



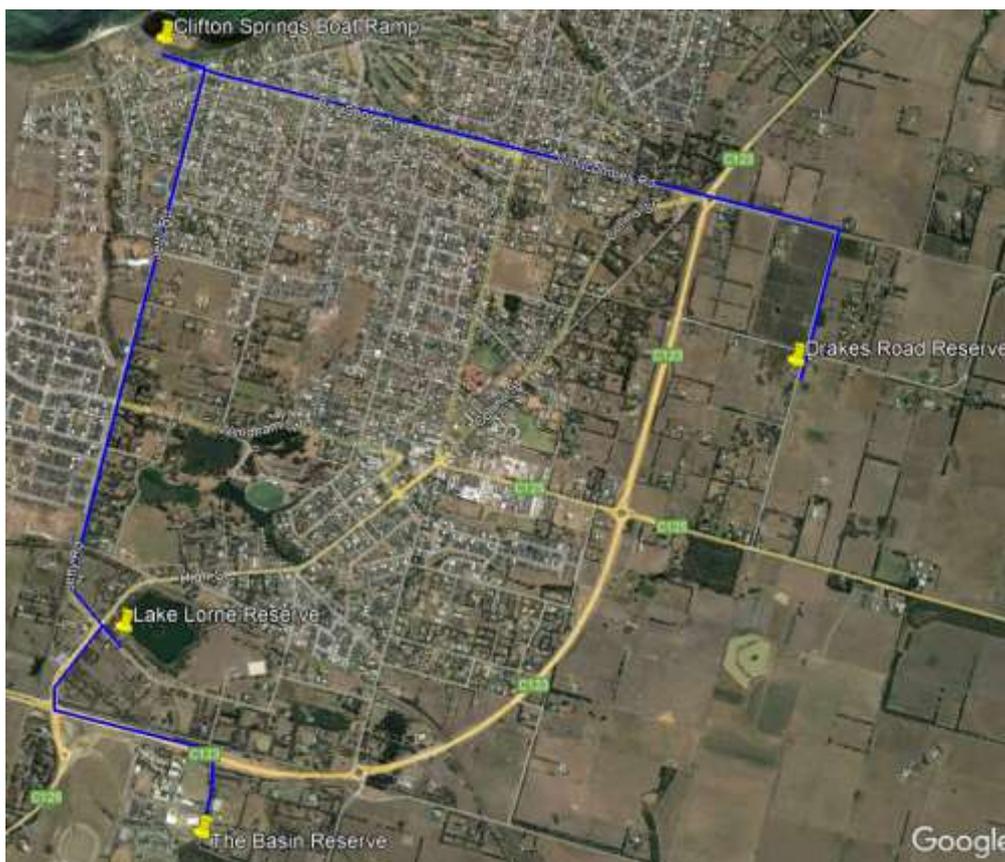
Great Southern BioBlitz

Trip Planner No 5

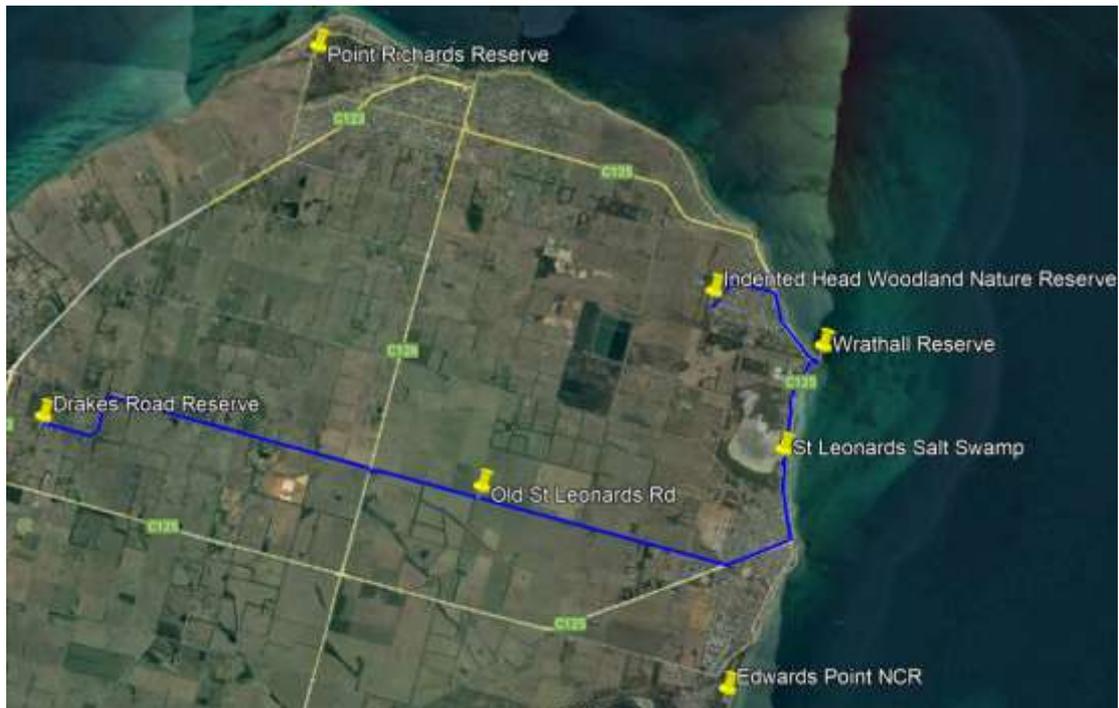
Drysdale –St Leonards zone

This plan outlines suggested site visits covering a day’s surveying activities around the northern and eastern areas of the Bellarine. The sites selected include a range of areas with differing natural biodiversity. The locations can be covered in one day, however GSB participants may wish to spend more time at specific sites and omit others listed below. Along the journey, additional roadside stops can be made for quick exploratory walks.

Note that some roads are gravel and may be rough or corrugated.



Stop	Site	Directions and highlights
1. 30 min	Basin Reserve, Basin Rd.	Park at the Gillies Rd/Basin Rd bend. Follow the circuit track anticlockwise to the wooden steps descending to the central wetland. Listen/record frogs and invertebrates. Check for butterflies on flowering Austral Grass-trees. Return to the top and continue along the path to an unmade track down into the central wetlands. At the wetlands, observe aquatic plants and invertebrates and bush birds.
2. 60 min	Lake Lorne, Reserve Road.	Drive via the Portarlington Rd (new bypass) and High St to Reserve Rd. A track circles the lake, but you may wish to only complete part of the circuit. Birds here including Freckled Duck, Blue-billed Duck and raptors. Freshwater vegetation is plentiful.
3. 45 min	Clifton Springs Boat Ramp	Access via Jetty Rd. Bayside birds such as gannets, gulls and cormorants. Marine creatures along the shore. Freshwater plants in wetlands to the east of the carpark.
