

Croajingolong National Park



Mallacoota Inlet Visitor Guide

The coastal township of Mallacoota is surrounded by Croajingolong National Park, with breathtaking views, sandy beaches, colourful heathlands, tall eucalypt forests and small pockets of ancient rainforest. A popular holiday destination, Mallacoota Inlet provides many opportunities for boating, fishing, walking, picnics and a variety of other outdoor activities.

Location and access

Mallacoota is located in Far East Gippsland and surrounded by Croajingolong National Park. You can access the town and the Inlet from the Princes Hwy at Genoa not far from the NSW border.

Things to see and do

Picnicking

There are picnic facilities at various locations around Mallacoota Inlet, some of which are only accessible by boat. Free gas barbeques are provided at Gravelly Point, Captain Creek and Cape Horn picnic areas. Minimal firewood is provided at other picnic sites around the Inlet. Fresh water is not available at these sites so bring as much as you will need for the day. Picnic areas are also provided on the picturesque Betka River, at Betka Beach and at Double Creek at the commencement of the nature trail. Rubbish bins are not provided at any of these locations so please take your rubbish away with you.

Snorkelling

There are some fantastic opportunities to explore the underwater world around Mallacoota. The rocks off Bastion Point and Quarry Beach feature an amazing array of seaweed that is home to numerous marine creatures.

Camping

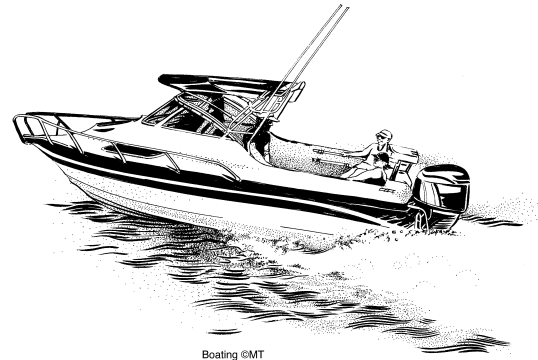
Camping is not permitted around the Mallacoota Inlet, but there are campsites in Croajingolong National Park and the Mallacoota Township.

Canoeing

The Mallacoota Inlet and the lower sections of the Betka, Genoa and Wallagaraugh Rivers are ideal for canoeing.

Boating

There are many spectacular areas around the Mallacoota Inlet and along the Wallagaraugh and Genoa Rivers which can be explored by boat. There are launching ramps at Karbeethong, Mallacoota and Gipsy Point, with an effluent disposal facility located at the Karbeethong Public Jetty.



Boating ©MT

When boating, steer clear of sand bars, particularly in the Bottom Lake. It is generally advisable to use the main channels as detailed on the enclosed map. The islands located in the Mallacoota Inlet are utilised as nesting sites by coastal and wading birds. In order to provide safe and undisturbed nesting habitat, please do not land on the islands between October and February.

Make sure your vessel is seaworthy and you are carrying all the required safety gear. Let someone know where you are going.

Fishing

Fishing is permitted within the Croajingolong National Park excluding Marine National Parks. A number of different surf and estuary fish species may be caught. Please note spear fishing is prohibited in the Mallacoota Lakes.

A Victorian Recreational Fishing Licence is required to fish in all Victorian waters.



For further information
Parks Victoria
Information Line
13 1963

or visit our website at
www.parks.vic.gov.au

Mallacoota Office
PO Box 179
Cnr Allan & Buckland Drives
Mallacoota VIC 3892
Cann River Office
PO Box 79
Princes Hwy
Cann River VIC 3890

Caring for the environment
Help us look after your park by
remembering these guidelines:

All native plants, animals,
cultural and historic features are
protected

Please take rubbish away with
you for recycling and disposal

Pets and firearms are not
permitted

Solid fuel fires may only be lit in
the fireplaces provided

No fires including gas and fuel
stoves may be lit on days of

Total Fire Ban

Please do not use soaps,
detergents and toothpaste in
streams and waterways as they
are a source of drinking water
for others. Dispose of any dirty
water away from watercourses

Please do not handle or feed
wildlife as it fosters dependence
and may cause disease

Road closures apply to all
vehicles

When cleaning fish in the park,
please wrap the waste and
dispose of properly. You can
help us care for the park by
ensuring that you remove all
entangled line, bait bags and
rubbish when you leave

Warnings

Croajingolong National Park is
in the East Gippsland Total Fire
Ban District. It is your
responsibility to know if it is a
day of Total Fire Ban. If in doubt
call the

Victorian Bushfire Information
Line: 1800 240 667.

