

# Mornington Peninsula National Park



## Cape Schanck

Until the 1970s, the Cape Schanck area suffered from overuse; unrestricted access was hastening erosion and facilities were inadequate when the former National Parks Service began to manage the area as part of the Cape Schanck Coastal Park. Today it is managed by Parks Victoria as part of the Mornington Peninsula National Park and extensive work has gone into rehabilitating the area. Main attractions are the light-station, boardwalk to the rock platform and spectacular ocean views from the headlands.

### How to get there

The Mornington Peninsula National Park is 90 kilometres south of Melbourne. The eastern part of the park, including Cape Schanck, can be reached from Boneo (Rosebud-Flinders) Road.

### Things to see and do

Since the early 1980s, the Victorian Government has devoted resources to protecting the cape and improving visitor facilities. Eroded areas have been thatched for protection and revegetated with local plants, and timber steps and boardwalks built to provide access to the beach and rock platform. In December 1988, the area became part of the national park.

Enjoy exploring the area but please keep to the tracks to minimise damage to the fragile coastal vegetation, which has to battle salt spray, strong winds and eroding soil. A small kiosk operates and fees apply for entry into the light-station precinct.

The area has 4 popular places of interest:

#### 1. The Cape

Follow the walking track from the kiosk towards the cape. This short circuit walk takes visitors to the start of the wooden staircase and boardwalk which descends to the pebble beach and rock platform. Several lookouts provide spectacular views over the geological formations called Pulpit Rock and the Devils Desk, which were created by volcanic activity over millions of years. Please take care on the rock platform as large unexpected waves may wash across the rocks.

#### 2. Cape Schanck Light-station

This light-station includes a lighthouse, museum and former lighthouse keeper's residence. The buildings were constructed from 1859 and are an

excellent example of the architecture of the day. Site entry fees apply for the lightstation precinct, including the museum and grounds. Guided tours are held daily (fees apply). Overnight accommodation is available in the residences. Book by phoning 1300 885 259.

#### 3. Bushrangers Bay

Follow the 2.6km Bushrangers Bay Track from the car park to see some of the best coastal scenery near Melbourne. This section of the park was purchased from abutting farms in 1977. The track finishes at beautiful Bushrangers Bay, a sandy beach surrounded by basalt cliffs. Swimming is hazardous at the unpatrolled beach due to strong rips and large waves. A guide to this nature walk is available at the kiosk for a small fee.

An extension to the track, along Main Creek, is part of the Two Bays Walking Track and leads to Boneo Road car park and picnic area (2.5km). This track provides fine views and passes through shady Banksia groves before continuing northwards across the road and through stands of Eucalypt and Banksia towards Greens Bush (10km).

#### 4. Fingal Picnic Area and Fingal Beach

Enjoy a picnic in the peaceful Fingal Picnic Area located 2km north of the cape. Electric barbecues, toilets, tables and a ball games area are provided. This area was subdivided for housing but was re-purchased by the government from 1974 to 1977. Walking tracks lead to nearby lookouts with spectacular views of basalt cliffs and Fingal Beach which is exposed at low tide. The return walk is 3km and access to the beach is via a steep staircase which may not be suitable for visitors with low mobility. A longer 5km walk to the northern Gunnamatta Surf Beach is also available from the Fingal Picnic Area.



# Cape Schanck Area Walking Tracks

Melway Map 258

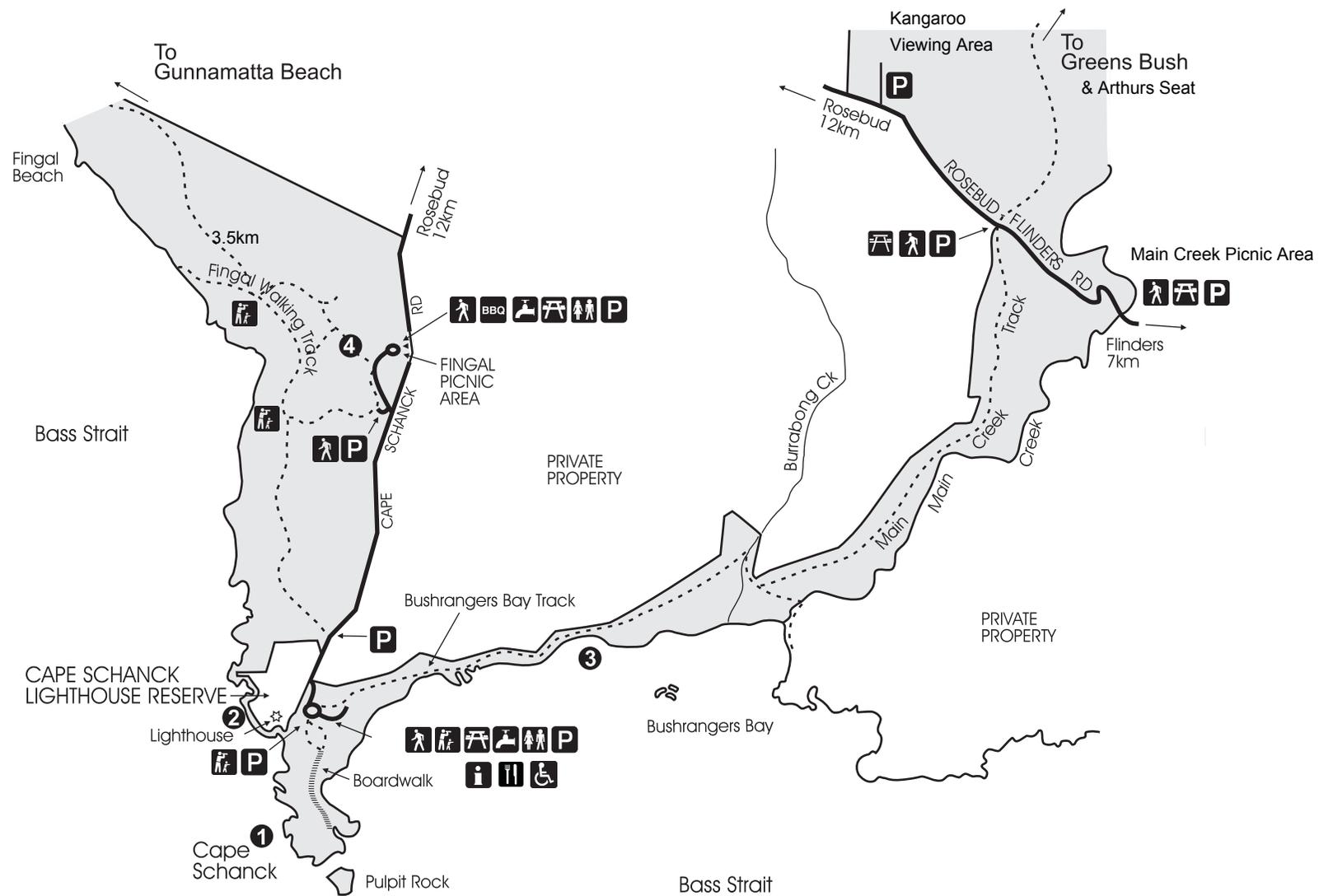
## LEGEND

 Mornington Peninsula National Park

-  Walking Tracks
-  Lookout
-  Picnic Tables
-  Barbecues
-  Water
-  Parking
-  Toilets
-  Kiosk
-  Information

## WALKING TRACKS

- 1** The Cape
- 2** Cape Schanck Lighthouse
- 3** Bushrangers Bay
- 4** Fingal Beach



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