



Point Hicks lighthouse keeper cottages

From luxury camping, beach front villas to rustic farmhouses, we'll find you somewhere special to stay, whatever your budget

East Gippsland
discovereastgippsland.com.au

Bairnsdale
240 Main Street
1800 637 060

Lakes Entrance
2 Marine Parade
1800 637 060

Metung
50 Metung Road
03 5156 2969

Orbost
Slab Hut,
31 Nicholson Street
03 5154 2424

Bruthen
79 Main Street
03 5157 5111

Cann River
Outreach Centre Genoa St
(Princess Hwy)
03 5158 6465

Mallacoota
70 Maurice Ave
03 5158 0800



Cape Conran Wilderness Retreat

Sapphire Coast
sapphirecoast.com.au

Eden
Cnr Princes Highway
& Mitchell Street
02 6496 1953

Merimbula
2 Beach Street
02 6495 1129
Freecall 1800 150 457

Bega
Bega Cheese
Heritage Centre
Lagoon Street
02 6491 7645

Bermagui
Community Centre
Bunga Street
02 6493 3054

Bombala
bombala.nsw.gov.au

Bombala
Mahratra Street
02 6458 4622

Eurobodalla
eurobodalla.com.au

Narooma
Princes Highway
Freecall 1800 802 528



Genoa Peak



Gabo Island



eurobodalla
south coast nsw



Australia's Coastal
Wilderness
Embrace Something Wild

Australia's Coastal
Wilderness is a partnership
between conservation
and tourism, promoting
sustainable experiences
in one of Australia's most
treasured landscapes.

Point Hicks discovery drive

No trip to East Gippsland by heritage or nature buffs is complete without a trip to Point Hicks. Climb the historic lighthouse for a bird's eye view of the first spot on the Australian mainland to be sighted by Captain James Cook in 1770. You can even spend a night or two in the old keeper cottages, or the campgrounds at Thurra River and Mueller Inlet. The massive Thurra River sand dunes and numerous walks in Point Hicks Marine National Park are certain to delight.

Point Hicks is a 1 hour 50 minute drive from Cann River, mainly along gravel roads. Visit the Cann River Community Centre, or call 03 5158 6465

