

COASTAL TRAILS

ENVIRONMENT



Bayside Coastal Trail Network

Bayside City Council has developed four affiliated trails stretching across the 17 kilometers of the coastline adjacent to Beach Road between Brighton and Beaumaris.

The Bayside Coastal Environment Trail

The Bayside Coastal Environment Trail consists of signs that identify and explain a wide range of flora, fauna habitat and ecological types – from the marine environment through to coastal vegetation along the 17km of coastline.

For further information, please refer to:

www.bayside.vic.gov.au/trails

or contact Council's Open Space Department on 9599 4444.





01 Extinctions – The Sandbelt

The Sandbelt region of Bayside gets its name from the fact that the underlying geology is predominantly sandstone, with the overlying soils ranging from sands to clays.

Original custodians of the land found food in different types of vegetation. European settlements established farms with imported cattle and sheep that quickly reduced populations of palatable plants.

Urbanisation resulted in the clearing of native vegetation and the draining of low-lying swampy areas.

A number of species disappeared from the sandbelt region including the Dingo, Masked Owl, and larger birds like the Emu and Magpie Goose.

Woodlands and Heathlands that once covered the area gave way to homes, commercial and industrial development thus altering the landscape to such an extent that less than two percent of the area's original plant or animal communities remain.





02 The Rakali (Australian Water Rat – *Hydromys chrysogaster*)

'Rakali' is an Aboriginal term for the Australian water rat. Rakali are highly specialised amphibious mammals especially adapted for aquatic life.

The Rakali have broad, partially webbed feet and dense waterproof fur. Their tail is long and thick and well covered by dark hair usually with a prominent white tip. Their tails act like rudders when they are swimming or diving for food.

Rakali are a protected native species in Victoria. In Bayside Rakali are recognised as a locally significant species.

Bayside City Council is working to protect and promote these special creatures.





03 Sand Dunes (Vegetation Communities)

The Sand Dunes at Brighton have an important function in the health of the beach. Vegetation communities that grow on and around these dunes are indigenous species.

Sand dunes act as barriers against the action of waves, tides and salt wind and are a source of sand for the beach during periods of erosion.

As sand accumulates, the dunes become higher and wider. Plants play a vital role in this process, acting as a windbreak and trapping the deposited sand particles.

The development of more complex plant communities in areas protected from salt water inundation, sea spray and strong winds is possible due to sand dunes.

Friends of Brighton Dunes are a Bayside group that work on the protection and regeneration of the Sand Dunes and vegetation communities that live in the habitat.





04 Coast Tea-Tree (*Leptospermum laevigatum*)

Coast Tea-tree is a small tree that inhabits mainly sand dunes and the coastline of south-eastern Australia. The Coast Tea-tree is often found in harsh, windswept coastal situations where it assumes leaning, crooked or twisted, but attractive forms. This adaptable tree favours well-drained soil of all local types in full sun or partial shade. It tolerates dryness once established, as well as salt winds.





05 Eastern Blue Tongue Lizard (*Tiliqua scincoides*)

In the hotter months it is common to see the Eastern Blue Tongue Lizard, soaking up the warmth from the concrete paths and roads in Sandringham.

Like all reptiles, Eastern Blue Tongues do not produce their own body heat and rely on the warmth of their surroundings to maintain a body temperature of 30–35°C. During the colder months it is rare to see one, as they remain inactive, buried in their shelter sights.

Eastern Blue Tongues forage for food through tussocky grasses, leaf litter and under rocks and logs. They eat a wide variety of vegetation and invertebrates including snails and beetles.

They vary a bit in colour and size, but most commonly they are grey with broad brown stripes across their back and tail, and they grow to about 30cm in length.

Eastern Blue Tongues have been known to live to around 20 years some even up to 30. The Eastern Blue Tongue uses its blue tongue as a bluff warning device. Its main predators are cats and dogs. Accidents involving cars and lawnmowers are also a common cause of death.

The Bayside Friends of Native Wildlife Group participate in activities involving the appreciation and preservation of native wildlife in the Bayside area.





06 Bayside Inland Birds

The Bayside Greenbelt is fortunate in its areas of indigenous trees, shrubs and wildflowers, which provide important habitat for over 113 different species of native and migratory birds.

The Bayside Greenbelt stretches from the Bayside Rd Heathland Reserve to the George St Tea-tree reserve.

The permanent bird inhabitants are attracted to the mixed bushland and heaths found in sand dune areas.

