



Grand Pacific Hotel, near the pier at Lorne 2015

when the only transport was by sea. Beside the Great Ocean Road near the swing bridge there is a poignant memorial to two Lindsay children who died in 1850 when they were buried by collapsing sand.

A cattle-grazing licence was held from 1853, but it took the arrival in the 1860s of the Mountjoy brothers, Thomas, Caleb and Lawrence, to kick-start development of the place. They built a Temperance Hotel which later became Erskine House. The town was surveyed in 1869 and named after the Marquis of Lorne who had recently married a daughter of Queen Victoria. By the 1880s the Mountjoys were running a coach to the railway station at Winchelsea in competition with Cobb and Co, and both the Lorne Hotel and the Grand Pacific Hotel were in business.



Blue gum buds and a fruit (about 2 cm across)

Lorne was soon attracting wealthy Western District landholders and business people from Geelong. Even Rudyard Kipling visited, in 1891, and mentioned Lorne in his poem *Flowers*.

Many of the buildings from the late 1800s and early 1900s, including holiday houses of the wealthy, are now Heritage-listed. The whole stretch of Mountjoy Parade, from the Anglican church almost to the pier, is listed as the Mountjoy Parade Heritage Area. The tall blue gums *Eucalyptus globulus* scattered among the houses and extending to the foreshore contribute to the interest of this area. More common in Tasmania, this blue gum is restricted in Victoria to the Otways and South Gippsland.

### The pier at Point Grey

The first pier was completed in 1879 so that holiday-makers and settlers could avoid a difficult overland journey. Over the years, the main commercial uses of the pier have been for timber and fishing. The current pier was built in 2007. A remnant of the old pier was left, with signs about its history. The structure suspended beneath the pier is a tide gauge, one of sixteen around the Australian coast.

In 1904 the Armistead Brothers built a sawmill beside the St George River and

horses would pull the timber along a tramway beside the river and then parallel to the coast to the pier. This was the beginning of a large-scale timber industry in the Lorne hinterland, and it lasted until 1989 when the last mill closed. A walk known as the Tramway Track roughly follows the route of the timber tramway between the pier and St George River, and you can then continue up beside the river, where in places the track goes through cuttings made for the tramway.

Serious commercial fishing from the Lorne pier began in the 1930s and by

the 1960s there were 28 cutout boats at work. Their main target, formally named barracouta, was popular for fish and chips. Because the pier is so exposed, the boats were hoisted onto the pier by a crane. The Fishermen's Co-Op building near the pier enabled the fish to be frozen or sold fresh. But stocks of barracouta suddenly declined in the 1970s and commercial fishing was over by the 1990s.

A major redevelopment of public space at Point Grey is nearing the end of the planning stage. Work is scheduled to begin in 2022.



Tide gauge under the pier at Lorne 2015



Swing bridge across the Erskine River, Lorne 2015