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Department of Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions

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## FURTHER INFORMATION

Rangers are pleased to share their knowledge and to offer helpful suggestions about places to go and things to do and see. Do not hesitate to seek their assistance.

Information can also be obtained by writing to:

District Manager  
CALM  
PO Box 201  
Exmouth 6707  
Telephone (099) 49 1676

Executive Director  
CALM  
PO Box 104  
Como 6152  
Telephone (09) 367 0333

Regional Manager  
CALM  
PO Box 72  
Geraldton 6530  
Telephone (099) 21 5955

Fisheries Department of WA  
Lot 375 Maidstone Crescent  
Exmouth  
Telephone (099) 49 1755

For details about accommodation and tours, contact:

Exmouth Tourist Bureau  
PO Box 149  
Exmouth 6707  
Telephone (099) 49 1176

## EMERGENCY CONTACTS

CALM staff (099) 49 1676  
Police (099) 49 1444  
Hospital (099) 49 1011

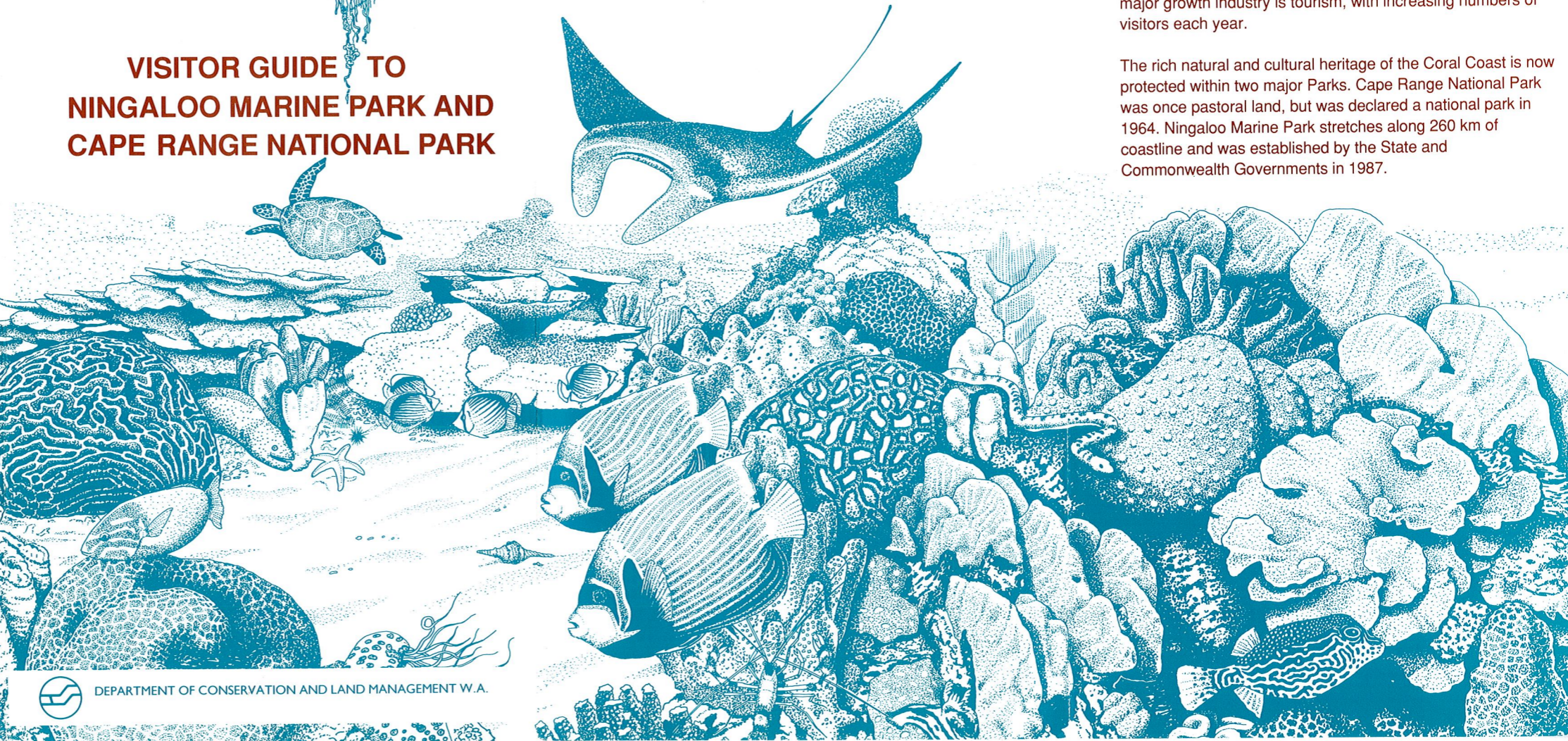
Milkyering Visitor Centre and Park rangers have radio contact with the Exmouth CALM office and the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