<http://bit.ly/hicky>

Ben Boyd Northern experience

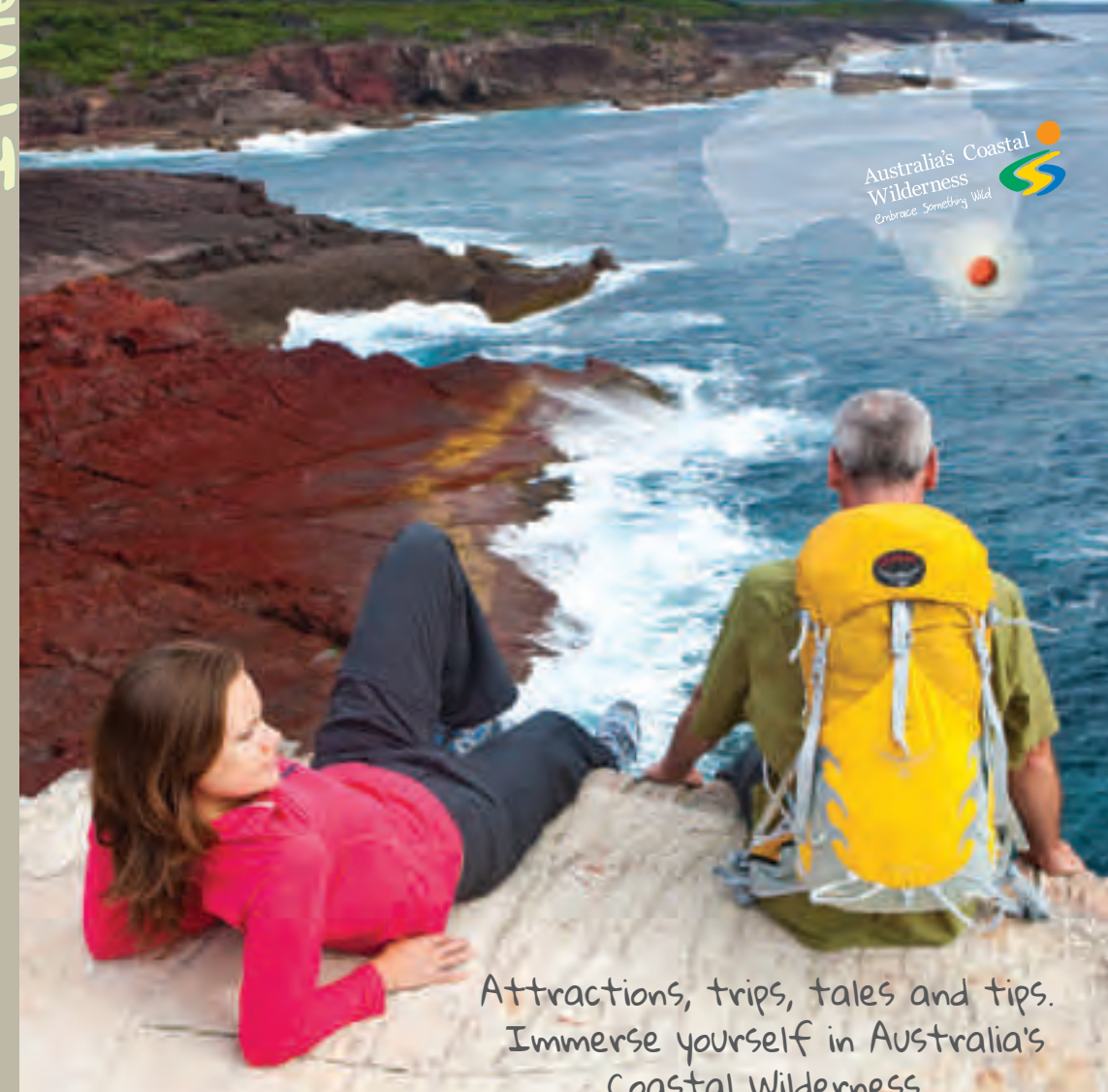
Spectacular earth history, river swimming and secluded beaches are best discovered on these two great but easy to handle walks; The Pinnacles and the tidal riverside Severs and Barmouth Beach are both worth taking a day out to explore. Before setting out, Pambula village is a great place to stock up on all your picnic goodies. The Wild Rye's Bakery in Pambula is rated one of the South Coast's finest. <http://bit.ly/acwbnp>

Marine discovery, with views and dining

Towering above the waves, by ancient red rock and the bar crossing, the rustic Merimbula Wharf houses great nosh and an aquarium. It is lovely in the mornings, when the sun sparkles off the waves below and people gather to fish, chat and see what is happening on the water. Stop for brunch, a coffee or watch the sunset over a seafood dinner, and explore the aquarium below. Its 28 tanks showcase local marine life, as well as providing rehabilitation for those who need a little help. <http://bit.ly/acemer>

Itineraries

journeys in Australia's Coastal Wilderness earth history



Australia's Coastal
Wilderness
Embrace Something Wild

Attractions, trips, tales and tips.
Immerse yourself in Australia's
Coastal Wilderness.

Pulpit Rock, Ben Boyd National Park

When astronauts on the International Space Station peer at the Australian coastline at night, the twinkling lights of cities give way to untouched wilderness halfway between Sydney and Melbourne. By dawn's light this is revealed to be a spectacular and irreplaceable network of national parks, dotted with dramatic mountains and lapped by sapphire blue waters teeming with life. The natural environment is matched by a natural ease and friendliness in the people and community. This is Australia's Coastal Wilderness - a destination rich in culture and nature so precious, parts have been declared a UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve.

A history written in the earth

Turn your car into a time machine with this guide to the earth history of the region. Uncover massive and ancient volcanoes, unique fossils, flooded river valleys now exquisite inlets and lakes, and spectacular geological formations. In between your hundred million year jaunts, there are plenty of opportunities to stop for swims and picnics. So come with us and immerse yourself in the past by rock-hopping your way around Australia's Coastal Wilderness.

1 Bingie Bingie Point

390 million years ago the Moruya granites were crystallising from molten magma in a huge chamber 30kms underground. The floor of the chamber has been dramatically exposed at Bingie Bingie Point, showing the light coloured granite rocks injected with a range of different coloured material. **Location:** Eurobodalla National Park **Access:** Turn at Bingie Rd approximately 9kms south of Moruya River. Follow Bingie to the car park at Bingie Bingie Point.

