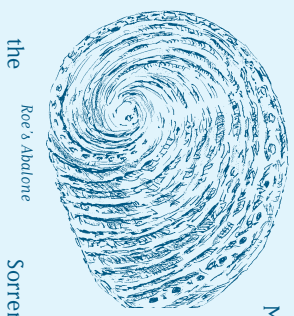




Your guide to Marmion Marine Park

Marmion Maritime History



Marmion Marine Park is named after Patrick Marmion who operated a whaling station at Sorrento between 1849 and 1854. You can see a commemorative plaque in Genoff Park, Sorrento. There is also a sculpture depicting the changing relationship between humans and whales near Sorrento Surf Life Saving Club.

The Iron brig *Centaur*, wrecked in 1874 on Centaur Reef, is remembered by a boat shaped monument found overlooking Hamersley Pool.

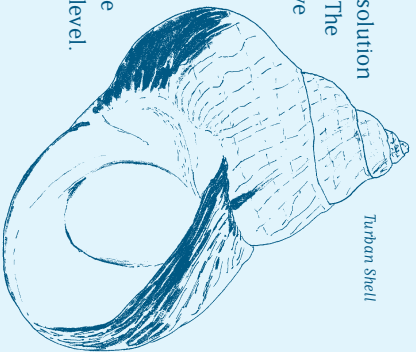
Mt Flora Regional Museum in Elvire St Waterman is an excellent local history museum overlooking the park. It is worth a visit for its local history collection and for the panoramic view of the park from the roof with its splendid circular fish mural. The museum is open from 2-5pm on Sundays or by appointment (phone 9345 8555).

Geology

Marine life has played an important role in the formation of the sandy beaches and coastal sand dunes. Some of the beach sands contain as much as 60% crushed seashells mixed with the quartz washed down from the Perth hills. The numerous rocky outcrops and reefs in the park were formed thousands of years ago from similar sands. The seashells were dissolved by rainwater to form a 'cement' which holds the material together to form limestone.

If you look at rocks along the shoreline you can see ancient dunes turned to stone, fossilised reefs, hollow solution pipes and fossil shells and corals. The corals can be seen in the little cove south of Watermans Beach. Look also for signs of former higher sea levels (around 6,000 years ago) when shells were 'cemented' onto older rock platforms. These old shorelines are several metres above current sea level.

Turban Shell



FOMMP 1918

- **Perth beachcombers education kit**, Department of Fisheries, 2010.
- **Recollections from a shoreline**, L. Newell & H. Weller, Antlook, 1980.
- **Sea fishes of Southern Australia: complete field guide for anglers and divers**, B. Hutchins, G.R. Swainston, Swainston Publishing, 1999.
- **Seashells of Western Australia**, F. E. Wells & C. W. Bryce, Western Australian Museum, 1988.
- **Sea Sniggers – and other venomous and poisonous marine invertebrates of Western Australia**, L.M. Marsh & S. M. Shack-Smith, Western Australian Museum, 2010.
- **Under southern seas: the ecology of Australia's rocky reefs**, N. Andrew, UNSW Press, 1993.
- **Wonders of Western waters, the marine life of Southwestern Australia**, S. Morrison & A. Storrins, CALM, 1999.

Want to Know More? some useful references

A field guide to **Wonders of Australian Waters**, D. S. Jones & G. J. Morgan, Western Australian Museum, 2002.

Australian marine life: the plants and animals of temperate waters, G. J. Edgar, New Holland, 2008.

Australian seashores, I. Bennett & W.J. Dakin, Collins/Angus & Robertson, 1992.

Beachcombing Perth and South-west beaches, DEC 2006.

Coastal plants: Perth and the South-west region, E. Rippey, UWA Press, 2004.

Dive and snorkel sites in Western Australia, Vols. 1&2, CALM, 2007.

Marine plants of the Perth region, J. Huisman & C. Parker, DEC-2007.

Marmion Marine Park Management Plan, CALM 1992.

Perth beachcombers education kit, Department of Fisheries, 2010.

Recollections from a shoreline, L. Newell & H. Weller, Antlook, 1980.

Sea fishes of Southern Australia: complete field guide for anglers and divers, B. Hutchins, G.R. Swainston, Swainston Publishing, 1999.

Seashells of Western Australia, F. E. Wells & C. W. Bryce, Western Australian Museum, 1988.

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Under southern seas: the ecology of Australia's rocky reefs, N. Andrew, UNSW Press, 1993.

Wonders of Western waters, the marine life of Southwestern Australia, S. Morrison & A. Storrins, CALM, 1999.

