

# Point Nepean

## You can help plan its future



## An exciting new park in 1988

As part of Australia's bicentenary celebrations a significant portion of the Commonwealth land at Point Nepean will be transferred to the State. Combined with the existing Cape Schanck Coastal Park, this magnificent area will become a national park in 1988.

Entry is currently restricted but will be increased to provide opportunities for the public to visit and enjoy this magnificent area. However, access will remain restricted in sensitive areas and to that portion of Point Nepean to be retained by the School of Army Health.

Point Nepean has long been recognised as a valuable addition to Victoria's national parks system. It supports important terrestrial and marine ecosystems which have been relatively well protected in the past because of the restrictions on public entry. Covering an area of almost 600 ha, it is one of the largest remnants of coastal vegetation close to Melbourne. Although some extensive areas have been disturbed in the past, important areas of relatively undisturbed native vegetation remain. The coastal vegetation performs a vital role in stabilising the sand dunes which cover Point Nepean.

Most of Point Nepean is surrounded by the Harold Holt Marine Reserve (Point Nepean section) which was proclaimed in 1979 to protect the marine environment.



Looking east across Point Nepean





Point Nepean is an area of outstanding beauty. The sheltered bay coastline contrasts dramatically with the wild ocean coastline. Because of its sense of remoteness and isolation, the area offers recreation opportunities not commonly found along the coastline of the Mornington Peninsula.

Point Nepean contains unique components of our cultural heritage, including old fortifications designed to protect the entrance to Port Phillip Bay; the former Quarantine Station; an early Shepherds cottage which is one of the States oldest buildings; a cemetery where early settlers, victims of shipwrecks and the inmates of Quarantine Station are buried; the site where Prime Minister Harold Holt lost his life; and structures installed during the occupation of the area by the Army.

#### THE NEED FOR A MANAGEMENT PLAN

The natural and cultural values of Point Nepean are important parts of our heritage. They need to be protected. At the same time, the area can provide a range of recreation opportunities previously unavailable to the general public.

Consequently, Point Nepean is likely to generate considerable public interest, and in view of its close proximity to Melbourne, there is potential for considerable public pressure on the area.

Part of Point Nepean will continue to be used by the Department of Defence. The former Quarantine Station and Officer Cadet School will be used by the School of Army Health. Four fire-arms ranges, shown on the attached map, will also be required for army training.

It is a requirement of the National Parks Act 1975 that a management plan be prepared for each park.

The management plan is being prepared prior to Point Nepean being declared a national park due to the importance and ecological sensitivity of the area. Consequently when the park is opened, the impact of visitors can be minimised while ensuring their enjoyment of the special features of the park.

The comprehensive management plan will examine the diverse natural and cultural resources of Point Nepean (including the Harold Holt Marine Reserve and sections of the Army-controlled land). Through careful planning, development and management, Point Nepean will become one of Victoria's great national parks.

#### WHAT WILL THE PLAN DO?

More specifically, the management plan will:

- (i) Identify the important natural, cultural, recreation and landscape values of the area.
- (ii) Identify potential conflicts between uses and values and ensure that such conflicts are minimised.
- (iii) Provide a framework for the future development of the park.
- (iv) Enable the natural and cultural resources of the park to be protected in perpetuity.
- (v) Maximise opportunities for public enjoyment, education and safe use of the park.
- (vi) Ensure optimum use is made of available resources.
- (vii) Lead to the efficient management of the park.



## WHAT WILL THE MANAGEMENT PLAN CONTAIN?

The management plan will incorporate the following:

