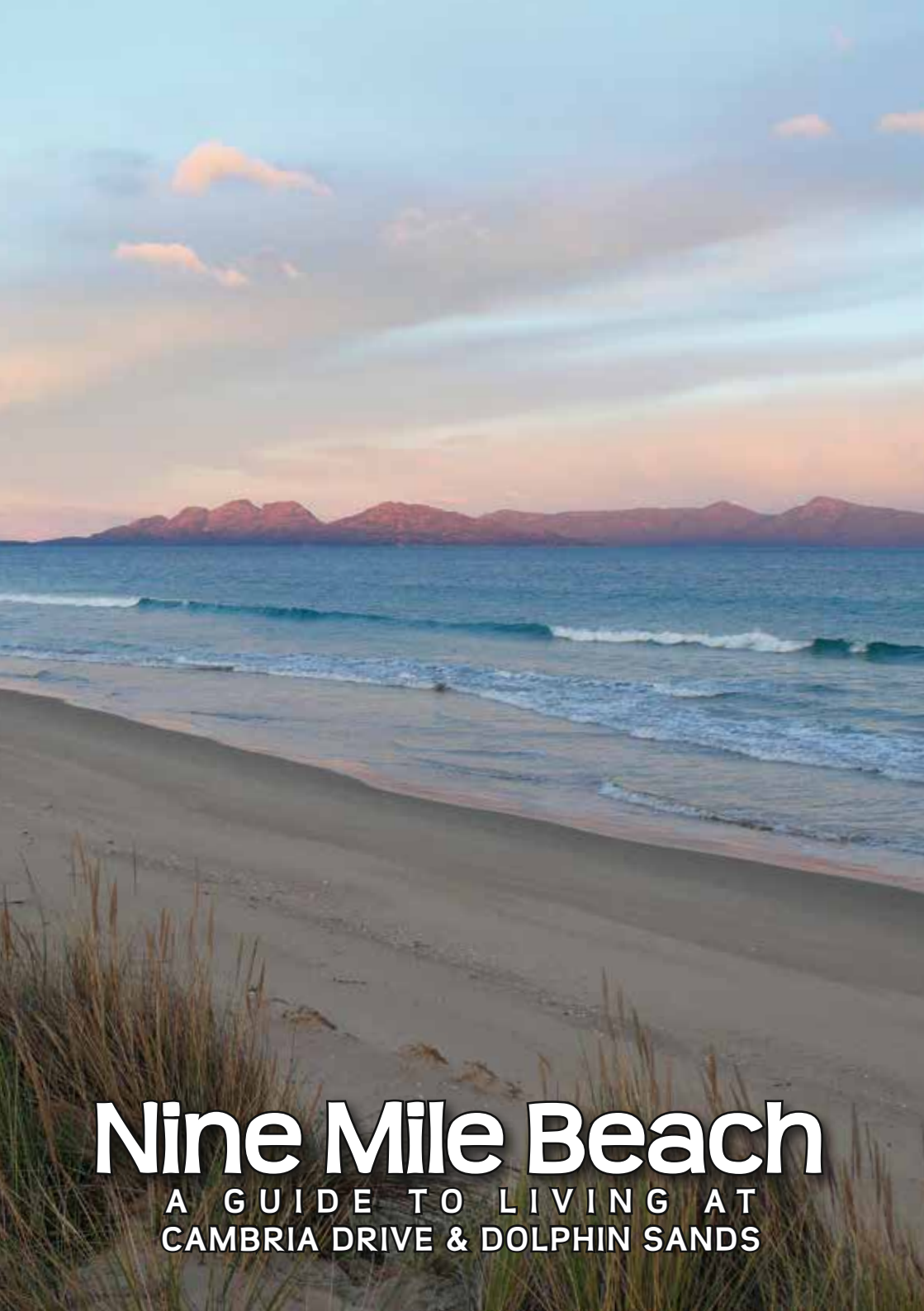

Nine Mile Beach

A GUIDE TO LIVING AT CAMBRIA DRIVE & DOLPHIN SANDS

Design and DTP by Diane Bricknell

Electronic version only

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January 2019

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Note: every effort has been made to check the accuracy of the information but the contributors are not responsible for any opinions or errors of fact.

Electronic copies are available from: www.dsra.org.au

DOLPHIN SANDS RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION

Contents

Foreword

This is how the view from Nine Mile Beach struck a French sailor in 1802: "two chains of lofty mountains of parallel direction embracing the whole shore and giving it the appearance of a beautiful valley invaded by waves."

A few years later, the ex-ruler of Iceland and convict, Jorgen Jorgenson, pausing to take in the prospect from what is now the Lake Leake highway, gave his less than level-headed opinion that after travelling the world as he had, and after seeing its many splendid sights, this was a view "impossible for the most luxuriant imagination to conceive more lovely within the whole circle of the creation".

Jorgensen was by no means alone in his enthusiasm. An English traveller, F.J. Cockburn, remarked in June, 1855: "The scene was indescribably beautiful… A glorious broad yellow beach runs round the top of the bay to the Schoutens and from this beach the view is magnificent. On your right you see the long line of the mainland for many miles, fringed with trees, houses and fields, behind which the hills rise; looking down the bay you see the cliffs and peaks of Maria Island rising darkly from the sea, and to the left of Maria Island you can look straight away to the wide ocean, with nothing to intercept the sight but a solitary white and distant rock, called by the French voyagers the Isle of Seals… I could not have had five pleasanter days anywhere."

It hadn't changed much on the summer day, a century and a half later, when, after a week's trek with my wife-to-be, I saw a beach house for sale on the same shelf of coastal dunes. It was made from Canadian cedar and glass, and through the glass I could see a rock.

As a diplomat's son, I had grown up wandering the globe, homeless and happy to move on. But nothing in my travels had prepared me for the vision of the Freycinet Peninsula on that March morning, or the dense colour of its granite: smoky and compact like a watercolour pigment. I knew that I was gazing at the loveliest place on earth, a conviction that all subsequent experience has served to deepen.

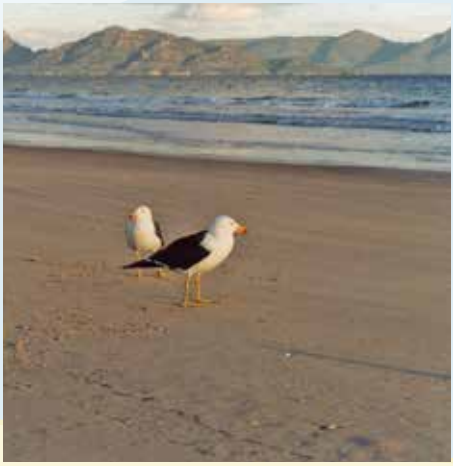
About Tasmania, I knew nothing: I had no friends here, no relations, no reason to linger. But what I saw detained me. It was where I wanted to be.