Telephone Contacts & Useful Websites

- Friends of Marmion Marine Park
Department of Environment and Conservation (Marine)
www.dec.wa.gov.au
- Department of Fisheries (Hillarys)
www.fish.wa.gov.au
- Department of Transport (Hillarys)
www.transport.wa.gov.au/marine
- City of Joondalup
9400 4000
www.joondalup.wa.gov.au
- City of Stirling
9345 8555
www.stirling.wa.gov.au
- Birds Australia
9383 7749
www.birdsaustralia.com.au
- Western Australian Museum
9212 2700
www.museum.wa.gov.au
- Whitfords Volunteer Sea Rescue Group
9401 3757
www.whitfordssearescue.org.au
- Weather
www.bom.gov.au
- Dragon Search
www.reefwatch.asn.au

Park Etiquette

- Respect other park users. Know the designated areas and rules for your activities.
- Avoid taking unnecessary risks, others may have to take risks to rescue you.
- Put rubbish into a bin or if you are on a boat use the rubbish bins provided at the marinas or boat ramps.
- Help prevent pollution of groundwater systems and drains that flow into the sea. Wash your car on the lawn and never put pollutants down street drains. Be sparing with fertilisers in the garden.
- Conserve all plant and animal life. Observe sanctuary zone rules and fishing regulations.
- Protect vegetation and conserve dunes. Stay on made paths.
- Respect wildlife. Don't disturb animals.
- Animal owners keep your pets under control and clean up after them.
- Dogs and cats are not permitted on Little Island.
- Fires are not permitted on beaches.

Some Safety Hints

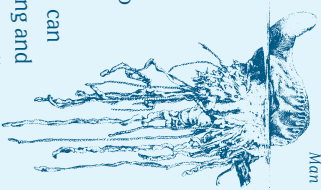
Know your own limits. Learn all you can about safety in your chosen activities. Clubs are the best source of information. **Think safety first.** Swim carefully, boat sensibly, plan your dives and use dive flags when diving or snorkelling.

Sunburn and heat exhaustion. Wear protective clothing, a hat and sun-protection lotion. Carry a bottle of water.

Weather can change quickly. Check weather forecasts and tell someone where you plan to go and when you plan to return.

Stings. Stingrays are common. Their tail spines can give a painful sting. Shuffle your feet when wading and look before jumping into the water. Very hot water will relieve the pain of a sting. Make sure the water is not so hot that it burns. By testing the water with an unmanufactured finger at the same time. This treatment is for immediate pain relief only and you should seek medical attention as soon as possible after being stung. Small box-shaped stingrays, jellyfish appear in large numbers from late summer to autumn especially in calm, sandy

Portuguese Man o War



Marmion Marine Park, located on Perth's doorstep, was declared a Marine Park in 1987. Stretching from Triggs Island north to Burns Rocks and out to sea for 5.5 km, the clear shallow lagoons, reefs and small islands provide habitats for seabirds, marine mammals and other remarkably diverse marine life.

Whether you swim, surf, sail, snorkel, dine, boat, fish, walk, picnic, ride, skate, windsurf, beachcomb or drive, this brochure will help you to find the best sites in the park and to enjoy your activities safely.

What Is A Marine Park?

Marine parks are legally declared areas which have special conservation features such as tourism, public recreation, historic sites, scientific interest, educational value, nature conservation or fishing industries.

In Western Australia, marine parks are vested in the Marine Parks and Nature Conservation Agency and managed by the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC).

The beaches above high tide are not part of the park. They are vested in the City of Stirling to the South and the City of Joondalup to the North, of Beach Road.

Sanctuary Zones

The park has three sanctuary zones, Boyinabot Reef, Little Island and The Lumps. Each zone is marked by yellow marker buoys. Sanctuary zones are "look but don't take" areas which have been chosen to conserve and monitor special features.

There is also an Observation Area at Waterman extending from Malcolm St to Elsie St and out 300 metres from the high-water mark. Only line fishing from the shore is permitted in this area.

Friends of Marmion Marine Park (FOMMP)*

The Friends of Marmion Marine Park is a voluntary group which works closely with the Department of Environment and Conservation to further the conservation interests of Marmion Marine Park by educating the users of the park. FOMMP fulfills this role by organising beach walks, touch pools, displays, educational speakers, social gatherings and snorkelling and diving excursions. For membership information or other enquiries Ph: 9346 8664.

Picnic Areas

Clarko Reserve, adjacent to Trigg Island, has a picnic area with barbecues but parking is limited. Watermans, Sorrento, Pinnaroo Point, Mullaloo, Beaumaris and Burns Beach all have grassed picnic and barbecue areas with plenty of parking. The largest picnic area is at Whitfords Nodes, which is partially sheltered behind the dunes. Here you will find ample parking, barbecues, change-rooms, toilets and a large grassy open-area suitable for games. There is also a small picnic area near the swimming beach at Hillarys Boat Harbour.

