

**Antarctic Specially Protected Area No. 102 (Specially Protected Area No. 2)
Rookery Islands, Holme Bay; Lat 67°37'S, long 62°33'E**

1. *Description of values to be protected.* The Rookery Islands contain breeding colonies of six bird species resident in the Mawson area; Adélie penguin (*Pygoscelis adeliae*), Cape petrel (*Daption capense*), snow petrel (*Pagodroma nivea*), southern giant petrel (*Macronectes giganteus*), Wilson's storm petrel (*Oceanites oceanicus*) and the Antarctic skua (*Catharacta maccormicki*). The southern giant petrel breeds nowhere else in the region. The designation of the Area aims to safeguard this unusual association of six species and ensure the preservation of a sample offshore island habitat.

2. *Aims and objectives.* Management of the Area aims to:

- maintain a reference area unmodified by human interference;
- permit research of a compelling scientific nature which can not be undertaken elsewhere, while ensuring no significant disturbance to the ecosystem of the Area and maintaining the status of the SPA as a reference area; and
- ensure that the breeding colony of southern giant petrels, which is close to the point of local extinction, is not endangered by human impacts.

3. *Management activities.* The management plan and activities in the Area should be kept under review to ensure that the values for which the Area was designated are being fully protected. Inspection visits may be made only when considered essential for management purposes.

4. *Period of designation.* Designated under ATCM Recommendation IV-1 in November 1966 for an indefinite period.

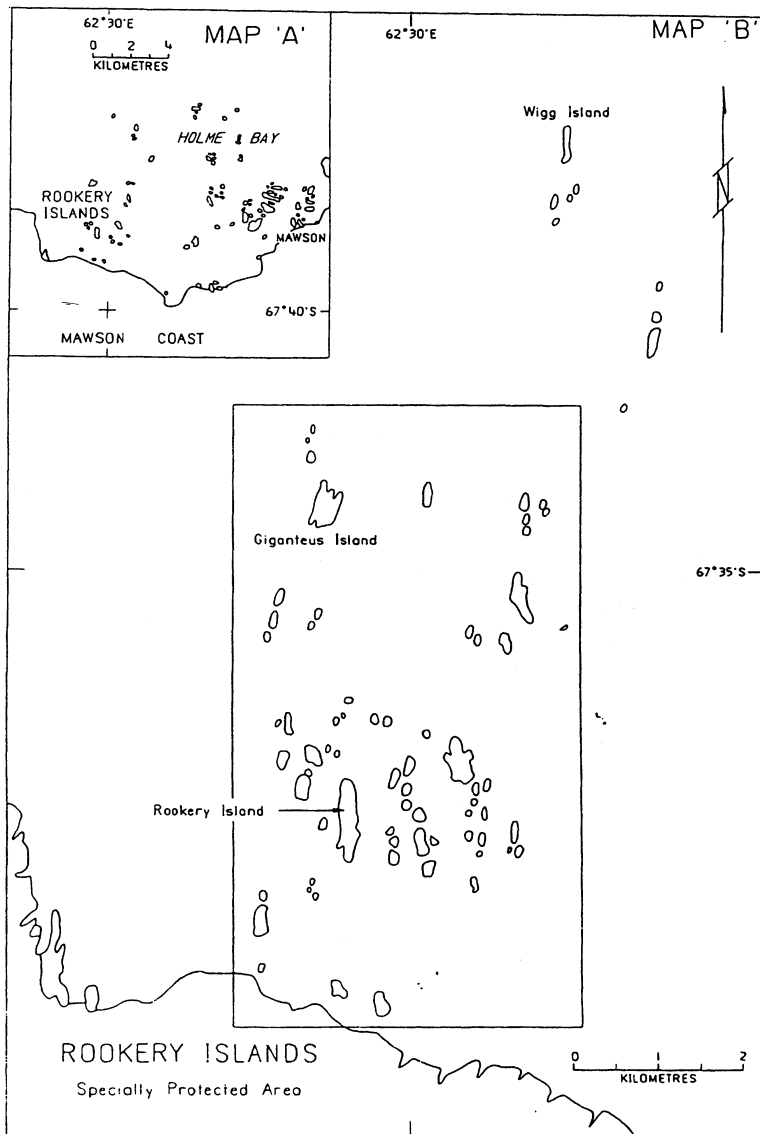
5. *Description of the area*

a. *Geographical coordinates and natural features of the area.* Rookery Islands are a group of small, islands and rocks in the south-western part of Holme Bay, Mac Robertson Land, approximately 10 kilometres to the west of the Australian station, Mawson. The Area comprises the islands and rocks lying within the rectangle marked on the Map B (see Section 7), the general location of which is latitude 67°37'S, longitude 62°33'E. There are no boundary markers delimiting the site. There are approximately 75 small islands. They range in size from small rocks which barely remain above water at high tide to the largest members of the group which are Giganteus Island (approximately 400 m long, 400 m wide and 30 m high) and Rookery Island which is of similar area but slightly more elongated. Rookery Island is the highest of the group reaching an altitude of 62 m. Raised beaches are evident on Giganteus Island. The Rookery Islands are outcrops of the Mawson Charnockite, a rock type which is found over an area of at least 2000 square kilometres along the Mawson Coast of Mac Robertson Land.

