

# Patterson River

## Rip Danger

Strong tidal and river currents can occur close to the entrance of Patterson River.

The beach area here can appear calm and inviting, but strong bay tidal currents, deep water in the dredged channel and the outflow of the river can be dangerous.

### Swim between the flags!

The safest place to swim in the Patterson River area is between the flags at the Carrum or Bonbeach Life Saving Clubs. When the flags are in place the beach is patrolled and First Aid facilities are available. Carrum also has ample parking and the only public toilet along the beach front. Children should be supervised at all times when at the beach, even when swimming between the flags.

### Do not swim in the boating channel

Swimming in the boating channel is an offence under the Marine Act.

Patterson River is a major recreational boating waterway and access point to Port Phillip Bay. Approximately 50,000 boats are launched and retrieved each year from four boat ramps at Launching Way. Additionally, the Patterson River residential area has more than 700 private berths and The Patterson Lakers Marina holds a further 500 boats in dry stack or wet berths.

Boating traffic and the size of the boats has increased over the years as well as the danger to swimmers. The boating channel extends from the yellow channel marker 200 metres offshore to behind the railway bridge.

### Transit Lane and No Personal Water Craft Zones

These rules are intended to separate swimmers from powerboats.

In January 2001 a Transit Lane was introduced, extending from the offshore marker pile to the end of Ramp Four at Launching Way. This rule allows boats to enter and leave the channel but not to circulate within it, blocking traffic.

No Personal Water Craft (PWC) Zones were also established in 2001 and these extend from North and South of the river entrance to the No Boating areas at the Carrum and Bonbeach Life Saving Clubs. PWC must leave the channel and cannot return to shore until past the second yellow pile marker, both North and South of Patterson River.

### Things to see and do

The river itself offers over six kilometres of fishing, boating, bike-riding and walking along its banks. There are free BBQs and birdlife to enjoy. Try walking around the river using the two pedestrian bridges at each end.

The local beaches away from the river mouth are treasured by local residents as their greatest asset. They drop away in depth gradually making them ideal family destinations. Enjoy them safely.

### Safety Tips







- Always swim or surf at places patrolled by lifesavers
- Swim between the red and yellow flags
- Always swim under supervision or with a friend
- Read and obey the signs
- Do not swim directly after a meal
- Do not swim under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- If you are unsure of conditions, ask a lifesaver
- Conditions change regularly, check before you enter the water
- If you get into trouble, use the Relax, Raise and Rescue principles
- Float with the rip, don't try to swim against it
- Diving from any structure into Patterson River is illegal, dangerous and may cause permanent spinal injury. Never dive anywhere if you are unsure of what is beneath the water's surface.

### Further Information

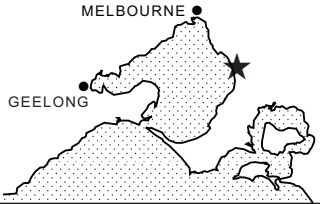
For further information call the Parks Victoria Information Centre on 13 1963 or visit [www.parkweb.vic.gov.au](http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au)



