
PHILLIP

BY JOHN & MAUREEN NORBURY

ISLAND

PHILLIP ISLAND

A photographic database of Phillip Island's
natural features and attractions

By John & Maureen Norbury



Special thanks to Kathie Maynes and David & Debbie Hibbert

An Artworkz Publication

First published 2020
Last updated: Wednesday, 13 November 2019

INTRODUCING PHILLIP ISLAND

Phillip Island is a large island located in Western Port Bay and is just 140 km from Melbourne. It is one of Victoria's most popular day trip and holiday destinations. It is connected to the eastern shore of Western Port Bay at San Remo by the spectacular San Remo Bridge.

The earliest inhabitants of the area which is now known as Phillip Island were the Yalloc Bulluk clan of the Bunurong people.

Originally named Snapper Island, then Grant Island by Europeans, it was later named Phillip Island after Captain Arthur Phillip the first Governor of New South Wales. The island is 22 km by 9 km at its widest point and was visited by Europeans when explorer George Bass landed his open whaling boat near the current day township of Rhyll on 5 January 1798. This landing represents one of the first contacts between Europeans and the Yalloc Bulluk (including other Bunurong clans).

Later that same year, Bass returned with friend and fellow explorer Matthew Flinders. By 1802 whalers and sealers were living on the Island and in 1928 it was proclaimed a Shire.

In 1842 the McHaffie brothers leased the entire island from the government and grazed sheep across its length and breadth. This significantly changed the natural floral habitat of the island and altered its natural fauna as a result. In 1868 the island was opened up for closer settlement, but many of the first occupants left due to the harsh conditions. Regardless, the opening up of the island resulted in the start of the island's tourism industry.

Continued...

Chicory was one of the first successful crops planted on the island, with chicory farming lasting over 100 years. Remaining remnants of the industry include old chicory kilns and their distinct pyramid shaped roofs.

The first ferry to the island commenced operation in 1933 and the first bridge between San Remo and the island was opened in 1940. As early as 1928 the island was being used as a racing track for early cars and motorbikes. In 1952 a professional track was opened on private land, and today this is the site of the MotoGP.

In 1971 the present day San Remo Bridge was opened, ushering in an even more prosperous future for Victoria's best kept island destination.

Today the island still supports some agriculture, though it is best known for its natural and man-made tourism attractions, as well as a holiday destination. Natural features include the Nobbies, the Blowhole, Cape Woolamai and Pyramid Rock while animal based features include the Blue Fairy Penguin Parade, the Koala Sanctuary and Swan Lake.

The island is also home to a number of tourist based business enterprises including the annual MotoGP, the A Maze N Things Holiday Park, the National Vietnam Veterans Museum, helicopter rides and museums. The Phillip Island Chocolate Factory gets a worthy mention for those chocolate lovers who live amongst us and can tolerate such levels of indulgence!

Cowes is the largest town on the island, offers every modern convenience and is extremely popular with visitors who flock there in the warmer months of the year. It is also the base for numerous tourist cruise adventures, though some cruises also leave from the Rhyll jetty.

Phillip Island is a complete destination, offering visitors picturesque natural features, as well as supporting walking, bike riding, fishing, swimming and other water sports. It offers a beautiful island setting and outstanding dining, accommodation and shopping opportunities.

We hope you enjoy your visit.

CONTENTS

COWES FORESHORE

NOBBIES

PENGUIN PARADE

CAPE WOOLAMIA WALKS

PYRAMID ROCK

WRECK OF THE SS SPEKE

FORREST CAVES

THE COLONNADES

SWAN LAKE

SAN REMO COASTAL WALK

RHYLL WOOD SCULPTURE

VIETNAM VETERANS MUSEUM

Other Attractions

PHILLIP ISLAND

Cowes Foreshore



PHOTOGRAPH © JOHN NORBURY

Cowes Foreshore

Name:	Cowes foreshore and pier
Known for:	Popular beach and foreshore area
Location:	The Esplanade
GPS:	-38.447534, 145.238647
Facilities:	Carpark, toilets, picnic tables, chairs, grassed areas
Notes:	Make sure you carry water and wear appropriate clothing