Reef Walking

When there is a low tide and a slight swell, you can walk out onto the inshore reefs and watch live marine creatures such as sea stars, bristle worms, urchins, whelks, shore crabs, beche-de-mer (sea cucumbers) and anemones. North Trigg, North Beach, Watermans Beach and Burns Beach are usually good for reef walking. Wear shoes but take care not to trample the fragile reef creatures. Do not collect or touch reef animals, some of them can sting and others may bite (see "Safety").

Beachcombing

If you go beachcombing in the park you might find a mermaid's purse (skates and rays egg case), the spiral egg case of a Port Jackson Shark, cuttlefish "bones", an iridescent abalone shell, a slate urchin, a brilliant orange starfish, some gooseneck barnacles on driftwood or perhaps a dead seadragon. The sea washes up many other curiosities, especially after a storm. If you would like to know more about the flotsam and jetsam of the sea, come to one of FOMMP's guided beach walks or use the Beachcombers Guide listed at the end of this brochure.

Snorkelling and Diving

A snorkel or dive over reefs, lagoons and seagrass beds in the park will reveal ledges, swimthroughs and colourful sea life. Most sea life will be southern temperate species, however, there are also some tropical species, thanks to the warm Leeuwin Current. This is a current that originates in the tropics and flows southwards down the Western Australian coast. It keeps sea temperatures in the range 16^o to 23^o C, warm enough for some coral to grow, and to bring some tropical visitors (like turtles) to the park.

Two of the most spectacular fish found in the park are the leafy seadragon and the weedy seadragon. If you are lucky enough to see a seadragon let Dragon Search (a community monitoring project) know when and where you saw it. You can report your sighting via the Dragon Search website.

You are most likely to find good conditions for your snorkel or dive if you plan for an early morning start on a day with a forecast for fine weather and light winds.

Dive and snorkel sites with beach access are Mettams Pool, Hamersley Pool, Marmion Angling and Aquatic Club and Burns Beach. At Boyinabot Reef, a 100 metres swim from the southern rock wall of Hillarys Boat Harbour, there is a dive trail marked with plaques. Little Island is

Animal Exercise Areas

Dogs are not allowed on most beaches, however, there are some designated animal exercise beaches in the park. You can exercise your dog between North Trigg and Bennion Beach, between North Beach Jetty and south of Watermans Beach or at Hillarys Beach. Dog exercise areas are well signed. You should keep your dogs on a lead when walking on footpaths and under your control when they are on the beach. All dog exercise beaches provide bags and bins for dog litter, please use them. Contact the City of Joondalup for details of horse beaches.

Dual-Use Pathway: Walking and Cycling

A dual-use path for pedestrians and cyclists runs the length of the park. There are lots of resting spots and lookouts with spectacular views along the way. You are sure to see some of the many birds and animals that inhabit the park, including osprey and terns, dolphins, whales and sea lions. Looking further out to sea you might be able to see Little Island or Rottnest Island or a ship heading for or leaving Fremantle. Along the path keep an eye out for flowering native plants, the slow moving "bobtail" lizards and the tiny blue wrens.

There are plenty of places to stop for a drink or a swim and most beaches have cycle racks.

Bus stops and cafes are located at both ends of the pathway as well as many places in between. Cyclists can access the path from a number of train stations or hire a bike (and snorkelling equipment) at Hillarys Boat Harbour. Helmets are compulsory and using your

another excellent site but you need a boat to get there. Anchor outside the Sanctuary Zone and seagrass meadows. For more information about dive sites ask at a dive shop or a dive club such as SCUBA 2 (also see References).

Swimming and Surfing

The park is fringed by some great beaches ranging from small protected coves to long stretches of golden sand. These cater for all ages and levels of experience. You will find protected beaches (weather permitting) suitable for children and inexperienced swimmers at North Trigg, Mettams Pool, Hamersley Pool, Granny's Pool (South of Watermans Beach) and Hillarys Boat Harbour. Access ramps are provided at North Trigg, Mettams Pool, Watermans and Hillarys.

For those who like body surfing, bodyboarding or just playing in the surf, Mullaloo and Sorrento have beaches that are patrolled by local surf life saving clubs during the summer. Remember to swim between the red and yellow flags.

Board Surfing and Wave Skis

Perth's most popular beach for board riders is Trigg Beach just South of the park. Within the park smaller waves can be found at North Mullaloo. The beach to the North of Mettams Pool is favoured by long boarders.



Bird Watching

The park is home to a variety of wonderful birds. You can see beautiful silver-gulls, fascinating but please don't feed them, kestrels and black-shouldered kites using the updraft on cliff faces to hover motionless, ospreys and crested terns plunging from high to snatch fish from the sea, pied cormorants hanging their wings out to dry after diving for food, pink-and-grey parrots (galahs) feeding on beach plants and migratory birds such as the bridled tern, resting between flights. Contact Birds Australia (93837749) to find out more about bird watching and special tours.

