



Coastal Reserves

North-east Tasmania

Coastal Reserves

Visitors to the reserves can enjoy a variety of activities including bushwalking, swimming, fishing, boating and camping. Horseriding is permitted in some areas and a 4WD area has been set aside at Peron Dunes. Campsites vary from those with amenities to secluded natural sites. Boat ramps, picnic tables and fireplaces are provided at various locations.

Bay of Fires Conservation Area



The Bay of Fires is situated between Eddystone Point and Binalong Bay. Captain Tobias Furneaux named the area in 1773 after sighting Aboriginal fires on shore. The area is of great cultural significance to the Aboriginal community of Tasmania. Today its values and beauty can be experienced and appreciated by locals and visitors alike. Round Hill Camping Area, Swimcart Beach, Cosy North, Cosy South – all have beach access, open and secluded sites suitable for tents and camper vans with basic toilet facilities.

Unserviced sites are available at Seatons Cove, Sloop Rock, Taylors Beach, Sloop Lagoon and Big Lagoon.

Humbug Point Nature Recreation Area



Bushwalking and birdwatching are popular in this area. The heath attracts a large number of birds, including yellow-tailed black cockatoos, wattlebirds and honeyeaters. Sea birds include the spectacular white-breasted sea eagle, gannets, petrels and even the occasional albatross.

St Helens Point Conservation Area



Extensive sand dunes are a feature of this area. In the past, the introduced marram grass *Ammophila arenaria* was used to help stabilise eroding dunes. Where it

occurs, the native grass *Spinifex hirsutus* also plays an important role. Its sand-binding ability prevents sand from moving inland and allows more complex plant communities to develop.

The sand dunes can be damaged by both foot and vehicular traffic. This can lead to 'blowouts' and damage to the sensitive beach environment. For this reason vehicular use is restricted to an area set aside at Peron Dunes.

This area can also be used for horse riding. Call the St Helens Parks office for details.

Scamander Conservation Area)



A rich Aboriginal history is evident in this area. Middens and the presence of tools and stone assemblages indicate that Aboriginal people used this part of the coast extensively. Mussel, abalone, rock whelk and warrener appear to have been the most commonly eaten shellfish. Small quantities of seal and macropod (kangaroo or wallaby) bone are also found in the middens.

Four Mile Creek Conservation Area



This coastal area offers quiet secluded beaches for surf fishing and surfing.

Mt William National Park



Mt William is a great place to see some of Tasmania's diverse wildlife, from forester kangaroos, wallabies and wombats to possums, echidnas and Tasmanian devils. The bird life is rich and varied. Combine this with a spectacular coastline and you have a photographer's paradise. The park also offers some of the best snorkelling and scuba diving opportunities in the state. Georges Rocks and Eddystone Point are particularly popular. Park entry fees and camping fees apply.

Inland Reserves

Weldborough Pass Scenic Reserve



An easy 20 minute walk provides a unique opportunity to enjoy and learn about cool temperate rainforest following the information signs along the walk.

St Columba Falls State Reserve



St Columba Falls plunge nearly 90 m from the Mt Victoria foothills to the valley of the South George River. The falls can be viewed from the carpark and a short walking track provides easy access to a viewing platform.

The intake bridge of a disused water race is located just off the approach road to the falls. It marks the starting point of a 45 km channel, constructed in the early 1930s to supply water for tin mining near St Helens. The intake pipes can still be seen on the northern side of the bridge.

St Marys Pass State Reserve



At the top of St Mary's Pass a parking area has been provided and a short 10 minute walk takes you through the forest to a viewing platform.

St Patricks Head State Reserve



The summit of St Patricks Head summit at 683 m above seal level provides panoramic views of the coastline and surrounding area and can be reached via a walking track on the southern side of the mountain. The walks only recommended for the physically fit with bushwalking experience, as it has steep slippery sections. Allow approximately two hours for a return trip.

Mt Pearson State Reserve



This large reserve has forest communities containing ironbarks (*Eucalyptus sieberi*), black peppermints (*Eucalyptus amygdalina*), and blue gums (*Eucalyptus globulus*). Swift parrots feed on the blue gum flowers. Mt Pearson also has excellent examples of orchids. One species is the yellow rock orchid (*Dockrillia chrysantha*) which grows on the numerous granite boulders within the reserve. Dogs, RV motorbikes, 4X4 vehicles and wood collecting are not permitted in the reserve.

