

BIODIVERSITY VALUES

- The Breamlea Saltmarsh has significant environmental values and is a primary feeding ground for the Threatened Orange-bellied Parrot. This small parrot migrates annually to winter in South Australia from Tasmania, passing through Victoria on route.
- Other bird species sighted in the Breamlea area include White-faced Heron, Masked Lapwing, Double-banded Plover, Red-capped Plover, Silver Gull, Grey Teal, Red-necked Stint, Greenshank, Crested Tern and White-fronted Chat.
- The aquatic and emergent vegetation of the Breamlea wetland provides physical shelter for fish and other aquatic fauna. Thompsons Creek was locally known as Bream Creek, indicating its historical role as a Bream fishery.
- Other fish known to inhabit the creek and wetland include Big-headed Gudgeon, Black Bream, Greenback Flounder, Long-snouted Flounder, Small-mouthed Hardyhead, Tommy Ruff, Yellow-eyed Mullet, Common Galaxias and Australian Salmon. The regular appearance of pelicans on the estuary is a good indicator of the presence of fish.
- Other fringing vegetation has a particular role as well. Chaffy Saw Sedge (*Gahnia filum*) is home to the threatened Skipper Butterfly. This butterfly specifically inhabits this species of sedge.

For further information, contact:

CITY OF GREATER GEELONG
03 5227 0270
www.geelongaustralia.com.au

**CORANGAMITE CATCHMENT
MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**
03 5232 9100
www.ccma.vic.gov.au

PARKS VICTORIA INFO LINE
131 963

**DEPARTMENT OF SUSTAINABILITY
AND ENVIRONMENT**
136 186

GEELONG FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB INC
<http://home.vicnet.au/~gfnc>

**INJURED BIRDS AND ANIMALS
JIRRAHLINGA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY**
03 5254 2484

BREAMLEA PROGRESS ASSOCIATION
03 5264 1477



*A project sponsored by the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality program.
A joint Initiative of the Victorian and Australian Governments.*

This site is part of the Wetland Wanderings Ecotour. Each wetland site has its own brochure highlighting the features of the site in more detail. Some sites may be drive by only and some are close to a parking bay so you can stop, read the site information from the selected brochure and go for a wander around the wetland.

Happy Wetland Wandering

BREAMLEA

Wetland Wanderings 10

Welcome to Breamlea, a very special place. Breamlea is a very unique spot with just 100 houses nestled in the shelter of spectacular sand dunes between the coast and the unique saltmarsh and estuarine environment of Thompson's Creek. Get out, stretch your legs and take in both the amazing wetland and coastal environment that is Breamlea.

LOCATION

Breamlea is located halfway between Torquay and Barwon Heads on the Breamlea Road. From Torquay follow the Black Gate Road and turn right onto the Breamlea Road. From Barwon Heads or Geelong, follow the Barwon Heads Road and turn into Bluestone School Road, follow all signs to Breamlea. **Melways Ref: Map 495 6B.**

SITE DESCRIPTION

Breamlea has been a holiday destination for over 40,000 years. Before European settlement it is said that the local tribe, the Wathaurong, migrated down Thompsons Creek (formally Bream Creek) during summer to harvest food from the sea.

The Breamlea Township is located behind a large open dune system that is vegetated with coastal grassland and shrubland vegetation, providing habitat for many birds including the threatened Hooded Plover.


There is a great deal of open space in Breamlea, primarily to protect areas of environmental significance, such as wetlands, sand dunes and saltmarsh. Areas such as the recreation reserve have been highlighted as an excellent place to undertake outdoor activities such as walking the dog and family cricket or utilise the picnic facilities for a barbecue lunch.

Bancoora Beach is the only patrolled and safe swimming beach in Breamlea, and the Bancoora Surf Life Saving Club is the main visitor destination point in the town, along with the Breamlea Caravan Park and shop.

The estuary of Thompsons Creek supports a fascinating saltmarsh community. Historically, wetlands, in particular saline ones, were regarded as 'smelly old swamps' and 'only good for breeding mosquitos.' Saltmarshes are actually highly productive areas and provide fish breeding habitat, shallow foraging areas for wading birds and water-filtering areas for stream-flow.

BREAMLEA



-  Recommended walking tracks
- 1** 10 min. walk (from Surf Life Saving Club)
- 2** 20 min. walk
- 3** 45 min. walk

POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1** Bancoora Beach, the beautiful surf beach of Breamlea
- 2** Breamlea is a "Plastic Bag Free" township; see Caravan Park Shop for more information.