When my father learned that I intended to sink my savings in a two-bedroomed beach-house at the end of the world, he flew 14,000 miles from England to restrain me. Not long afterwards, I discovered him on the sand. His eyes were nailed to the horizon and there were tears in them.

"I. Have. Never. Been. Anywhere. More. Beautiful."

After visiting for a decade, my father hasn't shifted his opinion. Nor have I. As those fortunate to live here know – and as the following pages remind us – this is a unique and precious spot, the rareness of whose beauty is matched only by its fragility. That's why it falls on us to guard it well, so that future generations can also have the opportunity to enjoy Nine Mile Beach in the same, life-altering way.

by Nicholas Shakespeare (2009)



Australian Fur Seal (above) & Pacific Gulls (left) on Nine Mile Beach (courtesy of Sue Bull)

Purpose of this booklet

This booklet was compiled to make living in a coastal bush area sustainable and enjoyable now and in the future. It covers practical matters that deal with your own health and the health of the environment.

A special place

People settle here to enjoy the peaceful lifestyle and stunning coastal scenery, the clear waters and secluded bushland. It's a beautiful place for swimming, fishing, boating, watching wildlife and walking along the beach. Nine Mile Beach borders the longest sand spit in Tasmania.

We are fortunate to be almost surrounded by reserves. The Nine Mile Beach Coastal Reserve extends inland approx. 30m from the high water mark along the entire length of the beach. Its primary and secondary dunes are crucial to the stability of the whole sand spit. The Swan River Reserve includes Point Bagot and borders Moulting Lagoon Game Reserve, a Ramsar-declared site of international importance for birdlife. The Parks and Wildlife Service and Crown Land Services are responsible for managing these sensitive foredune and riverbank areas.

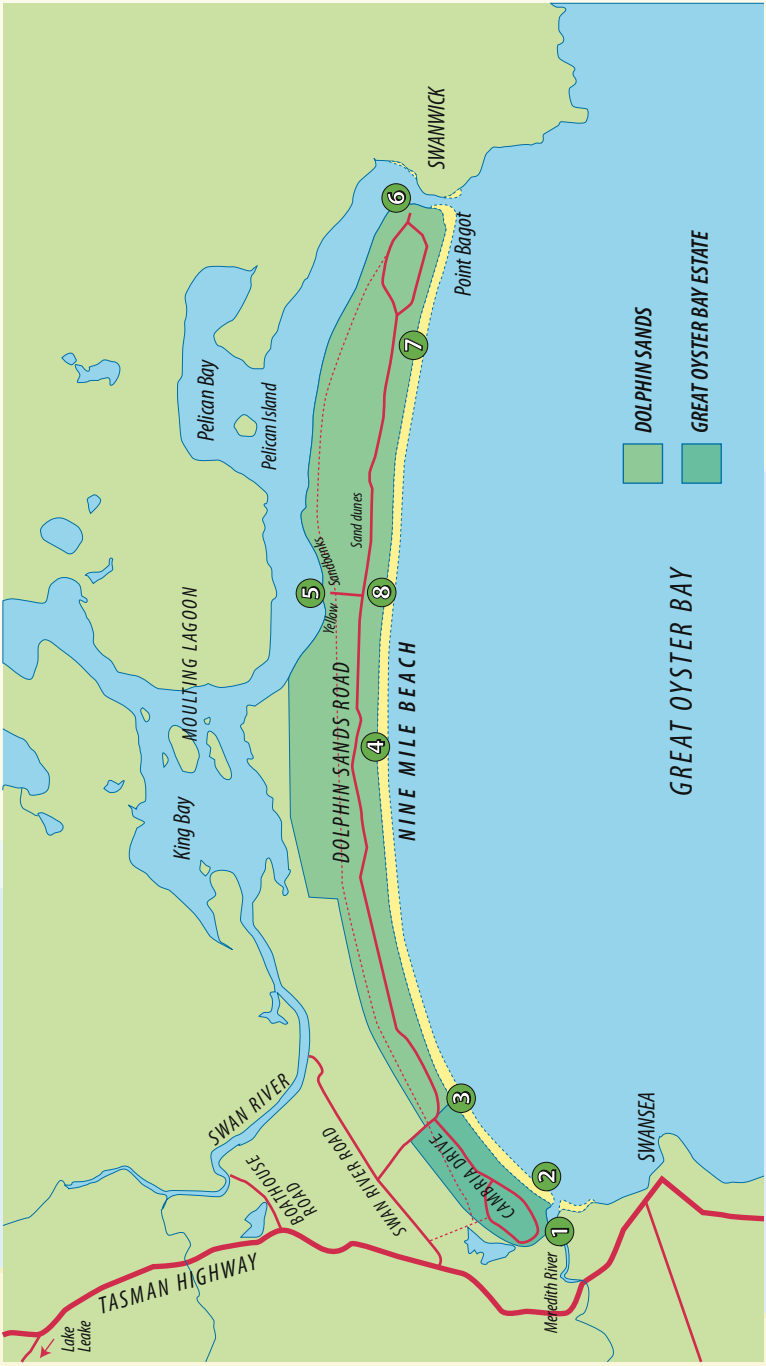
When Dolphin Sands was subdivided in the 1960s, large areas of drifting sand were stabilised by planting marram grass and aerial sowing of coastal wattle, both of which are introduced species. The native vegetation that remains to protect the natural dune system includes a rare type of white gum woodland.

The sand lies over a large aquifer, which is an underground source of clean fresh water. This precious water supply and the unstable sand dunes make this a sensitive area that requires special care. Our top priorities are to keep the sand covered with vegetation to stop it from moving and to avoid polluting or over-using the water in the aquifer. We also hope to minimise the impact on the natural landscape of Nine Mile Beach through thoughtful home building.

Swimming, boating and fishing are important for residents and visitors and access points are shown on the map overleaf. **Camping is not allowed in public places in the Dolphin Sands/Cambria Drive area** (except for limited camping for self-contained RVs at Bagot Point).

