



Panatana Rivulet



6 Panatana Track

Walk distance | 3.7km
Walk time | 1-2hours
Walk grade | easy

Answering the call of the sea

The place now known by its Aboriginal name **Panatana Rivulet**, has also been called Marshy Creek, Muddy Creek, and for a while, Mill Dam on Muddy Creek—named for a flour mill that operated here for a short time in the mid 1800s.

In this tidal environment, the personality of the rivulet changes with the mood of the water. At high tide, it is a mirror reflecting the gentle picture of moored boats and yachts. Low tide sees nature take ownership of the muddy flats of the estuary, with the industrious movement of soldier crabs and the arrival of dozens of species of birds feeding on the abundance of the waterway.

Ship building

During the mid 1800s, the rivulet was the location for intensive shipbuilding under the management of John Griffiths of the entrepreneurial Griffiths family, whose shipbuilding empire spanned the east coast of Australia from Sydney to Tasmania.

The centuries-long connection that Port Sorell has with shipping and boating continues today in gentler pursuits of yachting, fishing and kayaking.

Aboriginal Sites

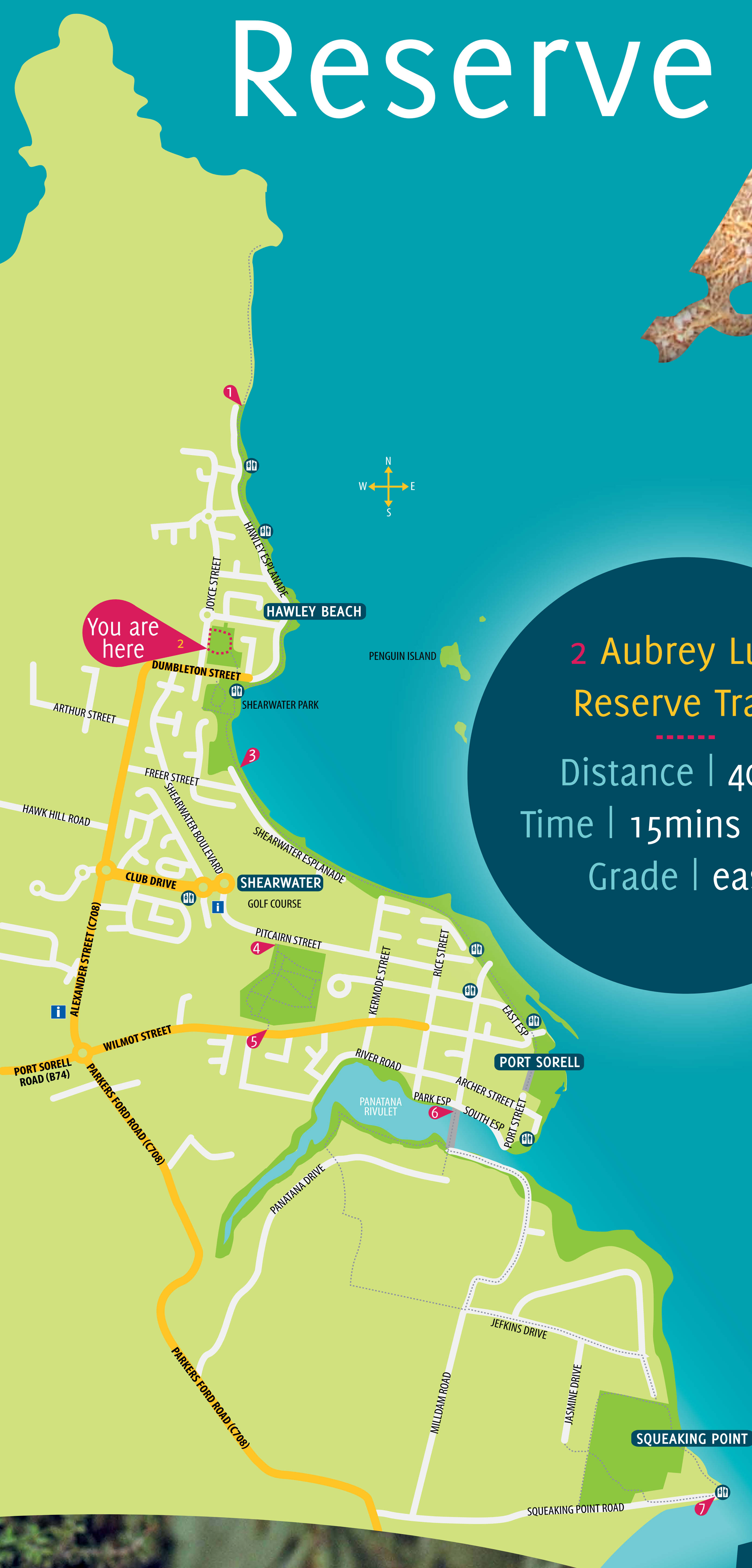
If you encounter any Aboriginal sites as you explore Panatana Rivulet, please refrain from walking on them and remember that it is an offence to interfere in any way with relics found. Please respect the land.