There are terrestrial algae, as yet unidentified, but no known mosses or lichens. There are no freshwater bodies on the Rookery Islands.

b. *Access to the Area.* Access to the Area is only in accordance with a current permit issued by a Contracting Party or its authorised representative. No access points are prescribed. Restrictions apply to the mode of transport and to the proximity of access points to breeding colonies; for this refer to Section (8).

- c. *Location of structures including scientific stations, research and refuge facilities both within and near the Area.* There are no structures within the Area. Mawson Station (67°36'S, 62°53'E) is approximately 10 kilometres to the east.
- d. *Location of other protected areas in or near the Area.* Taylor Rookery (Specially Protected Area No. 1) is approximately 80 kilometres west of the islands at latitude 67°26'S, longitude 60°50'E.
6. *Identification of restricted zones.* Access to Giganteus Island is prohibited except where a permit specifies otherwise. See 8 (a) (vi) below.
7. *Maps of the area.* Map A shows the location of the Rookery Islands in the Mawson area, and Map B is a more detailed Map of the Area.



ASPA 102
Maps A&B

8. *Conditions under which permits may be granted.* Criteria for issuing a permit to enter the Area are that:

- it is issued for a compelling scientific purpose which cannot be undertaken elsewhere;
- the actions permitted will not jeopardise the natural ecological system existing in the Area; and
- the actions permitted are in accordance with the management plan for the Area.

Conditions applying:

a. Access to and movement within the Area:

- i. Travel may be by oversnow vehicles (depending on sea ice conditions). Visitors must ensure that vehicles are taken no closer than 200 metres from concentrations of birds and that they are always left at the shoreline.
- ii. As helicopter access may at times be the only viable means of reaching the islands, and as the islands are small in size, aircraft may land within 500 metres of breeding colonies. Permission to land a helicopter may be granted for essential scientific purposes only if it can be demonstrated that disturbance will be minimal.
- iii. No refuelling within the Area.
- iv. Overflight of the islands is prohibited except where essential for scientific purposes. Such overflight is to be at an altitude of no less than 500 metres.
- v. Dogs are not to be used for transport within the Area.
- vi. Access to Giganteus Island is prohibited except for the purpose of monitoring the southern giant petrels (*Macronectes giganteus*) or for activities which may be conducted without threat to their population status. As the breeding colony is close to the point of local extinction and the birds are easily disturbed, the number of persons granted entry for this purpose must be strictly limited and include an experienced ornithologist.

b. Activities which are, or may be conducted within the Area, including restrictions on time and place:

- i. Compelling scientific activities which cannot be conducted elsewhere.
- ii. Compelling management activities, which if not carried out would jeopardise the values for which the Area was designated.

c. The installation, modification, or removal of structures. No structures including field huts, are to be installed in the Area unless essential for scientific purposes; any structure installed should be removed when no longer required. Only the minimum number of personnel necessary to install and remove the structure should be used.

d. The location of field camps. See (c) above.

e. Restrictions on material and organisms which may be brought into the Area:

- i. Fuel is not to be depoted in the Area, unless required by a researcher for personal use, i.e. for cooking/heating in a field hut, and is to be removed when no longer required.
- ii. No poultry products, including dried food containing egg powder, are to be taken into the Area.
- iii. No food or other supplies should be left within the Area beyond the season for which they are required.

f. The taking of, or harmful interference with, native flora and fauna. Taking of, or harmful interference with, native flora and fauna is prohibited unless specifically authorised by permit in accordance with the Agreed Measures for the Conservation of Antarctic Fauna and Flora, or Article 3 of Annex II to the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty, whichever is appropriate.

g. The collection or removal of anything not brought into the Area by the permit holder. There is to be no collection or removal of anything not brought into the Area by the permit holder unless specifically authorised by permit for scientific or management purposes.

h. The disposal of waste. No wastes, including human wastes, are to be left in the Area.

i. Measures that may be necessary to ensure that the aims and objectives of the management plan can continue to be met:

- permits should specify the maximum numbers of personnel who may enter the Area;
- visits to the Area should be kept to the minimum necessary to achieve research and management objectives;
- access should be permitted where necessary to place or remove structures or equipments.

j. Requirements for reports. Each permit holder shall submit a report to the permit-issuing authority detailing the activities undertaken within the Area including a summary of research findings, and comments indicating measures taken to ensure compliance with conditions. Where appropriate, the report may make recommendations relevant to the management of the Area, in particular, as to whether the values for which the Area was designated are being adequately protected. The report should be submitted as soon as practicable after the visit to the Area has been completed.