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Department of Biodiversity,
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Marmion Marine Park
Hillarys Boat Harbour
Hillarys 6025



Friends of Marmion Marine Park

The creation of the Marmion Marine Park alongside Perth's northern suburbs has captured the interest and support of many local residents. A few of these local people have formed an interim committee which has been meeting together for a number of months to establish a group called the Friends of Marmion Marine Park.

The Friends group aims to assist the controlling authorities in the orderly development and management of the Marmion Marine Park and to promote conservation of the natural environment for the enjoyment and education of citizens. This can be achieved through a wide range of activities such as reef and beach walks, bird watching, underwater surveys, group picnics, lectures or volunteer work projects.

The interim committee has drafted a constitution for the Friends group. It also organised a competition in which primary school children were asked to design a logo for the association. The winning entry, shown at the top of this page, will be used to promote the group and its activities.

The last major task of the interim committee is to host the public launch of the Friends group and invite other interested people to share their appreciation and enjoyment of this beautiful and important place by joining the Friends of Marmion Marine Park.

Guidelines for Friends Groups

1. The Department of Conservation and Land Management encourages public participation through the formation of 'Friends' groups and associations.
2. Discussions with the relevant regional or district manager and local staff of the Department should precede the formation of a 'Friends' group.
3. All group projects should be approved in advance by the regional or district manager.
4. Projects should be such that they cannot be regarded as supplanting work which would be done by employees of CALM.
5. 'Friends' seek no special privileges and pay normal park fees where applicable.
6. Each 'Friends' group is autonomous and self-administering and regulates its own financial requirements such as membership fees.
7. CALM has a Personal Accident and Insurance policy for Voluntary Workers and Work Experience Students. This policy shall indemnify approved voluntary workers who are engaged on Departmental business or approved activities.
8. The Department will assist 'Friends' groups wherever possible, and will promote publicity within the media as well as Departmental publications.

Sharing our ocean environment

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Discovering Marmion Marine Park

Welcome to Marmion Marine Park, a special place in which to share our ocean environment with wildlife and people.

The coastal fringing reefs, lagoons, rocky limestone outcrops, coves, and long sandy beaches provide visitors with many opportunities to explore and discover Marmion Marine Park.

Access to the inner and outer reefs and Little Island is by boat where a variety of marine wildlife that inhabits the waters of the Indian Ocean within the Marine Park can be seen.

Places To See And Things To Do

***Trigg Island to Hillary's Boat Harbour**

An on-shore limestone reef that extends from Trigg Island to near Hillary's Boat Harbour provides visitors the opportunity to explore the shallows of Marmion Marine Park.

Snorkelling, or the use of a glass bottom bucket can help you discover a diverse range of the marine wildlife like the molluscs that are plentiful.

Abalone can be collected (within Fisheries regulations) among the gullies and seaward faces of the reef.

A bicycle trail links Trigg Island to the Hillary's Boat Harbour, traversing dune vegetation, coastal car parks and, in some places, the West Coast Highway. Cycling is a great way to experience the changing coastal scenery. Contact the Department of Sport and Recreation for further details of the route.

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***Trigg Island**

The limestone outcrops at Trigg Island provide an ideal roosting site for pied cormorants and silver gulls. Birdwatchers may spy crested terns, caspian terns with the red bill and the aptly named fairy terns.

Bottlenosed dolphins are regular visitors offshore at Trigg.

Swimming is not recommended at the Blue Hole south of Trigg Island because of rips.

***Mettams Pool**

An ideal area for dry and wet reef exploration, while the sheltered rock pool caters for families and elderly swimmers. A ramp and toilets provide for the disabled.

***North Beach Platform**

Just South of Waterman's Reserve, the platform overlooks the ocean and provides a safe spot for fishing at high tide.

***Waterman's Reserve**

An area set aside as an ecological benchmark where scientists study the on-shore reef and its marine life and compare adjacent areas that are affected by people. Here fish can be taken by line only.

