

Wilson's Promontory National Park

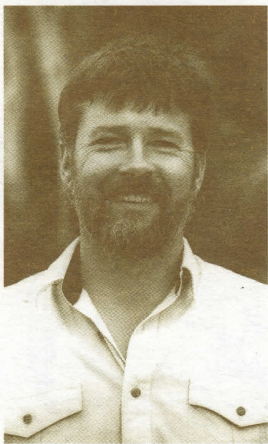
Shallow Inlet

Hourigan Camp Lane access track.

Distance : 400 metres or 15 minutes one way.

This section of 'The Prom' offers visitors long sandy beaches after a pleasant stroll through a sheltered gully. By walking quietly along the track, you may see and hear the various birds and animals in their natural habitat. The beach offers sandy tidal flats, where at low tide the channel is clearly visible and on high tide the Inlet is consumed by a vast sheet of water. The area forms part of the Shallow Inlet Marine and Coastal Park and is popular for fishing and windsurfing. Please remember to leave your dog at home.

The production of this leaflet and the boardwalk sections of this track, have been a joint initiative of the Yanakie Coast Action Group and Parks Victoria. Funding for the project was made available through the Department of Natural Resources & Environment/Coast Care.

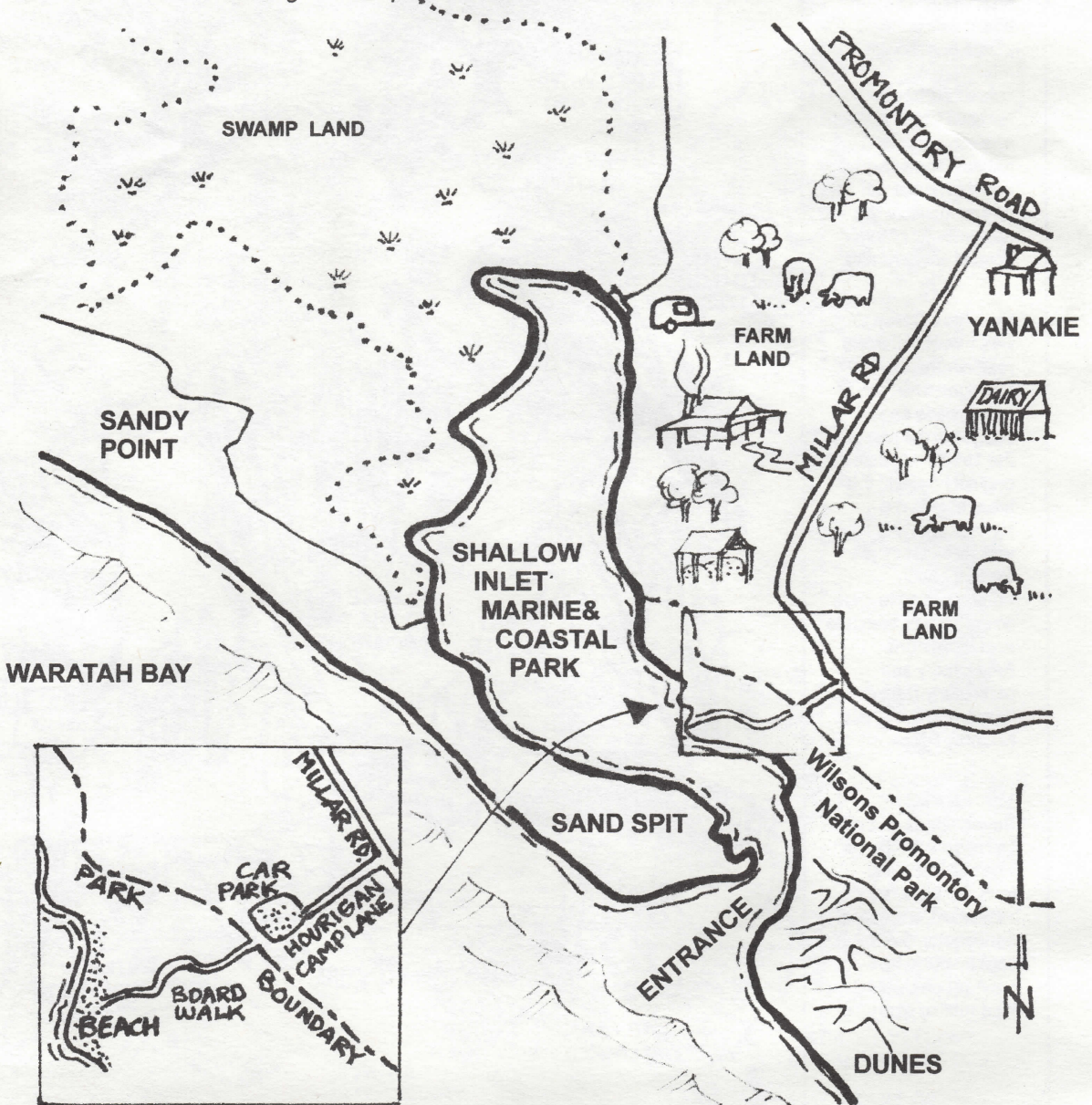


Parks Victoria Ranger
David Foster

"Victoria has all the outdoors you could wish for—mountains, forests, beaches and bushland, all preserved in our parks.

Our natural landscapes have been here longer than anyone knows, and together we can make sure they're here forever."