2 Congo Headland (Coila Basalt)

The lava is from the 29 million year old Coila Basalt. These rocks are the youngest volcanic rocks on the south coast. They are sandwiched between coastal sandstones that were laid down when the region was colder and wetter and about 2000 kms to the south at this time.

Location: Congo Headland **Access:** Take South Head Rd just south of Moruya off the Princes Hwy then turn right at Congo Rd and follow to headland.

3 Narooma Beach

(Silurian Terrane Collision) The site marks the collision of a raft of continental crust 440 million years ago. The collision is preserved as a jumble of 250 cm sized blocks. This rock can be seen at the beach's northern end.

Location: Narooma Beach

Access: Narooma Beach is accessible from many points from Princes Hwy just south of Narooma township.

4 Montague Island

(Cretaceous Volcanics) A 99 million year old stratovolcano was south-east of this 2km long island.

This was one of a chain down eastern Gondwanaland marking the rupture that formed the Tasman Sea. The volcano flanks included the dark coloured lava and tuffs on the island's north side. The island's granite-like grey rocks are the remnants of globs of molten material intruded into the volcanic debris. **Location:** Montague Island [9kms offshore from Narooma]

Access: A range of tour and accommodation options are available. See <http://bit.ly/acwminr> for more details.

More to see and do: Play lighthouse keeper and stay on the island.

Visit <http://bit.ly/acwminr>

5 1080 Beach (Cretaceous Intrusion)

The headland shows a prominent, light coloured, silica rich dyke intruded into the 470 million year old sandstone. There are large boulders of basalt in the surf. The volcanic rocks are part of the massive

99 million year old stratovolcano of which the rocks of nearby Gulaga Mountain and Montague Island are also remnants.

Location: Wallaga Beach southern headland

Access: Take Mystery Bay Road off the Princes Highway and turn right into Lamont Young Drive. Follow sign to 1080 Beach.

6 Central Tilba (Cretaceous Volcanics)

The historic village of Central Tilba is next to Gulaga Mountain, a significant cultural site of the Yuin people. Ridges of granite-like monzonite surround the village. To the south-east was a large stratovolcano which was one of a chain down Gondwanaland marking the rift that formed the Tasman Sea.

Location: Central Tilba **Access:** Central Tilba is just off the highway approximately 15kms south of Narooma

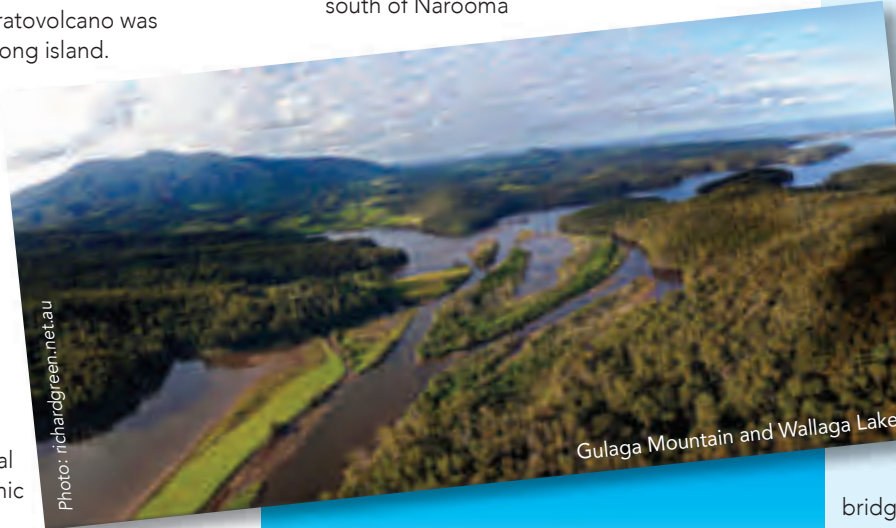


Photo: richardgreen.net.au

Gulaga Mountain and Wallaga Lake

Coastal Lakes

The region's exquisite lagoons are drowned river valleys, blocked by sand barriers that formed after sea levels rose dramatically 6000 years ago. During the last ice age, lasting 100,000 years, the coast lay 20kms to the east, with rivers, now buried, meandering across a wide coastal plain. As the ice sheets melted the sea level started to rise 20,000 years ago. After living on the ancient coast for 30,000 years Indigenous people coped with very rapid sea level rise. Today the lakes and estuaries are a key attractions to the regions visitors.