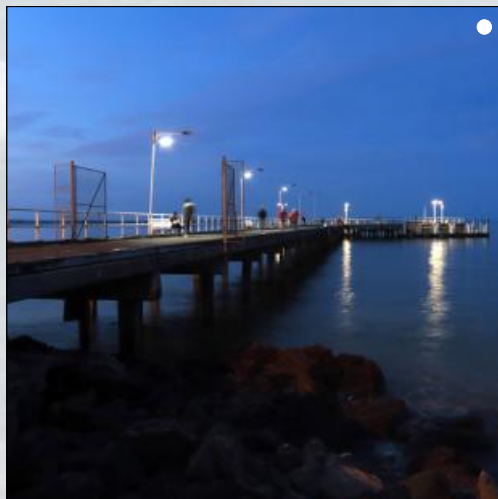


Originally known as Mussel Rocks, Cowes is the main town on the Island and has a population of just under 5,000 people, though this number swells considerably during the holiday periods.

The Cowes foreshore and beach area are extremely popular with locals and visitors. It is close to a wide range of shops and a large number of eateries. Parking is abundant, though it is harder to secure during the busier periods of the year.



The beach is very popular for swimming and water sports and nearby are public toilets, picnic tables and plenty of grassed areas for those who like to put out a mat. The Cowes Pier, built in 1870, is central to the beach area and is the spot where EcoBoat Adventure tours come and go from.



PHILLIP ISLAND

The Nobbies



PHOTOGRAPH © JOHN NORBURY

The Nobbies

Name:	The Nobbies
Known for:	Coastal vista, blowhole, seals
Location:	Nobbies Coastal Park
GPS:	-38.517391, 145.117977
Facilities:	Carpark, established tracks, cafe, tourist centre
Notes:	The site is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week



The Nobbies (Point Grant), overlooks Bass Strait and is one of the major attractions on Phillip Island. Once a housing estate with a kiosk at the main viewing area, it has now been transformed into a coastal park with the large Nobbies Centre incorporating the Nobbies Cafe. Walk tracks have been established with boardwalks along much of the viewing area.



Apart from the view of the ocean and the seals visible on Seal Rocks, the Blow Hole is one of the Nobbies major attractions. The Nobbies Centre closes around one hour before sunset each day to protect native wildlife. See their website for more details.

The site is located near the Penguin Parade, which is also one of the major tourism attractions on the island. See the website for more.



PHILLIP ISLAND

Penguin Parade



PHOTOGRAPH WIKICC0

Penguin Parade

Name: Phillip Island Penguin Parade
Known for: Fairy penguin nightly parade
Location: 1019 Ventnor Road, Summerlands
GPS: -38.505286, 145.147994
Facilities: Carpark, cafe, tourist centre
Notes: See website for times and fees



The Penguin Parade is one of Phillip Islands premier tourist attractions. Fairy penguins (also known as little penguins) return to their nests with fish for their young after sunset. The Penguin Centre which you pass through on the way to the viewing area includes an educational penguin interactive and interpretative space, theatre, souvenir shop, cafes and toilets.



Arthur Chapman CC2.0

Trained guides answer questions and present visitors with the history of the penguins, their current conservation status and threats etc.

It is recommended that you arrive early to secure a good viewing position outside. **Note:** Photography is strictly forbidden and enforced at the parade. However you are permitted to bring non-digital binoculars or monoculars.

In his nest



Nesting



microchips, nina CC2.0

Group



WikiCC3.0

PHILLIP ISLAND

Cape Woolamai Walks



PHOTOGRAPH © JOHN NORBURY

Cape Woolamai Walks

Name:	Cape Woolamai
Known for:	Beautiful coastal walk
Location:	Woolamai beach
GPS:	-38.543533, 145.340662
Facilities:	Good grade track and beach walk
Notes:	Make sure you carry water and wear appropriate clothing



Cape Woolamai is the most southerly and highest point of Phillip Island and offers a number of walk options:

Pinnacles walk (4 km, green markers, 2 h)