This is a wonderful place to live... let's keep it that way

Banksia marginata © Diane Bricknell



PUBLIC ACCESS

1. Meredith River foot access only

2. 3. 4. Nine Mile Beach limited parking

2. Foot access only, there are 4 more beach access points to beach at Cambria Drive.

3. Foot access only

5. Yellow Sandbanks boat ramp and jetty

6. Point Bagot boat launching in Swan River

7. Foot access only

8. Foot access only

No motorised vehicles are permitted on Nine Mile Beach

History of Dolphin Sands

As early as 1978, the Dolphin Sands Progress Association represented the residents and ratepayers of the area. It continued to do so until it became the Dolphin Sands Ratepayers' Association in 2000, to include the Great Oyster Bay Estate (commonly known as Cambria Drive). Incorporated in 2001, DSRA Inc. continues today to care for and represent the area and its residents and ratepayers.

The immense sandspit we love formed about 7,000 years ago by the occlusion of the mouths of the Swan and Meredith Rivers with quartz particles mostly of riverine origins deposited, worked and reworked by the timeless action of the sea.

First occupation of the area by the local Aboriginal inhabitants, the Loontitetermairrelehoiner band, would have occurred from that time on. Evidence of their attachment to the area, campsites, shell middens and stone tools and chips are revealed from time to time through the agency of wind erosion.

Although well charted from the sea, Henry Rice, a convict, more thoroughly explored the area in 1820 under instruction from Governor Sorell and the surrounding land was made available for settlement. The first 'location order' was made to George Meredith. He and his family arrived in 1821 and 'Low Sandy Spit' as it was described, became part of Cambria Estate.

Frequent fires, a management tool, radically changed the vegetation of the sandspit, and put a heavy load of carbon into the top profile of sand, particularly towards the homestead end. Cattle were grazed along the length of the spit then mustered into a home paddock at the present day Cambria Drive loop.

In 1968 Consolidated Home Industries (Tas) contracted E. Barrie Valentine to survey the greater part of the spit, to be called 'Dolphin Heads Subdivision', later changed to 'Dolphin Sands Subdivision'. To assist in the rehabilitation of the unstable dunes Coastal Wattle and Golden Weeping Willow were sown by air.

This was the largest subdivision to date in Tasmania, covering an area of 782.6 ha. The backbone road was built to a standard suitable for local use only.

C.H.I. (Tas) was in receivership before the completion of the project and the projected motel, caravan parks, marina and other amenities were not constructed. Lots went on sale for $2500 but within a year this had been reduced to $2000.

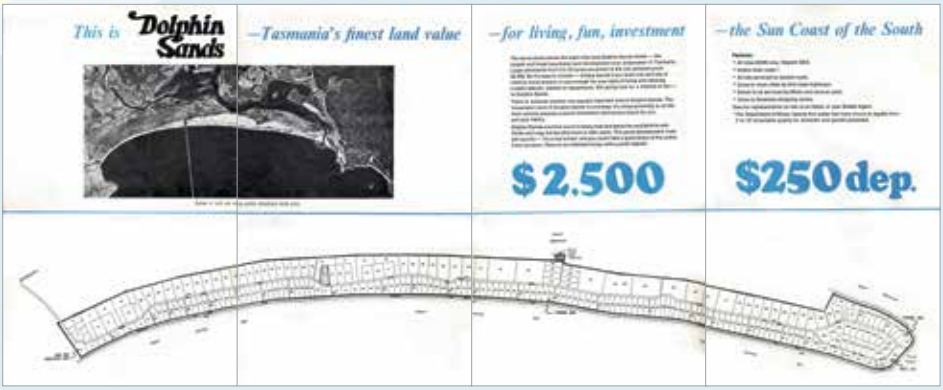
Touted as a 'Second Surfers Paradise' the estate did not live up to the dreams of the promoters, and much money was lost in the venture.

Some lessons had been learned by the time the 'Great Oyster Bay Estate' (Cambria Drive) was released for sale in the mid 1990s, but there remain the serious and enduring issues of water, waste disposal, building compliance, fire management, wildlife protection and access. We are likely to face additional challenges due to climate change, such as increased fire danger and sea level rise.

Source: Glamorgan Spring Bay Historical Society.


Dolphin Sands
MAGNIFICENT OCEAN SITES
a place to live, play, prosper . . .
just 87 miles from Hobart . . .
the opportunity of a lifetime


Dolphin Sands
Each allotment is big — big enough to really breathe on —
large holiday home sites from 5 to 30 acres at the price you
would normally pay for a tiny lot in the back-blocks. C.H.I.
offer this land at highly competitive prices now — and values
will no doubt improve each year. This is development on a
grand scale — that's why the cost is so low. Enquire now,
you'll have the chance to choose the kind of site that suits you
best — and all are priced at $2,500. Deposit is $250 and
repayments can be made over 5 years.
87 miles from Hobart, lies one of the most beautiful beaches
on the East Coast in sheltered Oyster Bay. We have named it
Dolphin Sands. Ideally situated at Swansea, Tasmania's most
popular and picturesque seaside resort, this choice real
estate enjoys a delightful dry and equable all year
round climate.
W . . . we offer you the unique opportunity to secure your
on Tasmania's Sun Coast, where fishing, water sport,
relaxation away from the hustle of busy daily routine
ours. Nowhere in Australia could such fine holiday or
nt allotments be offered at such low prices. Invest
in your future at Dolphin Sands.


This is Dolphin Sands
—Tasmania's finest land value
—for living, fun, investment
—the Sun Coast of the South
$2,500
$250 dep.

Moving in

Is your block where you think it is?

It pays to have your block professionally resurveyed to check the boundaries – people have been known to build on the wrong block! The property title may include covenants or other restrictions relating to your block. For example, for some blocks on Cambria Drive there is a vegetation covenant to protect the remnant white gum woodland.

Before you do anything to your property, talk to the Council Planner. A permit will be required for your particular property to reduce vegetation and add a road, fence, building or caravan. The regulations vary according to the zone in which your block is situated and the Planner will be more than happy to help you through the maze!

Development and building applications

The development application from Council sets out how to do a site plan for your building application. The site plan will show locations of watercourses and vegetation and proposed buildings, wastewater disposal areas, and so on. It will also include a bush fire hazard minimisation and management plan in accordance with the Tasmanian Fire Service guidelines.

Keep in mind that Council requires buildings to blend in with the natural environment.