A Wagonga Inlet Azure waters, crowned by Narooma's bustling waterfront at its mouth and superb oysters and old growth forest on its upper shores. Take a cruise, hire a boat, kayak or stroll the boardwalk before enjoying delights of the coastal hub. Launch your own craft near the Narooma Bridge, or from Riverside Drive.

B Corunna Lake There is an easy, sandy launch near the boat ramp at the northern end of the lake. From here you can fill a few hours exploring the little bays or paddle to Tilba Winery and sample a drop over lunch (6km each way, bookings encouraged).

C Tilba Tilba Lake Rich, grassy hills with contented dairy cows, old growth forests and flourishing wildlife.

D Wallaga Lake It lies in the shadow of the Mother mountain, Gulaga and is the largest lake in southern New South Wales. A special place for Yuin people and home to diverse wildlife with opportunities to enjoy flat water fun.

E Bermagui Inlet Hire a boat or kayak and watch wildlife and village life change as the tides rise and fall. The inlet is home to regular produce and artisan markets along with several annual outdoor festivals.

F Cuttagee Lake An estuary on one side, surf beach on the other, crossed by a timber one-lane bridge. Just try and drive past it...

G Wapengo Lake Nurtures organic oysters and is surrounded by national parks, state forests and salt marsh. Take a drive and try them for yourself and don't forget to leave time to chat to the farmers about where to go next.

H Middle Lagoon Set in the heart of Mimosa Rocks National Park, explore it via the Middle Lagoon Walking track (1.4km return). The spotted gums and cycads are entrancing, so stay overnight at the campground.

I Wallagoot Lake The heart of Bournda National Park, Wallagoot Lake has flat waters, a rustic boat launch and assisted access for wheelchairs.

J Bondi Lake An ecological wonder, Bondi Lake is the closest and largest body of fresh water to the ocean in our region. Find it in Bournda National Park and leave time to explore the nearby beaches and historical Scotts Hut.

K Bournda Lagoon A warm, safe, shallow lake with lots of honey myrtles to shade you on the shore. Take a picnic and make a day of it as you can swim, fish and kayak and cook on the wood barbecues (BYO wood). Also has amenities and picnic tables.

L Merimbula Lake The heart of Merimbula township, this dramatically tidal lake is clear, healthy and absolutely bursting with things to see and do. It's ringed with beaches, marinas, boardwalk, eateries and walks.

M Pambula Lake Also known as Broadwater, this estuary produces some of the Sapphire Coast's finest oysters. Drive down to the oyster sheds and try them for yourself.

N Wonboyn Lake South of Eden on the edge of Nadgee wilderness, Wonboyn Lake is known for its quality oysters, abundance of fish and wildlife. A small village and cabins mean you don't have to leave in a hurry.

O Nadgee Lake A huge 100 ha lake in the heart of Nadgee Nature Reserve, there's no human habitation or public roads. Don't let that deter you though, plan a walking adventure - the only other footprints you're likely to see are those of the animals that thrive here.

P Mallacoota Inlet A picturesque waterway with breathtaking coastal and forest views. Mallacoota village is located on its shore and is the perfect base for a host of activities such as boating, fishing, walking, picnics and camping.

Q Tamboon Inlet Remote and remarkable because of giant sand dunes and granite boulders covered in brilliant orange lichen, at its mouth.

R Sydenham Inlet Surrounded by lush forests, this small inlet opens and closes to the sea throughout the year, and its character changes dramatically as a result. Accommodation and camping can be found at the Bemm River township on its northern shores.

7 The Montreal Goldfield

This rare coastal alluvial goldfield was first mined in 1880. Millions of years ago higher sea levels and high rainfall caused deep erosion of the hinterland. Thick sediments accumulated in coastal areas. Traces of gold from the igneous rocks in the hinterland were washed down rivers, accumulating in riverbed gravel. These ancient gravels were exposed by coastal erosion, to be discovered and mined 30 million years later.

Location: Bermagui **Access:** Approximately 7km north of Bermagui and offers guided tours at 11am daily or by appointment. More information at <http://bit.ly/acwgold> or call the Bermagui Visitor Information Centre on 02 6493 3054

More to see and do: The township of Bermagui is famous for its fishing so make sure you leave some time to sample the local seafood and produce at one of the many cafes and restaurants.



8 Camel Rock (Ordovician Turbidite)

Camel Rock is an icon of the Bermagui area and sits off a great coastal fishing and surfing location. The formation is folded beds of 470 million year old turbidite. **Location:** Camel Rock Beach **Access:** Approximately 8kms north of Bermagui.

