



The spectacular natural landscapes of Bruny Island contain important features from many geological ages. The vegetation consists of a great diversity of predominantly dry sclerophyll plant communities, heathlands and coastal vegetation. There are geographically significant endemic species such as velvet bush and threatened species including an endemic eyebright. The Park protects the 11 endemic birds found in Tasmania, and provides habitat to one of the largest surviving colonies of the forty spotted pardalote.

The Park includes Partridge Island and the Labillardiere Peninsula in the west. It is linked by the Cloudy Bay beaches, the forests of the Tasman Head in the east, and continues north along the coast, including the Bay of Islands to Fluted Cape.

Landforms

The topography and geology of South Bruny National Park provides a varied and scenic landscape which is of great appeal to visitors. The coastline consists of cliffs and headlands broken up by the beaches of Cloudy Bay. Most of the park is comprised of Jurassic dolerite, which forms the dramatic sea cliffs. Another interesting geological feature is the mid-bay spit, one of only four in Tasmania, that separates Cloudy Bay from Cloudy Bay Lagoon.

At its highest point, and just inside the Park boundary, Mount Bruny rises from sea level to 504 metres. In the north of the Park, the highest point is Fluted Cape

rising to 272 metres. The Labillardiere Peninsula features Mount Bleak (143 metres) and Mount Barren (146 metres).

Bruny Island was once attached to mainland Tasmania, when sea levels were much lower, about 20 000 years ago.

North and South Bruny are linked by the long, narrow isthmus of sand which has built up over the last 6000 years following sea level rise. There appears to be evidence of an old isthmus which linked the north and the south of Bruny about 120 000 years ago. Older bleached white sands can be seen in some of the road cuttings at the northern and southern ends of the isthmus indicating the location of a previous higher sea level.

There are many similarities in the geology of north and south Bruny Island, although the southern part of the island has spectacular seascapes and is exposed to the full force of waves and winds whipped up by the southern ocean. The northern part in contrast has a far less energetic coastline but wonderful views of the now drowned, D'Entrecasteaux Channel and Derwent Estuary.

In contrast to many of the other bays around Bruny Island, both Great Bay and Isthmus Bay are well protected. This has resulted in the development of broad sandy areas with extremely well developed giant ripple marks which are exposed at low tide.

Various rocks and soil sequences can be found on the island, including sandstone, siltstone and mudstone.

Flora

The native plant communities found on Bruny Island are made up of a great diversity of predominantly dry sclerophyll plant communities, heathlands and coastal vegetation. There are also small areas of wet eucalypt forests. Much of the vegetation is exposed to the predominately onshore south-westerly winds.

coastal plants communities: include species that receive and tolerate a lot of salt water and spray, such as native pigface, she oak and *Allocasuarina* species.

heathland communities: comprising a rich diversity of plant species including orchids such as the rare chestnut leek orchid *Prasophyllum castaneum*. Most orchids flower in spring and are



quite common on the Labillardiere Peninsula. Christmas bells *Blandfordia punicea* are one of the many attractive heathland species found in the park.

eucalypt scrub: is generally dominated by black peppermint *Eucalyptus amygdalina*; growing between five and ten metres high. **eucalypt forest:** dominated by brown-top stringybark *E. obliqua*, interspersed with the occasional pockets of white gum *E. viminalis*.

Many of the plant communities have high conservation value, such as the endemic velvet bush. One of only three known populations of the endemic eyebright (*Euphrasia fragosa*) is found on Bruny Island, which is the only secure location of the species in Tasmania.

Some endemic plants found on Bruny Island:

<i>Lomatia tinctoria</i>	Guitar Plant
<i>Pimelea nivea</i>	Round-leaf Rice-flower
<i>Richea dracophylla</i>	Dragon-leaf Richea
<i>Richea procera</i>	Lowland Richea

The type locality of the higher altitude, silver gum (*Eucalyptus cordata*), collected in the 1700's by Labillardiere, occurs on Penguin Island and nowhere else on Bruny Island, although it does occur further up the east coast of Tasmania. Another historic connection with Labillardiere is native mignonette (*Stackhousia monogyna*), recently rediscovered in the Park, and named by him.

Cape Bruny and Fluted Cape, due to their high elevation intercept much of the moist south westerly winds and as a result capture more moisture than other parts of the island. Consequently wet eucalypt forests and pockets of rainforest are not unusual on Bruny Island in areas of higher altitude.

The South Bruny National Park straddles a biogeographic boundary between eastern and western Tasmania- discernable only by the occurrence of she-oaks *Allocasuarina sp*, *Zephyrum sp*, *Allocasuarina monilifera* and Smithton peppermint (*Eucalyptus nitida*).

Fauna

South Bruny National Park provides ideal habitat for many threatened and endemic fauna species. The three species of Tasmanian land snakes have been recorded in the Park; the tiger snake, copperhead snake and white-lipped whipsnake.

Mammals

The mammal fauna of Bruny Island is in general, typical of smaller islands in that it has low species diversity. Interestingly the Tasmanian devil and spotted-tailed quoll and the wombat do not occur on the island. The eastern quoll is reported to occur, with debate regarding whether it was introduced to the island or occurs naturally.

Bennetts wallaby, brushtail possum and Tasmanian pademelon are common.

The Friars, rocks forming the most southerly part of the Park are home to large numbers of Australian fur seal. Up to 800 seals use these rocks as a 'haul-out'.

Birds

Bird life in the Park is rich and varied, the variety of habitat favouring many species.

All eleven Tasmanian endemic bird species occur in the South Bruny National Park. The park protects one of the largest surviving colonies of the endangered forty spotted pardalote on Partridge Island and the rare and endangered grey goshawk is known to inhabit the island.

Beach breeding birds use the sandy beaches and dunes in the Park to nest and breed. This includes the hooded plover which is vulnerable nationally and is being extensively monitored in Tasmania. There are a number of muttonbird (short tailed shearwater) colonies in the park, including on The Friars. A small number of the sooty shearwater have been found among the short-tailed shearwaters on Courts Island.

Little penguin (fairy penguin) colonies occur around the coastline of the park. Birds in both muttonbird and penguin colonies are vulnerable to attacks by dogs, feral cats or by burrows being trampled by visitors.

There is swift parrot habitat in the Fluted Cape area, particularly along the coast between Cookville and Grass Point, and on Partridge Island.

Green Island is an important bird breeding colony for the kelp gull, one of the few breeding sites known in Australia. Pacific gulls, silver gulls, Caspian tern, and crested tern also breed on the island.

Contact

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