Old Granite Quarry Walk (6 km, blue markers, 3 h)

Cape Woolamai Beacon Walk (6.6 km, black markers, 3.5 h)

The walks provide excellent opportunities for photos, including panoramic vistas of the cliffs or from the cliffs. The walks all start

from the Cape Woolamai carpark information shelter. You are then led to the beach for a 1 km southerly walk before being led up stairs to the cliff-top where you can select between the different walk options. Cape Woolamai is home to Australia's largest rookery for the short-tailed shearwater, which are also known as mutton birds. Always carry water, wear appropriate clothing and let someone know of your travel plans.



Woolamai beach



Pinnacles view



Coastal view

PHILLIP ISLAND

Pyramid Rock



PHOTOGRAPH © JOHN NORBURY

Pyramid Rock

Name:	Pyramid Rock
Known for:	Beautiful coastal view
Location:	Southern end of Pyramid Rock Road
GPS:	-38.531881, 145.222415
Facilities:	Carpark, toilets, good grade walk track
Notes:	Make sure you carry water and wear appropriate clothing



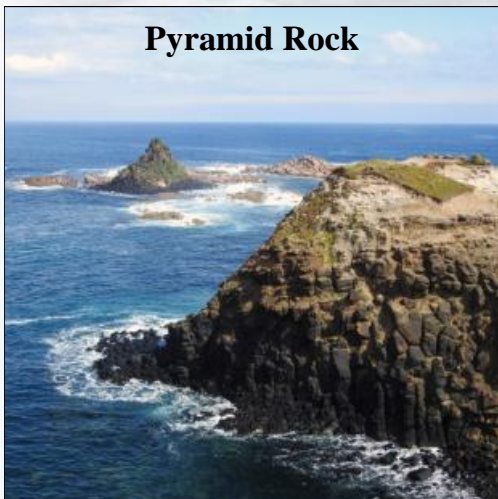
Pyramid Rock is a triangular shaped island that has a backdrop of Bass Strait and protrudes from the water in an appealing and photographic manner. It is east of the Nobbies and makes for an excellent attraction to visit after leaving the Nobbies.

The site has two viewing platforms, with the shorter 200 m walk along a boardwalk being wheelchair friendly. The second longer walk is a 800 m circuit walk which takes you to a grassy area just short of Pyramid Rock (seen above) known as Pyramid Rock South Coast Lookout. From this lookout you have excellent views and you can see all the way back to the Nobbies (Point Grant).



Please note that dogs are not allowed at the Pyramid Rock area.