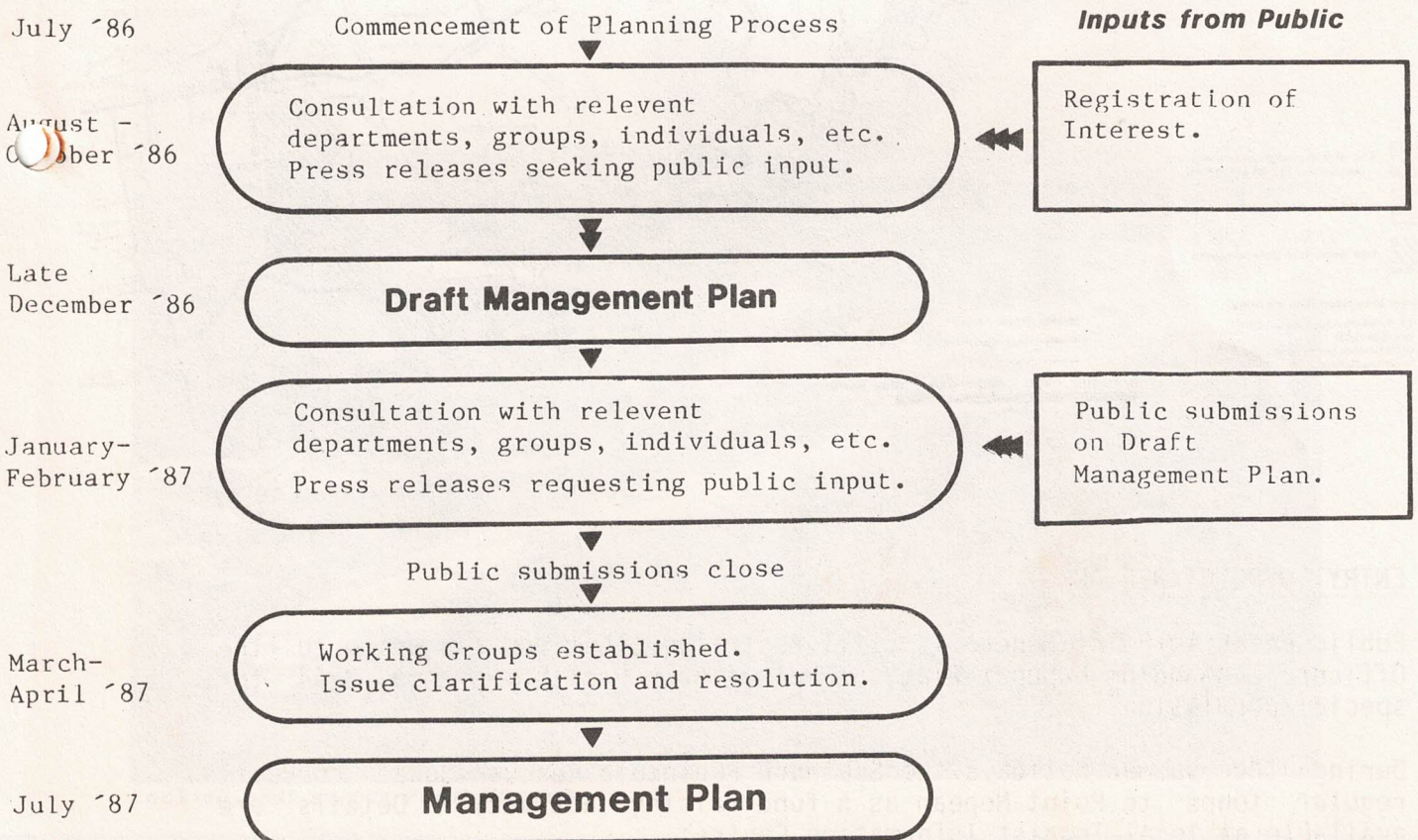
- (i) A brief inventory and assessment of the natural and cultural (including recreation and landscape) resources of the park;
- (ii) The management objectives specific to the park;
- (iii) Identification of the planning issues relevant to the park;
- (iv) Options to resolve particular issues will be identified where appropriate;
- (v) Zoning of the park to reflect the natural and cultural values of the area and management directions and goals;
- (vi) Detailed management strategies and recommendations for the natural and cultural resources and uses of the park;
- (vii) Details of the priorities, duration and, where appropriate, cost of implementing the recommendations.

## THE PLANNING PROGRAM

The diagram below summarises the planning program for Point Nepean. An essential component of the development of the park management plan is public involvement. It is only through public participation that a sound information and data base can be established and that the full range of ideas for management can be developed.

### **POINT NEPEAN PLANNING PROGRAM**

#### **Stages**





## YOUR SUBMISSION IS NEEDED

Your submission will help to ensure that the management plan addresses your needs and concerns. In this way, you can make a valuable contribution to planning the future of Point Nepean.