For more information call the Parks Victoria Information Centre on 13 1963

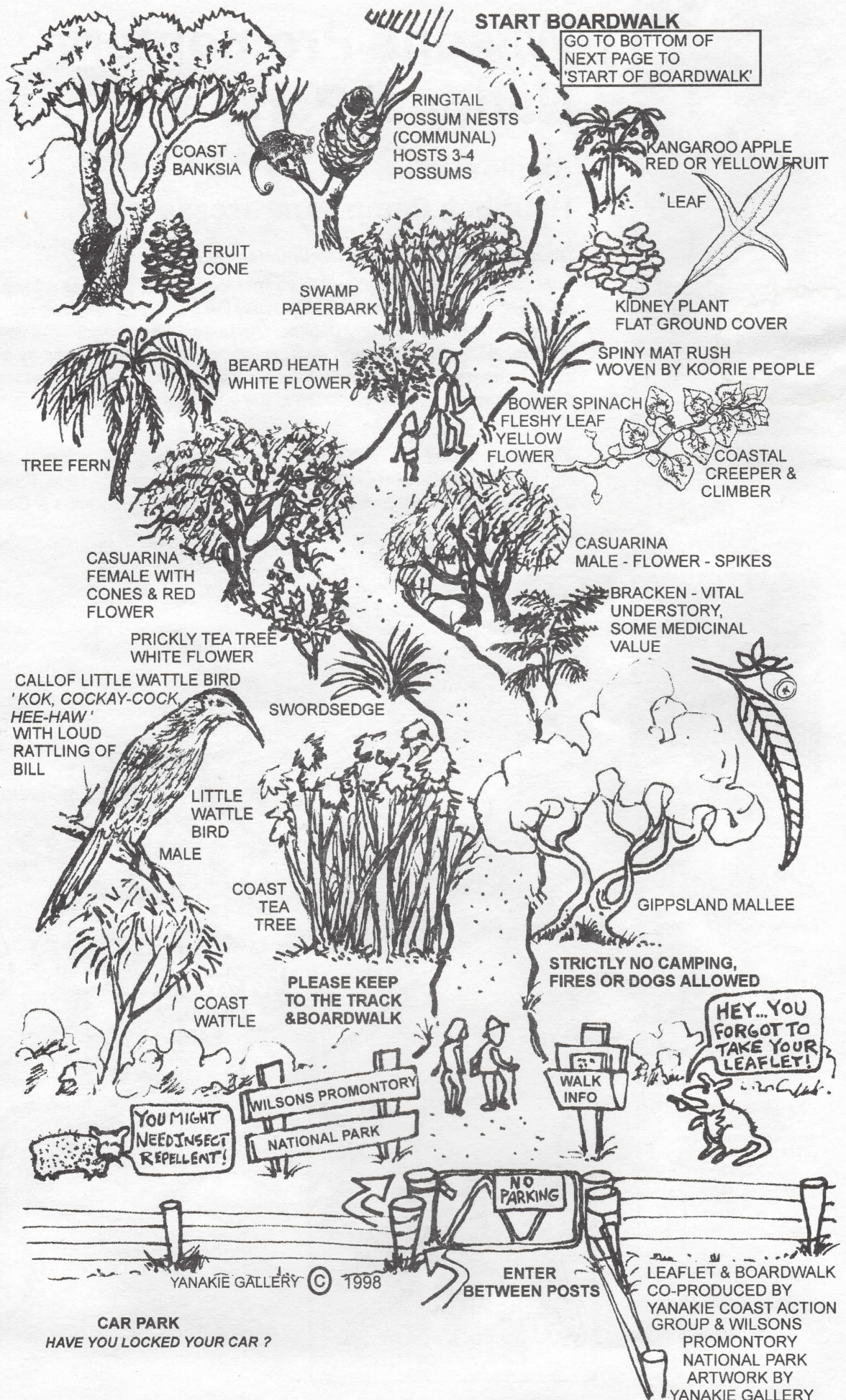


Some Interesting Facts & Information

Be aware of tides and plan your walk - at high tide the beach is inaccessible and the tracks behind the shoreline are subject to flooding. The walk through to Shallow Inlet is via a sheltered gully where Yanakie Coast Action group, in conjunction with Wilsons Promontory National Park, have constructed a boardwalk. The boardwalk protects plants that require moist, shady conditions, and it reduces visitor impacts on such a fragile habitat. The boardwalk and this leaflet will further facilitate the appreciation of this coastal environment.

Hourigan Camp Lane was named after the road contractor, Hourigan who built many roads and bridges in the district in the 1950's. He built the original bridge in this area, across the swamp, allowing vehicle access onto Cotters beach. Vehicles used to drive down Cotters beach to access Wilsons Promontory and particularly Darby beach and the Chalet at Darby River.

The bush band. Several birds can often be heard in this area. The noisiest call is from the Little Wattlebird, a banksia honeyeater, (koks, cookay-cock, hee-haw) which calls with a loud rattling of the bill.



Hog deer were introduced into Victoria in the 1850's from India and Ceylon. Coast Wattle is an important food source for this animal as it contains copper and prevents 'staggers' which is also suffered by domestic stock.

The **Eastern Whipbird** has a loud and ringing whip-crack and female birds 'choo-ee' to end song.