Park closures

Be prepared to leave early as
extreme weather may cause the
closure of some park areas for
public safety

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!*



A haven for plants...

Many plants common in the coastal vegetation of New South Wales have their most southerly occurrence in the eastern corner of Victoria. The small pockets of warm temperate rainforest, usually found in wet, shaded gullies, are dominated by Lillypilly, Kanooka and Sweet Pittosporum. From the canopy of these trees, the delicate flowers of the Clematis vines can be seen during spring. Orchids and ferns growing on the trunks and branches of large trees are another feature of the rainforest. The rainforest is usually surrounded by a fringe of tall Mountain Grey Gum forest which has a dense scrubby understorey of tree daisy and native grasses.

Open eucalypt forests cover most of the slopes and ridges around Mallacoota. Around the Inlet the most common trees are Bloodwood and Angophora. Farther away from the coast, Silvertop, White and Yellow Stringybarks become the dominant trees. Some of the easier to recognise shrub-layer plants include Banksia, Geebung and Wattles. The diverse ground layer species create a beautiful display during spring featuring Common Heath, Purple Flags and Chocolate Lilies.

From late winter to early summer the coastal heathlands are ablaze with colour. In this harsh environment some of the plants which dominate are the Grass Tree, Scrub She-oak, Prickly Teatree and Pink Swamp Heath. Many small but fascinating orchids can be seen in the heaths and forests from mid winter to mid spring.

Most of the mammals in Croajingolong National Park are nocturnal. The Brush-tailed and Common Ringtailed possums can easily be found at night, but the Eastern Pygmy Possum is more difficult to spot. Mouse-sized, it is an insect and nectar feeder and sleeps in old bird nests, under bark or in tree hollows. The largest mammal, the Eastern Grey Kangaroo, can occasionally be seen grazing towards evening and in the early morning in open areas adjacent to bushland.

Around the jetties and picnic areas you may see large Goannas. They are scavengers and mainly eat carrion, but sometimes raid birds' nests for eggs. The Eastern Water Dragon is another common lizard in the area. It basks on logs and rocks along streams then disappears with a splash when disturbed

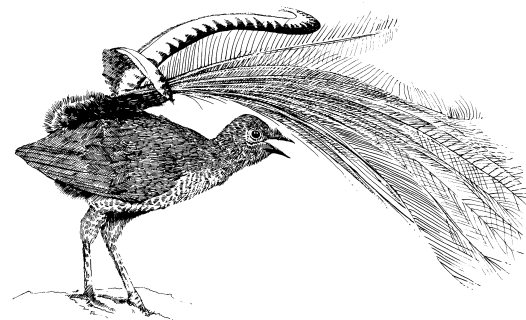


Common Brush-tailed Possum © MT

The many environments around Mallacoota Inlet support a great variety of birds. Along the beach, tiny Dotterels scurry furiously and Pied and Sooty Oyster Catchers feed along the shore-line. Crested Terns fly gracefully as they skim the water and dive for fish.

Goodwin Sands is home to waders and waterbirds, such as Pelicans, Cormorants and Eastern Curlews. White Breasted Sea Eagles are often seen around Gipsy Point or the Top Lake. The colourful Azure Kingfisher swiftly darts along the creeks and moist gullies.

Lyrebirds methodically scratch at the soil in the moist gullies looking for grubs. The loud mimicry of the Lyrebird is probably the most remarkable song of all birds. During the summer months you may hear the noisy chatter of the flocks of brilliantly coloured Rainbow Lorikeets as they feed on Bloodwood and Banksia blossoms.



