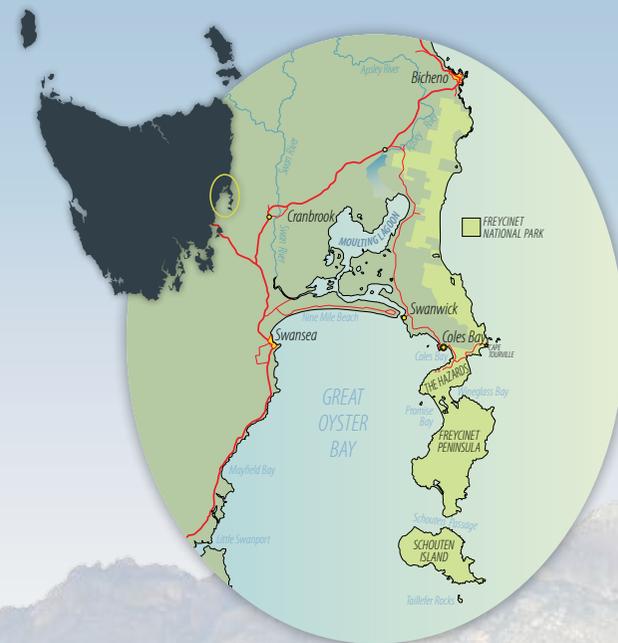


You can help

If you live nearby or are visiting you can help protect this amazing place:

- Give all birds plenty of space. Watch them from a distance - at least 50m - the farther the better.
- Dogs are prohibited within Moulting Lagoon for the protection of fragile wetland and waterfowl habitat. There are exceptions for River and Rocks Campsite where you can have a dog, provided it is on a lead and under control at all times, but note that this excludes the foreshore area.
- Licensed duck hunters can apply for a general authority for duck hunting purposes – only during the duck season.
- Do not take your horse onto the foreshore.
- Desex cats and keep them inside.
- Dispose of rubbish thoughtfully and pick up any litter or fishing line.
- Do not clear native vegetation along the foreshore and keep livestock out of foreshore areas.
- Keep your vehicle (including bikes) off the foreshore and stay on formed tracks at all times.
- Jet-skiing, water-skiing and windsurfing are only permitted in the lagoon south east of Point Meredith, between Point Meredith and Swanwick.
- Setting nets is prohibited in the Reserve.
- When fishing observe size, bag and possession limits. For fishing rules contact 1300 720 647 or go to www.fishing.tas.gov.au
- Avoid anchoring on seagrass beds. If you need to anchor choose a sandy spot.
- The use of lead shot in the Reserve is prohibited.



Moulting Lagoon The Lifeblood of the Freycinet Coast

More information

Parks and Wildlife Service
Freycinet National Park
Private Bag 5, Bicheno TAS 7215
03 6356 7000
freycinet@parks.tas.gov.au



BirdLife Tasmania
GPO Box 68 Hobart TAS 7001
tasmania@birdlife.org.au
0419 138 054 – Secretary



Glamorgan Spring Bay Council
PO Box 6 Triabunna TAS 7190
03 6256 4777
admin@freycinet.tas.gov.au



**Biodiversity Conservation Branch
Department of Primary Industries,
Parks, Water & Environment**
(DPIPWE) 03 6233 6556
wildlife.reception@dipw.tas.gov.au



A remarkable place

Moulting Lagoon is a large wetland of extraordinary beauty at the northern end of Great Oyster Bay on Tasmania's east coast. It is internationally recognised because it contains rare and significant wetland plants and animals, and supports high numbers of waterfowl and aquatic species.

The lagoon provides year-round habitat and breeding sites for many Tasmanian waterfowl - particularly black swans - and is an important feeding site for birds migrating from the northern hemisphere.

The lagoon was named after the piles of swan feathers that can be seen on the shoreline when the cygnets and adult swans undergo their annual moult.

On the flyway Migratory shorebirds visit Australia from the Arctic tundra using the East Asian – Australasian Flyway. Birds on the Flyway make an annual migration of over 25 000 km, with some flying for more than 10 000 km non-stop. Moulting Lagoon and its surrounding area is an important stopover for weary travellers to feed and replenish fat reserves for the long journey home to their northern breeding grounds.

Aboriginal heritage

There are numerous Aboriginal heritage sites recorded within the Moulting Lagoon area. Evidence confirms that Aboriginal nations have inhabited Trowunna (Tasmania) for at least 37,000 years. The Paredareme (also known as the Oyster Bay nation) occupied the area at the time of European arrival. The Paredareme nation included ten bands and their territory covered 7,800 square kilometres. Today this area continues to be significant to the Aboriginal community. All Aboriginal heritage sites are protected under the Aboriginal Relics Act 1975.

Amazing birds

The lagoon usually supports at least 8000 black swans, about 80% of Tasmania's estimated breeding population. It is an important site for many Tasmanian waterfowl and shorebirds at different times of the year, including ducks, egrets, plovers, grebes and cormorants.

The lagoon is also important to migratory shorebirds that escape the harsh northern winter by coming here and you may see many wonderful international visitors here over the summer.

Important vegetation and plants

The saltmarsh vegetation that occurs around the edge of the Lagoon is listed as a threatened ecological community under Commonwealth legislation. The dominant plants in this community include beaded glasswort (*Sarcocornia quinqueflora*) and thickhead glasswort (*Sarcocornia blackiana*). These plants are often collectively referred to as 'samphire'.

A number of threatened plant species also occur within the saltmarsh community, including silky wilsonia (*Wilsonia humilis*) and roundleaf wilsonia (*Wilsonia rotundifolia*). Other threatened plants found within the Ramsar site include warty paperbark (*Melaleuca pustulata*) and sea clubsedge (*Bolboschoenus caldwellii*).

Under threat

Like many of Tasmania's wetlands Moulting Lagoon is threatened by vegetation loss, introduced weeds, recreational impacts, climate change, decreasing water quality and sedimentation.

The Catchments to Coast Program is tackling the gorse weed threat around Moulting Lagoon.

Moulting Lagoon Game Reserve

The lagoon is an important recreational area and a Game Reserve allowing licensed seasonal duck hunting.

Annual recreational hunting has taken place at the lagoon since European settlement. The Ramsar Convention acknowledges sustainable use of wetlands, and the open season between March and June is well regulated to ensure that the harvest of waterfowl is sustainable.

Values within the Reserve are managed for conservation by the Parks and Wildlife Service. Aboriginal heritage and many native wildlife and plants found outside Reserve boundaries are also protected by a range of legislation.

Ramsar Convention

Ramsar wetlands are recognised as Wetlands of International Importance by the Ramsar Convention, an agreement to promote the conservation of wetlands worldwide.

The treaty signed in Ramsar, Iran in 1971, provides a framework for international co-operation for conservation and sustainable use of wetlands.

Moulting Lagoon is one of ten Ramsar wetlands in Tasmania.

The lagoon supports the largest Tasmanian flock of the common greenshank, *Tringa nebularia*, a migratory shorebird that uses the lagoon.

Cover photo: Pelican Bay by Fiona Everts Background photos: bar-tailed godwits by Maurice Banks



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Common greenshank

Eurasian coot

Swan & cygnet

Samphire

Australian pelicans

Curlew sandpiper

Chestnut teal