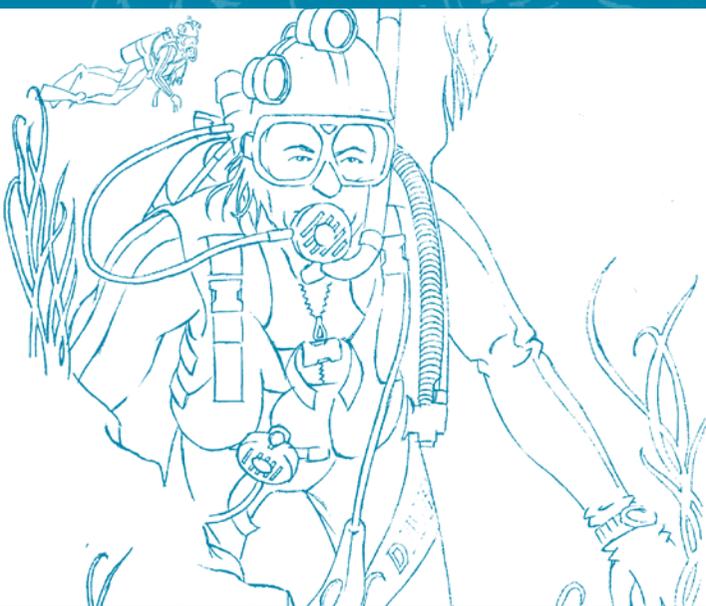


Piccaninnie Ponds Conservation Park

Diving and Snorkelling Guidelines



Healthy Parks
Healthy People



The crystal clear waters of Piccaninnie Ponds have been slowly filtering through the limestone and forming the pond's features over thousands of years. The fresh water rising to the surface under pressure has eroded a weakness in the limestone to form 'The Chasm', with its clear white walls covered with delicate algal growth contrasting with the dark depths below.

This same process has formed the large underwater cavern known as 'The Cathedral' because of its majestic white walls of sculptured and scalloped limestone. With visibility that can exceed forty metres, this is one of the prettiest and most spectacular cave diving and snorkelling sites in South Australia.

Piccaninnie Ponds permit system guidelines

To protect this unique and fragile area and to improve the diving or snorkelling experience, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) operates a permit and timeslot system. To dive or snorkel in Piccaninnie Ponds you must hold the appropriate permits. Permits are not transferable and must be produced upon request by a ranger. The permits are issued subject to conditions. Failure to comply with these conditions may result in cancellation of the permit or court action.

Dive and snorkel timeslots

5 am - 6 am	5 pm - 6 pm
8 am - 9 am	8 pm - 9 pm
11 am - 12 noon	11 pm - 12 midnight
2 pm - 3 pm	

South Australian times apply.

Although diving and snorkelling timeslots coincide, **a minimum of two and a maximum of four persons per diving or snorkelling group are allowed at any one time.** Hence, up to eight persons may

be present in the ponds during the one-hour dive or snorkel timeslots. You must be out of the water before the time expires. **A maximum of two dive or snorkel timeslots per person are allowed per day.**

Diving permits

A diving permit can only be issued to divers who are current financial members of the Cave Divers Association of Australia (CDAA) and rated at sinkhole category. Proof of current CDAA membership and categorisation is supplied to DENR Mount Gambier office by the CDAA.

