

# COMMUNITY UPDATE

November 2021



## New campground coming soon!

The unique opportunity to camp at Point Nepean National Park is a step closer with works due to start in December to create the low-impact campground. This and other changes to the park will soon be overseen by a new community advisory group.

### The project

Since the launch of the Point Nepean Master Plan in January 2018, delivery of the plan's early initiatives is progressing well, with an upgrade of Defence Road to Fort Nepean and new visitor facilities at the Quarantine Station completed. Three further initiatives are now underway:

1. A low impact camping experience at the Quarantine Station
2. Uplift of the Quarantine Station disinfecting complex and park-wide interpretation and storytelling
3. Formation of the new Point Nepean National Park Advisory Group

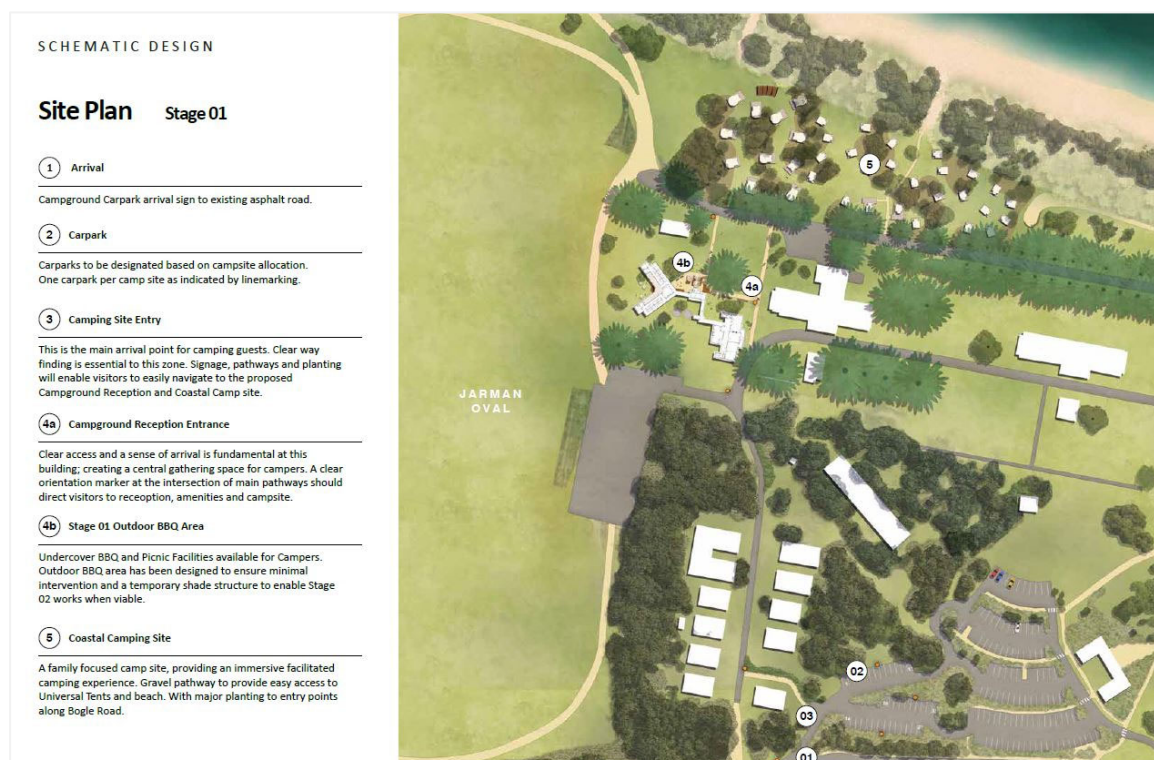
### Camping experience

Stage 1 of the camping project will be to establish a short stay camping experience at Burgess Park (foreshore lawn area) which will involve a series of tent platforms for short-stay on the lawn outside the Quarantine Station. As part of the project the existing Isolation Hospital at the western end of the Quarantine Station will be adapted to become an amenity building including toilets, showers and an adjoining outdoor BBQ area. This has been approved by Heritage Victoria.