Migratory species of birds come to heathlands, golf courses and parks where they find food, water and shelter.

Bayside City Council is working to protect these species of native and migratory birds.





07 Seaweed

The role of seaweed in the coastal ecosystem is important and quite often overlooked.

Seaweeds are the pastures of the sea, providing the basic level food for the food web. Seaweed acquires energy through sunlight, which provides nutrients thanks to a process called photosynthesis.

Seals, fish, sea turtles and sea urchins eat seaweed. Vitamins, trace minerals, lipids, plant sterols, amino acids, omega-3 and omega-6 and anti-oxidants are all found in seaweed and passed along the food web.

Humans also eat seaweed. Especially in some Asian countries where it is considered a great delicacy. Seaweed is also eaten as part of Asian Cuisine in Australia.

Seaweed also has many other uses. It can be used as medicine, fertiliser and also, an ingredient used in bodycare products.

Some people view washed up seaweed as a nuisance on the foreshore. Seaweed, is usually not removed because:

- it is an important part of the coast ecosystem
- it washes in and out daily with the waves and large storm events

Seaweed is generally only removed if it is trapped in large amounts, with an offensive odour and not likely to be removed naturally.



08 Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary

The Ricketts Point Marine Sanctuary (115 ha) is on the eastern side of Port Phillip at Beaumaris, about 20km south of the Melbourne CBD.

The sanctuary protects a diversity of habitats, including rocky sandstone, intertidal and subtidal reefs, sandy beaches, subtidal soft substrates and seagrass beds, in a small accessible area in a highly urbanised setting.





09 Rock Pools, Platforms and Reefs

Rock pools, platforms and reefs provide habitat to an amazing diversity of plants and animals.

Rock platforms are covered twice a day by high tide, thus creating two worlds for many plants and animals living on them. When the tide is out, large predatory fish are excluded from the rock platform, allowing animals to move around freely and exposing plants to open air and sun.

Living in rock pools requires specialised adaptations and the Waratah sea-anemone is an example of a hardy rock pool creature. Looking like a red jelly mass out of water it is able to withstand the heat of the sun for several hours per day, survive the beatings of the surf as the tide comes in and take its food and oxygen from water without being able to move about from place to place.

Conserving rock pool flora and fauna is now part of all school marine biology programs, reinforced by severe penalties in most states for unauthorised collection of animals.





10 The Australian Pelican (*Pelecanus conspicillatus*)

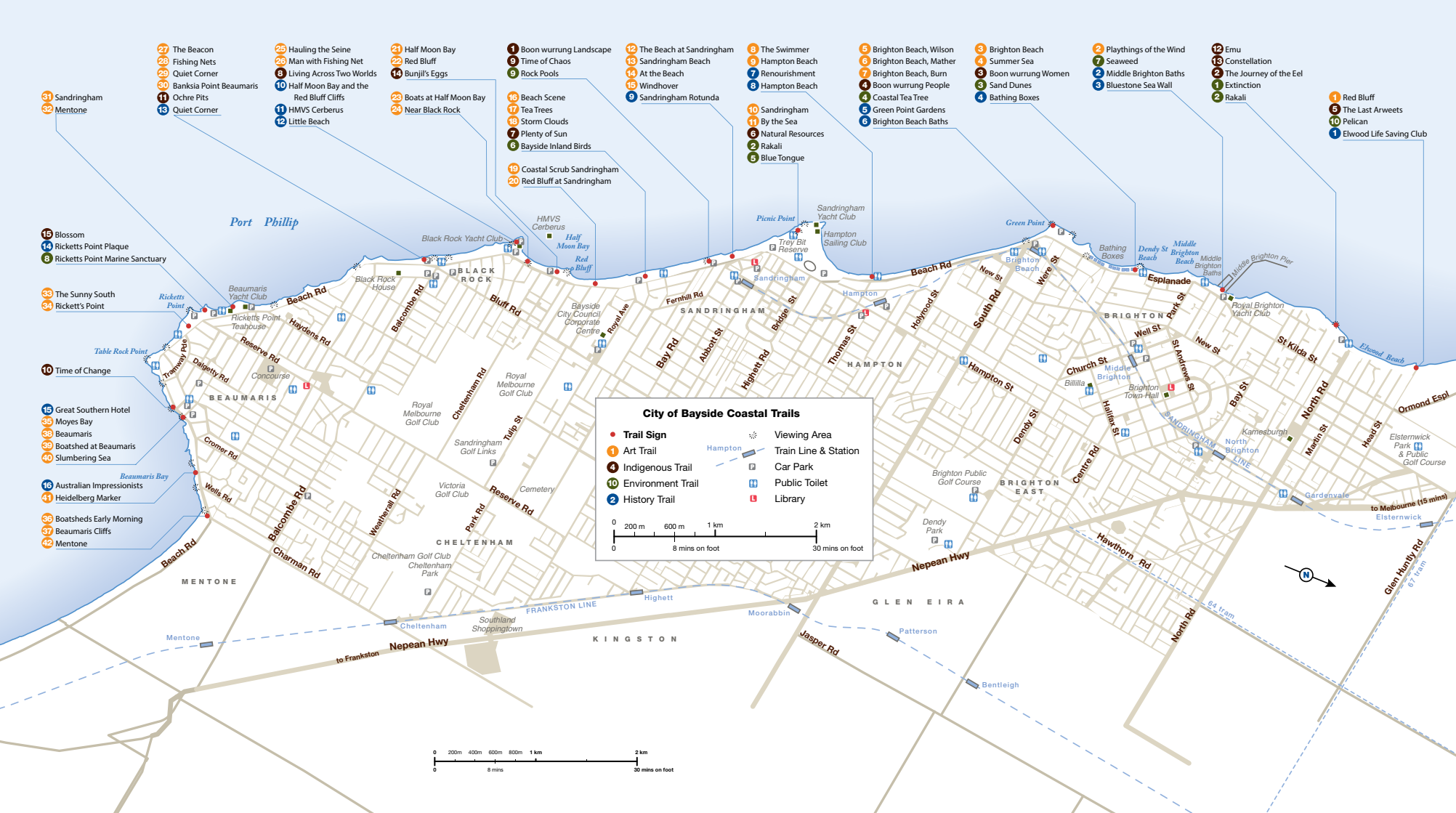
The Australian Pelican is the largest of the shore birds that can be found along the bayside coastline. It is especially popular at Ricketts Point.