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# PARKS OF THE CORAL COAST



## VISITOR GUIDE TO NINGALOO MARINE PARK AND CAPE RANGE NATIONAL PARK



DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT W.A.

**P**arks of the Coral Coast provide ideal locations for recreation and for learning about the environment in which we live.

A variety of natural communities is represented in the Parks. The rugged stone country of Cape Range descends to arid coastal plains and drifting sand dunes, then on to the turquoise waters of the coral reefs and ocean depths of Ningaloo. Powered by energy from the sunlight, the plants and animals of these communities depend on one another to survive and provide essential habitats for rare and endangered species.

Once the home of Aboriginal people, the Coral Coast has since been witness to historic expeditions, severe cyclones, military activity and a variety of maritime industries. Whaling and turtle hunting are now banned, but fishing, oil exploration and the production of wool continue in the region. Today, the major growth industry is tourism, with increasing numbers of visitors each year.

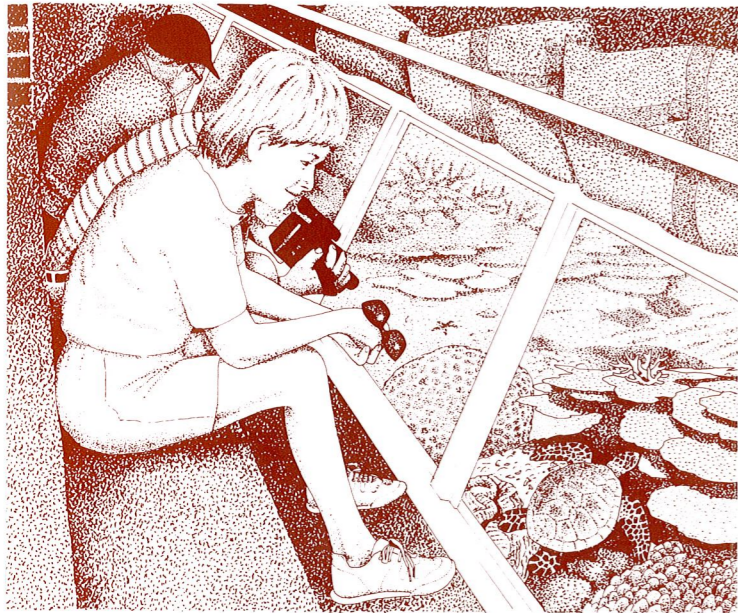
The rich natural and cultural heritage of the Coral Coast is now protected within two major Parks. Cape Range National Park was once pastoral land, but was declared a national park in 1964. Ningaloo Marine Park stretches along 260 km of coastline and was established by the State and Commonwealth Governments in 1987.

## PLANNING YOUR VISIT

The Coral Coast is about 1200 km north of Perth. Commercial aircraft fly to Learmonth Airport, which is 37 km south of Exmouth, and coaches operate to both Exmouth and Coral Bay. Visitors planning to drive to the Coral Coast should be careful after sunset when large numbers of kangaroos make driving hazardous.