The facilitated camping model will make camping more accessible to people with limited experience or equipment and help visitors form stronger connections with the national park by staying longer. It will also feature two disability-friendly campsites with ramp access.

Point Nepean National Park is an ideal location for low-impact tourism with the park being easily accessed from Melbourne and already well utilised for walking and cycling. The introduction of camping will help more Victorians connect with the park and strengthen their support for conserving the natural and cultural landscape for future generations.

Subject to on-ground conditions and any public health directions that may be in place, onsite preparations are expected to begin in December 2021, with works starting in early 2022 after the peak summer visitor period. The location and designs of the camping area are shown below. The camping development won't impede or impact any existing trails.



Site plan for Stage 1 of the facilitated camping project.

## Storytelling and interpretation project

Planning is also currently underway on a project to immerse visitors in the stories of this special place. A strategy has been developed on how to highlight Point Nepean's living Aboriginal culture, and the overlapping natural, military and quarantine histories. Interpretive trails and audio and video installations at some of the park's buildings are some of the options being explored.

In preparation for interpretive upgrades to the Disinfecting Complex experience, conservation and repair works were conducted to the Boiler House and Foul Luggage Store in 2020. This work is now complete, and the buildings have reopened to the public. Detailed designs and preparation of the park's interpretive installations including the Disinfecting Complex experience are now underway.



### Point Nepean Advisory Group - calling for members

Parks Victoria is calling for members from the community to serve on the Point Nepean National Park Advisory Group, which will support park managers with advice on a range of strategic issues relating to the park.

Advisory group members will represent the cross section of community interests and will be selected on the basis of their skills and experience in the areas of conservation, cultural heritage, natural resources, land management, tourism, recreation, education and/or community service. The appointment term is for three years, meeting up to four times a year.

Applicants with appropriate skills and a strong interest in Point Nepean National Park are encouraged to apply. Expression of Interest (EOI) documentation including the Terms of Reference and further information can be obtained by visiting [www.parks.vic.gov.au/projects/point-nepean-master-plan](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au/projects/point-nepean-master-plan) or by emailing [pointnepean@parks.vic.gov.au](mailto:pointnepean@parks.vic.gov.au).

**Applications close Friday 10 December 2021.**

### Exploring the park this summer

Point Nepean National Park is an explorer's paradise. Go for a hike, jog or hop on a bike and discover the tunnels, forts and gun emplacements around the park. Alternatively, jump aboard the hop-on-hop-off Point Nepean shuttle service. Running between the Quarantine Station and Fort Nepean, it's a great way to explore all the highlights of the national park.

Bike hire in the park is available from Bay Play in Sorrento. Once your booking is confirmed, you can pick up your bike at Point Nepean National Park opposite the Information Centre.



The park is open 24 hours for pedestrians and cyclists. Vehicles can enter from 6am-6pm (daylight savings) and exit at any time. The Point Nepean Information Centre is open daily, except Christmas day, 10am-5pm. Gunners Cottage and selected buildings in the Quarantine Station are open for the public to explore from 9am-4:30pm daily.



### Fort Nepean access restrictions

While the national park and Fort Nepean tunnels have been re-opened for visitors, Gun Emplacements 5 and 6, the Engine House and the Battery Observation Posts remain closed due to safety concerns arising from recent engineering inspections.

### Recent storm damage

The October 28-29 storms impacted Point Nepean National Park, particularly in the north western sections of the park including the Quarantine Station. Many large trees have fallen onto walking tracks and fences and some buildings have sustained roof damage. The soft and muddy ground caused by the heavy rain means there are still trees at risk of falling.



### Stay up-to-date

This newsletter is distributed to Parks Victoria's Point Nepean database, if you would like join our database please sign up via [www.parks.vic.gov.au/projects/point-nepean-master-plan](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au/projects/point-nepean-master-plan)