Building a path to the beach

It is expected that owners of coastal properties will want access to the beach from their land. **The Parks and Wildlife Service must be consulted first for approval and advice**. The following regulations are to reduce the chance of a sandblow on the unstable dunes. A narrow path (around 600–700 mm wide) may be established from a private block across the reserve provided that:

✦ no vegetation is destroyed across the coastal reserve, as all native vegetation is protected (minor trimming of some branches only).

✦ the narrow path **follows natural contours** and does not require any excavation works (a gravel surface may be used, trimmed grasses make a solid natural mulch).

✦ the track is built by hand and no heavy machinery is used.

✦ no fixed structure may be built onto the beach.

© Diane Bricknell

Waste Water

No-one wants raw sewerage or sullage contaminating the groundwater (the aquifer) or the sea where we fish and swim. The Council requires **proper disposal** of these wastes whether you have a house, a caravan or any other dwelling (including camping).

The aquifer is too close to the surface to allow long drop toilets. You need to install an **approved** waste system, including a septic tank or composting toilet, and to maintain it properly so it works efficiently – without smelling! Systems involving both aerobic and anaerobic treatment of wastes are particularly effective.

Obtain a special plumbing permit before installing anything, this must be passed by Council.

Sullage (greywater) is the waste from sinks, showers and washing machines. It contains potentially harmful bacteria and viruses that must be treated as specified by Council in a sullage tank or in the septic tank system treating toilet waste.

Contact the Council for an application form and Information Pack. The Council's Senior Environmental Health Officer will advise you on the process to obtain a special plumbing permit for the waste water system best suited for your block of land.

How to care for your septic tank

Septic systems rely on living bacteria to digest the sewerage. Harsh chemicals will kill these useful little creatures. To keep them working efficiently it is advisable to:

✦ Avoid using germicides – disinfectants, bleaches, acidic toilet cleaners and nappy sanitisers – in toilets, sinks or showers.

✦ Try milder cleaners e.g. phosphate-free detergents, white vinegar and bicarbonate of soda.

✦ Don't pour cooking oils or fat or drain cleaners down the drain.

✦ Don't flush sanitary napkins, disposable nappies or condoms.

✦ Use a sink strainer to catch particles of food.

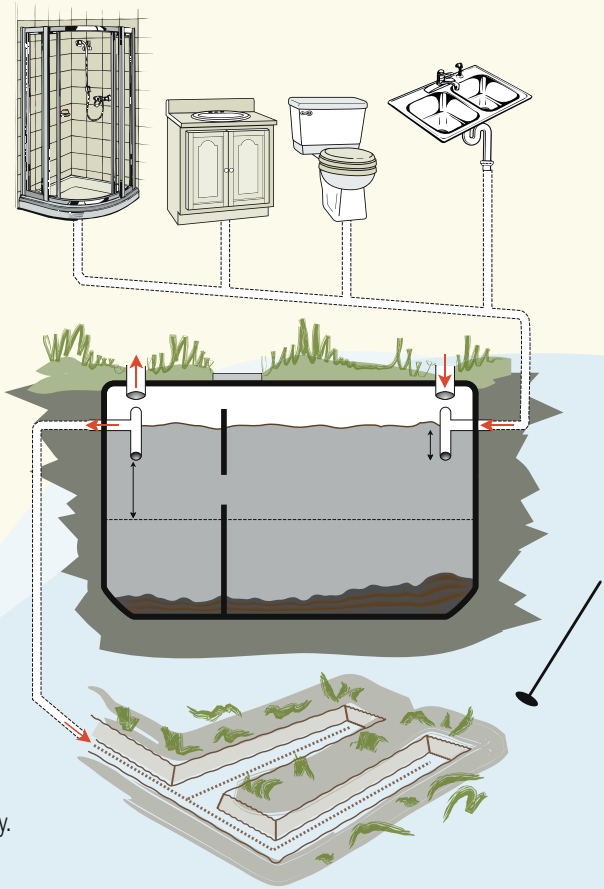
✦ Use septic friendly toilet paper.


© Diane Bricknell

Desludging keeps your septic system working

Sludge and scum build up in the septic tank. It needs to be pumped out every 3–5 years by a qualified person (ask Council for advice). Otherwise it will eventually overflow and clog up the absorption trench. This is very unpleasant and expensive to fix.

Checking your tank at least once a year will save a lot of trouble. Lift the inspection covers over the inlet and outlet pipes to test the depth of the scum and the sludge. Push a stick down the inlet inspection hole until you feel resistance from the top of the sludge. The tank needs pumping out if it is more than half full of sludge (measured from the bottom of the tank to the water level at the inlet hole). Afterwards simply refill the tank with water (cleaning or disinfecting it will make it smell). An aerobic/ anaerobic system should be checked every 3 months by the installers to ensure maximum efficiency.



Composting toilets –a water-saving alternative

A composting toilet saves water. Council can advise about the different models of approved toilets and how to operate them. The owner of a composting toilet needs to be committed to the principles of composting. A composting toilet works well if it is installed correctly on the north side of the home and operated according to its manual. It takes at least a year to produce a dry, odourless compost, which can be disposed of according to Council advice. The small amount of liquid draining from the composting toilet is required by Council to be treated in an absorption trench or septic system - a special plumbing permit is required to install a composting toilet.

Tank water

We rely here on rainwater tanks and water bores. With a little care and maintenance, these will continue to supply clean water. At least two tanks for household use are recommended because it is handy to have another tank as a backup while the other is being cleaned.

How to keep it clean

The water entering your tank is only as clean as your roof and gutters, which can accumulate leaves and creosote from wood smoke. Mosquitoes and droppings from possums and birds can also enter your tank and cause diseases. New tanks are fitted with a mesh filter over the inlet and outlet to keep out larger debris and mosquitoes.

The following steps will also help:

✓ cleaning the gutters and filters regularly.

✓ installing a system to divert the first flush of water from the roof and gutters.

✓ flushing any underground drainpipes regularly to avoid contaminating the tank with stagnant water.

Information about treatment with chlorine is available from Council's Environmental Health Officer.

Creosote from wood fires may contaminate your water

Drinking creosote-contaminated water over a long time may be a health hazard. Creosote cannot be filtered or boiled out of the water but the following steps will reduce the risk:

✓ have the wood heater installed and maintained by a qualified person.

✓ fit the chimney with a rain excluder that allows the smoke to go straight up – a concentric shroud is best.

✓ use dry wood.

✓ after adding logs to the fire burn them at full heat until the wood is well charred (at least 20 minutes), especially before turning the fire down for overnight burning.

These steps will also reduce the risk of burning your home down!