Pyramid Rock



Coastal view



Coastal view



PHILLIP ISLAND

Wreck of the SS Speke



PHOTOGRAPH © JOHN NORBURY

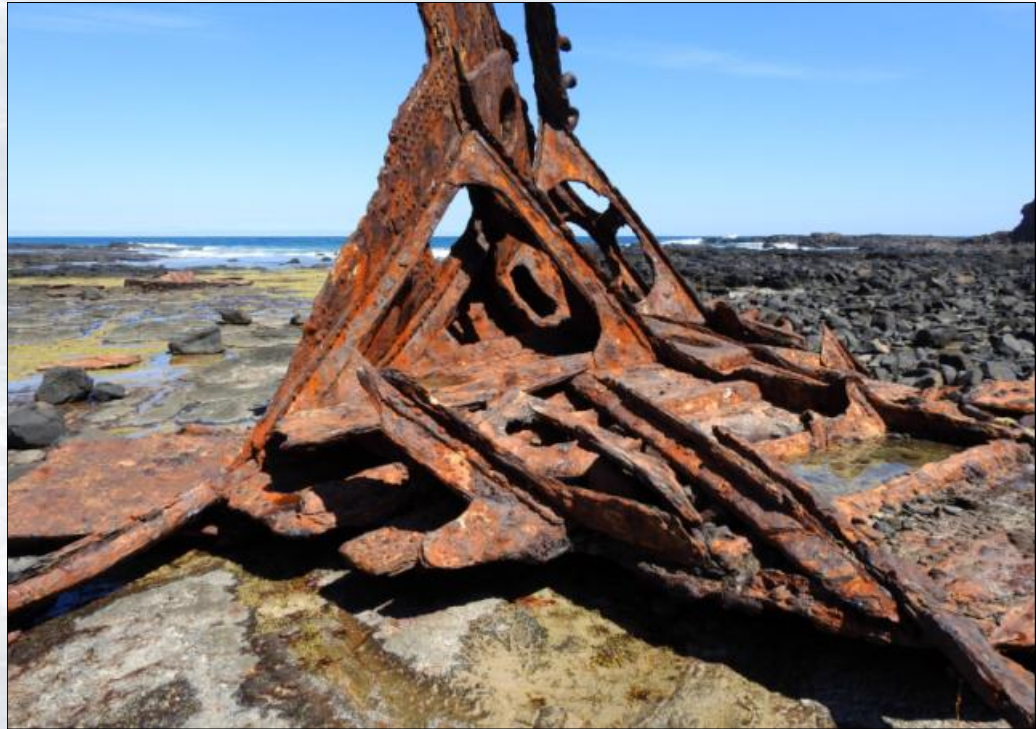
Wreck of the SS Speke

Name:	Wreck of the SS Speke
Known for:	A shipwreck on rocks that can be walked around
Location:	Kitty Miller Bay
GPS:	-38.513414, 145.176163
Facilities:	Carpark
Notes:	Park at the Kitty Miller Bay carpark and walk to the site

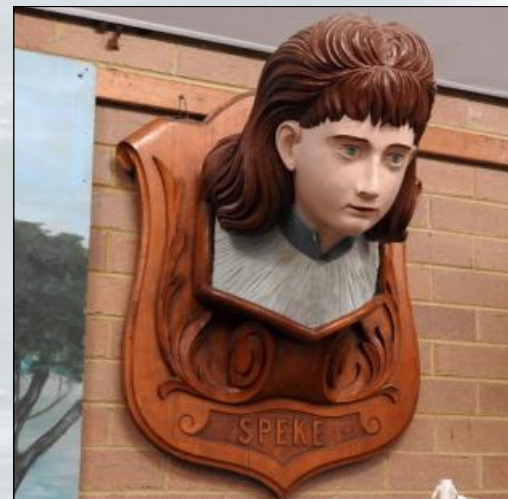


The SS Speke is an old shipwreck lost on rocks near Kitty Miller Bay. Today the wreck is an attraction that can be visited, walked around and photographed.

A few of the relics from the Speke can be viewed at the Phillip Island & District Historical Society Museum located at 89 Thompson Ave, Cowes. The large bell of the SS Speke can still be viewed in the belltower at the Cowes St. Johns Uniting Church located at 86 Chapel Street, Cowes.



When visiting the SS Speke, wear appropriate clothing and footwear for walking on rocks. Always carry sufficient water in the hotter seasons and always let someone know of your travel plans.



PHILLIP ISLAND

Forrest Caves



PHOTOGRAPH © JOHN NORBURY

Forrest Caves

Name:	Forrest Caves
Known for:	Access inside the caves
Location:	Veterans Drive
GPS:	S38.516033, E145.306952
Facilities:	Carpark, toilets
Notes:	Access into the caves is at low tide via the beach (left)