Early beginnings

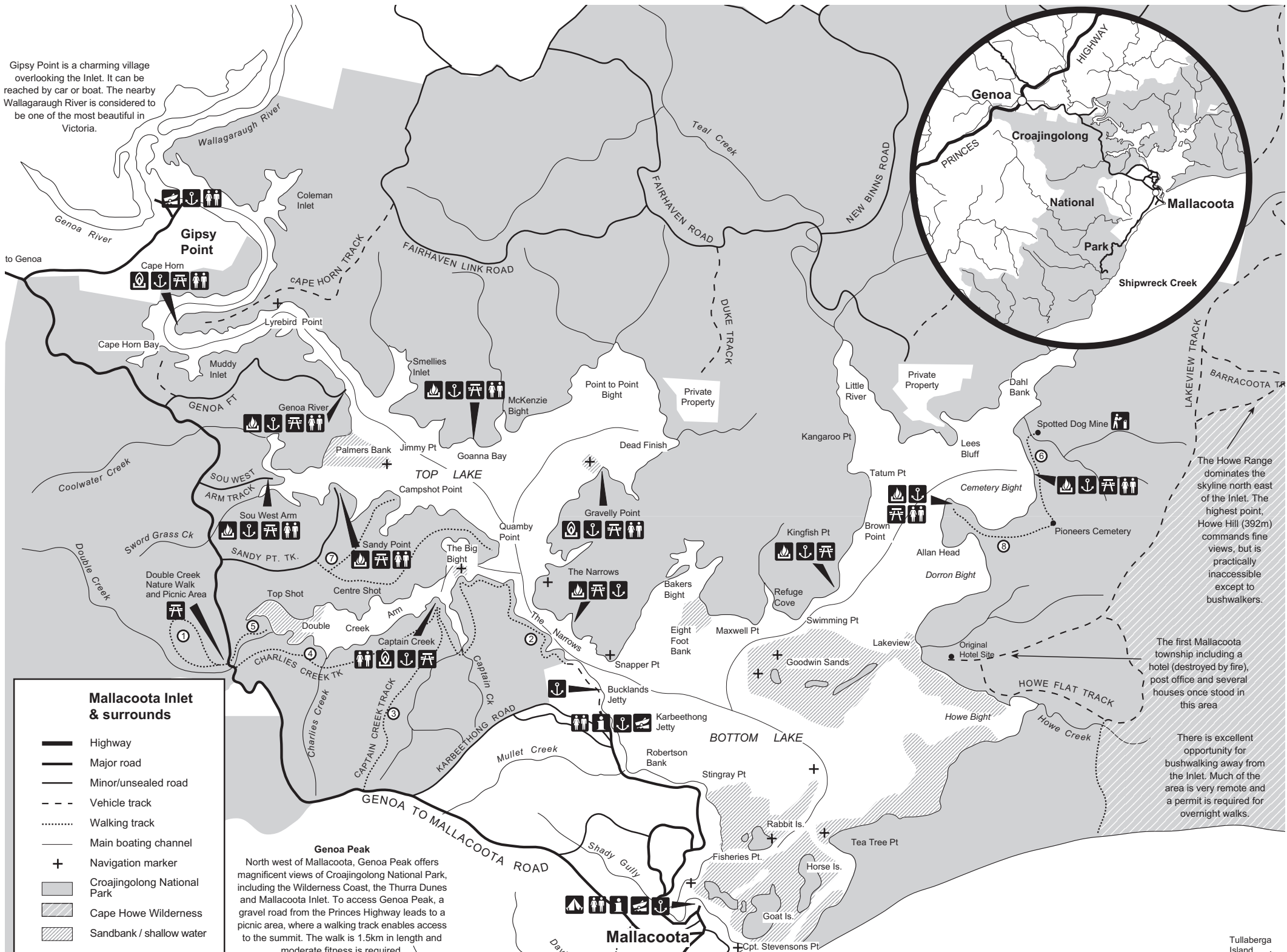
Mallacoota has a long history of Aboriginal occupation. It is believed that the name Croajingolong is derived from 'Krauatungalong', the Aboriginal clan of the Ben-Kurnai tribe that inhabited this area of East Gippsland. The Murring people occupied territory to the north of Mallacoota, while the country in between was occupied by the Bidawal, or scrub dwellers. This area provided a rich source of food to resident Aboriginal people who left behind an abundance of artefacts and middens.

