

# Cape Liptrap Coastal Park



## Visitor Guide

Stretching along the coast from the sand barrier of Point Smythe to the sheltered waters of Waratah Bay and Venus Bay, Cape Liptrap Coastal Park has strikingly beautiful scenery. The coastal park transforms from being a peaceful coastal area to wild, windy and awe inspiring in stormy weather. Whatever the season, Cape Liptrap Coastal Park is worth exploring.

### Finding your way

Cape Liptrap Coastal Park is 4,175 ha in size and situated 160 kilometres south east of Melbourne. It is reached from the South Gippsland Highway at Leongatha or the Bass Highway from Inverloch.

### Things to see and do

#### Walking

##### 1. Point Smythe Walk (6 km circuit, 2 hours)

This circuit walk takes you through thick coastal vegetation and onto the beach at Point Smythe. The track is particularly sheltered on windy days.

##### 2. Anderson Inlet Walk (2 km, 40 minutes one way)

This track follows the southern edge of Anderson Inlet east to the carpark at Doyles Road. The track takes you along the intertidal mudflats where you can see a great variety of marine plants and animals including mangroves rich with bird life.

##### 3. Lime Burners Walk (750 metres, 15 minutes one way)

This track links the north and south settlements of Walkerville through stands of Drooping She-oak, past cliffs and the ruins of lime kilns. A short side track leads to the historic Walkerville Cemetery.

##### 4. Overlook Walk (1.2 km, 45 minutes one way)

This track links the caravan park at Walkerville North with the Prom View Estate. The track leads through coastal woodlands with a diverse understorey. A side track (700 metres) leads to a viewing platform overlooking Waratah Bay with the peaks of Wilsons Promontory as a backdrop.

#### Other walks

A variety of coastal walks exist along the shoreline between Venus Bay and Waratah Bay. Short walks are also available at Bald Hills and Kings Flat Reserves

The coast between Venus Bay and Walkerville is very rocky and access is very dependent on the tides.

Do not start a walk in this area any earlier than two hours before a low tide and aim to finish a walk no later than two hours after low tide. Tide times are the same as for Port Phillip Heads.

Fire access tracks can be used to explore extensive heathlands and woodlands of the sheltered gullies and hills behind Walkerville and Waratah Bay.

When walking always remember to wear a hat, sunscreen, shirt and sunglasses, to take plenty of drinking water, and to check tide times.

#### Swimming

The broad sandy ocean beaches of Venus Bay are popular for swimming and surfing. Swimmers must be careful as strong currents and rips occur along this section of the coast. Venus Bay No. 1 Beach is patrolled by surf lifesavers during the summer months.

#### Camping

Camping is available in the park at Bear Gully where shady campsites are set right on the shore of Waratah Bay. Campers should be self-sufficient and bring their own firewood and drinking water. Advance booking and payment required year round. Book at [www.parks.vic.gov.au/stay](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au/stay) or call Parks Victoria on 13 1963.