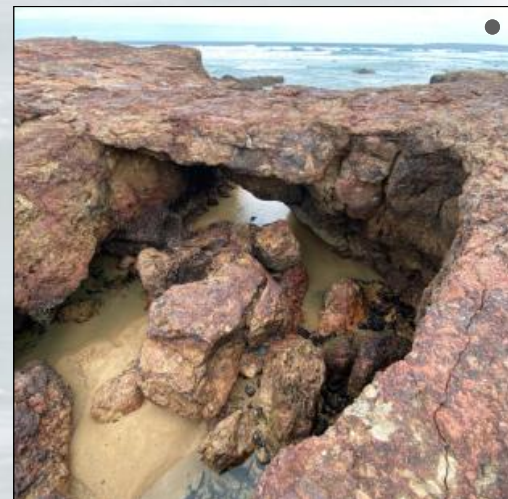
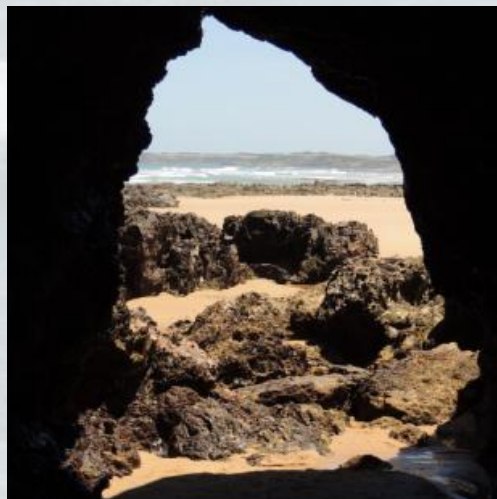
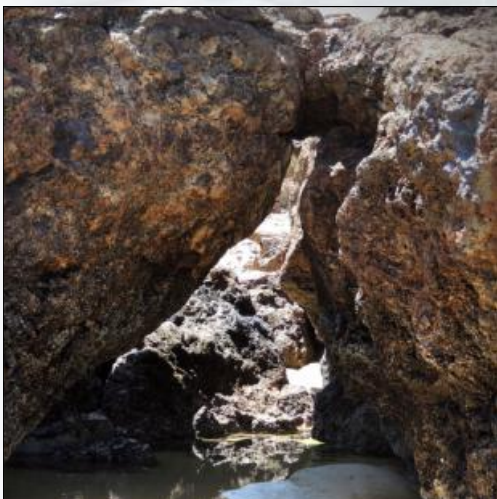
The Forrest Caves are a series of natural caves caused by erosion in some of the islands southern coastal rock formations. They have formed over a time as the result of the pounding wave action, strong winds and rain coming in from Bass Strait.

At low tide, you can walk along this popular surf beach to the caves, enter them, explore and photograph them from inside looking out to sea.



When you arrive at the carpark, follow the track over the sand dunes, then turn left at the beach and walk the 500 metres to the caves. Dogs are not permitted at this site.

Always watch children around water, wear appropriate clothing and footwear for the time of year, and carry water in the hotter months. Always let someone know of your travel plans.



PHILLIP ISLAND

The Colonnades



PHOTOGRAPH © JOHN NORBURY

The Colonnades

Name:	The Colonnades
Known for:	Columnar basalt
Location:	Lantana Road
GPS:	S38.529437, E145.323434
Facilities:	Carpark, toilets
Notes:	Access from along the beach (left)

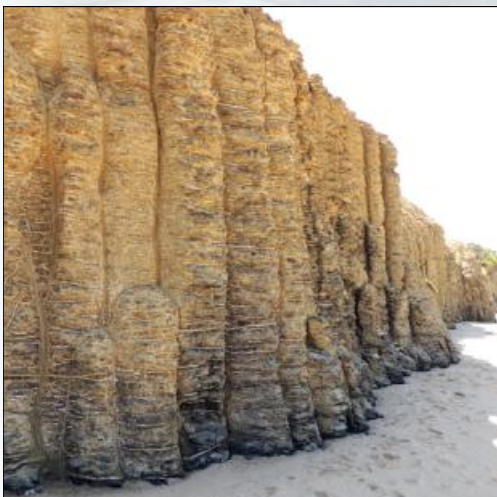


These rock deposits are found on the western extension of Woolamai Surf Beach. These cliffs show the extent of volcanic activity in the area and the thickness of each lava flow event. The cliffs also illustrate the effect of wind, rain and the ocean on the basalt columns.

Today it is common to see sections of the basalt cliff fall onto the beach as erosion weakens the natural structure of the columns.



The Colonnades are best accessed at low tide and when leaving the carpark, walk down to the beach, turn left and walk for around 100 m to the start of the cliffs, which continue for 400 m to a second set of steps to the top of the cliffs. This section of rock is of significance to the Island's geology and has areas of incredible areas of texture detail.



