

WELCOME TO CHURCHILL ISLAND

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land and waters of Millowl, the Bunurong. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and future.

DAILY ACTIVITIES

10.30am
BLACKSMITHING

2.10pm
COW MILKING

2.30pm
SHEEP SHEARING

2.45pm
WORKING DOGS

3.00PM
WHIP CRACKING

Weather permitting

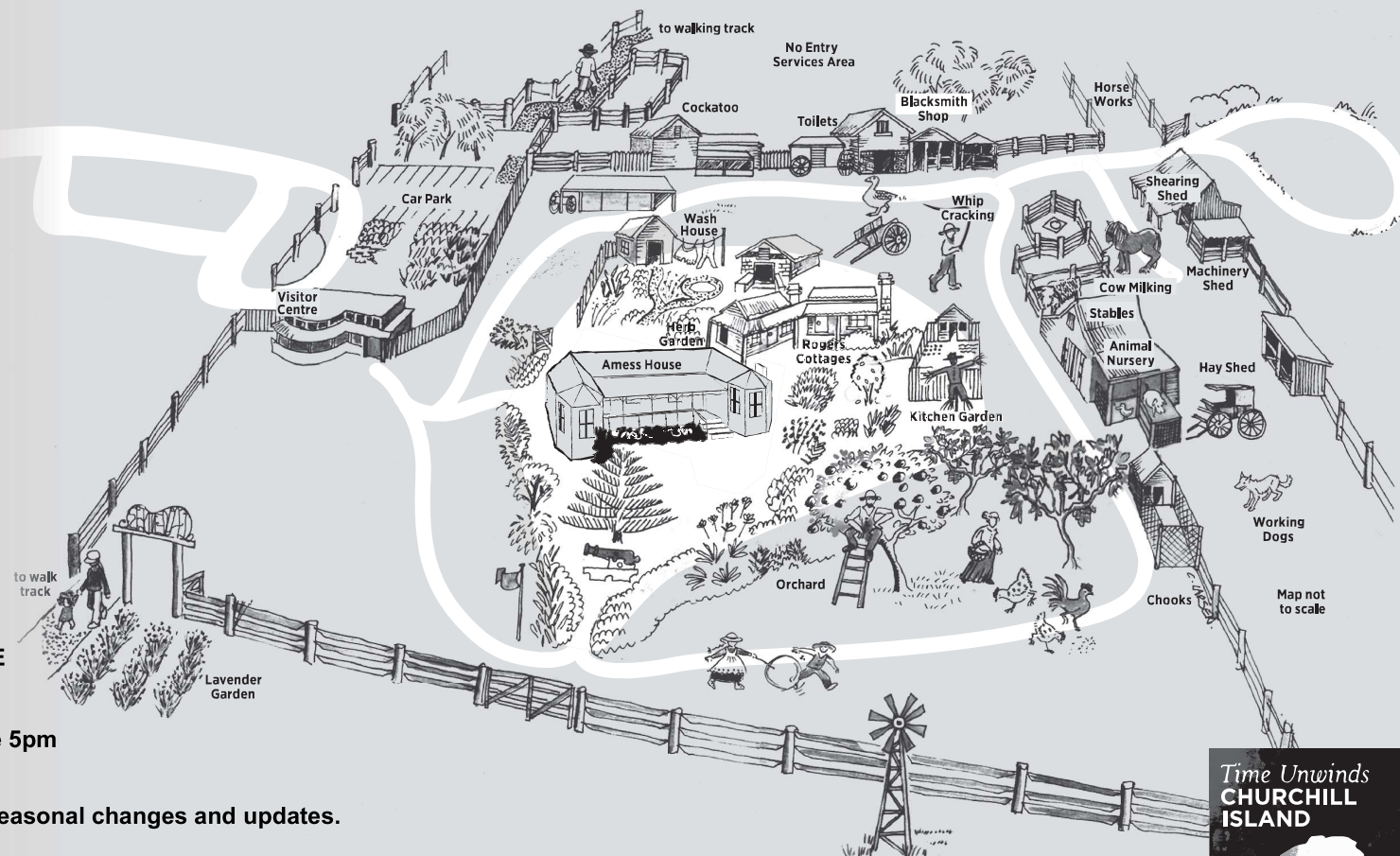
ALL DAY ACTIVITIES

ANIMAL NURSERY

GIFT SHOP & VISITOR CENTRE

CAFE open from
9am - 5.30pm daily, last service 5pm

Please check website for any seasonal changes and updates.



Phillip Island
**NATURE
PARKS**

Please call (03) 5951 2830 for more details or check out www.penguins.org.au

Help the environment - please return map to front desk if you don't want to keep it.

Time Unwinds
**CHURCHILL
ISLAND**



CHURCHILL ISLAND WALKS

The circuit track offers magnificent views across Western Port and the chance to see some jet-setting birds. The waters and mudflats surrounding Churchill Island are listed under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (the Ramsar Convention).