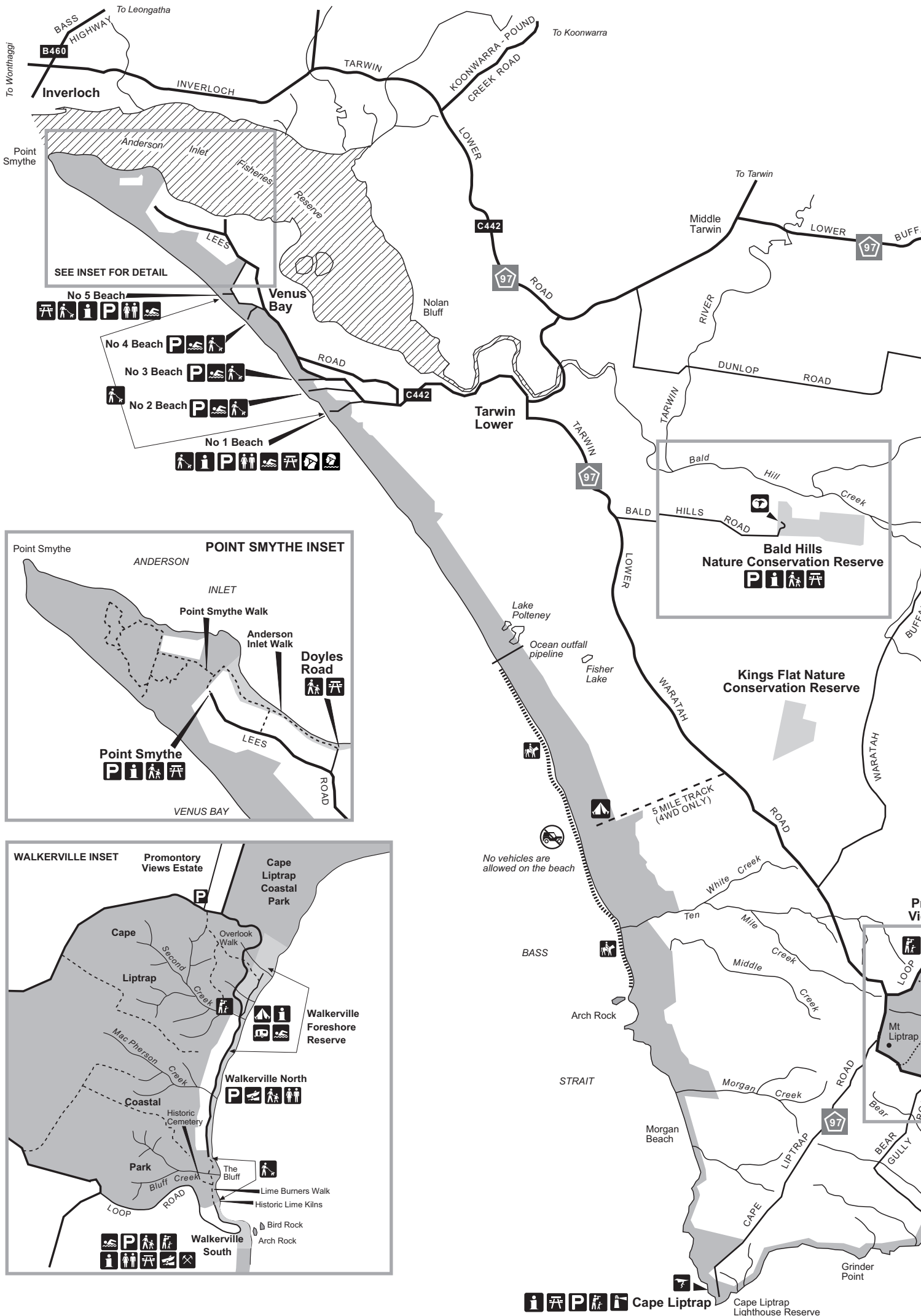
Camping facilities are also provided at caravan parks at Walkerville North and Waratah Bay.

#### Horseriding

Horseriding is permitted within the park on the intertidal area of beach below the high water mark between the ocean outfall pipeline and Arch Rock. Access to the beach is via the Five Mile Track. A permit is required, which is available from the Foster Office.

#### Fishing and boating

Recreational line fishing is popular from the beaches and rocks with the area offering a large variety of fish.



