



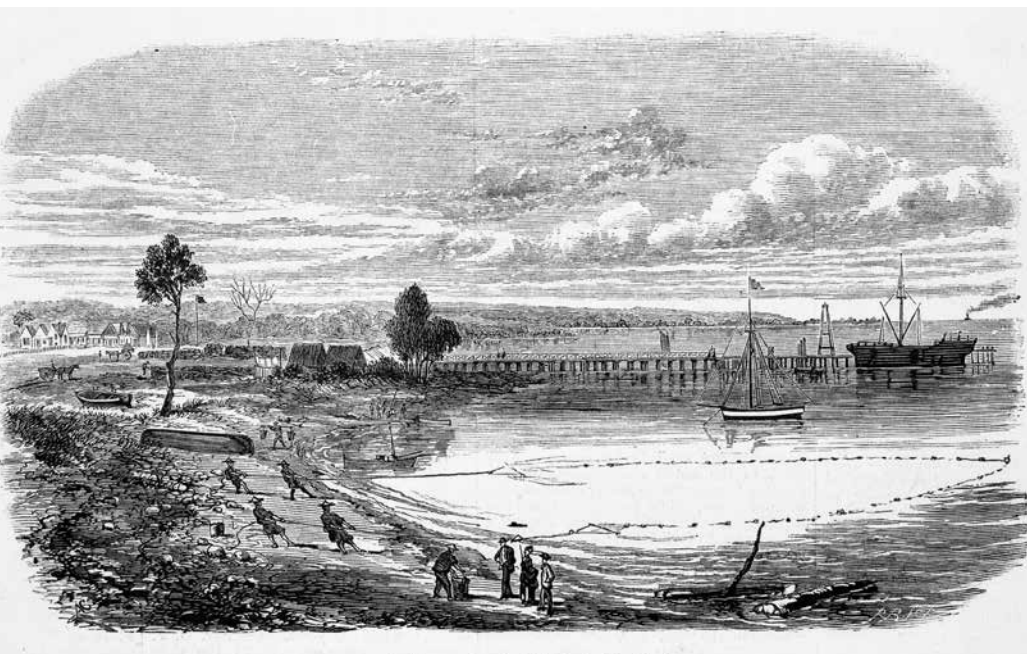
St Leonards

towards Ocean Grove behind Swan Bay (see page 26–27). Cliff Street does a wiggle (Mel 473 K3) to negotiate this stranded cliff.

The St Leonards area was a base for fishing in the 1840s, but the gold rushes of the early 1850s left it almost deserted. Later there was a sizeable Chinese fishing community here.

St Leonards was named after the pastoral run taken up by James Langdon in 1849. Langdon was a partner of George Ward Cole who ran paddle steamers and owned Coles Wharf on the Yarra between Spencer and King Streets in Melbourne. Coles bought land in St Leonards in 1855 and began to export timber for firewood and wattle bark for tanning. He built the first jetty here on the foundation of three sunken hulks which remain under the present jetty built in the 1950s. Coles Channel, which runs close to this coast, was named after him.

What's left of the St Leonards Creek flows into the sea near McLeod Street (Mel 460 B12). Until the 1970s the creek flowed north before emptying near the



Chinese fishing at St Leonards, around 1860s (State Library of Victoria)

Indented Head

present tennis courts (Mel 460 C10). This is the likeliest location for the camp established by John Batman in June 1835 (see page 8).

The West Channel Pile can be seen from the jetty. It resembles a big wedding cake far away on the horizon to the south-east. It marks the northern end of West Channel, the route taken by ships threading their way between the sand bars towards Geelong.

Salt Lagoon (Mel 460 A6) was once a marine inlet, but it is now cut off by sand. Just to the north (Mel 460 B3) is an abalone farm with its inlet and outlet pipes crossing the beach.

Indented Head

Matthew Flinders named Indented Head from a vantage point atop Arthurs Seat on the other side of the bay. Then his crew rowed him across to make a landing here on 29 April 1802. A cairn at Indented Head commemorates this event and John Batman's camp of 1835, which was probably about three kilometres to the south (see page 8).

In the cliffs at Indented Head there is a gravel layer a couple of metres from the base. This must be a former beach or stream deposit, and is listed as a Site of Geological Significance.

A stark rusted paddle-wheel marks the wreck of the *Ozone* off-shore at Mel 460 B1. This 85 metre paddle steamer had a famous career bringing holiday-makers 'down



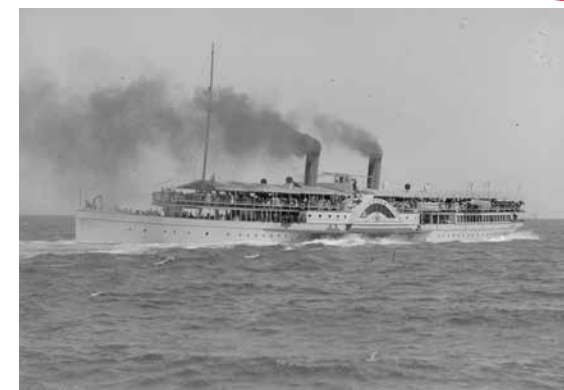
The *Ozone* at Indented Head, 2012



the bay'. Along with the wooden barque *Dominion*, she was scuttled here in 1925 for a breakwater. Apparently the precise position was selected by a storm rather than careful design.

Point George to Portarlington

On a clear day at Point George (Mel 445 K10) you can see Melbourne city buildings to the north and Arthurs Seat far to the south. The coast to the north-west is lined in many places with grey-leafed coast saltbush (see page 145). There is a path all the way along the shore from Point George to Portarlington.



The *Ozone*, Photo: Allan C Green (State Library of Victoria)