Fishing

The park is a great place to catch crabs, rock lobsters, abalone, herring, skippy and tailor. You can line fish most places in the park, except in Sanctuary Zones which are closed to all fishing and the Waterman Observation Area, which is restricted to line fishing from the shore only. Make sure you obey all size and bag limits. No nets may be used in the park, except crab drop nets. Spearfishing is not allowed within 1.8 km of the shore. Beyond 1.8 km, you may not use any underwater breathing apparatus to spear fish. You need a licence to fish for rock lobsters or abalone (all other shellfish are totally protected in the park). The rock lobster season is November to June. Only pots or snares may be used to catch them.

There is usually a short abalone season in summer, depending on stocks. Be aware that under the terms of the park management plan some commercial fishing is allowed. If you see illegal fishing phone Fishwatch 1800 815 507.

Silver Gull



Sea Lion



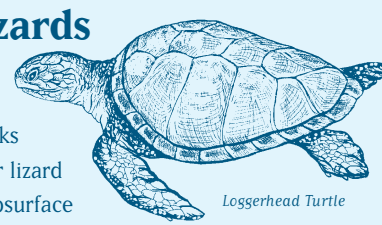
Sea Lions Dolphins Whales

Australian sea lions are frequently seen in the park and occasionally on the beaches. Little Island and Burns Rocks are their favoured "hauling out" areas. Admire sea lions from a safe distance, 5 metres on land and 10 metres in the water. If you visit there, please anchor your boat in sand offshore and keep your visit to less than 10 minutes (see also "Safety"). Small pods of dolphins hunt fish in the park and Southern Right and Humpback Whales are regular visitors during spring. You can go on whale watching tours from Hillarys Boat Harbour. Humpback Whales usually stay offshore but you might be lucky enough to see a Right Whale close inshore. If you are in a boat please stay at least 100 metres away from any whales. Injured or stranded sea mammals should be reported to DEC, 9336 0100.

Turtles Snakes Lizards

The park and beaches are home to many species of reptiles. You can see their tracks in freshly blown sand. Look for lizard tracks, snake trails and the subsurface burrowing of "legless" lizards. Large long-tailed skinks and other lizards live in the rocky shore areas. If you picnic there you may find skinks stealing your food. They can bite but the bite is usually harmless. Occasionally yellow-bellied sea-snakes and young loggerhead turtles, carried south by the Leeuwin Current, come ashore, or you may find a long-necked tortoise from a freshwater swamp which has been carried to the sea via a storm-water drain. Contact DEC if you find a stranded turtle or tortoise.

Loggerhead Turtle



Just Looking

Looking for something less energetic? Stroll around Hillarys Boat Harbour for an hour or two. Why not learn more about the marine environment and the park by visiting The Naturalist Marine Discovery Centre or AQWA, the Aquarium of Western Australia? Park at a beach and be amazed by the skill of the surfers, windsurfers and kite surfers. If you want a little exercise walk up the steps to the lookout on the roof of Mt Flora Regional Museum or to one of the lookout towers at Whitfords Nodes or North Mullaloo. And at the end of the day be sure not to miss a golden Sunset Coast sunset from one of the beaches.

Boating

The offshore reefs provide protected waters ideal for boating and sailing. There are public boat launching ramps at Hillarys Boat Harbour and at Ocean Reef.

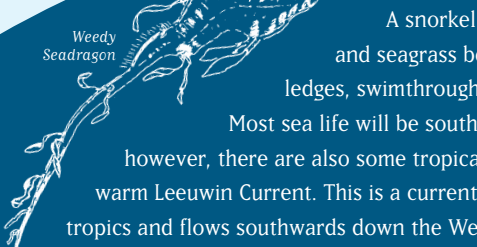
All boats and jet skis must stay 200 metres or more from shore when travelling faster than 8 knots and anchor outside Sanctuary Zones and seagrass meadows. No boats are allowed at Boyinabot Reef or between the reef and harbour wall. Boat pens at Hillarys Boat Harbour are arranged with the Dept. of Transport*. Always check expected boating conditions before going to sea. Let someone know where you plan to go and when you expect to return. Whitfords Sea Rescue* should be advised if you expect to go very far offshore.

There is a designated water skiing area north of Pinnaroo Point. Jet skis may be used in the park except within 300 metres of the sanctuary zones and must obey all other boating rules. Fancy a sailing trip? Yachts can be hired at the Hillarys Boat Harbour or if you are competitive, keel boats race out of Hillarys and Ocean Reef. Marina while small catamarans race at Pinnaroo Point.

Hairy Starfish



West Australian Dhufish



Courie Shell