9 View from Bermagui Headland

Formed in the tempest of a volcano, then polished for 80 million years, Gulaga is a remnant of an intrusion associated with a huge 99 million year old stratovolcano. The volcano was one of a chain formed as



The Pinnacles, Ben Boyd National Park

eastern Gondwanaland began to break up, opening to form the Tasman Sea.

Location: Bermagui **Access:** Take scenic drive off Lamont Street

10 Aragunnu (Devonian Volcanics) About 380 million years ago, volcanic eruptions began on the floor of a deep lake, forming a bulging dome. Boiling lake water shattered and altered the erupting lava, forming a mosaic of interlocking fragments. The rocks are exposed on the southern headland. **Location:** Mimosas Rocks National Park [eastern area] **Access:** 20kms south of Bermagui, turn off the Tathra-Bermagui Road onto Aragunnu Road

More to see and do: Aragunnu is in the heart of Mimosas Rocks National Park and is home to Mimosas Walk, an easy walk and a great place to discover some of the Indigenous history of the area. The area also has camping facilities. <http://bit.ly/ssmimosas>

11 Bega Valley (Devonian Granites of the Bega Batholith) Almost all of the rich dairy pastures of the Bega Valley are on granite derived soil. This huge suite of granite covers some 9000 square kms of south-eastern Australia. Molten granite bodies intruded into 470 million year old sedimentary rocks – sandstones and mudstones – cooking and hardening them. Today these hardened sediments form erosion-resistant ridges standing above the easily weathered granite. **Location:** Between Bemboka and Bega

More to see and do: Pipers Point lookout west of Bemboka off the Snowy Mountains Highway provides stunning views back down to the coast.

12 Merimbula Wharf (Devonian Red Beds) The red rock is a significant feature of this coastline. Rock of this particular age is found world-wide and mark a significant step in the evolution of life. The first forests caused an increase in oxygen levels with rust-coloured iron oxide staining the sediments. Small holes outlined by bleached white rock mark where roots of a horsetail forest grew. Increased oxygen enabled the development of huge armoured fish (Edenopteron, a massive and recently discovered example, was named after the beautiful town of Eden) and the evolution of amphibians, the first land animals. **Location:** Merimbula **Access:** Merimbula Wharf sits at the end of Lake Street in Merimbula <http://bit.ly/acemer>

13 Jingera Rock (Wyndham Jurassic intrusion and Paleogene basalt) This spectacular rock face near Wyndham is Jingera Rock, a 180 million year old intrusion exposed by erosion. About 1.5kms east of the village of Wyndham is an unrelated remnant of a 40 million year old basalt lava flow. The flow is part of the eruptions forming the 4300 square kilometre Monaro volcanic province which flowed over the escarpment. **Location:** Wyndham **Access:** Wyndham township is located 25km from Pambula. Take the Mount Darragh Road turn off.

14 The Pinnacles (Paleogene Sandstones) Soft sandstone and gravelstone, deposited in streams 25 million years ago, have eroded away to form gullies. Rushing streams carried huge loads of sediment out onto extensive plains. The red colour is iron oxide [rust], produced by rock weathering over time in a climate alternating between warm, humid conditions and periods of dryness. The top of the white sediment marks the level of an ancient water table. **Location:** Ben Boyd National Park **Access:** Take Haycock Road Turn off to Ben Boyd National Park approximately 10kms south of Pambula. Follow the signs to Pinnacles.

More to see and do: This area marks the northern point of Ben Boyd National Park and is home to numerous beaches and walks – including The Pinnacles Walk (1km), making it an enticing day trip option on its own.

15 Eden Rotary Lookout (Devonian Volcanics) The headland is made up of erosion-resistant volcanic rock. The cliff is a cross section through two 380 million year old ignimbrite flows. **Location:** Rotary Park, Eden **Access:** Just up the hill from Snug Cove Wharf precinct

16 Red Rock Panorama Ben Boyd National Park has several superb vantage points to see the 370m year old rust red rocks. **Location:** Green Cape light station and Boyds Tower **Access:** Assisted wheelchair access available at viewing platforms at both locations. Take Edrom Road off Princes Hwy 20km south of Eden

More to see and do: The Killer Whale Trail takes you to 5 significant points on the coast that bring alive the history of the Killer Whales of Eden. See the skeleton of "Old Tom" at the Eden Killer Whale Museum, and follow the self drive tour to the 4 other historical and scenic locations. Download the map at <http://bit.ly/acwkw>

17 Quarry Beach, Mallacoota (Ordovician Turbidites) These are folded beds of 470 million year old turbidite. Turbidites form in the deep ocean when unstable masses of sediment avalanche down continental slopes, gathering water as they go. From each dense flow, sand settles out first followed by finer sediment, preserved in a single bed or layer of the ancestral continent. **Location:** Mallacoota **Access:** Take Betka Road for approximately 5kms from Mallacoota township and follow signs to Quarry Beach.