The Coral Coast is in the hot arid tropics of north-west Australia where summer temperatures often reach 40°C. Occasionally, tropical cyclones are experienced during the months of November to April and summer visitors are advised to listen for cyclone warnings. Most visitors prefer the winter months when temperatures range from the low 20s to the low 30s (Celsius).

Creeks along the Coral Coast rarely flow. As there is no surface water, visitors need to carry their drinking water. Although cloudless desert skies are a delight, the low rainfall supports very few trees and shade is scarce. A tarpaulin can be useful for shade or as a windbreak.



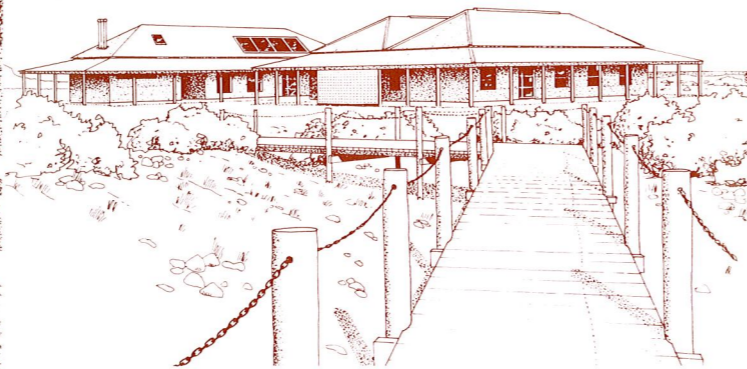
## COMFORT AND SAFETY

- Hot, dry weather dehydrates your body quickly, so always carry plenty of water.
- Protect yourself from the sun. Use sunscreen and always wear a hat.
- Take adequate fuel supplies when driving or boating.
- Fuel is available only at Exmouth and Coral Bay.
- Ocean conditions can become hazardous very quickly, especially near gaps in the reef. If in doubt, don't go out.

## VISITOR SERVICES AND FACILITIES

**Exmouth** offers a range of shops, caravan parks and other accommodation, entertainment and services including a hospital, Police Station, Post Office and limited banking facilities. Contact the Exmouth Tourist Bureau, (099) 49 1176, for bookings and additional information.

**Coral Bay** has two caravan parks, chalets and a hotel/motel. Telephones, food and fuel are also available.



**Milyering Visitor Centre** in the Cape Range National Park is open on most days. Contact the Tourist Bureau for opening times. Displays, brochures and videos explain the natural communities of the Coral Coast, and a small library provides information for those with special interests. Guided walks and lectures are provided, so check at the Visitor Centre for details.

**Recreational fishing** is enjoyed by many visitors to Ningaloo. Special fishing rules to conserve fish breeding stocks apply, including a daily bag limit and possession by weight limits. Make sure you have a copy of the fishing guide to Ningaloo Marine Park before wetting a line. Available from the Fisheries Department or CALM.

**Roads** within the Park are mainly unsealed. Most roads and tracks are accessible to ordinary cars, but four-wheel-drive is needed to cross Yardie Creek. Road conditions deteriorate quickly with rain and access may become restricted.

**Camp sites** within Cape Range National Park have limited facilities, with neither power nor water provided. The maximum time that campers may stay within the National Park is 28 days. Reasonable camping fees are charged. Visitors wishing to camp on pastoral land should contact the station manager.

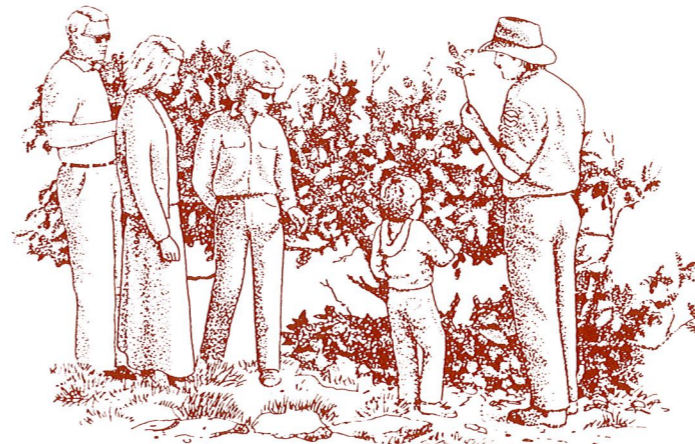
**Water** is available at one bore within the Park, but visitors are advised to bring their own water for drinking.