PHILLIP ISLAND

Swan Lake



PHOTOGRAPH © JOHN NORBURY

Swan Lake

Name:	Swan Lake
Known for:	Picturesque lake with a large number of black swans
Location:	Off Ventnor Road
GPS:	
Facilities:	Carpark, toilets, good grade walk track
Notes:	Make sure you carry water and wear appropriate clothing

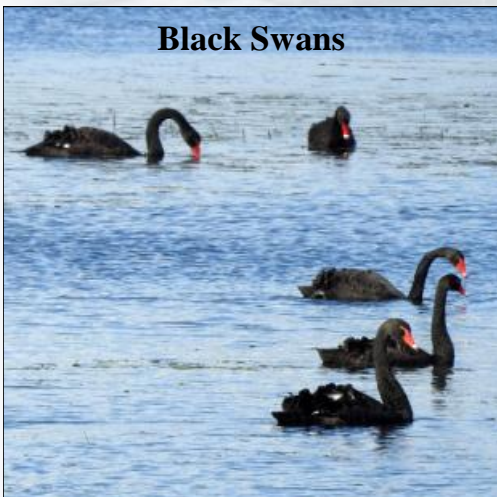


Swan Lake is a large lake and wetland located on the western end of the island near the Nobbies and the Swan Lake Guest House. The Swan Lake walk is 1.3 km and easy grade.

The lake includes a number of bird hides to help take photographs of the birdlife without overly disturbing them. Birds you may see include the Straw-necked Ibis, Musk Duck, Little grebe, Black duck, Pied stilt, Australasian shelduck, Grey teal, Chestnut teal, Dusky Moorhen, Masked lapwing, Short-tailed shearwater, Herons, Sharp-tailed sandpiper, Silvereyes, Cormorants, Sparrows, Butcherbirds, Magpies, Seagulls, Kites, Falcons and Hawks and the huge Cape Barren Geese. You may even see a native Swamp Wallaby or two. Interpretative signage at the lake help educate the visitor about the area and the wildlife. During the hotter months of the year large sections of the lake often dry up.



Black Swans



Wallaby



PHILLIP ISLAND

San Remo Coastal Walk



PHOTOGRAPH © JOHN NORBURY

San Remo Coastal Walk

Name:	San Remo Coastal Walk
Known for:	Natural coastal rock formations
Location:	San Remo
GPS:	-38.521250, 145.363969
Facilities:	Carpark, good grade walk track
Notes:	Park near the San Remo Fish n Chip shop



The San Remo Coastal Walk takes you through the San Remo Coastal Reserve, which includes a BBQ and picnic area, playground and toilets.

The coastal walk offers the opportunity for those interested in rock and rock formations to experience a wide range of formations and rock types as well as the effects of coastal erosion on rock.

The site is at the township of San Remo and the entrance to the park and the start of the walk are under the San Remo Bridge and near the extremely popular San Remo Fish n Chips shop. Outside of the shop is the large steel pelican sculpture and an area on the beach where pelicans gather in large numbers and are fed daily.



PHILLIP ISLAND

Rhyll Wood Sculpture



PHOTOGRAPH © JOHN NORBURY

Rhyll Wood Sculpture

Name:	Rhyll Wood Carving
Known for:	A crafted remnant of an old Golden Cypress tree
Location:	Rhyll Coastal Park
GPS:	-38.465732, 145.308249
Facilities:	Carpark, good grade walk track
Notes:	Park near the San Remo Fish n Chip shop



The Ferry Captain is a sculpture carved from a tree that depicts the relationship between mankind and the sea. The carving at Fishermens Point was made by artist Brandon Kroon who used an old cypress pine tree blown over in a storm in August 2016.



The area includes a memorial cairn to Surgeon George Bass who was the first European to land in the area when he made repairs in 1798. He returned again the same year with Matthew Flinders. There is also a modern themed children's playground at the Rhyll Foreshore Reserve Playground, which also has picnic tables, BBQ facilities and a public toilet. A 24 hour boat ramp is also located nearby and the Rhyll Jetty found beside the wood carving can be walked out to and fished from.



