



Bathing boxes on the Front Beach, Torquay, looking south from Yellow Bluff, before 1940  
Photo: Charles Daniel Pratt 'Airsy' (State Library of Victoria)



Anchor from the *Joseph H Scammell*, Torquay 2015



Fossils in Jan Juc cliffs 2015

## Torquay

### Wreck of the *Joseph H Scammell*

The *Joseph H Scammell*, out of New York, was bound for Melbourne when it went aground during the squally night of 7 May 1891 off Point Danger. Felix Rosser, a fisherman who had a hut at Spring Creek, noticed the vessel and raised the alarm. The crew stayed on board all night, and with Rosser's assistance all were taken off safely next morning. An anchor from the ship was recovered from the wreck site in 1971 and now stands on the foreshore north of Point Danger. Felix Rosser was one of a number of men later fined £25 for looting from the wreck. Felix Crescent in Torquay presumably honours Rosser for his virtues, not his vices.

### Great Ocean Road historic markers

The first of Ross Bastiaan's bronze plaques which commemorate the construction of the Great Ocean Road (33) stands near a traffic island just east of the bridge over Spring Creek in Torquay. Spring Creek is the official beginning of the Great Ocean Road. The plaques are placed at intervals along the road and tell the story of its construction. They also provide a lot of historical information about the surrounding areas.

### Jan Juc

Jan Juc is the Aboriginal name used for the original survey of the parish. As a town name, Jan Juc once referred to the settlement to the north, which has been called Bellbrae since 1922. In the 1960s, when the present Jan Juc was subdivided for housing, the name was recycled.

Bird Rock, in Half Moon Bay, is a small rock stack accessible from the car park near Regent Street in Jan Juc. Bird Rock is near the apex of a gentle dome-shaped fold of the rock layers called an anticline. When the tide is low enough, you can see a layer of hard rock arcing out to sea from the beach like a gigantic broken egg-shell. This is the same hard rock layer which forms the cap of Bird Rock itself. It has protected the stack from disappearing completely. There are abundant fossils of shells, bryozoans and other marine animals in the cliffs here and in rocks that have fallen onto the shore. Study of fossils



Bird Rock, Jan Juc 2015

of microscopic animals called Foraminifera shows that the boundary between the Oligocene and Miocene geological epochs is very close to the hard layer forming the cap of Bird Rock. This is dated to around 23 million years ago (166).

Surfers love Bird Rock, partly because the arc of rock described above provides an easy route out to a nice surf break.

Jan Juc Coast Action is a community group which has put in many hours restoring the ecosystem of the Jan Juc cliff tops.

Between Jan Juc and Bells Beach the Surf Coast Walk departs from the cliff top and crosses heathland; a lovely walk in spring when the flowers are out.

### Bells Beach

William Bell was the original selector of land behind Bells Beach in 1857, but the name probably came into use in the time of a later owner of the land, John Calvert Bell, who built a homestead called Addiscot around 1912. The Addiscot name is now used for a beach to the south-west of Bells.

▶ The Point Addis Marine National Park begins at the Winkipop car park off Bells Beach Road, indicated by a yellow triangular marker. The park extends about 10 km around the coast almost to Anglesea, and off-shore to the limit of Victorian waters. It protects marine life on many rocky reefs both near the shore and in deeper water, as well as a range of animals living on sandy and shelly areas of the sea bed. No fishing is allowed in the park.

Bells Beach has become a surfing mecca since a local surfer took it on himself to build a track to the beach in the early 1960s. The famous Bells Beach surfing competition has been held annually since 1962 and the world's first 'Surfing Recreation Reserve' was declared here in 1971. Surfers

