

the varied hues of greys to yellow at the base. Oxides of iron that were contained in the layers of sediment built up over time before hardening to become rock caused this. When looking at these layers you are actually observing recorded geological history that took place over millions of years.

5. About 300 metres south of the beach's northern end you will come across a section of exposed rock, on which, at low tide you can see marine creatures attached. These are large barnacles. Part of their feeding cycle is to take in seawater, and squirt it out after filtering food particles from it.
6. At this part of the beach, you will often find a spectacular looking seabird slightly larger than a Seagull. The Sooty Oystercatcher is black in colour and has striking bright orange legs, eyes and beak. You may observe some similar but smaller birds with a white underbelly. These are the much rarer Pied Oyster Catchers, of which there is known to be one breeding pair returning annually in the sand dunes near the Lake's entrance.
7. At the end of the beach you'll find a rocky shore with a green grassy bank behind. This is a good point to stop for a rest and refreshments before continuing on the next section around the rocks. Whilst here, have a look south along the entire length of the beach and you will note how the perspective has changed dramatically. The entire curve of the beach appears much more pronounced from this vantage point.
8. Back to those "layers of nature". Where the green grass stops there are large sections of broken rocks leading down to the waters edge, where a whole range of marine life grows on these rocks, some quite microscopic. Life at this line needs sunlight, fresh air and the occasional lap of the sea to survive. Below this you will see darker brown rock at the water's edge, supporting an entirely different range of marine life and growth, these organisms being unable to survive continued exposure to the hot sun so they live on the tidal line where they are covered by sea, and at low tide exposed to the air. Permanently below the low tide mark exists a multitude of sea life including various shellfish, crustaceans, sea grasses and weed, all found at depths dependent on ultra violet light penetration of the ocean.

9. The next 500 metres will be harder as you will be traversing large uneven shaped rocks, though as you round the point the rock becomes a platform, and walking conditions will be much easier for the remainder of the walk to Depot Beach.
10. Before rounding Point Upright, look at some of the large flat rocks below you to discover some fossils. These are the shells of marine life, primarily giant pippies (100mm diameter) or scallops that existed in a past geological age.
11. Looking at the cliff above you, further evidence of the sediment layers can be observed as previously in the caves. The entire formation was formed by layers of sediment buildup on the sea bed over millions of years with uplift and subterranean movement forcing them above sea level as the formations visible today.
12. Embedded in the rock you are walking on you may notice pieces of various coloured stones resembling pieces of nuts in toffee. These "Drop Stones" were deposited as ice drifts of the last ice age melted, dropping trapped rock fragments into the sediment layer on top of the sea bed at that time.
13. After turning around Point Upright, look hard to find the section of raised rock resembling a piece of tree trunk lying on the rock surface. It is indeed an ancient petrified tree trunk, turned to rock.
14. Before turning the point before Depot Beach, look out to sea to see the Grasshopper Island. This is the twin to Wasp Island, both being of similar shape and size, and supporting a myriad of sea life on, below, and around.
15. Taking the track into Depot Beach, if you glance to the right about 600 metres out to sea, there is a small bombara where a reef rises up steeply to be a mere metre below the low tide mark. This is visible by the waves breaking at that point.
16. Upon arrival at Depot Beach, take a rest and refreshment break before setting off for the return trip to the Park.
17. Follow the road out of Depot Beach uphill to the North Durras turn-off (to your left). A 15 minute walk along this gravel road will bring you to North Durras. You can retrace your steps along the beach past the Lake's entrance, or walk along the eastern shore of Durras Lake back to Lakesea Park.

Seashore Walk



to



Depot Beach

(Approximately 3-3½ hours)

