

Cape Pallarenda

Conservation Park

Cape Pallarenda Conservation Park features an historic Quarantine Station. The remaining Queenslander style buildings constructed in 1915, are maintained as offices for the Environmental Protection Agency.

A small museum offers an insight into the quarantine history of the area. Visitors can experience a touch of the past in a scenic coastal setting. Walking tracks pass by abandoned WWII gun emplacements with sweeping views of Townsville and Magnetic Island.

History

In 1875 the first quarantine station for the port of Townsville was established at West Point, Magnetic Island. Here passengers on incoming ships could be isolated from the mainland if they were carrying contagious diseases.

The isolated site at West Point was difficult to supply and maintain. In 1915 the entire Quarantine Station was relocated to Cape Pallarenda. The old buildings were disassembled and transported by barge to Pallarenda, where a new jetty was constructed. A new road ran from the township through what is now the airport and the Town Common.

Some buildings were constructed from old building materials and others were built new. The tall ceilings and cool,



wide verandahs show the typical "Queenslander" architecture of the time.

People with diseases were quarantined here until 1973, but only 13 fatalities were recorded. These unfortunate Vietnamese deck passengers died from meningitis in 1920.

The remains of gun emplacements and search light towers can be found scattered around the headland. During WWII this area was used by the American and Australian Armies. Camps were set up on nearby beaches and the Quarantine Station was used as a hospital.

An Australian Army hospital was also located here from 1966 until its relocation to Lavarack Barracks in 1974. The buildings were then used by the Australian Institute of Marine Science and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority until the area was declared an Environmental Park in 1986.

Flora and Fauna

Beyond the Quarantine Station, open woodland and vine thickets support a variety of animal life including the yellow-bellied sunbird.

Soaring in the thermal air currents over many Peaks Range, large birds of prey such as brahminy kites and white-bellied sea-eagles are often seen.

Around the picnic area brush-turkeys scratch in the leaf litter and agile wallabies come out in the late afternoon to feed on the grass. Sand goannas are often seen scurrying across the road.

Things to do

Short tracks to the beach pass by shady picnic areas and toilet facilities. Walking tracks take in many points of historical and natural interest.

At the end of the road, a short track past the museum leads to the remains of the old jetty, destroyed by a cyclone in 1971. From here, walking tracks lead up to the World War II gun emplacements and on to the Graves Circuit.

The Graves Circuit takes you through woodland and vine thicket and across a weir, built in 1925 to improve the water supply to the Quarantine Station. It then leads you down to the graves of the Vietnamese passengers who died here, and past the back of the Quarantine Station to the carpark.

Marine Park zoning

Cape Pallarenda Conservation Park adjoins a Marine National Park A Zone. Here, fishing is limited to one line per person and there are limits on the crabs and oysters that can be removed.

Things to remember

- The Park shares boundaries with the RAAF Radar Station. Entry to this area is prohibited.
- Gas barbeques are provided in the picnic area.

- Domestic animals are not allowed on this park or the adjoining marine park area.