Port Sorell Walking Trails is a combined project of Latrobe and Port Sorell Tourism Association Inc., Latrobe Council, Latrobe Rotary Club, Port Sorell Lions Club and Rubicon Coast and Landcare Inc.



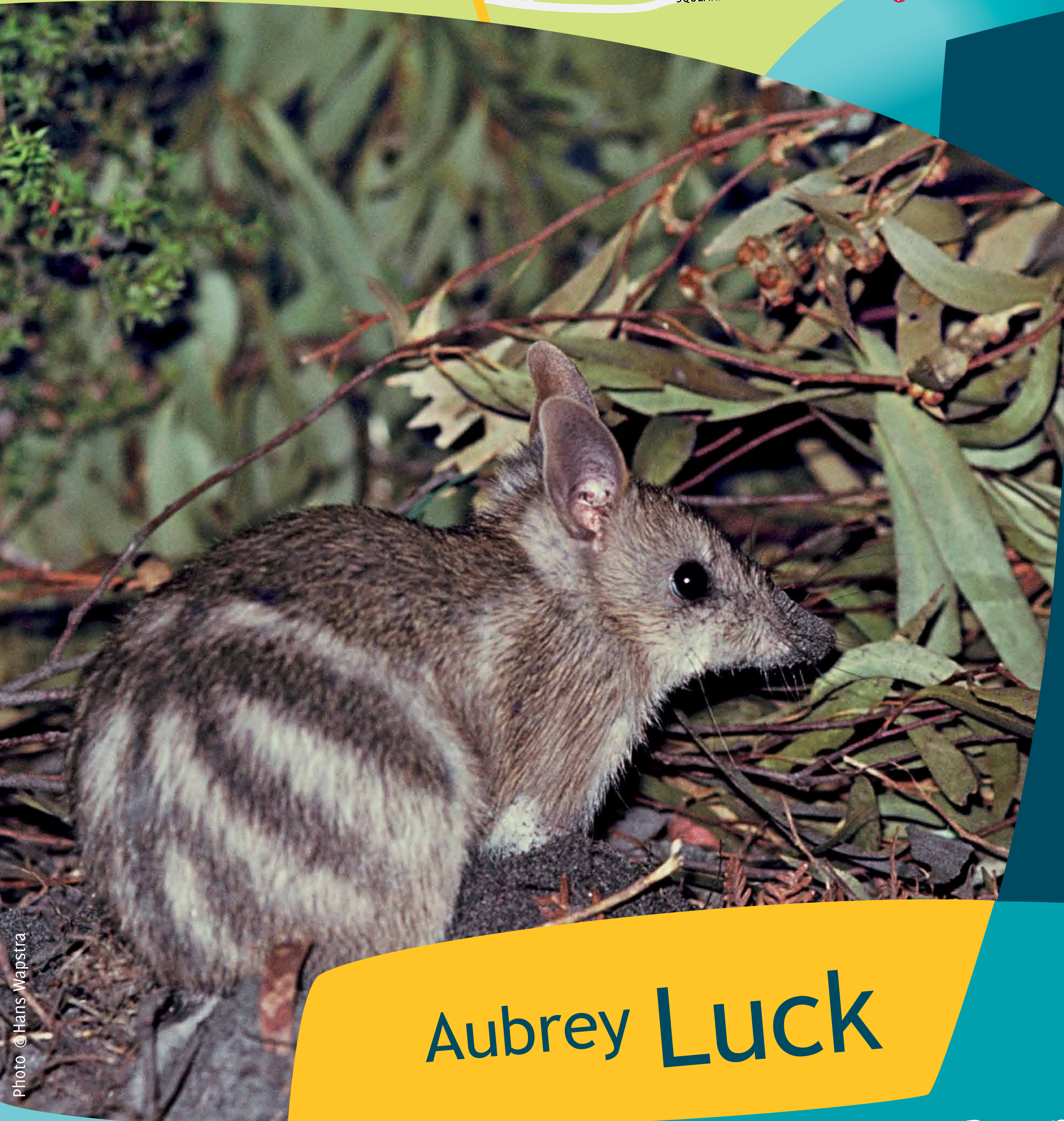


Aubrey Luck Reserve



2 Aubrey Luck Reserve Track

Distance | 400m
Time | 15mins return
Grade | easy



Aubrey Luck

This reserve is named in honour of Devonport businessman Aubrey Luck who, with his brother Mervyn, founded a successful building and building supplies firm in the 1940s - Luck Bros. Pty Ltd.