Black cockatoos are found along the peninsula throughout the year (courtesy of BirdLife Tasmania)

Dolphin Sands Aquifer

The Dolphin Sands aquifer is a large supply of fresh clean underground water, held between grains of sand; the aquifer is dependant on rainfall for recharge. If possible, plan your water needs based on one spear bore supplemented with rainwater.

Spears or wells need to be at least 30–40 m apart, depending on the site.

Council will advise where to put your bore and septic tank, to avoid polluting the aquifer. The careful use of garden fertilisers, pesticides, herbicides and manures will reduce the risk of contamination. Taking care with petrol, paints, greases, oils and thinners will also help keep the aquifer clean. Unused paints can be re-tinted, empty paint tins can be disposed of as rubbish, engine oil recycled and cooking oil reused.

How to conserve water

This is a **low rainfall area** subject to long periods of below-average falls.

Think about this when planning your home and garden needs. The website <www.yourhome.gov.au> and the Your Home booklet are useful sources of information (see page 27).

For more information on groundwater, fresh water and coastal management issues go to the Swan Apsley Catchment Management Plan on the Glamorgan Spring Bay Council's (GSBC) website <www.gsbc.tas.gov.au> or contact the Council's Natural Resource Management (NRM) Officer.

© Diane Bricknell

Protect your property from fire

This area has the potential for fast-moving, high-intensity fires. It is classified by the Tasmania Fire Service as bushfire prone. The dry sandy soil, flammable vegetation and regular strong northwesterly winds promote a high fire risk for up to 10 months of the year.

You can help save lives and property with the following guidelines:

✓ Keep the area within 20–25m of your home free of bushfire fuels – the fine fuels (bark, leaves & twigs) are the main hazard.

✓ Store at least 20 000 litres of water in a tank fitted with a 64mm male 5V thread (ask the Tasmania Fire Service for the name of a supplier) – firefighting requires much larger amounts of water than fire service tankers can carry.

✓ The fire truck needs to park within 3m of the water supply and requires a large gravel turning circle to turn around easily (please ensure access is easy for firetrucks).

✓ Move your woodpile away from your home – it's less inconvenient than having your home burn down.

✓ Maintain a safe access to your dwelling– clearing 2m on either side of the driveway to a height of 4m.

It is recommended that you buy a diesel (rather than petrol) driven fire pump (with hoses to connect to your tank) in case the power is cut during a fire.

Provide a 25m defendable space around your home

The 25m* zone around buildings needs to be substantially free of flammable litter and vegetation. Then there's less chance of a fire starting from falling embers, which are the main threat to your home. During a bushfire, sparks can reach your home for hours before the flame front arrives and hours after it has passed. Suitable fire-retardant plants for this area include the groundcovers and shrubs listed on page 26. Keep shrubs nearer the home low, not too dense and well-watered. *(*25 metres as a min. however TFS recommend compliance with the "Guidelines for Development in Bushfire Prone Areas of Tasmania")*

How much vegetation reduction is recommended?

You do not need to remove the native vegetation or understorey from the entire block to protect yourself from fire. It is recommended, to have a Tasmanian Fire Service approved bushfire management plan for your property. The unique coastal bushland and birdlife can be maintained while also protecting your home. Burning off is not necessary to remove vegetation – slashing and mulching are safer.

Even within the 25m defendable zone there is no need to clear every trace of vegetation – this would end up as a dust bowl. Isolated individual trees rarely cause homes to burn. In fact, trees can screen the home from windblown embers and protect it from radiant heat.

Strategies you can use to protect your property from fire.

Reducing bark and other litter for another 10m around the defendable area will further reduce the risk.

What to do if fire approaches – run or stay?

For emergency warnings and alerts listen to Swansea 106.1 FM (radio). Leaving early is always the safest option. Be aware of the TFS 'Leave early checklist'.

It's not safe to head for the beach – the heat from blazing foredune bushes can be so intense that even the seaweed on the beach can catch fire.

Coastal foredune vegetation must not form part of your fireplan. The Coastal Reserve provides legislative protection for vegetation, to ensure stability of the foredune and to maintain a wildlife corridor.

64 mm 5V hose fitting for fire-fighting water tank

Precautions with open fires and barbecues

In such a fire-prone area it is wise to be careful with open fires:

✦ Keep campfires and barbecues at least 3m away from trees, logs and other flammable material.

✦ Have enough water close to the fire to to put it out.

✦ Do stay with the fire – it is unlawful to leave a fire before it is completely out.

✦ **Fires are not permitted in the dunes** – marram grass is highly flammable and the embers can stay alight for days in sand.

Fire Permit Period

The Tasmania Fire Service may declare a Fire Permit Period any time the potential threat of bushfire is considered very high. During this time you need a fire permit for burning off (keep in mind slashing* and mulching are much safer methods to remove vegetation). For advice on burning small heaps, call Swansea Fire Brigade or for a permit phone 1800 000 699.

*Risk of sparks during high fire danger. Slashing may create sparks. Work practices that may generate sparks such as grinding, welding and cutting metal in the open are not permitted on days of total fire ban.

Total Fire Ban

The Tasmania Fire Service only declares a Total Fire Ban on days when the danger of fire is extremely high and fires could be very difficult to control.

Do not light any kind of open fire on these days. You may cook outside on a gas or electric barbecue. Days of Total Fire Ban are advertised in newspapers and on television and radio.

How to build a safer home

These are some suggestions from the Tasmanian Fire Service:

✦ Build a single-storey home with low walls and a low-pitched roof.

✦ Use toughened glass or less glass with metal mesh screens covering the entire window.

✦ Construct roofs and exterior walls from low-flammability materials.

✦ Seal walls, eaves and internal roof areas.

More information

Contact Swansea Fire Brigade or Tasmania Fire Service for information or free on-ground advice about safety and firefighting equipment. They have some excellent leaflets, such as 'House Fire - Prevent & Survive', and a free DVD 'Will you survive a Bushfire?' phone 1800 000 699 or visit the website: <www.fire.tas.gov.au>

Energy options

Will you use electricity from Aurora, or solar or wind power? Solar energy or gas for water and space heating? Or some combination of these options?

Buying the equipment for solar or wind power may be more expensive initially but save dollars in the long run. Aurora Energy and other consultants are listed under 'Energy Management' in the Yellow Pages if you want to investigate the costs of various systems or obtain advice on how to design an energy-efficient home. The website <www.yourhome.gov.au> is a good source of information (also available as a free booklet by phoning 1300 130 606).