**Patterson River**

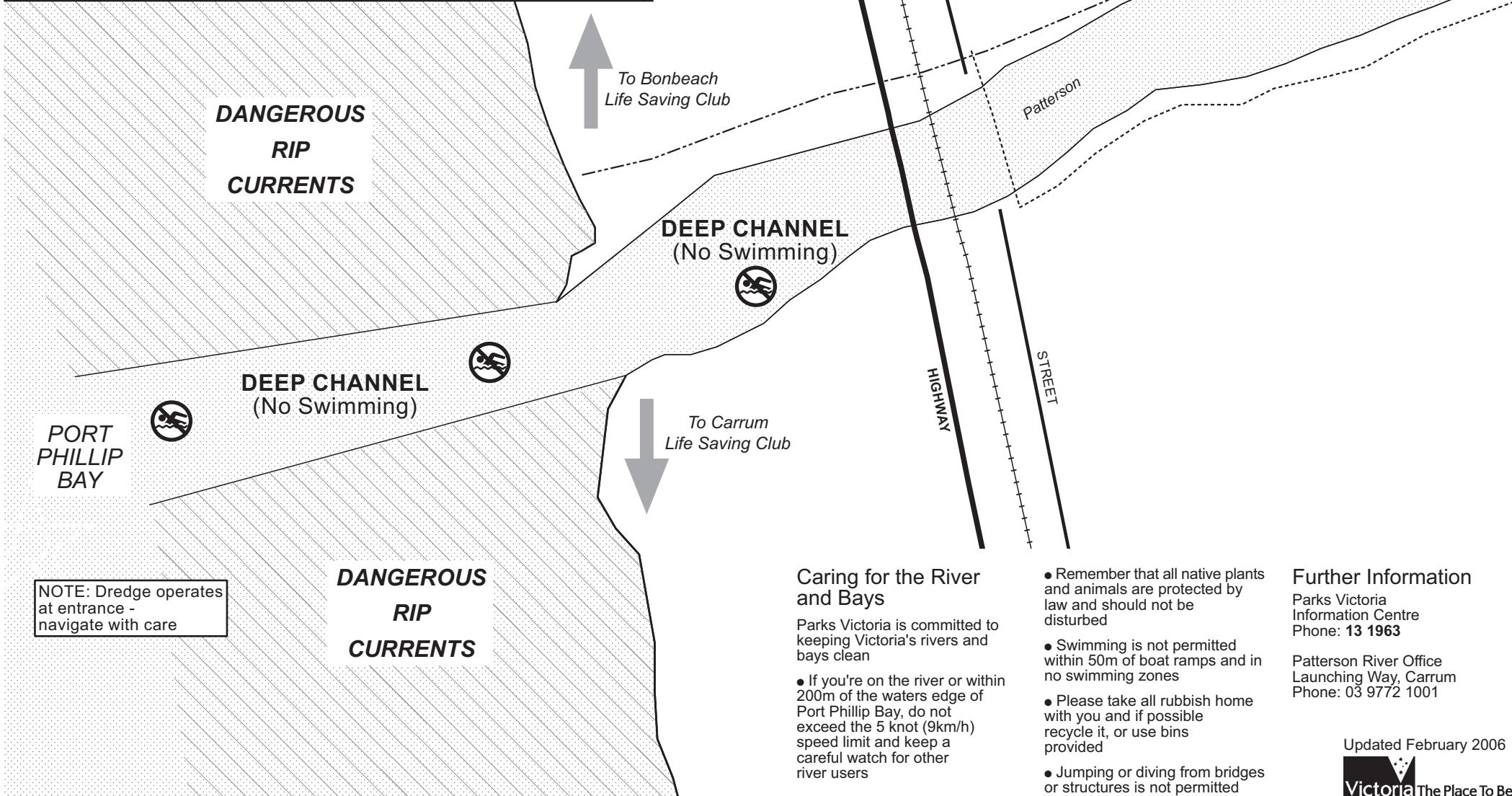
	Highway		No Personal Watercraft
	Sealed road		Water body
	Bicycle path		No Swimming

Map updated February 2006



MELBOURNE  
GEELONG

0 50 100  
METRES  
Cartography by Spatial Vision  
M/6932



**Caring for the River and Bays**

Parks Victoria is committed to keeping Victoria's rivers and bays clean

- If you're on the river or within 200m of the waters edge of Port Phillip Bay, do not exceed the 5 knot (9km/h) speed limit and keep a careful watch for other river users

- Remember that all native plants and animals are protected by law and should not be disturbed

- Swimming is not permitted within 50m of boat ramps and in no swimming zones

- Please take all rubbish home with you and if possible recycle it, or use bins provided

- Jumping or diving from bridges or structures is not permitted

**Further Information**

Parks Victoria  
Information Centre  
Phone: 13 1963

Patterson River Office  
Launching Way, Carrum  
Phone: 03 9772 1001

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