

The Stakes



Aerodrome

Site of Jules Virieux House

Site of Old Pat's River Bridge

BOYES ROAD

BLUFF ROAD

PALANA ROAD

Pat's River



Australian Pelican



White-Breasted Sea Eagle



White Faced Heron

The Bluff Farm

# The Whitemark-Pats River Walk

Follow the marked route or walk the beaches!

Please choose a low tide for beach walking- It offers firmer ground and avoids the littoral zone where Hooded Plovers nest.

Make a round trip- Beach one way and tracks/road the other. Choose your direction to suit the wind and the tide.

**MUCH OF THE MARKED ROUTE IS A SHARED TRAIL** - Please watch out for vehicles, bicycles and horse riders.

GRADE: Easy

DISTANCES:

- Whitemark to southern end Bluff Road 2.1km
- Southern end Bluff Road to Pats River Mouth via Boyes Road 2.2km
- Southern end Bluff Road around the Bluff (low tide only) 1.5km

Remember the Essentials:

- Food and water
- Sun protection
- Appropriate footwear and clothing to suit the weather of the day
- Field glasses.



Oystercatcher



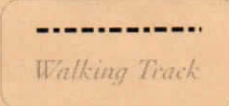
Cape Barron Goose



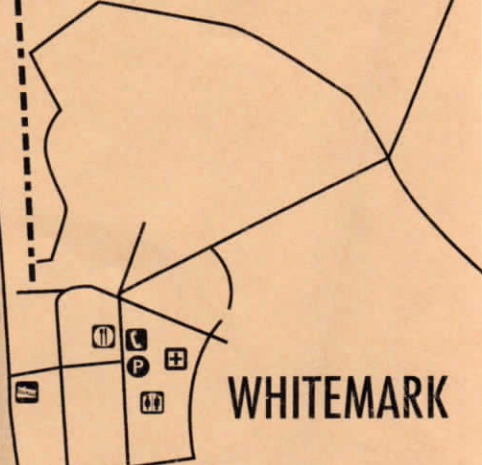
Purple Swamphen



Black Swan



Walking Track



WHITEMARK

## The Jules Virieux House

Look North to the white markers of the North-mouth runway.

This was the site, then called Double Corner, of Jules Leon Virieux's home in the 1870's and onwards.

Jules Leon Virieux (1840-1921) the son of Elizabeth Matilda Robinson (formerly Davis, formerly Virieux), married Mary Riley in 1861 and they had 2 children. Many descendants of Jules and Mary still live on the island today.



*The Jules Virieux House at Double Corner.*

## White Breasted Sea-Eagle

Watch out for a circling White Breasted Sea-eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*) which is one of Tasmania's most spectacular birds- a bird of prey with a wingspan sometimes exceeding 2m and a weight of up to 4.5kg.

Sea Eagles are not actually true eagles (which have feathered legs) but giant kites. The species is widely distributed from India to Australia.

Carrion is an important food particularly for young, inexperienced hunters.

Thus when scavenging in lambing paddocks, eagles are sometimes wrongly blamed for taking lambs.

Pairs mate for life.



## Pacific Gulls

The large gulls you see are Pacific Gulls.

(*Larus pacificus*). The large brown gulls with them are not the females, but immature Pacific Gulls as it takes about five years for them to attain adult plumage.

The Furneaux Islands have 25% of the world's population of these gulls.

## The Stakes

Look North West along the coast and you are seeing an area called The Stakes. These were large poles sticking up from mounds of rocks. The mounds are still there and are visible at low tide, but the poles have long since washed away.

The rocks were ballast in the small boats coming in from the off shore islands in order to get firewood from Flinders, there being no trees left on the little islands. After unloading the ballast a stake was placed in the mound to act as a marker.

## Pat's River Old Wooden Bridge

This old wooden bridge was built over Pat's River near the river's mouth along the original Palana Road that linked Whitemark to the Island's North.

The bridge was burned in about 1907, then patched up until a new bridge was built at the present site near the entrance to the Whitemark aerodrome.



*The Old Pat's River Bridge.*

# The Whitemark-Pats River Walk



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