If you use mains electricity

Consider whether to put the wires on your property underground or overground. Underground cables may be the cheaper option and you won't be responsible for maintaining and replacing poles and insulation. Any fires arising from your private poles and lines may also be your responsibility.

Within the lots, the GSBC Planning Scheme allows for overhead and underground private power lines provided they do not disturb the dunes and/or create drift. The sandy soil does provide a perfect medium for underground hence the widespread use of trenches for underground lines on lots.

How to keep an overground private powerline safe

Check that scrub and grass are reduced for at least 1m around the poles, and trees are at least 3.5m clear of the wires and poles. Also look for signs of decaying wood poles. But don't try to maintain poles and powerlines yourself!

The only safe way to trim trees near powerlines is to employ an accredited contractor. Aurora Energy currently tests private poles up to the meter position as a free service every three years as part of its pole testing program.

Customers are responsible for testing and maintenance of private poles past the metering position.

Bracken fern, common throughout the area

Wildlife and pets – friends or foes?

All native wildlife at Nine Mile Beach are protected, including birds, frogs, snakes and lizards.

Living in bushland involves living with wildlife. Some people would like to attract more wildlife – it's enjoyable watching green and eastern rosellas, wattlebirds and honeyeaters, wallabies, echidnas and other animals. Other people would like the possums to go away. Whatever your view, take wildlife into consideration when driving, designing your garden and owning pets.

If you have problems with wildlife, contact the Parks and Wildlife Service (see page 27).

How to avoid hitting wildlife when driving

Observe the speed limit and drive more **slowly** at night when wildlife is along the road – driving into an animal can cause extensive damage to your vehicle as well as to the animal.

If you do hit an animal, it is humane to check whether it is injured or offspring is in the pouch. You could put a seriously injured animal out of its misery or contact the Parks and Wildlife Service. Removing a dead animal from the road will prevent other wildlife from being attracted there.

If you want to encourage wildlife

Keeping the bushland and native grasses on your property or planting native species will provide shelter and food.

If you want to avoid conflict with wildlife in your garden, contact the Parks and Wildlife Service for a brochure about floppy fence design, devil-proof chicken coops or any other information about living with wildlife.

Floppy fences will keep out wallabies and most possums. Consider enclosing your entire vegetable and fruit garden. Storing rubbish, food scraps and compost in bins will protect them from being raided.

Bennetts wallaby

Keep cats and dogs under control

If you want to see wildlife (and be considerate of your neighbours), provide pets with their own enclosed spaces so they do not stray and scare wildlife and people. Please keep your pets indoors from dusk, when the local wildlife starts to become active.

Your pet cat is likely to hunt, even if you feed it daily. To warn wildlife, fit your cat with a collar and three large bells – two under the chin and one opposite. Having your cat desexed will stop it breeding with feral cats or producing unwanted kittens that may become wild. Designs and kits for cat enclosures are available (for instance <www.catnip.com.au> phone 1800 639 998).

You can help by setting traps for feral cats – contact Council or Parks and Wildlife Service for advice. A domestic cat outside of its home boundary is considered a feral cat!

Council requires you to keep your dogs under control and to remove dog droppings from any public place. Dogs must be registered and provided with a collar and identification tag.

All the beaches, foredunes and riverbanks here are Public Reserves under the control of the Parks and Wildlife Service to protect wildlife. Dogs may be exercised along Nine Mile Beach* provided they are under control (generally dogs should be within 10 metres and will respond to the owner's orders). In sensitive bird breeding areas at Point Bagot* and the mouth of the Meredith River*, dogs must be on a 2m lead, and are restricted to the wet sand on the ocean side of the beach.

*Refer to the GSBC Dog Management Policy for further information.

Mosquitoes and ticks

Diseases caused by mosquitoes and ticks are rare but it's wise to take some precautions. Ross River virus is carried by some mosquitoes, usually in Autumn. It can cause headaches, pain in the muscles and joints, rash and fever.

Mosquitoes can be kept out by installing 1mm insect screens in your home and rainwater tanks. Mosquitoes are less likely to bite if you wear loose-fitting, lightcoloured clothing and use insect repellent, especially between sunset and dawn.

You can stop them breeding by checking each week places where water may collect (pot plant trays, old tyres, blocked guttering and drains).

Spotted fever is a bacterial infection caused by a tick in its larval stage. It is active at Nine Mile Beach mainly in Spring. You may not know you've been bitten because it is tiny. because it is tiny. If you find a tick attached to your skin there's no need to panic – the key is to remove the tick as soon as possible. Use fine tipped tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin as possible. Pull upwards with steady, even pressure. Don't twist or jerk. Clean the bite area and your hands with rubbing alcohol or soap and water. If you develop a rash or fever, see your doctor.

Sharing the beach with shorebirds

Hooded plovers, Pied oystercatchers and Red-capped plovers breed in dry sand on or near the beach between September and March. The flat sandy areas at the mouths of the Meredith and Swan rivers (Point Bagot) are important breeding and feeding places for shorebirds. **Dogs are prohibited in these areas**. Please keep to the wet sand when walking in these areas, especially during the breeding season. The Hooded plover (see photograph below) is becoming rare on Tasmanian beaches due to disturbance, predation by cats and dogs, vehicles and horses.

The little 'Hooded Plover' (below) lay its eggs amongst beach (courtesy of BirdLife Tasmania).

What else lives here?

The most common animals here are Bennett's wallaby, Tasmanian pademelon, Brushtailed possum, Tasmanian devil, Echnida, Blue-tongue lizard, various skinks, Mountain dragon, White-lipped snake and Tiger snake. Banjo frogs live in wet areas.

More than 50 kinds of bird live or regularly visit this area. Sadly, the numbers of some are decreasing, including Wedge-tail and White bellied sea eagles, Yellow-tail black cockatoos, Rosellas and Hooded plovers. Musk lorikeets feed in stands of white gum. Look out for Pelicans, White-faced herons, Cormorants, Black swans, ducks and various migratory waders (Greenshanks, Red-necked stints, Japanese snipe) in the Swan and Meredith rivers. You might enjoy helping BirdLife Tasmania record the birds on the shoreline and on your property <www.birdLife.org.au>

Hooded Plover (courtesy of Alan Fletcher)

Managing your bushland

It is a lot easier to maintain native bushland than to clear it for a traditional garden. The main tasks in looking after the bush are removing weeds and keep livestock away so that natural growth can occur. If you want to stabilise bare sand, plant a mixture of grasses, sedges, groundcovers and shrubs.