Access

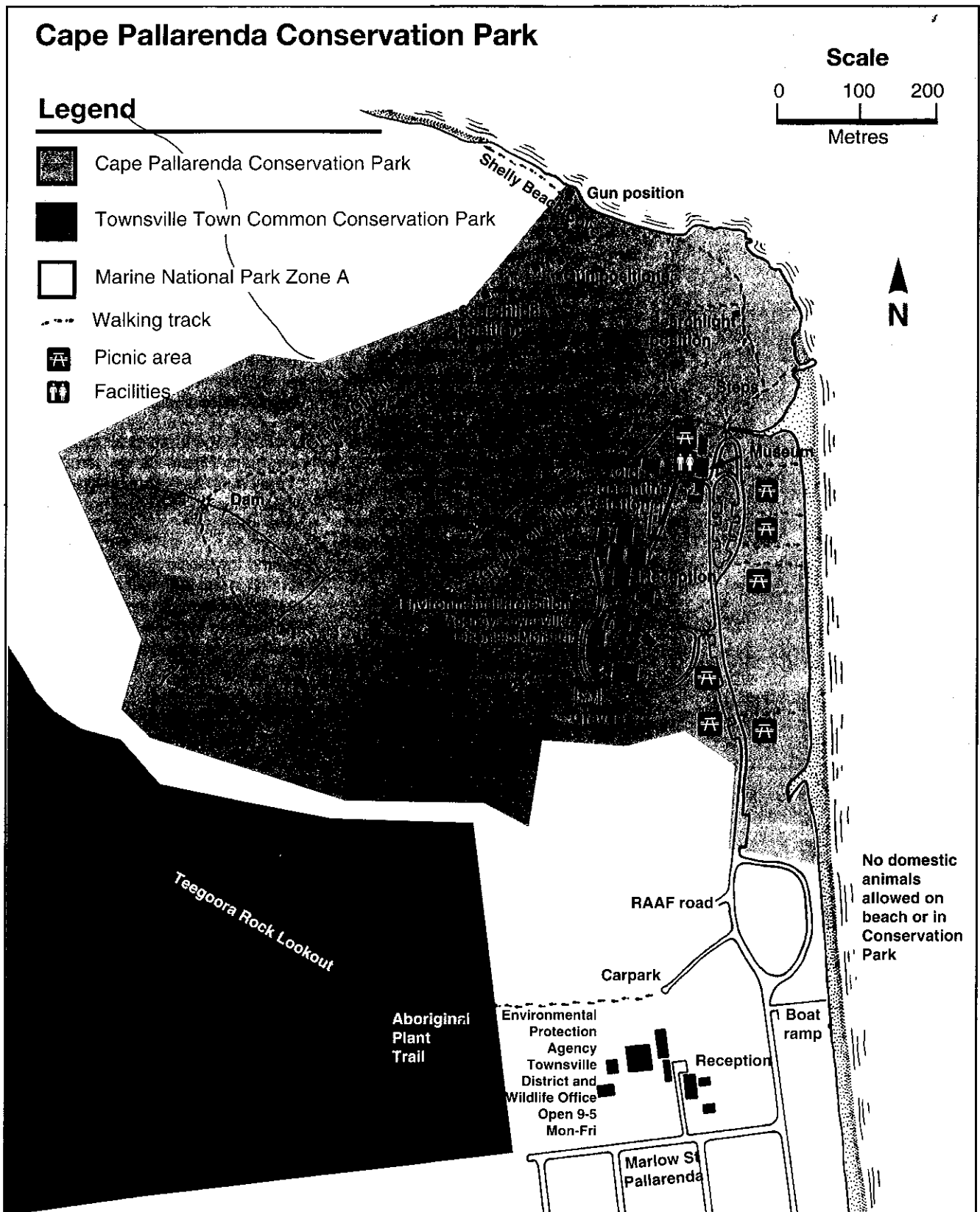
Cape Pallarenda Conservation Park is situated at the end of the Cape Pallarenda road 10km from the Townsville GPO. The gates are open from 6.30am to 6.30pm. The historic quarantine museum is open from

9am - 4pm
Monday - Friday

For further information contact the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service:

Reef and National Parks
Information Centre
PO Box 5391 TOWNSVILLE QLD 4810
Ph: 07 4722 5224
Fax: 07 4722 5233
Email: tsv.infocentre@epa.qld.gov.au