Camping

Campsites range from basic natural sites to those with amenities. Generators are permitted at all sites except Stumpys No: 2 in Mt William National Park.

Camping and park entry fees are applicable in Mt William National Park. Park Entry Passes can be purchased either at St Helens Service Tasmania Shop, St Helens History Rooms and Visitor Centre or the Gladstone Store. Camping fees are collected via self registration boxes at camping areas in the park. The maximum stay at a campsite is four weeks. There is no booking system. Toilets are provided at most camping areas. Please use them!

- Toilets with wheelchair access are available at Dora Point, Humbug Nature Recreation Area and Burns Bay, St Helens Point Conservation Area.
- Drinking water is not available at the coastal camping areas but can be obtained at St Helens or Scamander.
- Mt William National Park has bore water for washing at Stumpys Campsites 1 and 3 and Deep Creek.

Campfires

Bring your own firewood. Firewood can be purchased in St Helens from the BP Service Station or BARNETTS Woodbarn or in Gladstone at the Gladstone Store. Other suppliers may be found in the local phone directory.

- Observe fire bans and restrictions
- Preferably use a fuel stove - but if you do have a campfire keep it small.
- In Mt William National Park fires allowed only in fireplaces provided or your own fuel stove or fires contained in a fire pot.
- Do not leave your fire unattended. When you leave your camp, make sure it has been completely extinguished with water.
- Do not cut living vegetation or dead standing trees to make your campfire.
- It is an offence under the State Fire Service Act to light a fire in marram grass areas.

Caring for your reserves and recreation areas

These reserves provide areas for recreation and relaxation as well as protecting native plants and animals, and cultural sites.

We ask you to take care so that they remain enjoyable places for everyone to visit.

St Helens Point Conservation Area has an off-road recreational vehicle area for registered vehicles at

Peron Dunes. This area can also be used for horse riding. Call the St Helens Parks office for details.

- Middens are protected by law. Please do not disturb.
- The coastal environment where you are camping is a nesting area for shore birds. Nests can be hard to see. They are vulnerable to trampling on or being run over by vehicles. You may find eggs unattended nestled in the sand. Please do not touch, as these nest sites are not abandoned.

Your safety

- Beaches are not patrolled! Be water safe – on surf beaches, look out for rips and undertows
- Please keep all vehicles to formed roads for the safety of campers.
- Some mosquitoes on the East Coast of Tasmania carry the Ross River Fever virus. Campers are advised to use insect repellent.

In the case of an emergency, such as fire please call 000

Walking

Short walks	Difficulty	Time
Binalong Bay Beach	easy	1 hr return
Sloop Rock tramway	easy	30 mins return
St Columba Falls	moderate	20 mins return
Grey Mares Tail (top of St Marys Pass)	easy	20 mins return
St Patricks Head	difficult	3 hour return
Mt William Walk (from carpark)	easy	1.5 hrs return
Mt William Walk (from near Stumpys No: 4 campground)	easy	5 hrs return

Humbug Point Nature Recreation Area has an extensive track network. Short walks to all day hikes are available taking in the coastal shoreline of Georges Bay.

St Helens Point Conservation Area has several short walks with views to the St Helens barway and across the Tasman Sea.

Mt William National Park offers a range of beach walks including a 1.5 hour return walk to the summit of Mt William.

Other walks in the area are located in the Winifred Curtis Scamander Reserve, Blue Tier, Halls Falls, Ralphs Falls and the Anchor Mine.

Boating

Public boat ramps can be found at:

- St Helens warf area
- St Helens Point, at Stieglitz and Burns Bay,
- Scamander (next to the old Scamander Bridge)
- The Gulch at Binalong Bay and
- The Gardens
- Eddystone Point

Beach launching is available at:

- Paddy's Island, near Beaumaris
- Henderson Lagoon at Falmouth
- Policmans Pt at Ansons Bay
- Stumpys Bay Campsite 3 at Mt William National Park

Rubbish

Rubbish bins and collection services are not provided. Please take your rubbish with you.

Rubbish can be disposed of at waste transfer stations located at St Helens, Scamander, Gladstone, Ansons Bay.

Camping areas at the Bay of Fires and Lagoons Beach have composting toilets. Please do not place chemical toilet waste, rubbish and sanitary items into these toilets as it will cause system failure.

A black water dump for caravans and chemical toilets is available at St Helens Recreation Grounds at Tully Street.

Dogs

Dogs are permitted at most camping areas (unless signed otherwise) .All dogs must be on a leash. Dog owners are asked to pick up their dogs waste and dispose of it appropriately, for the benefit of other beach users and shore birds.