18 Genoa Peak Genoa peak is made up of the 395 million year old Genoa Peak Granite, part of the Bega Batholith which is an extensive series of granite intrusions that extend some 300 kms down the hinterland of the south-east Australian coast. The lookout provides spectacular views of the wilderness coastline to the east and the Great Escarpment to the west extending up to the Australian Alps. **Location:** Croajingolong National Park **Access:** Only a short distance south of Genoa on the Princes Highway, turn left onto Genoa Peak Track. A walking track at the picnic area provides access to the summit.

19 Massive Thurra River Coastal Dunes At Point Hicks and Thurra River are excellent examples of granite intrusions and a marvellous example of dunes causing braiding by feeding into a river. Soaring 30m high, over 100m wide and descending precipitously into the Thurra River, the dunes can be experienced by taking the Dunes Walk beginning at the campground. **Location:** Thurra River campsite, Point Hicks **Access:** South 16km on Tamboon Road from Cann River, continue 5.1km on Cape Everard Road, turn left onto Old Everard Rd and drive 14.5km to Thurra River. **Contact:** Phone Point Hicks Lighthouse to book campground sites on 03 5158 4268. <http://bit.ly/hicky>

20 Cape Conran (Granodiorite and Ordovician sediments) Cape Conran is a wonderful example of a headland showing igneous contact of granodiorite and ordovician sedimentary rock. Contact between these rocks is clearly seen in the shore platform and low coastal cliffs, and

further east minor faulting and folding is visible. **Access:** Cape Conran is accessed from Orbst via Marlo Road along the Marlo-Conran Road, or via the Cabbage Tree-Conran Road accessed from the Princes Highway just north of Cabbage Tree.

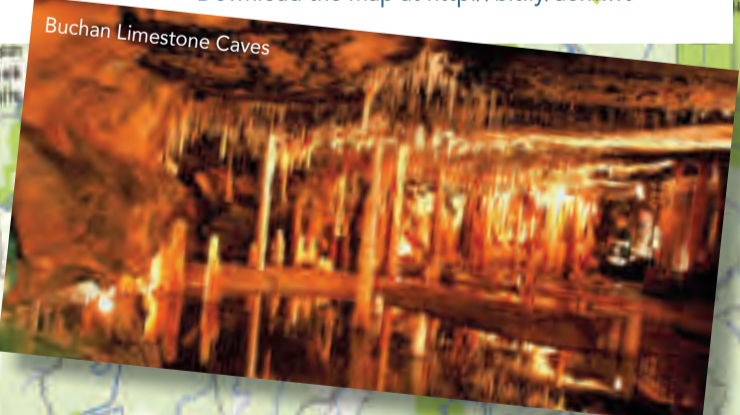
21 Buchan Caves (Limestone formation) Near the township of Buchan, lies a honeycomb of caves full of spectacular limestone formations. The limestone at Buchan formed about 380 million years ago under very shallow seas which covered much of East Gippsland. A later period of movement of the earth's crust raised this area above sea level. The caves were formed by underground rivers cutting through the limestone with formations created by rain water seeping through cracks and dissolving limestone. Discover the beautiful calcite-rimmed pools of Royal Cave, and the elaborate stalactites and stalagmites of Fairy Cave on a guided tour. **Location:** Buchan, 35kms (30 min) north of Nowa Nowa **Access:** Tours are conducted daily and can be booked at the Buchan Caves Reserve Visitor Centre, phone 03 5162 1900. <http://bit.ly/acwcave>

Light to Light Walk, Ben Boyd National Park

- 1 Bingie Bingie Point
- 2 Congo Headland



Quarry Beach, Mallacoota



Buchan Limestone Caves



Talk to a local
See overleaf for our Visitor Information Centres

explore