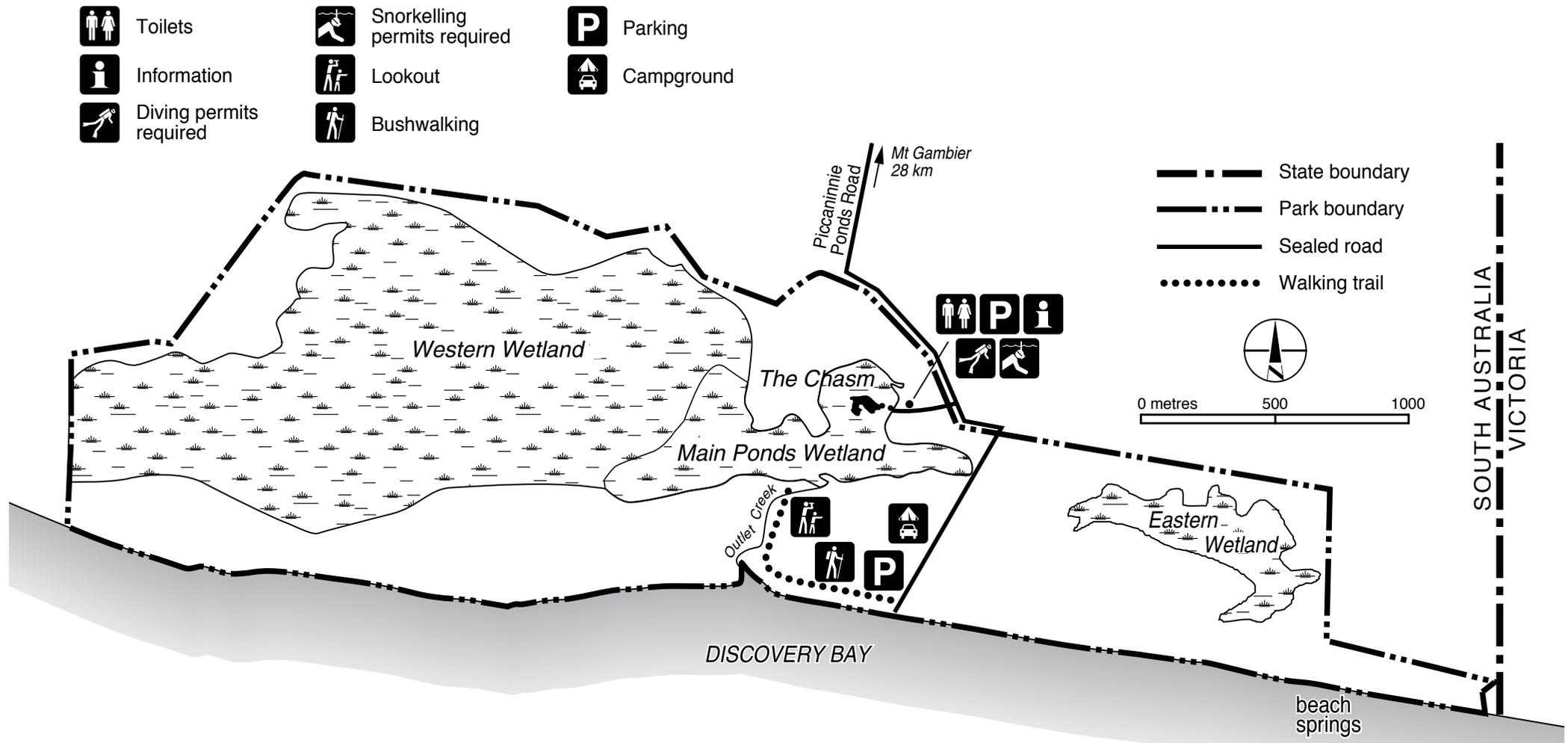
Dive bookings can be made by phone or in person at DENR Mount Gambier office and must be confirmed with lodgement of a Cave Diving Permit/Indemnity form (available from the DENR Mount Gambier Office) and payment, prior to the dive.

Only originals of Permit/Indemnity forms can be accepted.

The Cave Diving Permit/Indemnity form is renewed on an annual basis. Divers can renew their indemnity at the beginning of the financial year or at the time of booking a dive. Bookings must be made no less than 10 days prior to the intended dive date if the diver does not have a current Permit/Indemnity form on file at the DENR Mount Gambier office. The signed **original** of the Permit/Indemnity form must be lodged with the DENR Mount Gambier office and fees paid prior to the dive date. Failure to do so will result in cancellation of the dive booking.