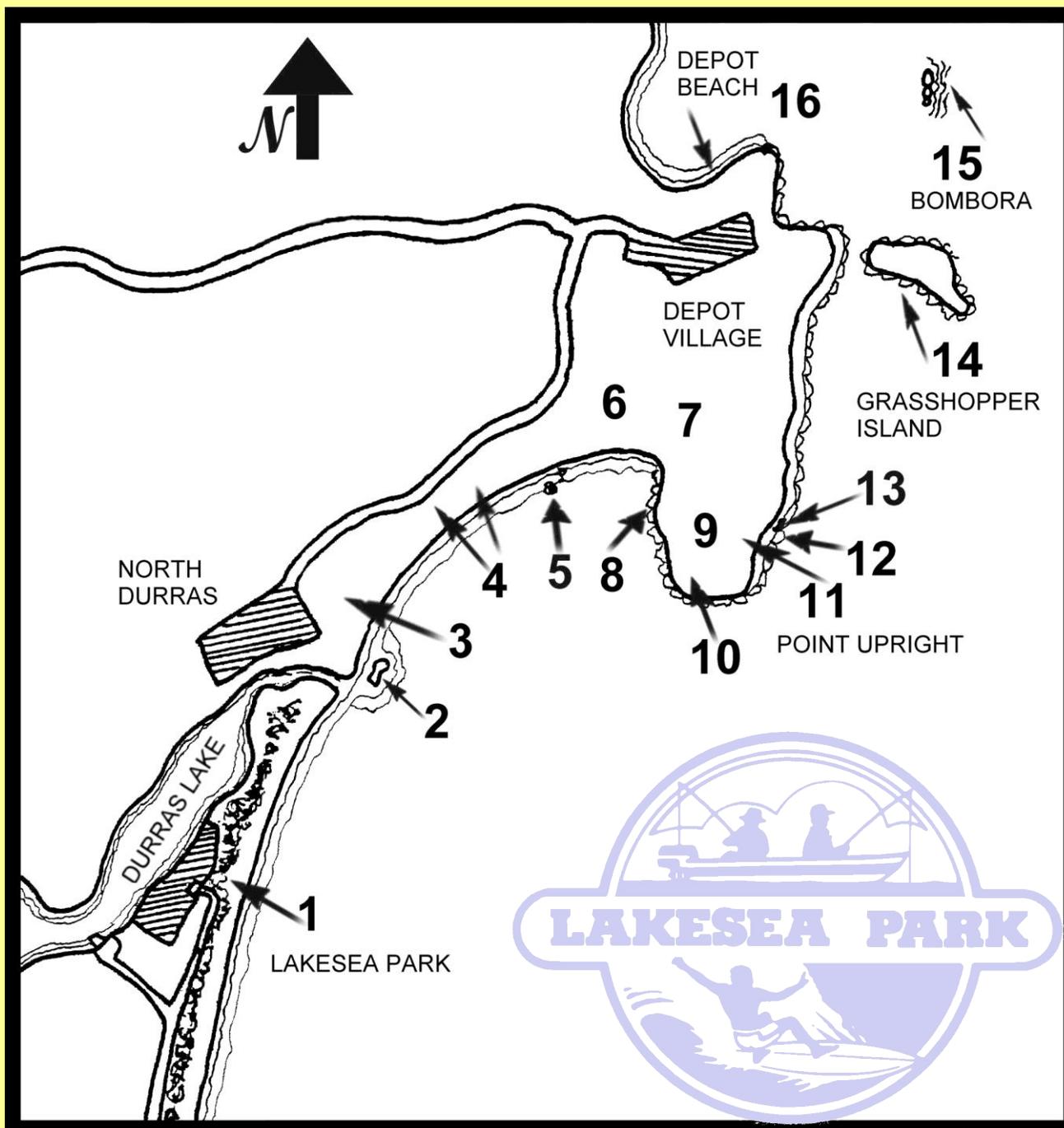
This walk is recommended for the entire family. It is packed with points of interest throughout. Many of us walk along beaches and around rocks, yet whilst taking in the overall beauty of the sea and the shoreline, we often miss many of the interesting and fascinating things along the way. At Lakesea Park, we have developed a set of informative notes for your observation, aimed not only to make this walk enjoyable, but to also open your eyes to a higher level of environmental awareness not previously experienced. Our recommendation: "A must for every visitor to Lakesea Park."

BEFORE YOU START!

Firstly, you must check at the Lakesea Park office for two important safety issues:-

1. Are the seas too rough to safely walk around the rocks at the northern end of the beach? Check current tide charts also.
2. Is Durras Lake open or closed? If the Lake's entrance is running it is not recommended that any attempt is made to wade across, particularly with an outgoing tide.

When the Lake is open, it is recommended that you drive to North Durras to commence your walk on the northern side of the Lake's entrance. Take plenty of drinking water and refreshments with you. Don't forget to **SLIP! SLOP! SLAP!**, and wear comfortable footwear as you will be traversing rocks, gravel roadways, and beach sand.



Points of Interest

1. Your walk commences at Lakesea Park. When you get to the edge of the dunes closest to the beach, take some time to look back at Lakesea Park. Note the various “layers” of vegetation growth. At the rear are the taller eucalypt trees in the park, near the road the smaller Banksias and Wattles, and smaller still, the sand growing bushes, averaging only a metre. Now look down at the beach grasses only centimetres above the sand. What you are looking at are “layers of nature”. The shearing effect of the wind and poorer soil conditions result in the development of shorter vegetation as you near the shoreline. These vegetation layers become more apparent when viewed from the waters edge.
Take a good look at the entire beach. South you will see Wasp Island, a small island only half a kilometre offshore, and north the sheer cliff line of point Upright, in between lies the gentle curve of Durras Beach. Remember how this looks, as you will be surprised when you arrive at the northern end of the beach.
2. Directly in front of the Lake’s entrance you will notice a section of exposed rocks, a feature common to lake entrances in the middle of an otherwise sandy beach. These rocks provide marine environments where schooling fishes such as Tailor and Salmon feed. It’s a popular spot for recreational fisherman, both fishing from the rocks, and trolling from small boats to chase the schools, or fishing from the beach, particularly using beach worms as bait. On an in-coming tide, when the lake is open, Whiting work the sandbanks of the entrance to feed.
3. Take a careful look at the flat sand and smaller sand dunes in the area and you may see a bird the size of a Sparrow, known as a Dotterel. These birds have very fine stil like legs with a unique habit of walking (not running) across the sand at very high speeds looking for food.
4. Walking north of the entrance you will come to a small cliff line at the rear of the beach. Here you will discover several small caves. If you look upwards at the entrance of the caves you will see various layers of colours from reds and golden yellows, right through