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Right *Hibbertia* sp.
Centre right Western pigmy possum (*Cercartetus concinnus*).
Far right Donnelly River.
Photos – DEC

Park visitors can experience the coast by conventional vehicle on sealed roads but those in four-wheel drives can explore further. D'Entrecasteaux is a special place with many secrets to discover and enjoy.

There is a wide range of recreational opportunities that can be enjoyed including fishing, surfing, diving, whale watching, four-wheel driving, camping, bush walking and canoeing.

It was named after French Admiral Bruny D'Entrecasteaux who first sighted and named Point D'Entrecasteaux in 1792. The 116,686-ha park has long white beaches, rugged limestone and basalt cliffs, vast coastal sand dunes backed by extensive coastal wetlands and islands of karri forest and granite. Its diversity and size make it one of the most remote and pristine natural areas of the region.

D'Entrecasteaux National Park stretches 130 km along the coast between Augusta and Walpole in the far south-west of the State.

Welcome to D'Entrecasteaux National Park

Above Yeagarup dunes, D'Entrecasteaux National Park. *Photo – DEC*



Going to the coast in D'Entrecasteaux National Park



Information guide



Department of Environment and Conservation



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Going to the coast

Above New Zealand fur seal. *Photo – DEC*



Above Point D'Entrecasteaux. *Photo – DEC*

Rock and reef fishing – Coastal Safety Code

Rock and reef fishing are popular so play safe and observe the code.

- Form plans according to the weather forecast and conditions. Cancel your trip if you need to.
- Tell someone of your plans and expected return time.
- Keep a mobile phone or radio nearby.
- Comply with DEC restricted access and hazard warning signs. These are placed for your safety and welfare, and to protect the environment.
- Wear a self-inflating vest or life jacket.
- **Watch for sea surges which occur silently and without warning!**
- Discuss what to do in case of an accident including identifying potential buoyancy devices and how to exit the water.

Take someone with you if you're fishing or exploring rocks, and don't walk on rocks already wet from waves. If an item falls into a dangerous area, leave it. **No fish or equipment is worth a life.**

If you fall into the water, stay calm. Swim away from the surf and rocks, remove your shoes and clothing and let go of your fishing gear. Float to conserve energy and heat until help arrives. People who are onshore should send for help, keep the person in the water in sight and throw buoyant objects into the water.

Unless it's within your ability, don't jump in to rescue another person, attempt to swim long distances or swim against currents.

Communication and phone coverage

Mobile phone communication coverage in the park is generally poor and should not be relied on. Emergency service contact can be made on 000 or 112 if outside of Telstra coverage areas by phone even with a partial signal. Park visitors should monitor mobile phone signal strength within the park and seek high points in the landscape to aid communication.

Remember: The *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* protects all places and objects used by traditional Indigenous people. It is an offence under the Act for anyone to alter in any way an indigenous site or object without lawful authority.

- reporting any objects or sites to the Department of Environment and Conservation that may be of Indigenous origin;
- keeping to designated tracks and access routes and being aware of potential sites that may be exposed; and

Some sites are threatened by current visitor use. You can help preserve our valuable heritage by:

The park remains an important place for Indigenous people and features a significant number of archaeological and ethnographic sites including numerous stone artifacts, fish traps, quarry sites, burial and mythological sites. Many artifacts and occupation sites have been uncovered by the erosion of sand on the coastal dune systems.

Indigenous people are thought to have occupied WA's South-West for at least 47,000 years even though the oldest archaeological evidence of occupation of the park is dated at 6000 years.

Indigenous cultural heritage

For the park – no pets

National parks protect what is uniquely Australian: our flora and fauna which provide the basis for the outdoor lifestyle we enjoy so much.

Please leave your dogs, cats and other domestic animals at home because they can harm our native wildlife and environment.

European foxes are predators to native animals in the park, so the park is baited with 1080 poison four times a year. Native animals are naturally resistant to 1080 but the baits will kill your pets.

Horse riding is generally not permitted in national parks. Contact DEC in Pemberton for more information.

Further information

Department of Environment and Conservation Donnelly District Office

Kennedy Street, Pemberton WA 6260
(08) 9776 1207
donnelly.district@dec.wa.gov.au

Frankland District Office

South Western Highway, Walpole WA 6398
(08) 9840 1027
walpole@dec.wa.gov.au.

www.naturebase.net

More information about fishing rules and regulations, licence requirements and bag limits can be found on the **Department of Fisheries'** website at www.fish.wa.gov.au.

For more information on four-wheel driving contact the **WA 4WD Association**
PO Box 6029, East Perth WA 6892
www.wa4wda.com.au



Coastwest and Coastcare are initiatives of the State and Federal governments aimed at supporting local community projects which protect and enhance our marine and coastal environments.



Department of Environment and Conservation



Front cover D'Entrecasteaux National Park cliffs. *Photo – DEC*

Four-wheel driving

Plan your trip. The park is remote and isolated so ensure your vehicle is well maintained and serviced. Check you have all the essential four-wheel drive equipment described in this brochure. If you are an inexperienced driver or new to your vehicle consider travelling with others.