SEE INSET FOR DETAIL

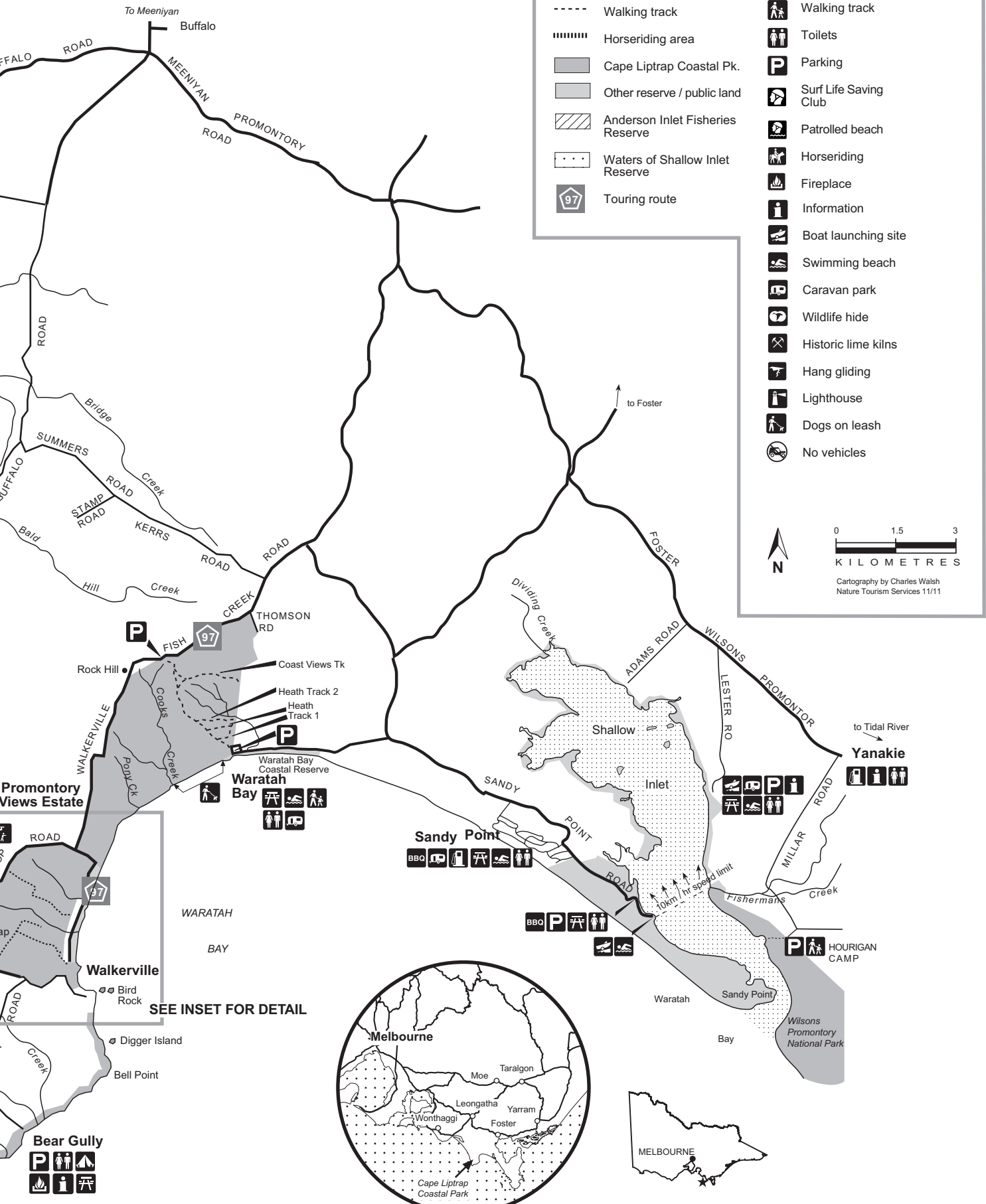
**Bald Hills Nature Conservation Reserve**  
 P i A

**Kings Flat Nature Conservation Reserve**

**POINT SMYTHE INSET**  
 Point Smythe  
 ANDERSON INLET  
 Point Smythe Walk  
 Anderson Inlet Walk  
 Doyles Road  
 LEES ROAD  
 VENUS BAY  
 Point Smythe  
 P i A

**WALKERVILLE INSET**  
 Promontory Views Estate  
 Cape Liptrap Coastal Park  
 Cape Liptrap  
 Overlook Walk  
 Second Creek  
 MacPherson Creek  
 Coastal Park  
 Historic Cemetery  
 Bluff Creek  
 The Bluff  
 Lime Burners Walk  
 Historic Lime Kilns  
 Bird Rock  
 Arch Rock  
 Walkerville North  
 Walkerville South  
 Walkerville Foreshore Reserve  
 P i A

**Cape Liptrap**  
 Cape Liptrap Lighthouse Reserve



**Legend**

- Sealed road
- Unsealed road
- Vehicular track
- Walking track
- Horseriding area
- Cape Liptrap Coastal Pk.
- Other reserve / public land
- Anderson Inlet Fisheries Reserve
- Waters of Shallow Inlet Reserve
- Touring route

**Recreational Facilities**

- Camping
- Lookout
- Picnic area
- Walking track
- Toilets
- Parking
- Surf Life Saving Club
- Patrolled beach
- Horseriding
- Fireplace
- Information
- Boat launching site
- Swimming beach
- Caravan park
- Wildlife hide
- Historic lime kilns
- Hang gliding
- Lighthouse
- Dogs on leash
- No vehicles



Cartography by Charles Walsh  
Nature Tourism Services 11/11



SEE INSET FOR DETAIL

**Bear Gully**

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## For further information

Parks Victoria  
Information Centre  
**Call 13 1963**  
or visit our website at  
[www.parks.vic.gov.au](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au)

Park Office  
Cnr Victory Ave &  
McDonald St  
Foster VIC 3960

South Gippsland  
Visitor Information Centre  
South Gippsland Highway  
Korumburra VIC 3950  
**Ph. 1800 630 704**

## Caring for the 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

Bins are not provided within the park. Please take your rubbish home with you

Vehicles, including trail bikes, may only be driven or ridden on formed roads open to the public, and must be fully road registered. Drivers and riders must hold a current licence

Campfires are only permitted in designated fireplaces at Bear Gully.