What grows here?

The foredune vegetation is mainly marram grass mixed with native grasses such as *Spinifex sericeus* and *Austrofestuca littoralis*. Coast wattle *(Acacia sophorae)* grows behind the foredune, with remnant patches of banksias *(Banksia marginata)* and white gum (*Eucalyptus viminalis*). Other native plants include silver wattle *(Acacia dealbata*), coastal beard-heath (*Leucopogon parviflorus*), sagg *(Lomandra longifolia)*, pigface (*Carpobrotus rossii*), blue-bells (*Wahlenbergia*) and spear grasses *(Austrostipa)*. The most common tussock grass is *Poa labillardierei*. Wallabies graze on prickly couch grass *(Zoysia macrantha)*.

The coastal white gum woodland with its sedge and grass understorey is an Endangered plant community found only in a few places in Tasmania. Only a small portion is in reserves so the remnants on private property are pivotal in maintaining this special woodland.

How to help look after our reserves

You can be a good bushland neighbour by not clearing the vegetation on your property, and planting local species. Using ornamental species that won't invade the bush is fine (but be aware that there are many environmental weeds readily available in nurseries – see next section).

Support your local Parks and Wildlife officers in managing the coast! Residents are protecting shorebird habitat and dune vegetation by planting, weeding and improving tracks to the beach.

Dealing with weeds

It is much easier to tackle weed infestations while they are small enough to control by hand. Digging up the ground tends to stimulate further weed invasion but planting soon after will smother many weeds.

Please consider not spraying with herbicides at Dolphin Sands – these chemicals can pollute the aquifer, the source of everyone's drinking water.

The preferred technique if you use herbicide is the 'cut and paint' method. Cut back the shrub to ground level and paint the stump with the appropriate herbicide within 10–15 seconds of cutting. A low-toxicity non-residual herbicide such as glyphosate will usually do the job.

If you need help with difficult weeds, seek advice from the Regional Weed Management Officer Department of Primary Industries and Water. For weeding foredunes and other reserves contact the local Parks and Wildlife Service or Management Officer.

Detailed weed information sheets are available at the websites <www.dpiwe.tas.gov.au> and <www.bushcare.tas.gov.au>.

Priority Weeds in Glamorgan Spring Bay

Information on priority weeding and weed management is detailed in the Glamorgan Spring Bay Weed Management Plan, available on the website <www.gsbc.tas.gov.au> or from the Natural Resource Management Officer at the Council.

© Diane Bricknell

Gardening on sand

Check with a specialist native plant nursery to find out what plants will grow in the particular conditions on your property. Even some salt-tolerant plants have a hard time on more exposed sites.

Local native species have distinct advantages. They don't need watering once they are established, they don't need fertiliser, and they will never become weeds. Native plants provide the best habitat and food for wildlife – and you'll have free entertainment watching the birds. Ask at the Council for a copy of the 'Native Plants of Glamorgan Spring Bay' poster or contact the Natural Resource Management Officer (a native plant database in Excel format is also available from the Council).

The flowers of banksias, bottlebrushes, tea-trees and white gums attract honeyeaters, black cockatoos and parrots. Black cockatoos also eat the grubs living on coast wattle and silver wattle. Plants such as hakeas, prickly box and prickly moses give small birds and animals a place to hide from cats and dogs.

Tussock grasses and sedges provide shelter for small marsupials. Tasmanian and east coast natives are recommended, as many mainland plants have spread into coastal reserves and are now costing us dearly.

Some plants invade the bush and are best avoided. These include radiata pine, tree lucerne, cotoneaster, tree lupin, periwinkle, bluebell creeper, banana passionfruit, sweet pittosporum and cootamundra wattle. Soil from infested areas can bring in weeds like horehound and thistles.

Plants will survive the dry summers better if they get plenty of compost in the planting holes and if the soil is mulched with leaves, bark or straw (avoid weedy hay). Ask your nursery for advice.

Composting saves trips to the tip

Composting is a simple way to recycle plant trimmings and uncooked food scraps. It produces a useful garden fertiliser. Cooking oils and fats don't compost well and attract pests. A bin with a lid will keep out animals. Placing it away from bores will avoid polluting drinking water.

Where to take rubbish

The waste transfer station, at the end of Maria Street in Swansea has areas for recycling and safe disposal of sump oil. Check with Council about the latest recycling opportunities. Please consider your neighbours and don't burn rubbish. Composting is preferable to dumping green waste in bushland, where it can spread weeds. Some green waste can be shredded and used for mulch.

Green Rosella (courtesy of Alan Fletcher)

Some suggested native plants for your garden

Groundcovers

Running postman	*Kennedia prostrata*
Matted bush pea	*Pultenaea pedunculata*
Prostrate guinea flower	*Hibbertia prostrata*
Pigface ^	*Carpobrotus rossii*
Spreading velvet bush	*Lasiopetalum micranthum*
Native cranberry	*Astroloma humifusum*
Cushion plant ^	*Scleranthus biflorus*
Climbing saltbush	*Einadia nutans*

Low plants

Common heath	*Epacris impressa*
Blue flax lily	*Dianella revoluta*
Native pelargonium	*Pelargonium australe*
Common aotus	*Aotus ericoides*
Wax flower	*Eriostemon virgatus*
Sea-berry saltbush ^	*Rhagodia candolleana*
Coastal rosemary	*Westringia rigida*
Snow bush	*Leucophyta brownii*
Yellow buttons*	*Chrysocephalum apiculatum*
Spreading wattle*	*Acacia genistifolia*
Fringe myrtle*	*Calytrix tetragona*
White flag iris	*Diplarrena moraea*
Knobby club-rush I	*solepis nodosa*
Tussock grass	*Poa labillaredierei*
Common sedge ^	*Lepidosperma concavum*
Sagg	*Lomandra longifolia*

Trees

Banksia	*Banksia marginata*
White gum	*Eucalyptus viminalis*
She-oaks	*Allocasuarina verticillata & A. stricta*
Paperbarks	*Melaleuca ericifolia, M. gibbosa & M. squarrosa*
Oyster Bay pine	*Callitris rhomboidea*
South Esk pine	*Callitris oblonga* (a Threatened species)

Taller shrubs

Prickly moses	*Acacia verticillata*
Sweet scented wattle*	*Acacia suaveolens*
White boobyalla ^	*Myoporum insulare*
Coastal beard-heath	*Leucopogon parviflorus*
Common correa*	*Correa reflexa*
White correa	*Correa alba*
Yellow dogwood	*Pomaderris elliptica*
Parrots food	*Goodenia ovata*
Large-flowered tea-tree	*Leptospermum grandiflorum*
Sweet kunzea*	*Kunzea ambigua*

^ relatively low flammability

* native to northeast Tasmania but not local

Endemic White Gum (Eucalyptus viminalis) (courtesy of Nicky Meeson)

Waste Transfer Station Opening hours:

(all of Council's transfer stations hhave the same opening hours; these may vary in winter time)

Mon to Fri 2:30pm to 4:30pm
Sat Closed Sun 12:30pm to 4:30pm

–The Swansea Waste Transfer Station is located at the West end of Maria Street.