Tell someone where you are going and when you will be home. Keep to the plan.

Normal Road Traffic Act Regulations apply in national parks. All motor vehicles, riders and drivers must be licensed for public roads.

Drive slowly along narrow tracks expect to encounter oncoming vehicles, wildlife crossings and other track hazards. Be prepared to back up to a clearing for other vehicles to pass. Sound your horn before blind corners and crests to warn others of your approach.

Let your tyres down to suit the conditions in accordance with tyre manufacturer recommendations before you reach soft sand. This will increase the footprint of the tyre on the ground and float your vehicle over the sand.

Avoid sharp turns and watch out for sticks and roots that can puncture the side wall of tyres. Reinflate tyres on returning to hard surfaces.

Engage four-wheel drive. Check free wheeling hubs and four-wheel drive operation before you reach soft sand.

Select the right gear. For most sand conditions low range second or third gears will provide sufficient power and control. In deep soft sand do not change gears becасue your vehicle will loose its momentum.

On the beach drive on the high tide mark on this high-energy coastline. Check tidal conditions if you are returning along the same beach. Be cautious about driving over buried seaweed which traps water and can act as quicksand.

Look out for other beachgoers and slow down. Coastal conditions make it difficult to see or hear approaching vehicles.

Keep to designated tracks and access ways. Driving over vegetation destroys fragile plants and causes erosion.

River and creek crossings in the park can be deceptive. **ALWAYS stop, get out and look.** Be prepared to wade out and check the water level and compaction of sand. If in doubt **STOP**.



Essential four-wheel drive equipment

- A small shovel
- A tyre pressure gauge
- A portable tyre pump or compressor
- A tow rope or chain
- A first aid kit
- A mobile phone (ideally satellite, HF or UHF radio)

It is also a good idea to carry:

- a spare tyre,
- a toolkit,
- jumper leads,
- a torch,
- drinking water,
- extra fuel and
- a winch – vehicle mounted or hand operated.

Planing to camp

- **Plan to camp in designated camping areas.** These camping areas usually contain basic facilities and provide for a range of sites for individual and group camping. Camping in other areas can cause loss of vegetation by damaging fragile root systems and compaction of soil.
- **A number of informal single campsites without facilities can be found throughout the park.** To ensure these sites remain sustainable please camp in existing cleared areas only – don't create new sites.
- **Where there are no toilet facilities, dig a hole 30 cm deep** for biodegradable human waste. Make sure it is at least 100 m from the campsite and any water course. Compact soil over the top when you have finished to ensure animals stay away.
- **Generator use.** Please consider other campers and restrict the use of generators before 7 am and after 9 pm.
- **Secure your campsite,** vehicle and valuables before you leave. Do not leave valuables in campsites, tents or locked vehicles.
- **Take your rubbish home with you.** Thoughtful disposal of rubbish, particularly plastics can prevent potential harm to marine life and native wildlife.
- **Swimming.** Most coastal beaches are unsuitable for swimming. Carefully check the conditions including the presence of rips and undertows before entering the water. Sheltered inlets are lower risk swimming areas.
- **Logs and bush debris provide a home for wildlife and offer shelter and food to many native species.** Leave them where you find them.
- **Use a portable fuel stove for cooking.** It is more reliable, and reduces the risk of accidental bushfires.
- **Bring your own firewood.** Collecting fire wood in the park is not permitted. Logs and branches are valuable wildlife habitat. Contact DEC's Pemberton or Manjimup offices for public firewood area information.
- **Light campfires only in fireplaces provided** and clear away all leaf litter to leave a good three metre earth break around your fire.
- **Keep the fire small** and never leave a campfire unattended.
- **Don't throw your cigarette butts into the bush.** Extinguish them and take them home with you.
- **Campfires are prohibited on days of very high or extreme fire danger.** Regional and local radio stations broadcast fire danger warnings. Consider not lighting a campfire on other hot, dry days particularly if it is windy.



Stop dieback!

Many of our unique plant species including coastal heaths are susceptible to dieback (*Phytophthora cinnamomi*) – a disease caused by a microscopic soil-borne water mould. The pathogen kills many coastal species and vegetation types. It spreads most readily in moist, warm conditions. You can help to limit its spread if you:

- clean the mud and soil off your vehicle before entering the park. Infected soil is easily transported on tyres and under vehicles. This is how the pathogen most easily spreads;
- avoid puddles and mud;
- keep to established tracks and roads; and
- respect track closures.

Park fees apply.

A range of park passes are available from DEC offices.

If you are a day visitor, you'll need a day pass. Your fees are returned to the park to maintain the facilities you use. Passes are available from DEC offices, post offices, local visitor centres, the Gloucester Tree and selected retail stores. Onsite self registration points in the park provide for the purchase of a one-day park pass option only.

Camp fees apply at most designated campsites. Visitors can obtain information about applicable fees at self registration points found in camping areas.