No fires, including liquid fuel stoves, may be lit on days of Total Fire Ban

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

Do not pollute streams or rivers with refuse, detergents or human waste

Dogs are permitted on some of the beaches within the park, but must be on a leash at all times. Time restrictions apply over summer

Collection of gemstones is permitted from beaches within the park

## 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!*



PIPIS: Limits and conditions apply to pipi collection and these limits are regularly reviewed by the Department of Primary Industries. For more information contact DPI on 13 6186 or visit [www.dpi.vic.gov.au](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au), or refer to the current Victorian Recreational Fishing Guide. A recreational fishing licence is required to collect pipis from Victorian Beaches.

**MOLLUSC NO TAKE ZONE:** All molluscs (commonly called shellfish) in the intertidal zone between Point Smythe and Arch Rock are protected, except for pipis (see above), squid, cuttlefish, octopus and squitters.

A recreational fishing licence is required to take fish (including bait and shellfish) in all Victorian marine, estuary and freshwaters. The Victorian Recreational Fishing Guide specifies bag limits and seasons for different fish.

Boats can only be launched within the park from the beach at Walkerville. All boats must travel at less than 5 knots when within 200 m of the shore.

## Dogs

Dogs are permitted in the following areas of Cape Liptrap Coastal Park:

- between Walkerville North and Walkerville South.
- between Venus Bays No. 1 and No. 5 Beaches.
- between Waratah Bay township and Cooks Creek.

Dogs in the above areas must be on a lead at all times and are prohibited from these areas between 9 am and 6 pm from 1 December until 31 March. Dogs are prohibited in all other areas of the park.

## Remnants of the past

The Gunai/Kurnai and Boonwurriny indigenous people have inhabited this area for over 6,000 years. Axes and other stone tools were made from quartzite and jasper gathered from Cape Liptrap, chipped to a sharp edge and ground with sandstone. Middens containing charcoal, stone flints and the remains of shellfish mark the location of camps along the coast.

The small township and bustling port of Waratah (now Walkerville) operated from 1875 to 1926 to supply lime to the Melbourne building industry.

Limestone mined from the cliffs was burnt with firewood in brick lined kilns to produce quick lime. The lime was then bagged and hauled in tram carts along a 350 metre jetty which once stretched out into the bay to waiting ships. Relics of the lime industry remain in the park including the ruins of the kilns in the cliffs at Walkerville South.

A lighthouse was established at Cape Liptrap in 1913 to improve the safety of coastal shipping

The light is still in operation and has a range of 18 nautical miles (over 34 kilometres).

## Rich in plants and wildlife

Cape Liptrap Coastal Park features extensive coastal heathlands of Scented Paperbark, Common Heath, Scrub She-oak, Dwarf She-oak, Pink Swamp-heath, Prickly Teatree, Silver Banksia and Bushy Hakea.

Thickets of Coast Teatree together with stands of Coast Banksia are found at Point Smythe and along the coastal sand dunes. Open forests of Manna Gum and Messmate Stringybark occur in the southern half of the park.

These forests are important as they include tree hollows which provide nesting sites for a variety of birds and mammals.

The Common Brushtail Possum, Ringtail Possum, Sugar Glider and Powerful Owl are nocturnal, resting during the day in tree hollows and emerging only at night to feed under the cover of darkness. The extensive heathlands near Walkerville are home to the Southern Emu Wren and a diverse range of Honeyeaters.

The park echoes to the calls of the Eastern Whipbird, Crimson Rosella and Pied Currawong. Along the coast you may see Pacific Gulls, Silver Gulls, Sooty Oyster Catchers and Herons feeding on the beach and rock platforms or Cormorants and Australian Gannets diving for fish. The park is also home to the Common Wombat, Swamp Wallaby, Koala, Echidna and the rare Swamp Antechinus.

## Geological matters

Ranging from exposures of metamorphic rocks to recent sand deposits, the park has one of the most interesting and complex geological sequences in Victoria. Diverse land forms feature along the coast including rock platforms, steep cliffs, sea caves, stacks and sandy beaches.

Cape Liptrap is a narrow peninsula formed by the spine of the Hoddle Range running out to sea. It consists of steep cliffs of folded marine sediments flanked by rock pinnacles and wave cut platforms.

Between Venus Bay and Cape Liptrap, the coast varies between attractive cliffs of dune limestone with rock stacks and pebble beaches, to broad sandy beached backed by high dunes.

Mudstone, shale and sandstone, together with fossil-rich limestone outcrop within the low cliffs at Bell Point and Walkerville South, while gemstones such as jasper and serpentine are often found in the sheltered coves.