ISLAND LOOP

- 4.3 km, about 1.5 hours return.

NORTH POINT LOOP

- 1.8 km, about 1 hour return.
- Walks begin via the visitor centre.
- Please close all gates, keep behind fences and barriers and do not approach the animals.
- Don't forget binoculars!

OLD MOONAHS

The gnarled trees with trunks that look like twisted rope are Moonahs. Many of the trees are ancient - the oldest Moonahs could be at least 500 years old.

MAKING AMENDS

A lot of woodland on Churchill Island has been cleared for farming. We are now trying to bring it back to how it was before European settlement.

In an amazing effort, Nature Parks' rangers have removed nearly all feral rabbits from this end of the island! Extensive replanting of Moonahs, she-oaks and boobialla has also been completed.

GRANT'S MONUMENT

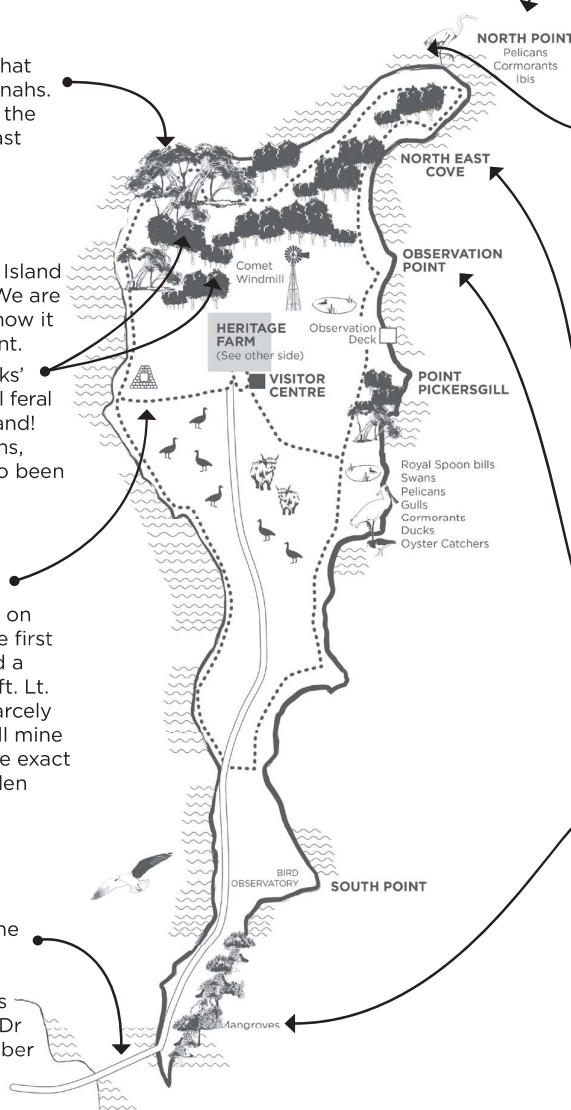
In 1801, Lt. James Grant landed on Churchill Island and planted the first crops in Victoria. He also raised a blockhouse measuring 24 x 12 ft. Lt. Grant wrote in his journal "I scarcely know a place I would rather call mine than this little island." Today the exact site of Grant's blockhouse garden remains a mystery.

BEFORE THE BRIDGE

Imagine driving cattle across the mudflats at low tide or waiting until high tide to float your luggage over on a barge. That's how it was up until 1959 when Dr Harry Jenkins built the first timber bridge. The current bridge was completed in 2000.

BEFORE BASS

Before European settlement, Indigenous people visited Phillip Island. These mudflats provided great tucker (food) like flounder, shark and oysters.



NORTH POINT

The northern most point of Churchill Island is a good place to see bird life, especially at low tide when the mud flats are revealed. Look out for the royal spoonbills, pied oyster catchers, ibis, gulls, herons and cormorants moving over shallow waters and mud flats. Looking north on a clear day you can make out Tortoise Head, French Island and the refineries at Hastings.

BASALT BEDROCK

Take a moment to look at the 50 million year old basalt rocks which are the foundation stones of Churchill Island. Churchill Island was originally part of Phillip Island before a sea level rise some 10-15,000 years ago severed the land link.

NORTH EAST COVE

Most of the building materials and furnishings that went into Amess House came ashore in this tiny sheltered cove. Tidal variations of 1.7 metres made it necessary to transport goods ashore in longboats.

Another way of doing it was to bring the boat into the jetty on one high tide, and float it off on the next.

OBSERVATION POINT

From the observation deck you can see a range of waders and seabirds, either on the mud flats, floating offshore or overhead. That strange whistle above you could be a pair of whistling kites gliding with the aid of the breeze. These agile birds of prey nest high in the trees in the spring.

MANGROVES AND MUDFLATS

The extensive mudflats of Western Port are an important breeding and feeding ground for fish and birds. These mangroves are the smallest and southern-most variety in Australia. There is little oxygen in the dense mud, so the roots stick up to help the tree 'breathe air' - like a snorkel!

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