4. 45 min	Drakes Reserve	Access via Bayshore Ave, Whitcombes Rd, Martins Rd. About 200 m past Drakes Rd enter via a gate into the reserve. Look for nesting birds in hollows of Red Gums. Aquatic vegetation and invertebrates.



5. 45 min	Old St Leonards Rd	Follow Drakes Rd eastwards as it turns and climbs the hill. Stop at Founds Rd near the top to admire extensive views of Corio Bay and the You Yangs. Along Founds Rd check for birds in farm dams and near the Drysdale Tip site. Follow the road to St Leonards with stops to check vegetation. birds etc.
6. 30 min	St Leonards Salt Swamp	Travel through St Leonards and follow The Esplanade to access parking area just past No 443, The Esplanade. There is an unmade walking track near the shoreline, but rubber boots may be needed. Saltmarsh plants, shorebirds, saline dwelling invertebrates, reptiles.
7. 10 min	Wrathall Reserve	Carpark off The Esplanade. Toilets at the site. Check shoreline for marine animals, shellfish, seaweeds, birds.
8. 60 min	Indented Heads Woodland Reserve	Access via Batman Rd and Seascape Drive. Park opposite Martin St. Limited paths in the reserve. Check Red Gums for nesting birds, mistletoe, invertebrates. Range of understory plants. Frogs in wetter areas.

Bring: Take along refreshment for the day’s surveying, camera with spare battery, hat, binoculars, strong footwear, and sunscreen.

Recommendation: This trip covers many habitat types to maximise potential observable species. Additional sites that could be visited are Edwards Point Nature Conservation Reserve and/or Point Richards Reserve.

Supporting Information:

- Plants – [Inland Plants of the Bellarine Peninsula](#) plus [Coastal Plants of the Bellarine Peninsula](#) booklets published by the Bellarine Catchment Network.
- eBird Hotspots for records of birds