



Point Ritchie/Moyjil at the east end of Lady Bay 2019



Harbour at Warrnambool, showing pier and breakwater. Photo: Charles Pratt, before 1930 (State Library of Victoria)

The Foreshore Promenade extends almost 4 km, all the way around Lady Bay to the Breakwater, an alternative to walking along the beach. Varied coastal vegetation hugs most of its length.

Flagstaff Hill Maritime Village sits above Lady Bay. The popular tourist attraction has artefacts that tell stories of pioneer life, early maritime industries and shipwrecks. They include the magnificent ceramic peacock recovered from the wreck of the *Loch Ard* (74). It was to be shown at the 1880-81 Melbourne International Exhibition. An anchor from the *Falls of Halladale* (84) is here and slates from her cargo were used for the roofs of the church and other buildings in the village.

Lake Pertobe was formed by a natural build-up of sand on the beach of Lady Bay. It occasionally broke through to the sea even after Europeans arrived. They dumped their refuse in it, and it was described as a 'pestiliferous swamp'. It was at risk of being drained completely before sewerage and storm water systems were improved. In the 1970s it was transformed into a valuable recreation area for the city. The western lake is reserved as habitat for wildlife.



Site of old aquarium at Breakwater Rock 2019

The curious domes next to the car park on Breakwater Rock formed the roof of an aquarium which opened in 1971. It housed local marine animals including breeding octopus, and attracted thousands of visitors each year. It closed in 1998 because it was becoming too difficult to maintain.

### Merri Marine Sanctuary

Corners of the Merri Marine Sanctuary are marked by yellow triangles, on Breakwater Rock near the old aquarium, and at Thunder Point. The furthest corner from the shore is out at sea beyond Middle Island. The sanctuary protects the diverse marine life in a range of habitats. Fishing or taking any marine life is prohibited. Divers may be lucky enough to meet giant cuttlefish here. They grow up to 50 cm long and 'cuttlebones' are commonly washed up on the shore.

A colony of little penguins on Middle Island, which is part of the sanctuary, is now being guarded by Maremma dogs. These dogs were used for centuries in Italy to protect sheep from wolves, but in Australia they were looking after free-range chickens. They began working on the island in 2006, and from that time the number of birds increased dramatically. But there have been a couple of disasters when the Maremmas have been off duty, and foxes have decimated the population. The Warrnambool Coastcare Landcare Group is helping to improve the management of the project to avoid such setbacks. Short-tailed shearwaters or 'mutton-birds' also breed in burrows on Middle Island.

### Pickering Point to Port Fairy

Pickering Point can be reached by crossing the footbridge across the mouth of the Merri River, or from a car park at the end of Macdonald Street. It gets its name from William Pickering who conducted the original survey of the Warrnambool township and surrounding area. There is a short but spectacular walk from Pickering Point west to Thunder Point, where there is another car park. Aboriginal shell middens line the track and they continue west of Thunder Point for hundreds of metres near



Midden near Thunder Point 2019



Volcanic tuff near Thunder Point 2019



Reddish ancient soils between layers of calcarenite, near Thunder Point 2019