**Boat ramps** (concrete) are located at Exmouth, Bundegi and Tantabiddi. Unsealed ramps for small vessels are also marked on the enclosed map. Small craft can be launched from most beaches.

**Park tours** are conducted by commercial operators based at Exmouth and Coral Bay. Boat charters, glass bottom boat tours, scenic flights and four-wheel-drive safaris are some of the services available. Contact the Exmouth Tourist Bureau for details: (099) 49 1176.

**Diving** is a great way to experience Ningaloo. Instruction, compressed air and equipment hire for snorkelling and scuba diving are available at Exmouth and Coral Bay.

**Walk trails** have been established within several of the natural communities of Cape Range National Park. For information about walk trails contact the Milyering Visitor Centre or the CALM office in Exmouth, or ask a Park ranger.



## MARINE PARK ZONING

Ningaloo Marine Park was declared to conserve the natural environment while facilitating public enjoyment of the area. In order to provide for a range of uses with minimal conflict, Ningaloo Marine Park has been divided into zones.

Three types of zones are used at Ningaloo:

**Sanctuary zones** provide special protection areas for wildlife. Visitors to sanctuary zones can observe the wildlife but no fishing or collecting is permitted.

**Recreation zones** provide for recreational uses which are consistent with conservation of the environment. Fishing is permitted in accordance with fishing regulations. These are available both from CALM and Fisheries Department offices.

**General use zones** provide for both recreational and commercial fishing.

The distribution of zones within the State waters of Ningaloo Marine Park is illustrated on the map. A management plan for the Commonwealth waters is available, and these waters are zoned for general use.

## PLEASE REMEMBER

**Be Wise:** Make it your business to know Park regulations and sanctuary zone boundaries.

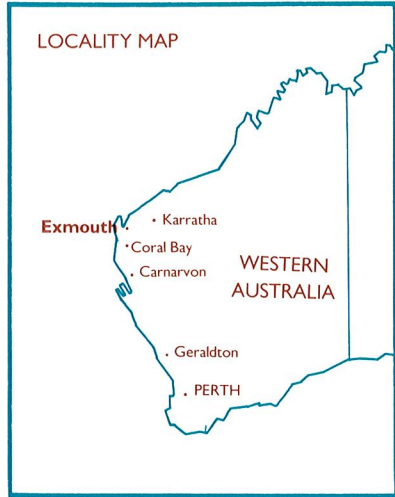
**Be cool:** Camp fires are not permitted within Cape Range National Park.