The Australian Pelican is 1.6 to 1.8 metres long with a wingspan of 2.3 to 2.5 metres and weighs 4 to 13 kg. This is medium-sized by pelican standards. It is predominantly white with black along the primaries of the wings. It has a large pale, pinkish bill. An Australian Pelican was recorded with the largest bill in the avian world at 49cm long. Wild Australian Pelicans can live between 10 and 25 years.

The Australian Pelican can be found anywhere that there is a large mass of water which enables them to eat fish.

Australian Pelicans consume up to 9kg of food per day. They are not fussy eaters. In addition to small fish, crustations, tadpoles and turtles, Australian Pelicans have even been known to eat ducklings and seagulls. Some have even been documented to be so daring as to follow humans into their home for food.



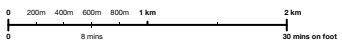


- 27 The Beacon
- 28 Fishing Nets
- 29 Quiet Corner
- 30 Banksia Point Beaumaris
- 31 Sandringham
- 32 Mentone
- 25 Hauling the Seine
- 26 Man with Fishing Net
- 8 Living Across Two Worlds
- 10 Half Moon Bay and the Red Bluff Cliffs
- 11 HMVS Cerberus
- 12 Little Beach
- 21 Half Moon Bay
- 22 Red Bluff
- 24 Bunji's Eggs
- 23 Boats at Half Moon Bay
- 24 Near Black Rock
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- 2 Time of Chaos
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- 16 Beach Scene
- 17 Tea Trees
- 18 Storm Clouds
- 7 Plenty of Sun
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- 9 Sandringham Rotunda
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- 8 Hampton Beach
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- 11 By the Sea
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- 2 Rakali
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- 7 Brighton Beach, Burn
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- 5 Green Point Gardens
- 6 Brighton Beach Baths
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- 7 Seaweed
- 2 Middle Brighton Baths
- 5 Bluestone Sea Wall
- 12 Emu
- 15 Constellation
- 2 The Journey of the Eel
- 1 Extinction
- 2 Rakali
- 1 Red Bluff
- 5 The Last Arweets
- 10 Pelican
- 1 Elwood Life Saving Club

City of Bayside Coastal Trails

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Trail Sign 1 Art Trail 4 Indigenous Trail 10 Environment Trail 2 History Trail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⋆ Viewing Area Train Line & Station P Car Park T Public Toilet L Library
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0 200m 400m 600m 800m 1km 2km
0 8 mins 30 mins on foot





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