All other marine life is protected.

The University of Western Australia research laboratory is used by scientists, students, and occasionally by the public. Enquire at the Information Centre at Hillary's Boat Harbour for specific details.

***Hillary's Boat Harbour**

The harbour and associated groynes provide sheltered swimming areas and divers and snorkers can observe the resident marine wildlife.

A dive trail is proposed for the Boyinaboat Reef - less than 50m from the south west wall of the harbour. A sign identifies steps leading onto the wall overlooking the reef. Remember spear fishing is not permitted within 1800m of the coastline.

The Information Centre is staffed by the Wanneroo Tourism Council to service general community enquiries, and can refer specific enquiries on boating, fishing and marine park matters to the relevant Government officers working in the building. Telephone 448 1948

Underwater World is a privately owned visitor centre with walk-through aquarium that might encourage you to explore the Marmion Marine Park yourself.

Fishing from the harbour walls can be productive, but take note of winds. Fish the northern side during a south-westerly, the south side in a northerly or north-easterly, and anywhere when a easterly is blowing.

Best times are early morning or evening light, with a rising tide. Common fish caught outside the harbour are skipjack, cobbler, yellowtail, garfish, and seasonally herring. Fish inside the harbour for flathead, whiting and silver bream. Don't forget your hat, sunscreen, chair and something to drink.

If you plan to go boating, seek advice from local fishing and boating clubs and the Department of Marine and Harbours.

At Little Island Australian sealions find sanctuary. Please stay on your boat to watch them as this species is reestablishing its numbers after being threatened with extinction by sealers in the 1800's.

***Hillary's Boat Harbour to Burns Rocks**

Between Hillary's and Ocean Reef Boat Harbour is a long stretch of sandy beach backed by vegetated dunes.

This beach is ideal for swimming and sunbathing.

***Whitford Nodes**

A stabilised, grassed picnic area is provided between the dunes at Whitford Nodes. A dune walk trail links two lookouts and the beach with the boat harbour and picnic area. The lookouts provide an extensive view of the Marine Park, particularly the inshore reef and Little Island.

Migrating humpback whales can be seen going north to warmer waters in April and returning south in October.

A common sight are the terns that dive into the sea to feed on schooling fish.

The dune walk trail gives a closer look at the hardy dune plants that hold the sands together, and provide shelter and food for insects, birds and some lizards.

***Mullaloo Point**

Here stark white shifting beach sands contrast graphically with the vegetated dune areas. Nearby are the Mullaloo tavern, shops and grassy picnic area.

***North Shore**

Just before the junction of West Coast Highway and Ocean Reef Road is a mini 'pinnacles'. Take time to explore these limestone stumps.

They have formed beneath the dunes where a hard capping of calcrete has protected the softer limestone beneath from subsurface erosion from water seepage. The ocean winds that you can experience here subsequently caused the dunes to move and exposed the limestone stumps.

***Ocean Reef Boat Harbour**

Here is exposed the solid limestone of a past ocean floor. Gradual subsidence in this ocean floor, with the subsequent build up of marine and river deposits over millions of years, has obtained an estimated depth of 10,000m

The Ocean Reef Harbour wall provides access to deep water for fishermen.

***Ocean Reef to Burns Rock**

The on-shore reef is exposed again just south of Ocean Reef Harbour, and continues onto Burns Rock.

Although the road presently stops at Ocean Reef, the adventurous can get away from it all by beachwalking and rock hopping north to find a secluded cove of their own in which to bask in the sun, explore the shallows and discover something about the Marmion Marine Park .

Further Information

The Information Centre at Hillary's Boat Harbour is staffed by the Wanneroo Tourism Council to assist you.

Contact can be made with Departments of Conservation and Land Management, Fisheries, and Marine and Harbours officers here or on patrol in the Park. They are glad to help you with your enquiries.