Aubrey donated the land that has become this very special reserve.

A natural sanctuary in our urban landscape

This reserve is a remnant of the natural bushland that once covered the area. Overhead wave the arms of **she-oaks**, **eucalypts** and **blackwoods**, sheltering the abundant birdlife.

At your feet, native grasses and shrubs provide habitat for small marsupial species like **eastern barred** and **southern brown bandicoots**.

Many of the plants that grow here are small and close to the ground. Take time to look for them as you walk and listen carefully for the rustle of a shy **Bennett's wallaby**, **echidna**, **long-nosed potoroo**, **ringtail** and **brushtail possum** or a grazing **Tasmanian pademelon**.

Eastern Barred Bandicoot

Perameles gunnii

If you are lucky, you may spot this small, mostly nocturnal marsupial in late afternoon or dusk, as you explore the reserve.

The eastern barred bandicoot is easily recognised by the distinctive pale bands across its hindquarters. It has an extremely pointy snout, large ears and a white tail.



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Photo © Dan Fellow



3 Freers Beach Track

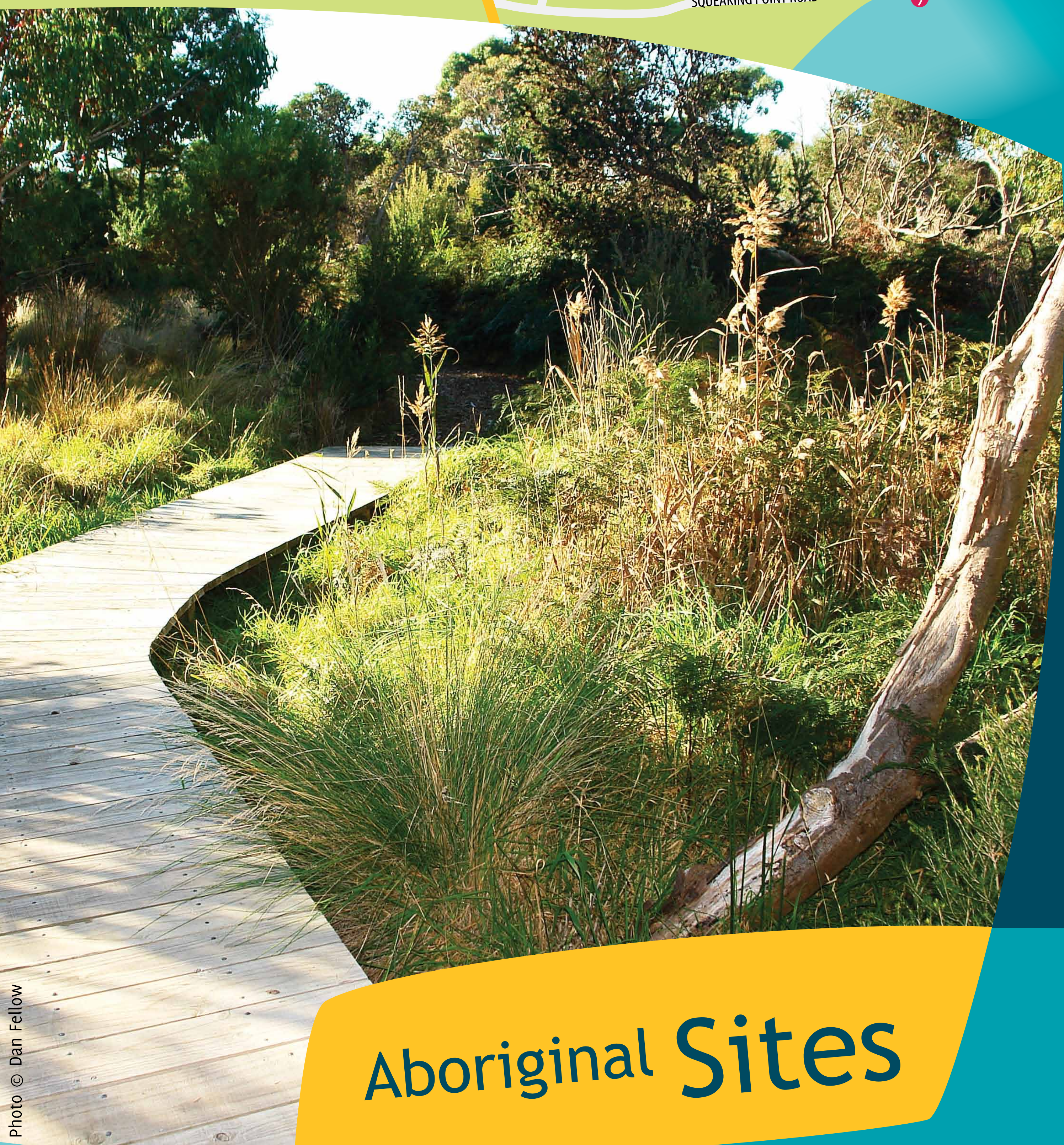
Distance | 1.14km
Time | 20mins return
Grade | easy

