

Half Moon Bay

There is a small Aboriginal rock well at the back of the beach just south of Red Bluff. Its front wall has been breached. This is said to have been the work of people who used to sell hot water for day visitors' cups of tea and did not want potential customers to be able to get their own water from the well.

The remains of the battleship *Cerberus* lie off-shore at Half Moon Bay where she was scuttled in 1926 for a breakwater. The *Cerberus* was built in England for the colony of Victoria in 1868 as a defence against possible naval attack. In her day she was the strongest armed ship in the world. Her radical new design with rotating gun turrets on the deck was made possible by doing away with sails. The turrets can still be seen but they no longer rotate! She is slowly breaking up despite long-running community campaigns to save her. In an attempt to slow her subsidence into the sand, her heavy guns were removed in 2005 and placed on the sea floor nearby. Lifting the hull onto an underwater platform has been proposed as a way of preserving the ship. But

in the absence of the required funding, the first priority is now to stabilise the precarious hull and turrets so that they are not a danger to the public. The *Cerberus* is on the National Heritage list.



Rock well, Half Moon Bay, 2004



HMVS *Cerberus* and HMVS *Nelson* (State Library of Victoria)



Red Bluff



Cerberus at Half Moon Bay, 2010