**Be kind:** Protect animals and plants. Pets and firearms are not permitted.

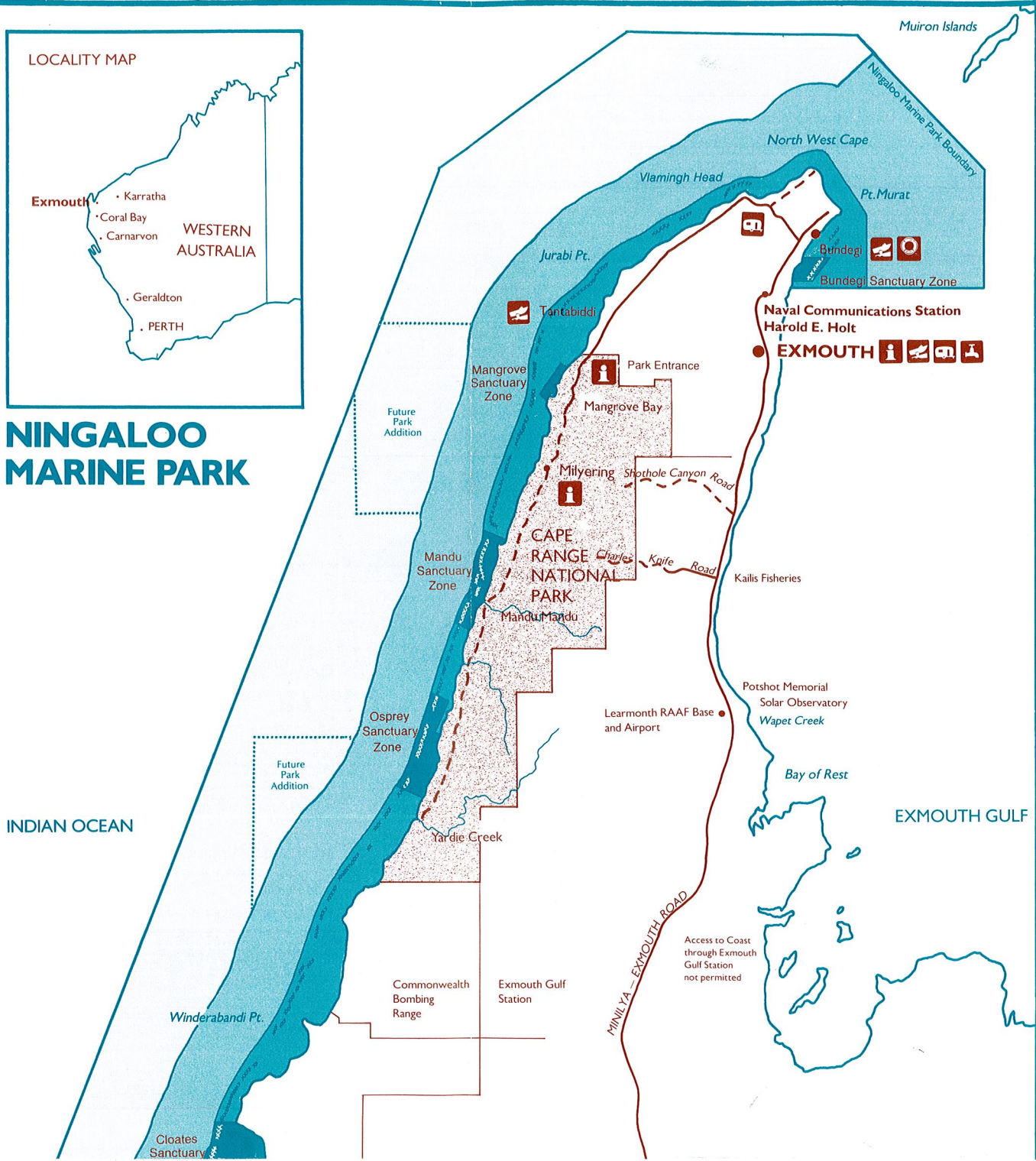
**Be clean:** Take your litter ashore and either put it in a bin, or take it away when you leave.