Dogs are not permitted in Mt William National Park.

Further information

Parks and Wildlife Service factsheet series

Visiting: Mt William National Park

Parks and Places: Bay of Fires Conservation Area

St Helens History Rooms and Visitor Centre have a good range of additional information on recreational activities available in the North East.

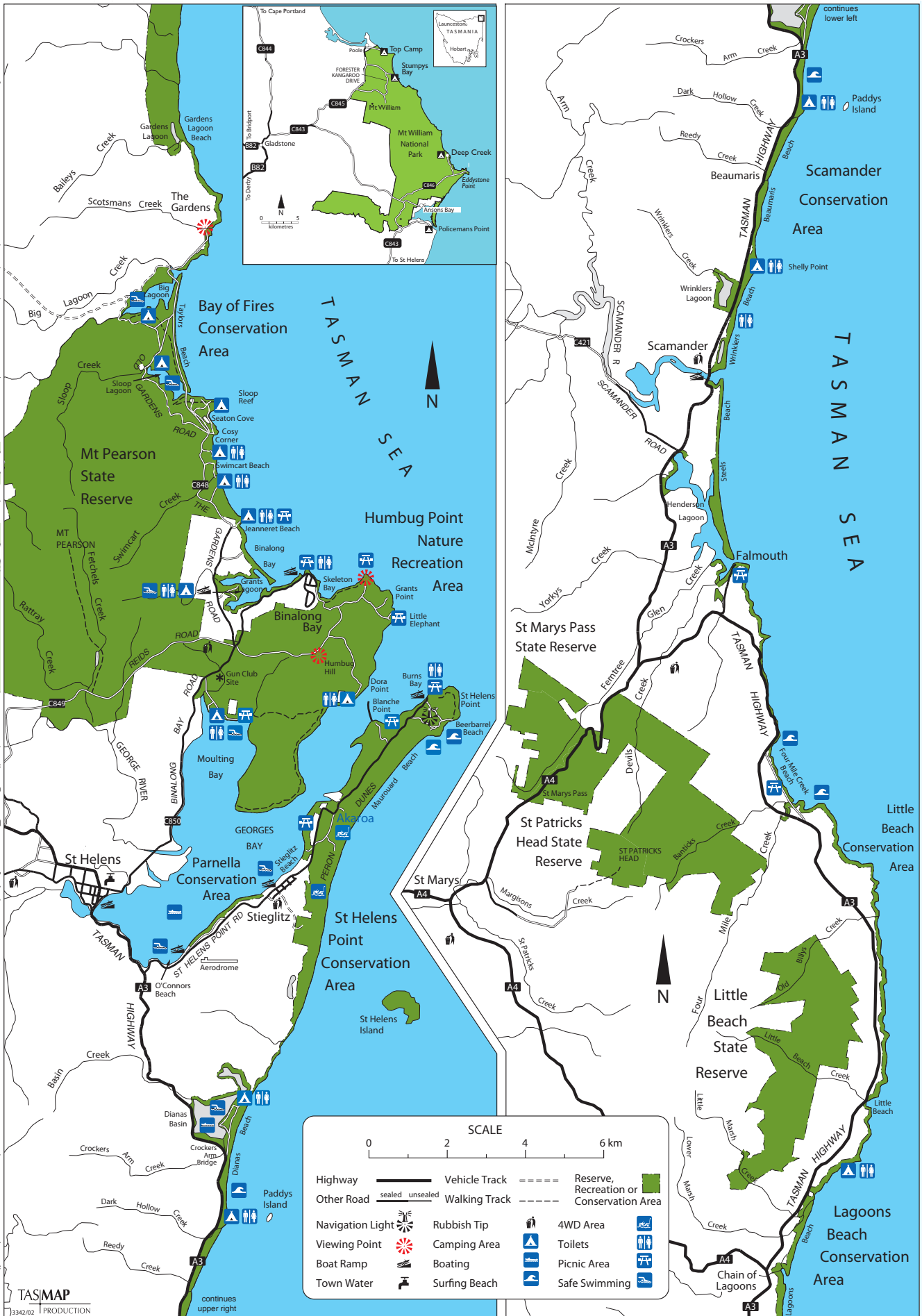
Parks and Wildlife Service

District Office, St Helens

P.O. Box 353

St Helens 7216

Phone: (03) 6376 1550



Internet: www.parks.tas.gov.au

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