Visit our website at
www.epa.qld.gov.au



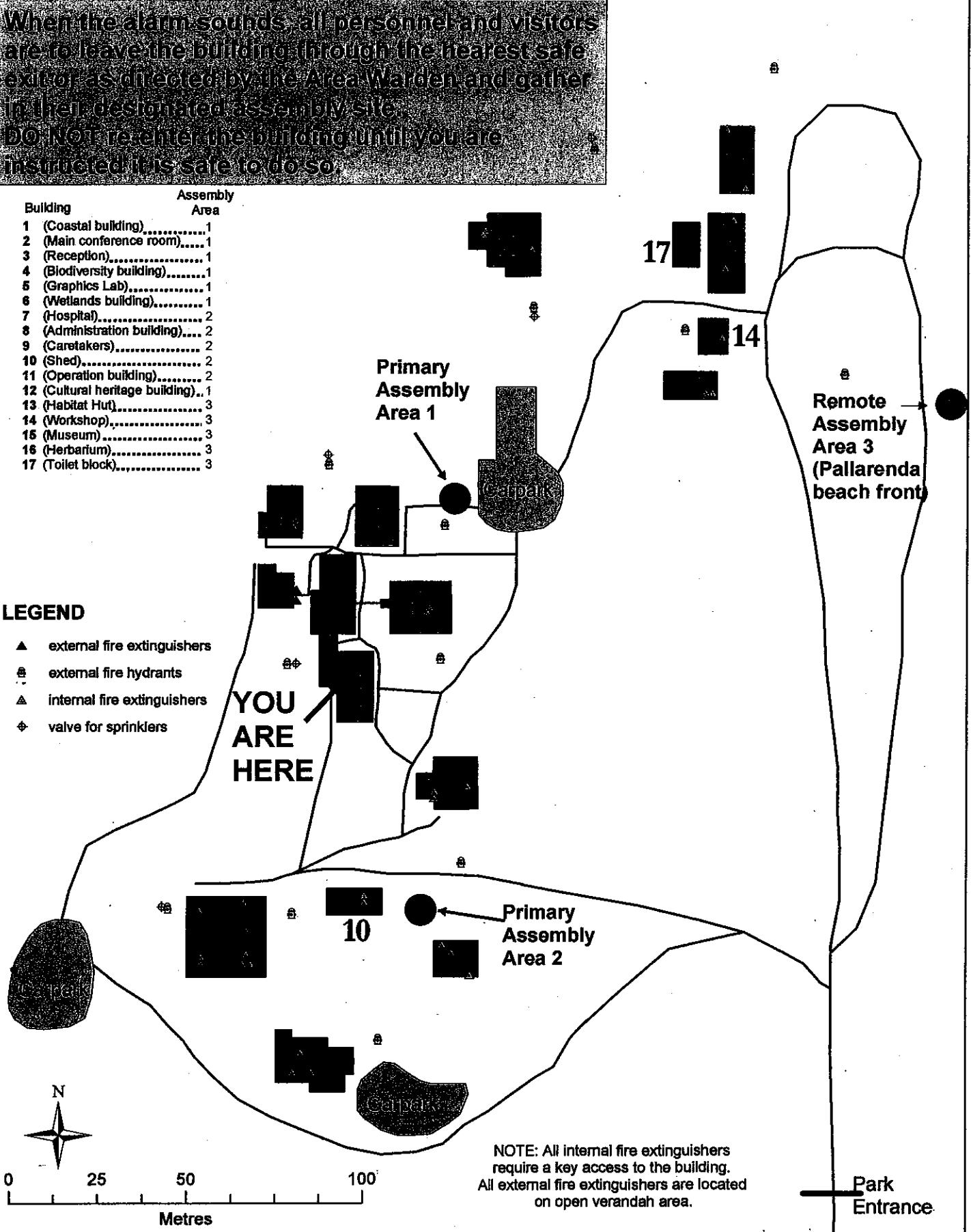
Emergency Evacuation Procedures and Designated Assembly Sites

When the alarm sounds, all personnel and visitors are to leave the building through the nearest safe exit or as directed by the Area Warden and gather in their designated assembly site. **DO NOT** re-enter the building until you are instructed it is safe to do so.

Building	Assembly Area
1 (Coastal building).....	1
2 (Main conference room).....	1
3 (Reception).....	1
4 (Biodiversity building).....	1
5 (Graphics Lab).....	1
6 (Wetlands building).....	1
7 (Hospital).....	2
8 (Administration building).....	2
9 (Caretakers).....	2
10 (Shed).....	2
11 (Operation building).....	2
12 (Cultural heritage building).....	1
13 (Habitat Hut).....	3
14 (Workshop).....	3
15 (Museum).....	3
16 (Herbarium).....	3
17 (Toilet block).....	3

LEGEND

- ▲ external fire extinguishers
- ⊕ external fire hydrants
- ▲ internal fire extinguishers
- ⊕ valve for sprinklers



NOTE: All internal fire extinguishers require a key access to the building. All external fire extinguishers are located on open verandah area.