Embedded history

The coastline around Port Sorell is etched with evidence of the history of two peoples.

The original inhabitants of the Port Sorell area were known as the Punnilerpanner, one of four groups of Aboriginal people comprising the North tribe. The Punnilerpanner lived on the land they called Panatana – a place of abundant food and a sanctuary from the harsh winters of the Tasmanian highlands.

It was also the same area gazetted in April 1844 as the Sub-Police District of Port Sorell by His Excellency Sir John Eardley-Wilmot, Baronet, Lieutenant-Governor of the Island of Van Diemen's Land and its Dependencies.



Aboriginal Sites

If you encounter any Aboriginal sites as you explore Freers Beach, please refrain from walking on them and remember that it is an offence to interfere in any way with relics found. Please respect the land.

The Beach

The clean white sand of Freers Beach curves gently south over 1.5km towards Port Sorell.

The beach, which can be easily accessed from the intersection of Freer Street and Shearwater Esplanade, offers excellent views of the Rubicon Estuary, Penguin Island and Narawntapu National Park. The Port Sorell Surf Life Saving Club is located at the northern end of the beach, approximately 500 metres from the Freer Street access point.

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Pitcairn Bushland Reserve

4 Pitcairn Bushland Reserve Walking Track

Time | 480m=15mins return
Grade | easy



A place of natural abundance

Pitcairn Bushland Reserve – one of the last bushland reserves in the Tasmanian urban environment.

Follow the paths that weave through this land of natural bush. Watch for foraging echidnas, potoroos and other small marsupials as you explore the trails. You may even be lucky enough to spot the endangered eastern barred bandicoot or the southern brown bandicoot. Watch for basking blue tongue lizards.

Take a moment to wonder who has walked here before you. You are walking in the footsteps of the original occupants of this land – the Punnilerpanner people. They call this land Panatana. The Punnilerpanner thrived here, enjoying the abundance and variety of food that flourished along this coast. Shellfish gathered from the ocean and estuary, eggs and meat from local bird species (including native ducks and black swans), kangaroos, emus, lizards, snakes and some plants were all valuable sources of food and medicine for the Punnilerpanner.

Superb Fairy Wren

Often seen in family groups comprising one male and a cluster of females and young, the superb fairy wren is an exquisite and much-loved visitor to the reserve.

Male wrens are distinguished by bright blue markings on the crown and upper back, contrasting with a dark blue chest, brown wings and creamy belly. Females and young are brown.

Aboriginal Sites

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Grade | easy



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Hawley Beach



1 Hawley Beach Walking Track

Distance | 880m

Time | 30mins return

Grade | easy

Larooma 'Open Sea'

Larooma – an Aboriginal word meaning 'open sea' – describes this place to perfection.

The ocean before you teems with life. Marine mammals including migrating whales, dolphins, killer whales and seals feed, rest and breed in these rich waters.

Countless species of fish and other marine life cluster around hidden reefs.

Little penguins make their daily forays to sea to hunt before returning to their burrows on the foreshore at dusk.

Shorebirds feast on the ocean's bounty and visit the coast to nest and breed.

Short-tailed Shearwater

Vast numbers of short-tailed shearwaters (mutton birds) arrive in Tasmania each September on their annual migration from the northern hemisphere.

After flying thousands of kilometres, the birds lay a single egg in a burrow, forming dense colonies at prime nesting sites along the coast.

A successful breeding pair raises their chick through the Australian summer before departing in April to make the epic journey north once again.

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