

## VEGETATION

The bushland area consists of low, flat grasses and bracken-dominated open woodland, with a diverse shrub and ground layer rich in herbs, grasses and orchids. Mixed native trees, including four indigenous wattle species, manna gums and banksia, intersperse the landscape providing valuable habitat and shade for wildlife.

Several weed species that colonised the reserve are now subject to a systematic physical and chemical removal program.

## WILDLIFE

The reserve is home to a wide diversity of fauna species. In total, 55 bird species and six species of frog utilise habitats found within the reserves. Bird species include international migratory wader species, such as marsh harriers, brown quails and chestnut teals. Of particular importance to the reserve is the significant population of nationally protected Growling Grass Frogs, which are dependent on a matrix of aquatic and terrestrial habitat found within the reserve for breeding, foraging, shelter and dispersal.

## WETLANDS

The ephemeral wetlands lie in a series of shallow east-west depressions. The classification of ephemeral means the wetlands fill with water in winter and drain in summer. However, the duration and magnitude of the large wetlands wetting/drying cycles have been altered as a result of an influx of freshwater from the adjacent stormwater drain. This transition has altered the structural composition of the wetlands flora and the suite of fauna that utilise the area.

## MANAGEMENT

Through dedicated, strategic management actions, Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee of Management, in conjunction with the Friends of Point Richards, have retained and increased the ecological attributes of this once active aviation site.



*Photo: Mary Boothroyd*

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

The Friends of Point Richards were established in 2001 by a group of like-minded local residents keen to rid the reserve of weed-infestations and restore it's natural integrity for everyone to enjoy. The Friends meet each Tuesday at 10 am for approximately 2 hrs (weather-dependent). No experience necessary. All equipment and guidance provided by Bellarine Bayside staff.

## NO DOGS, HORSES OR MOTORBIKES!

***Take only photos and leave only footprints - please take all rubbish home, including food scraps, and respect our reserve by not removing any flora and fauna.***

**Thank you for visiting our wonderful reserve.**

# POINT RICHARDS FLORA AND FAUNA RESERVE

## SELF-GUIDED WALKS



Point Richards Flora and Fauna Reserve is dedicated to the conservation of indigenous plants and wildlife. Originally allocated for the conservation of Southern Brown Bandicoots, this 62 hectare reserve now represents one of the largest areas of native bushland and ephemeral wetlands on the Bellarine Peninsula.

Easy pedestrian access to the network of trails that transect the reserve is available off Pt. Richards Road. The walks are designed to showcase the reserve's unique natural and ecological features as you meander along.





## WALK DESCRIPTIONS

### AIRSTRIP CIRCUIT

Length: 1.2 km Time: 25 mins

Difficulty: Easy

Meander through 80-year-old Manna gums, traverse wetlands and walk the disused aviation airstrip

### GROWLING GRASS FROG LOOP

Length: 2.6 km Time: 50 mins

Difficulty: Easy

Take in the beauty of mature wattle tree stands whilst listening for the unique calls of five frog species from winter to early summer, including the vulnerable growling grass frog.