The earliest known European settler at Mallacoota was Captain John Stevenson, a whaler who was granted a grazing licence in 1841, and took up residence in 1842. His homestead of two bark huts is said to have been at Captain Stevenson's Point. He did not stay long and moved inland to Wangarabell, where he lived for many years. Mallacoota also had a period of modest gold mining. On the eastern side of the Inlet the Spotted Dog Gold Mine was worked from 1895 to 1899 and produced 899 oz of gold worth £3,730 from 1,635 tons of ore.

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Gipsy Point is a charming village overlooking the Inlet. It can be reached by car or boat. The nearby Wallagaraugh River is considered to be one of the most beautiful in Victoria.



Mollacoota Inlet & surrounds

- Highway
- Major road
- Minor/unsealed road
- Vehicle track
- Walking track
- Main boating channel
- Navigation marker
- Croajingolong National Park
- Cape Howe Wilderness
- Sandbank / shallow water

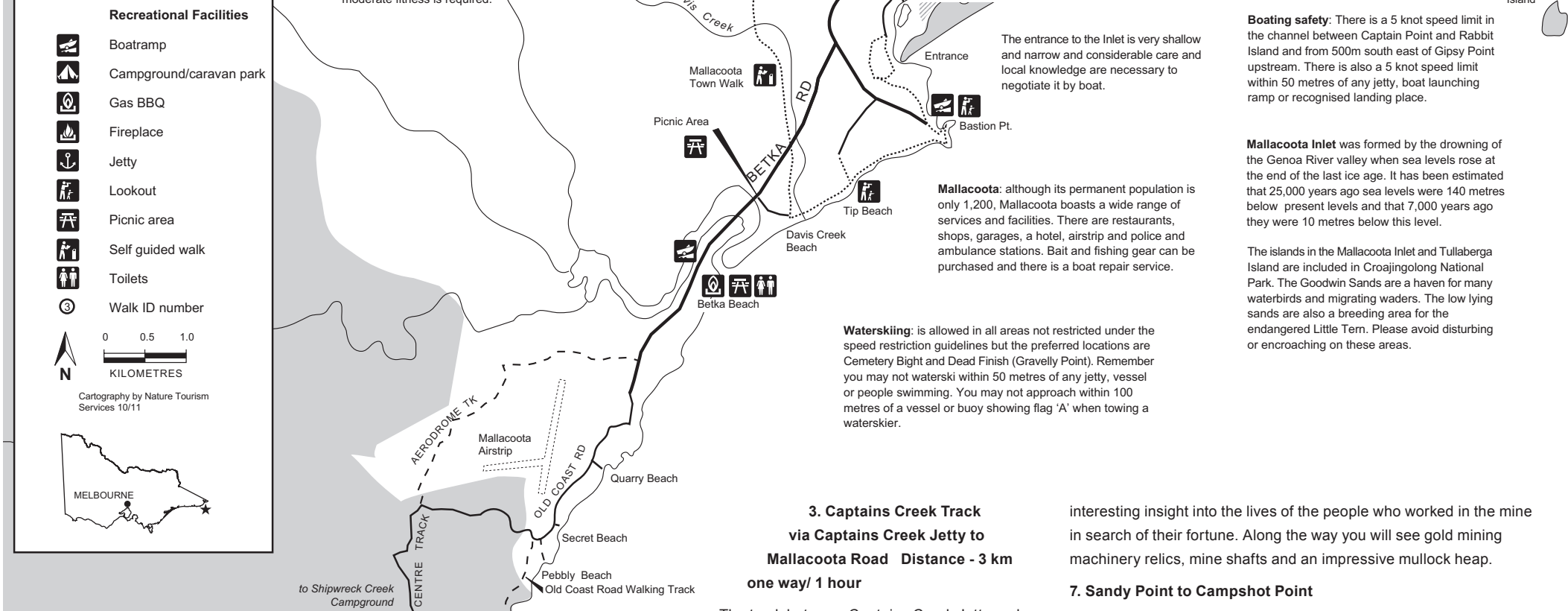
Genoa Peak
 North west of Mollacoota, Genoa Peak offers magnificent views of Croajingolong National Park, including the Wilderness Coast, the Thurra Dunes and Mollacoota Inlet. To access Genoa Peak, a gravel road from the Princes Highway leads to a picnic area, where a walking track enables access to the summit. The walk is 1.5km in length and moderate fitness is required.