Please send your submissions to:

The Point Nepean Project Planner  
P. O. Box 192  
DROMANA 3936

## WHO CAN I CONTACT?

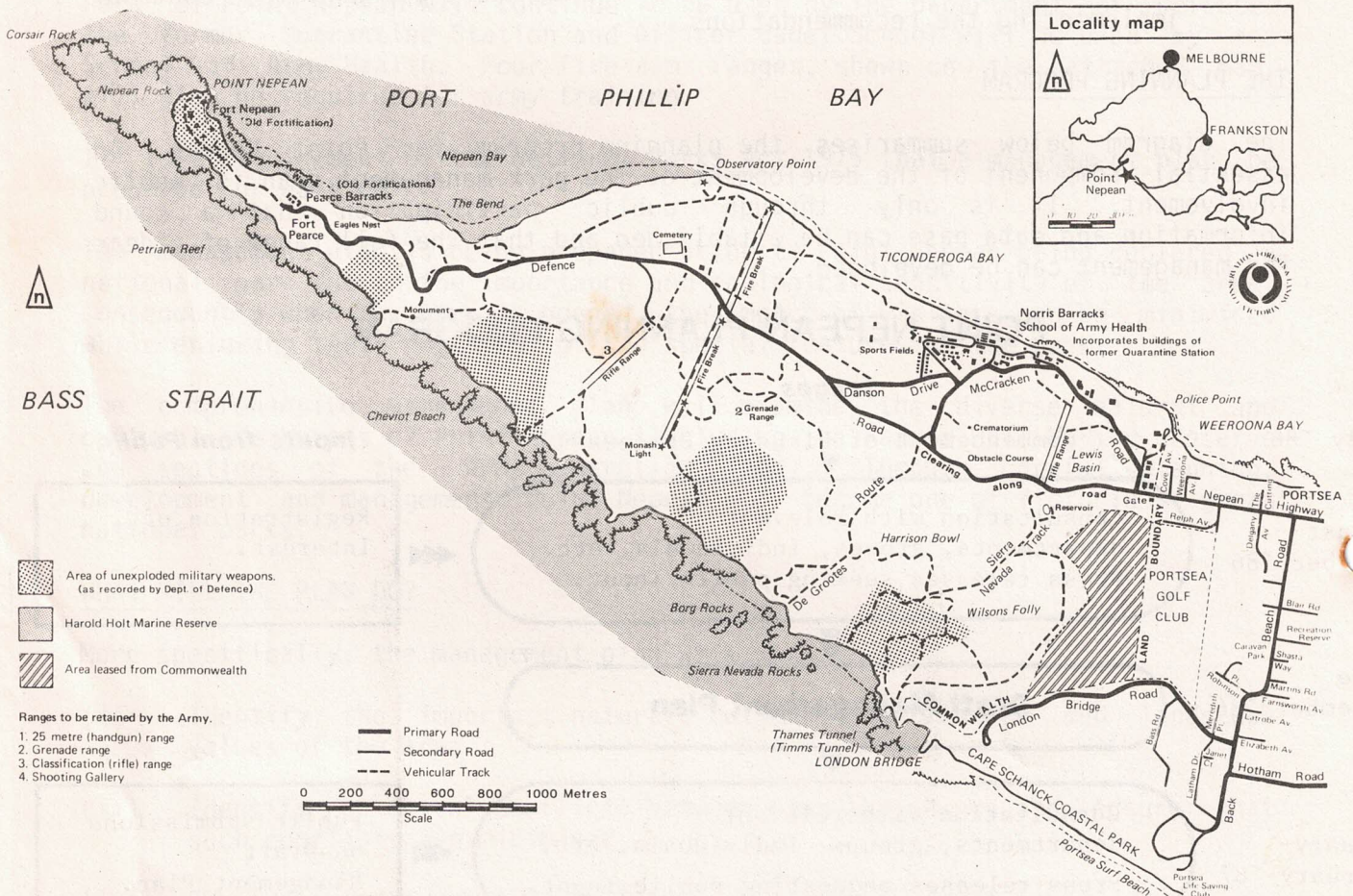
Graeme McGregor is the Point Nepean Project Planner and he will be available at the following times and locations:

Tuesdays: Tourist Information Centre, DROMANA. phone: 872755

Thursdays: First Settlement Site Information Centre, SORRENTO. phone: 841080

Hours: 9.00 am - 12.30 pm, 1.30 pm - 4.30 pm.

To save you inconvenience, it is preferable if you make an appointment.



## ENTRY TO POINT NEPEAN

Public entry to Point Nepean is still restricted, but you can write to the Officer Commanding Support Wing, School of Army Health, Portsea, 3944 for special permission.

During the summer holidays the Southern Peninsula Rescue Squad conducts regular tours to Point Nepean as a fund raising activity. Details are available at local Tourist Information Centres.