### BOUNDARY LOOP

Length: 1.4 km Time: 30 mins

Difficulty: Easy

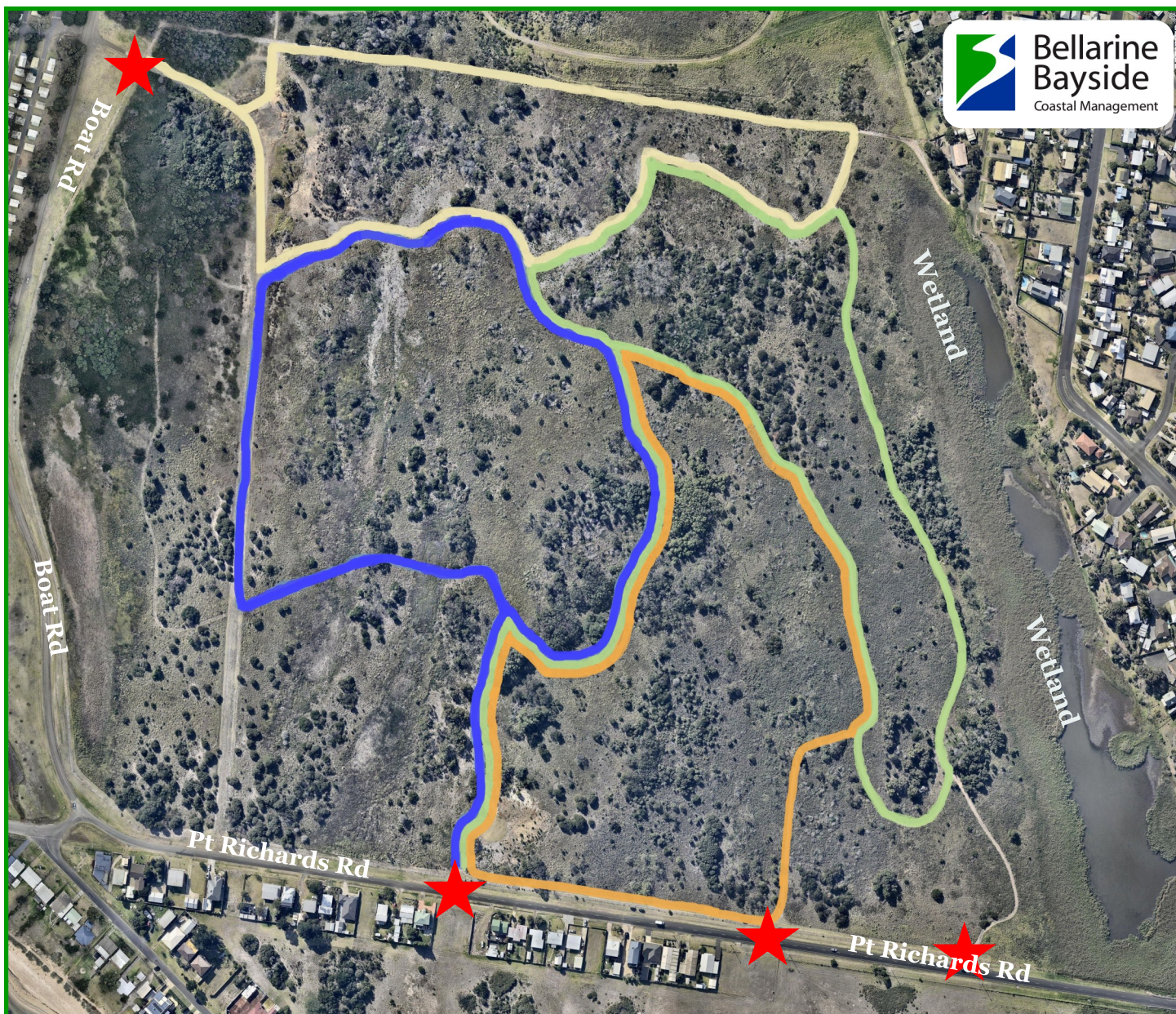
Walk through extensive revegetation work and see the transition from weed-infestations to native vegetation landscape.

### TWITCHER TRACK

Length: 1.5 km Time: 35 mins

Difficulty: Easy

Look to the sky and watch birds of prey hover above the tree line in search of food.



### LEGEND

- Airstrip Circuit
- Growling Grass Frog Loop
- Boundary Loop
- Twitcher Track
- ★ Entry & Exit Points

### FAST FACTS

**Ecological Vegetation Class:** Damp sands, herb-rich woodland.

Adult Growling Grass Frogs can grow to **55-100 mm**.

**Southern brown bandicoots** have been recorded in the reserve in the past and monitoring is underway to reveal their present-day status.

**Lt Charles Richards** explored the area in 1837.