The Howe Range dominates the skyline north east of the Inlet. The highest point, Howe Hill (392m) commands fine views, but is practically inaccessible except to bushwalkers.

The first Mollacoota township including a hotel (destroyed by fire), post office and several houses once stood in this area

There is excellent opportunity for bushwalking away from the Inlet. Much of the area is very remote and a permit is required for overnight walks.

Tullaberga Island



Walks Around Mallacoota Inlet

Around the Mallacoota Inlet, you'll find some delightful walks suitable for families.

1. Double Creek Nature Walk Distance - 1 km return/30 minutes

The Double Creek Nature Walk commences at the picnic area approximately 8 km from Mallacoota. The track passes through an ancient warm, temperate rainforest before gently climbing through the drier forests of tall eucalypts. Koalas may be seen resting in the tree tops during the day.

2. Buckland's Jetty to Captain Creek Jetty

Distance - 5 km one way/1.5 hours

The track between Buckland's Jetty and Captain Creek Jetty is a pleasant walk which meanders along the picturesque shoreline of the Mallacoota Inlet for most of the way.

3. Captains Creek Track via Captains Creek Jetty to Mallacoota Road Distance - 3 km one way/ 1 hour

The track between Captains Creek Jetty and the Mallacoota Road wanders through open eucalypt forests which resounds with the calls of Rainbow Lorikeets during the Spring as they feed on the rich nectar.

4. Captain Creek Jetty to Double Creek via Charlies Creek

Distance - 3 km one way / 1 hour

This walk features a variety of vegetation communities, including Eucalypt forests, Banksia Woodlands and stands of Sheoaks. Each community is home to an array of birds and animals, including Blue Wrens, Honeyeaters and Black Cockatoos. Short sections of this track are steep and may be muddy in wet weather.

5. Double Creek Arm Walk Distance - 2 km return / 30 minutes

This gentle walk follows the delightful Double Creek through tall stands of Paperbarks to the lake shore.

6. Spotted Dog Mine

This self guided walk enables you to explore the site where the Spotted Dog Gold Mine operated from 1895 to 1899. The walk provides an

interesting insight into the lives of the people who worked in the mine in search of their fortune. Along the way you will see gold mining machinery relics, mine shafts and an impressive mullock heap.

7. Sandy Point to Campshot Point

Distance - 2 km return / 45 minutes

2 km from Sandy Point, the track forks providing access to Campshot Point. A major feature of this walk is the Saw Banksias. These gnarled, ancient looking trees produce giant yellow flowers, the nectar of which is a favourite food source of the tiny Feather-tailed Glider.

7. Sandy Point to Quambie Point . 90 mins, 4km one way.

The alternate arm of the forked track leads to Quambie Point. This track leads through forests dominated by Bloodwoods, Angophora, Stringybark, Ironbarks and Sheoaks. Where the sunlight is able to reach the ground, orchids abound in Spring. There are some steep climbs along this walk and moderate fitness is required.

8. Allans Head to Cemetery Bight. Distance - 2 km one way / 1 hour Gentle to moderate grades

The track follows the lakeshore before rising to the old bush cemetery where several of the early pioneers of the district are buried. Mallacoota Town Walk Separate walking track notes are available from Parks Victoria or the Visitor Information Facility located on the main wharf.