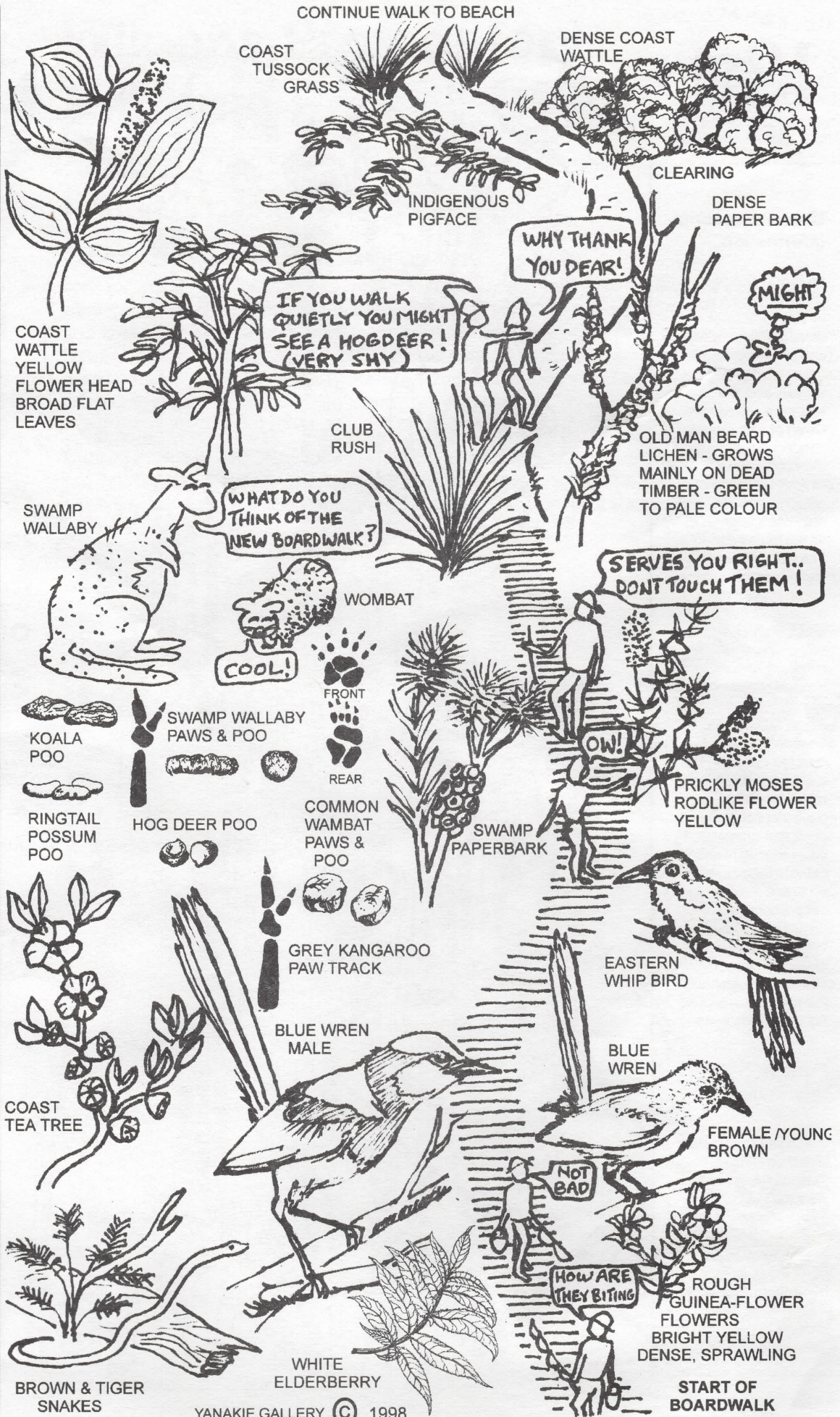
The **Hooded Plover** is now rare and endangered due to nest disturbances and predation from foxes. Eggs are laid on the sand and in the flotsam of the high tide. Please take care not to disturb them.

The **Eastern Curlew** flies north to Siberia in March to breed and then returns again in November. They are protected by an international agreement.

The **Kurnai** aboriginal people lived in this district for many centuries. They fished the Inlet and used the prolific waterfowl, mammals and diverse plant life for food, shelter, and medicines.

The **Gippsland Mallee** - *Eucalyptus kitsoniana* is a species endemic to only three small sites along the Victorian coastline. Wilsons Promontory is one of these sites.

The **Coast Wattle** produces black seeds that provide food for birds, insects and mammals. The Aborigines used the seed by grinding it into a powder which was used to make a form of bread.



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More Interesting Information.

Shallow Inlet is changing shape year by year, gradually meandering to its most easterly extreme, as the surging tides actively alter the shoreline and seabed. Given certain climatic conditions (wind direction, tide and rainfall) a new channel will form, recreating an area once referred to as the 'Blue Lagoon'. The water supports myriads of microscopic forms of plants and animals, with many areas of sea grasses that support the feeding and nursery schools of fish.

At low tide 300 ha. of Shallow Inlet is covered by water. This changes to 1800 ha at high tide - the equivalent of 32,000 olympic swimming pools flowing in and out with the tide, every six hours. A dune blow out occurs when unstable sand is blown back through the dune system. Plants are unable to re establish themselves to stabilise the windblown sand.

Further Information

Is available at the Park Entrance Office, Wilsons Promontory National Park. Telephone 56871 220.

For Information on other Parks & Reserves in Victoria, managed by Parks Victoria. Telephone 13 19 63