**Be cautious:** Use a dive flag and stay ashore in rough weather. Alcohol and boating don't mix.

**Be content:** Conserve fish numbers by taking only what you need to eat.

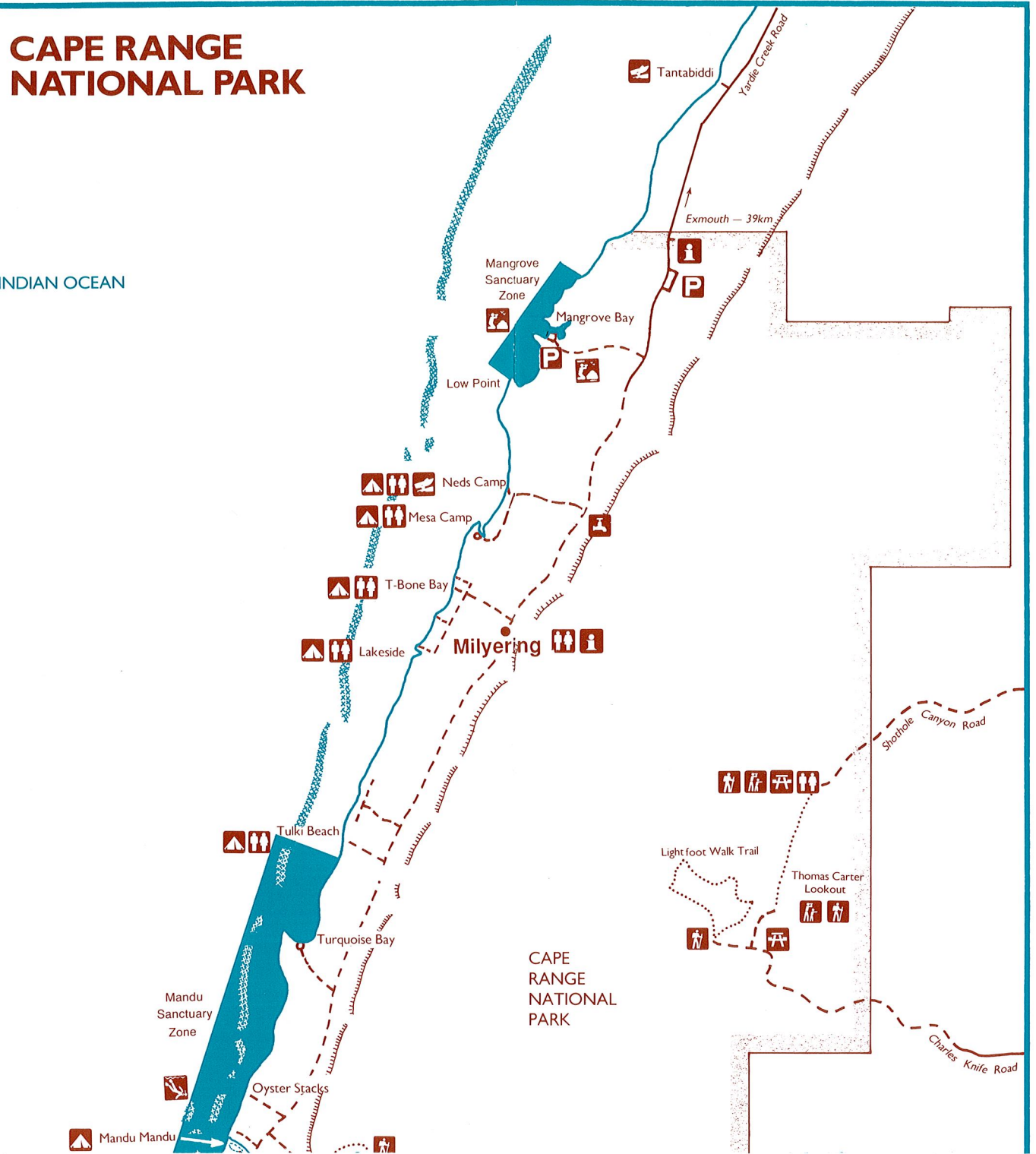


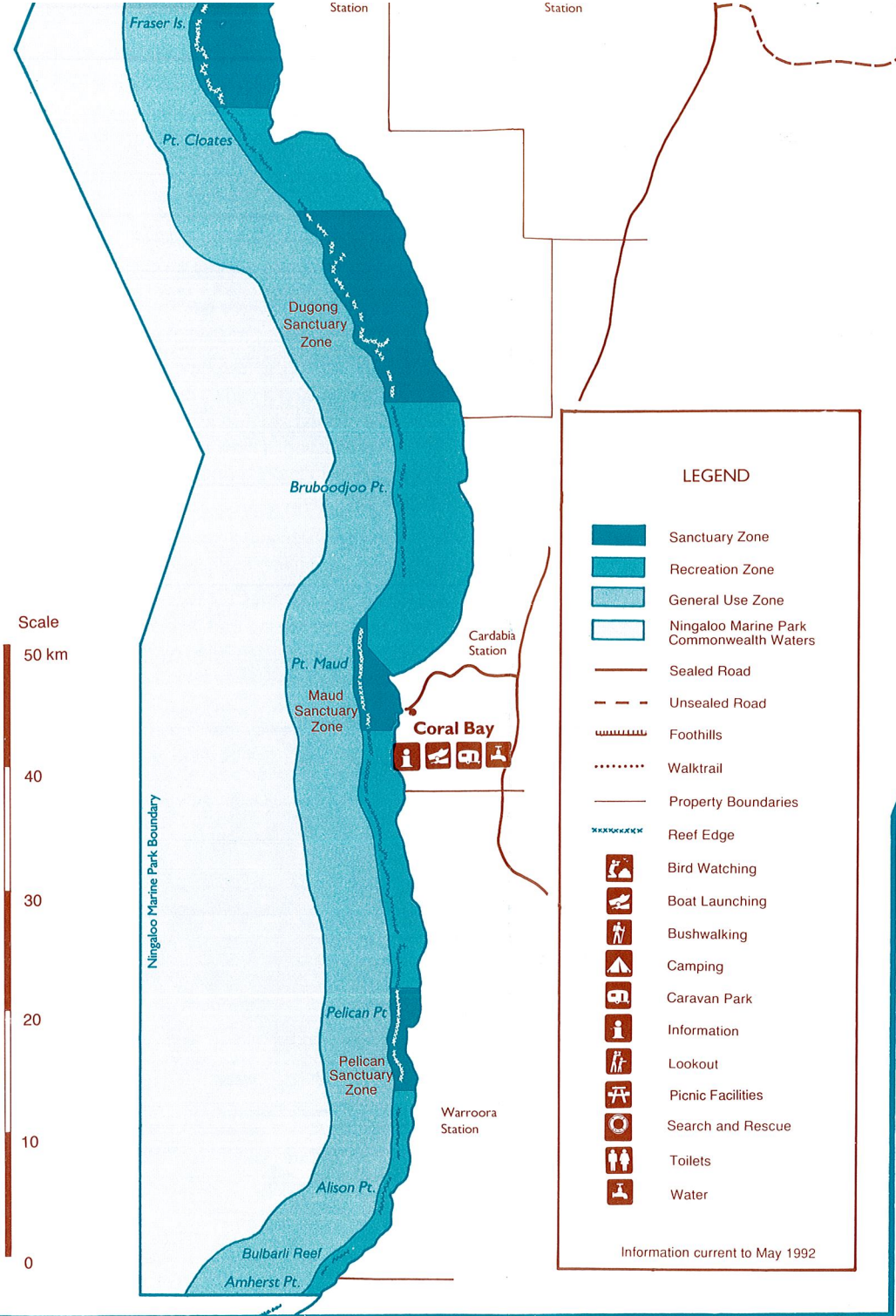
