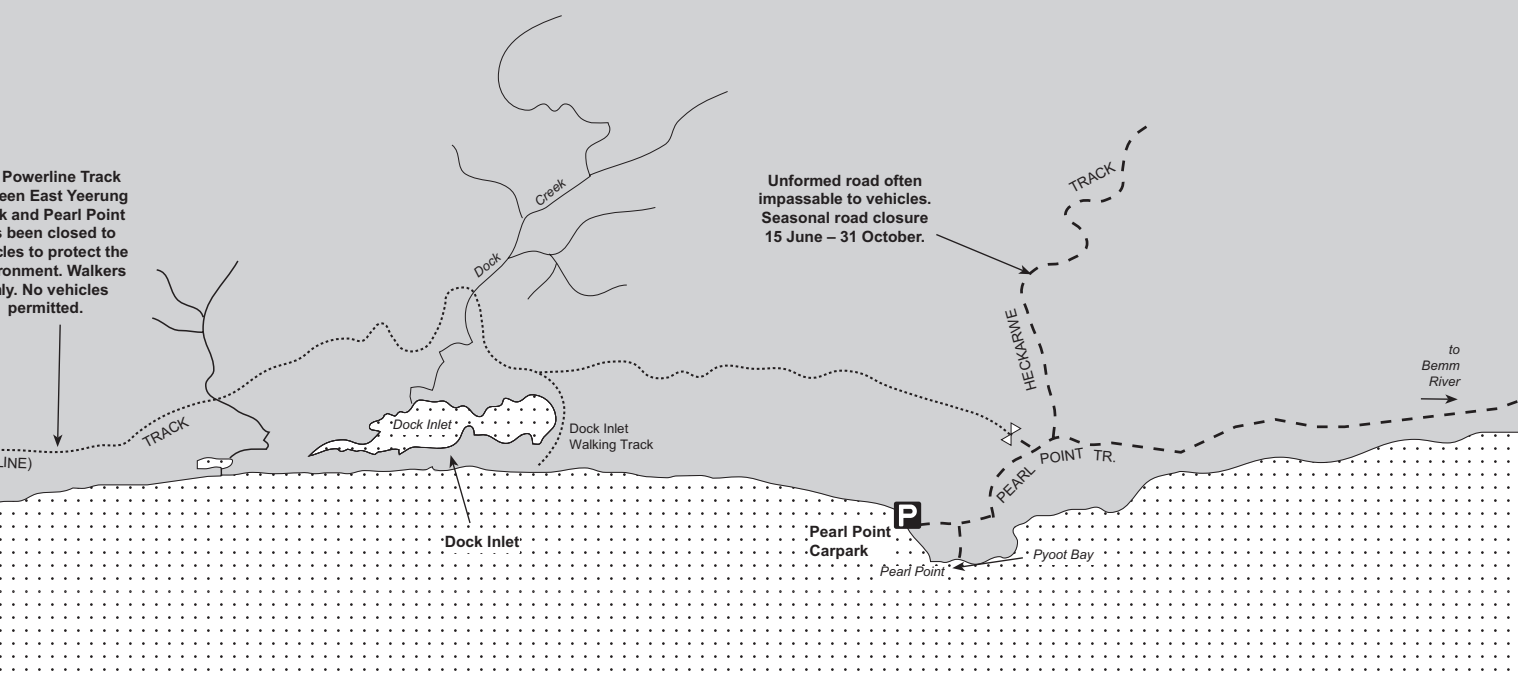


Cliff Camping Area  
 Icons: tent, person, person with gear, person with gear, person with gear



Powerline Track between East Yeerung Creek and Pearl Point has been closed to vehicles to protect the environment. Walkers only. No vehicles permitted.

Unformed road often impassable to vehicles. Seasonal road closure 15 June - 31 October.



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 Park		Shower
	Water body		Scuba diving
			Disabled access
			Swimming
			Boat ramp
			Telephone
			Canoeing
			Fishing
			Carpark
			Gas barbecue

Cartography by Charles Walsh  
 Nature Tourism Services 99/4

## For further information

Parks Victoria  
Information Centre

**Call 13 1963**

or visit our website at

**www.parkweb.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 on days of Total Fire Ban (Eastern 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

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

## 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 (see map).*

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 hang from and feed. Lizards and large Lace Monitor's, otherwise 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.

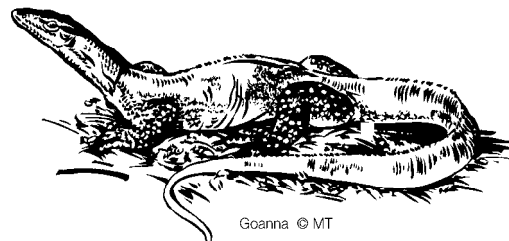
## Nature Trail

**(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.



New Holland Honeyeater/Silver Banksia © MT



Goanna © MT

## Abundant wildlife

Many plants and animals are found at Cape Conran. The Nature Trail Park Note has drawings of some of the common birds, animals and plants as well as the animal tracks and traces to look for. 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.

## A coastal life

The flora and fauna of the coast have many links. Birds and animals feed on plants, and plants rely upon insects and birds for pollination, and the ocean provides food for sea birds, humans and other sea creatures. A complete ecosystem relies upon all of nature working together in harmony to function. The unspoilt nature of Cape Conran is a good example of these inter-relationships between all living things.

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

For further information or a park note on the Beware Reef Marine Sanctuary contact the Orbost Parks Victoria Office on **13 1963** or visit our website **www.parkweb.vic.gov.au**.