The Permit/Indemnity form remains valid for the duration of the diver's CDAA financial membership. A duplicate copy of the Permit/Indemnity form must be retained by the diver and produced at the dive site upon request by a ranger.

Upon renewal of the Cave Diving Permit/Indemnity form divers may elect to pay the annual diving fee. Alternatively, a single dive fee must be paid each time a dive slot is booked.



Snorkel Permits

Snorkel permits are issued to any individual. It is a requirement that full-length wetsuits must be worn by snorkellers. A Snorkel Indemnity form must be completed by each applicant. Bookings can be made with DENR Mount Gambier office by phone or in person. Opening hours are 8.45 am to 5 pm Monday to Friday.

Permits arranged over the phone must be booked no less than 10 days prior to the intended snorkel date to allow sufficient time for mailing of signed Snorkel Indemnity forms.

If applying in person at DENR Mount Gambier office, all members of the snorkel group must be present to complete and sign Snorkel Indemnity forms (a parent or guardian must sign the Snorkel Indemnity form for a child under 18 years of age). Permits may be obtained on the day you wish to snorkel when applying in person at DENR Mount Gambier office. (Bookings may be made in advance to secure your preferred time slot.)

Snorkel Indemnity forms may be obtained from DENR Mount Gambier office in person or by fax or email. **Signed originals** of completed Snorkel Indemnity forms must be returned to the DENR Mount Gambier office by post or delivered in person prior to the snorkel date together with the permit fee. A snorkel permit will then be issued. **(Faxes of signed Snorkel Indemnity forms cannot be accepted.)**

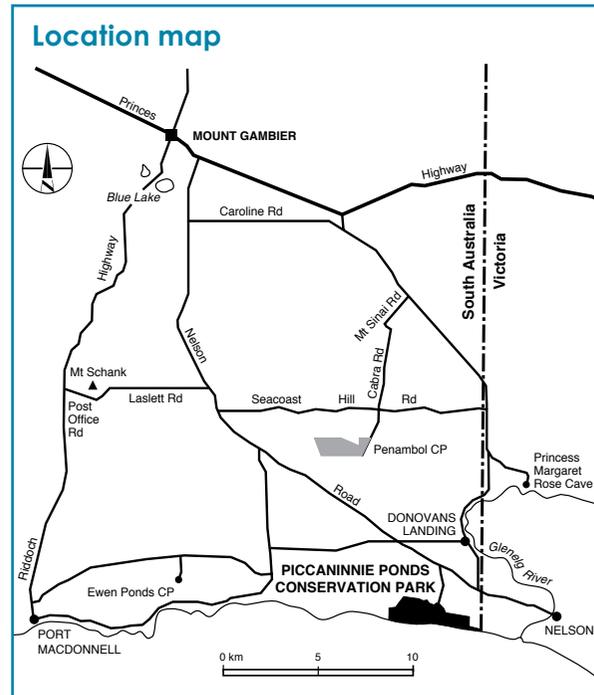
Snorkel Permits are not transferable and must be produced at the snorkel site on request by a ranger.

The National Parks Code

Help protect your national parks by following these guidelines:

- Leave your pets at home.
- Take your rubbish with you.
- Observe fire restrictions usually 1 November to 30 April. Check CFS hotline 1300 362 361.
- Conserve native habitat by using liquid fuel or gas stoves. Solid fuel fires are prohibited.
- Camp only in designated areas.
- Respect geological and heritage sites.
- Keep our wildlife wild. Do not feed or disturb animals, or remove native plants.
- Keep to defined vehicle tracks and walking trails.
- Be considerate of other park users.

Thank you for leaving the bush in its natural state for the enjoyment of others.



For further information contact:

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
 Mount Gambier Office
 11 Helen Street, Mount Gambier
 PO Box 1046, Mount Gambier SA 5290
 Phone (08) 8735 1114
 Fax (08) 8735 1135
 Website www.parks.sa.gov.au

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