PHILLIP ISLAND

Vietnam Veterans Museum



PHOTOGRAPH © JOHN NORBURY

Vietnam Veterans Museum

Name: National Vietnam Veterans Museum
Known for: Largest museum of its kind in Australia
Location: Veterans Drive
GPS: -38.520601, 145.324432
Facilities: Carpark, toilets
Notes: Visit website for entry fees & times



The National Vietnam Veterans Museum is located on Veterans Drive at the Phillip Island Airport.

The museum is an independent not-for-profit museum, dedicated to the heritage and legacy of Vietnam veterans.

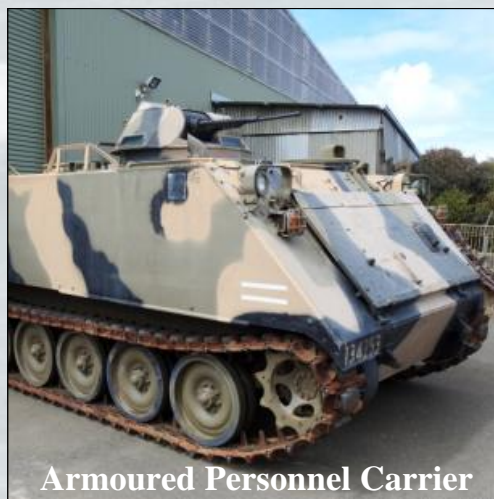
The museum was originally opened at an old site, though was moved to the new larger site at Newhaven and was opened to the public in March 2007.



The museum is housed inside and outside of a Bellman aircraft hanger, built over four years. It continues to grow and evolve as community donations allow and as volunteers continue to work towards the museum's vision to promote the legacy of the war. This museum is focused on educating the community about the war and the men and women who fought and died during it.



Gun



Armoured Personnel Carrier



Grumman tracker

Other Attractions



A Maze n Things

1805 Phillip Island Road, Cowes
Phone: 03 5952 2283

Open 10 am to 5 pm, 7 days a week



Phillip Island Chocolate Factory

930 Phillip Island Road, Newhaven
Phone: 03 5956 6600

Open 9.30 am to 5.30 pm, 7 days a week



Phillip Island Museum

89 Thompson Ave, Cowes

Open Thu and Sat mornings, 10 am to 12 noon



Wildlife Cruises

Cowes Jetty, Cowes
Phone: 1300 763 739

Visit website for up-to-date information, departure times and fees. Note that inclement weather may mean trips are cancelled.



EcoBoat Adventures

Cowes Jetty, Cowes
Phone: 03 5951 2800

Visit website for up-to-date information, departure times and fees. Note that inclement weather may mean trips are cancelled.



Fun Island Facts

- Phillip Island is just 125 km from Melbourne.
- Victoria's largest colony of Fairy Penguins are found on Phillip Island.
- Fairy Penguins are a flightless bird also known as Little Penguins.
- Phillip Island is home to a colony of over 30,000 seals at Seal Rock.
- Over four thousand seals are present on Seal Rock at any one time.
- The only snake found on Phillip Island is the Copper Head.
- It is connected to the mainland at San Remo by a 640 m bridge.
- The island is 22 km long and 9 km wide. It covers around 10,000 hectares.
- The permanent population of Phillip Island is just under 6000 people.
- The Island attracts over 3.5 million people annually.
- Phillip Island has four popular surf beaches; Cape Woolamai, Smiths Beach, Summerland and Cat Bay.
- Fishing is a major attraction at Phillip Island.
- Churchill Island is the site of the first farm in Victoria.
- Phillip Island is home to a colony of the Short-tailed Shearwater.
- Short-tailed Shearwaters are also known as mutton birds.
- Short-tailed Shearwaters arrive on Phillip Island from late September after migrating over 10,000 km, but as they arrive, they often get confused by the bright lights of the San Remo Bridge, which have been turned off in the past for many nights to help the birds.
- Short-tailed Shearwaters lay one egg in the sand, which hatches in January.



A free tourism resource produced by
John & Maureen Norbury