All Transfer Stations are Closed:
Christmas Day, New Years Day, Good Friday

✓ Collection day for Dolphin Sands is Wednesday, bins must be out by 6:00am, Council suggests you put them out on Tuesday night.
✓ Wheelie bins must be at least 1 metre apart.
✓ Rubbish collection is weekly.
✓ Recycling collection is fortnightly.

For more information, a booklet is available on request from Council or on their website.

Useful contacts

Emergencies: Fire/Police/Ambulance 000

Swansea Online Access Centre
31 Franklin Street Swansea. Opening hours are Mon–Fri 10am till 3pm (times may vary).

Glamorgan Spring Bay Council
For all enquiries please phone the office number on 03 6256 4777 (inc. after hours) and you will directed to the relevant department.
For Animal Control (emergencies only) please phone 0427 562 709.

Tasmanian Fire Service
Fire permits and fire bans 1800 000 699

Aurora Energy 13 2004

Parks and Wildlife Service
1300 135 513 - Mon-Fri 9am-5pm (Hobart)
or 6256 7070 (Freycinet)

BirdLife Tasmania
Email: tasmania@birdlife.org.au
birdlife.org.au/who-we-are/branches-and-locations/tasmania

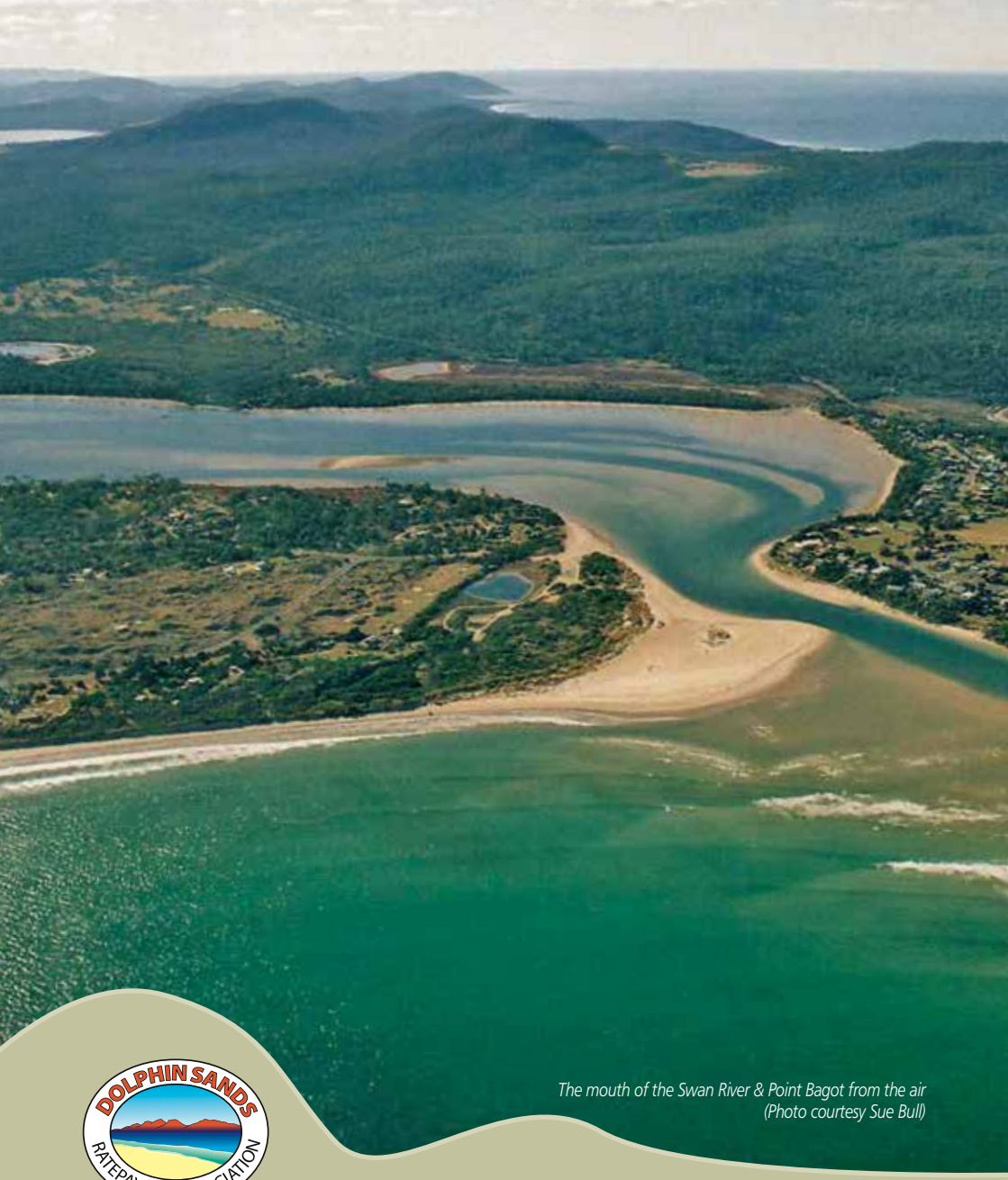
Weed Management Section DPIW 1300 368 550

Dolphin Sands Ratepayers' Association Inc.
(including Cambria Drive),
PO Box 133 Swansea 7190
email: dsra.7190@gmail.com
www.dsra.org.au

Your Home, Australia's guide to environmentally sustainable homes.<www.yourhome.gov.au>

Did you know? plastic bottles take from 100 to 500 years to break down.

Do the Right Thing



The mouth of the Swan River & Point Bagot from the air
(Photo courtesy Sue Bull)

Dolphin Sands Ratepayers' Association Inc.
(including Cambria Drive)
PO Box 133 Swansea 7190
email: dsra.7190@gmail.com
www.dsra.org.au

Glamorgan Spring Bay Council
03 6256 4777