# NINGALOO MARINE PARK



# CAPE RANGE NATIONAL PARK

INDIAN OCEAN

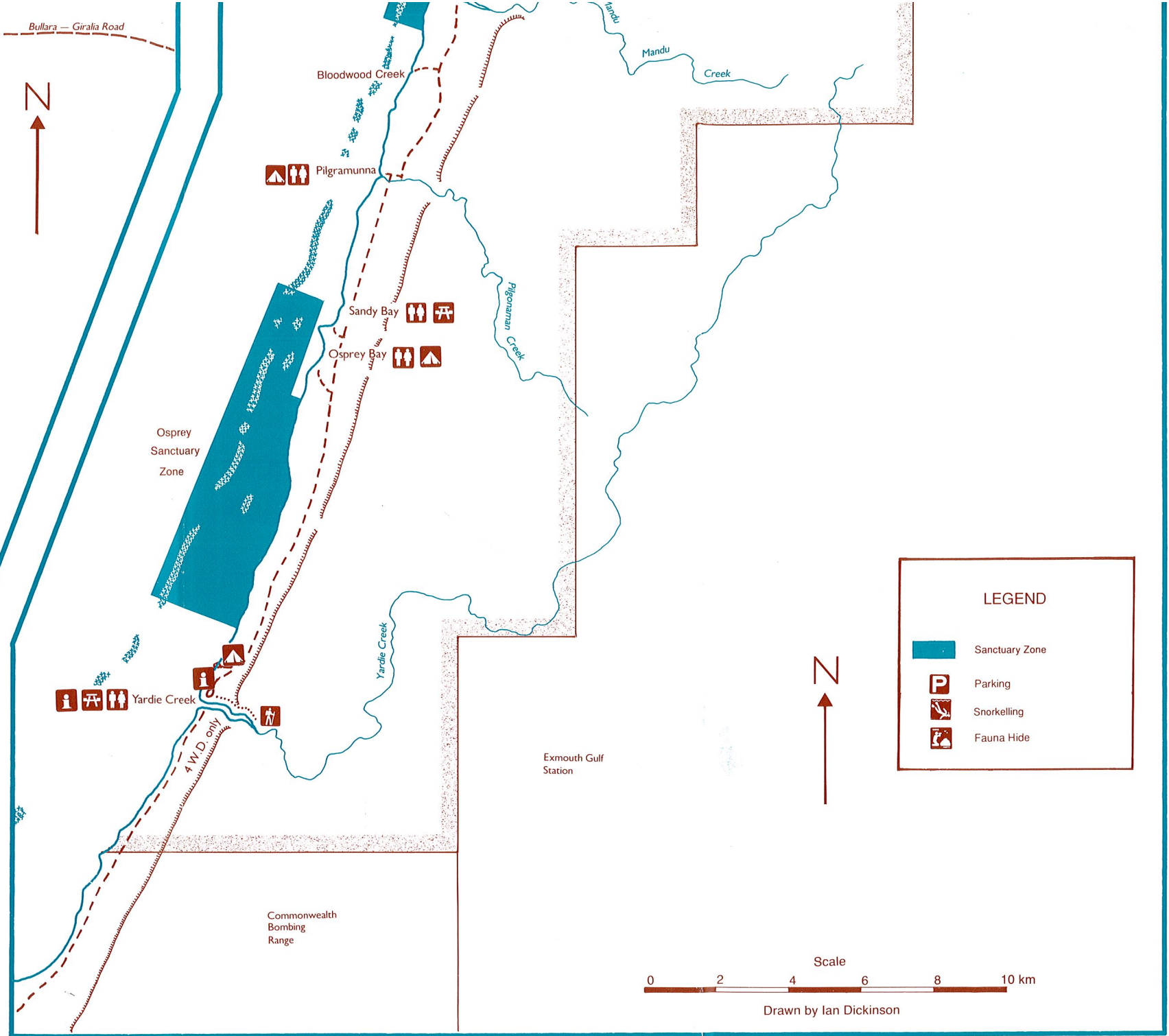




**LEGEND**

- Sanctuary Zone
- Recreation Zone
- General Use Zone
- Ningaloo Marine Park Commonwealth Waters
- Sealed Road
- Unsealed Road
- Foothills
- Walktrail
- Property Boundaries
- Reef Edge
- Bird Watching
- Boat Launching
- Bushwalking
- Camping
- Caravan Park
- Information
- Lookout
- Picnic Facilities
- Search and Rescue
- Toilets
- Water

Information current to May 1992



**LEGEND**

- Sanctuary Zone
- Parking
- Snorkelling
- Fauna Hide

Scale  
0 2 4 6 8 10 km  
Drawn by Ian Dickinson