The Friends of Marmion Marine Park welcome your support and can be contacted through the Information Centre.

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Protecting our Marine Heritage

For more than 100 years WA has recognised the importance of protecting significant areas of its natural heritage.

Today about 4.5 million hectares of our State is classified as national parks, vibrant natural museums ranging from the hardwood forests of the south-west to vast inland deserts that represent our unique terrestrial flora and fauna.

Until now, however, there has been a missing element: the marine environment.

Clearly, its absence has made our park system less representative of WA's environment, especially considering that the State has some 12 700 km of coastline.

Recently a start was made to address this imbalance with the official opening of the Marmion Marine Park, WA's first marine park.

The primary objective in establishing this park, which is located on metropolitan Perth's doorstep, is to conserve significant examples of our marine heritage, and to encourage public understanding, appreciation and continued enjoyment of the marine environment in ways which will leave it unimpaired for future generations.

These same values apply to the Ningaloo Marine Park which is situated along 260 km of the State's coastline south of Exmouth.

Both of these marine parks not only allow for the development of proper management techniques to protect the marine environment, but also to enhance recreation.

Marmion reef has long been a popular holiday destination for many Western Australians who fished for the huge groper and crayfish offshore, and swam in the protected lagoons.

Ningaloo might be less well known because of its isolation, but the tourist industry is expected to promote this area of our coastline and the adjacent Cape Range National Park and, as a consequence, it will become one of the State's premier tourist attractions.

The establishing of marine parks will provide many benefits.

Some benefits are intangible, such as the knowledge that future generations will be able to appreciate areas of unspoiled natural beauty.

Sharing our ocean environment

Others are more tangible, such as the enjoyment of visiting a marine park.

There will also be benefits in terms of jobs created and the expansion of a growing and viable tourist industry.

Furthermore, marine parks will provide ecological benchmarks for research into natural processes and into the relative effects of marine and coastal uses.

We have a responsibility to protect special marine environments and to encourage public appreciation of these areas now and in the future.

WHAT IS A MARINE PARK?

A Marine Park is an area of our coastline and associated offshore waters that is vested in the National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority, to be managed for the benefit of the public.

A marine park is established to:-

- protect, conserve and manage examples of our marine environment to ensure their long-term viability.
- protect depleted, threatened or endangered marine species and, in particular, to preserve habitats considered essential for the survival of such species;
- protect, conserve and manage coastal areas of significance to the life-cycle of economically important marine species;
- preserve the natural aesthetic values of the marine environment for present and future generations;
- protect and manage valuable geological, historical, archaeological and cultural sites;
- facilitate the interpretation of the marine environment for tourism, recreation and education;
- to accommodate a broad range of aquatic recreational opportunities;
- provide research and training opportunities;
- monitor the environmental effects on the marine environment of adjacent land-use practices.

Official Launch of FRIENDS OF MARMION MARINE PARK



**Sunday, December 6
Hillarys Boat Harbour**

ACTIVITIES

8.45 am - 1 pm

Children's fishing competition
Prizes for boys' and girls' sections

9.45 am

Ironman Surf Lifesaving Competition and Helicopter rescue demonstration

2 pm

Launch of Friends of Marmion Marine Park

Guest speakers will talk about the importance of marine parks and friends groups.

SEE

Schools Friends logo competition display

SCUBA diving display

Water safety display

Sea lions (boat trips to Little Island from 1 pm, cost \$2.00)

ALSO

- ★ Take a beach walk
- ★ build a sand castle with your children
- ★ explore the Marmion Park reefs
- ★ enjoy the ocean environment with Friends.

Pack a lunch and be at the Hillarys Boat Harbour on Sunday, December 6, for an action packed and interesting day.

Membership forms to join the
Friends of Marmion Marine Park will be available.

Food will be available at the Boat Harbour.



MARMION MARINE PARK

HILLARYS BOAT HARBOUR

