

FLAGSTAFF HILL MARITIME VILLAGE

SITE MAP



EAP Emergency Assembly Point

MAIN ENTRANCE

1. Flagstaff Hill Reception
Gift Shop
Gravesend Theatre
2. The Great Circle Gallery
Loch Ard Peacock
Schomberg Diamond Ring
Toilets
Shipwreck Information

MAIN STREET

3. Port Medical Officer
4. Dressmakers Salon
and Period Costume Photographs
5. Leadlight Studio
6. Instrument Repairer
7. Examiner Newspaper Office
8. Fire Station
9. Bank of Australasia
10. Flagstaff Hill Common School
Toilets
11. Tearooms
(Light snacks and beverages 11:30am-3:00pm)

WHARF

12. Blacksmith, Undertaker and Shipsmith
13. Bond Store and H.H. Smith & Co Bakers Cart
14. Restoration, Boat Builders Workshop
(Closed to Public)
15. Rocket House
16. Lifeboat
17. Interactive Pulley Exhibit
18. Rowitta
19. Ship Chandlers and woolen products
20. Wharf Theatre
Screening Shipwrecked nightly
21. Reginald M
Emergency Assembly Point
22. Children's Buried Treasure Sandpit
23. Viator
24. Steam Powered Workshop and
Shipwright Boat Builder
Toilets
25. Shipping Agent
26. Steam Packet Inn

VILLAGE GREEN

27. Mechanics Institute and Family History Group
28. Sailmaker's Loft
29. Cooper's Workshop
Woodturner
30. Mission to Seamen Recreation Room
31. St Nicholas Missions to Seamen, Church
32. Gaol
33. Grassmere Cheese & Butter Factory Chimney

HISTORIC PRECINCT

34. Falls of Halladale Anchor
35. Lower Lighthouse – No Public Access
36. Warrnambool Garrison Artillery Battery
Gun-80 Pounder Rifled Muzzle Loaders
37. Armoury and Parade Ground
Armoury Toilets
38. Flagstaff
39. Chart Room
40. Upper Lighthouse
41. Lighthouse Keepers Cottage
42. Stable and privy
43. Shipwreck Museum

EXIT

44. Exit to Gift Shop and Reception
45. Pippies by the Bay Café and Restaurant
(Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner)
Toilets
46. Visitor Information Centre
47. Flagstaff Hill Administration
48. Children Anchor
49. Gun-68 Pounder Smooth Bore Muzzle Loader
50. Lighthouse Lodge
51. Barrack Gates



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the history of FL

FLAGSTAFF HILL 1850'S

It was on this very hill in the early 1850's that the original *Flagstaff* was erected, serving as a navigational aid and signal point between ship and shore. The Flagstaff also served as a vital communication tool, relaying important messages to vessels and alerting the townsfolk of shipping activities in the port.

Shipwreck Coast

The southwest coast of Victoria was often the first port of call for ships on route to Melbourne and the east coast of Australia. Imagine the excitement of passengers and crew at sighting land after 20,000 kilometres and three harrowing months at sea. Imagine also the devastation of being shipwrecked with your destination in your sights. This was to be the fate of over 100 ships that were wrecked along the 120 kilometres of coast from Apollo Bay to Portland, a stretch of shoreline now aptly named the *Shipwreck Coast*.

Relics, Cargo and Anchors

As you stand atop Flagstaff Hill today, the picturesque Lady Bay stretches before you. This seemingly tranquil bay gained a notorious reputation for being wildly unpredictable, claiming 29 recorded shipwrecks and strandings from 1842 to 1905. As you explore Flagstaff Hill's *Great Circle Gallery, Village and Shipwreck Museum* you will find relics, cargo and anchors from some of Victoria's most infamous wrecks including the *Loeb Ard, Schomberg, Newfield, Children, Antares, La Bella* and *Falls of Halladale*.

CREATION OF A MARITIME VILLAGE

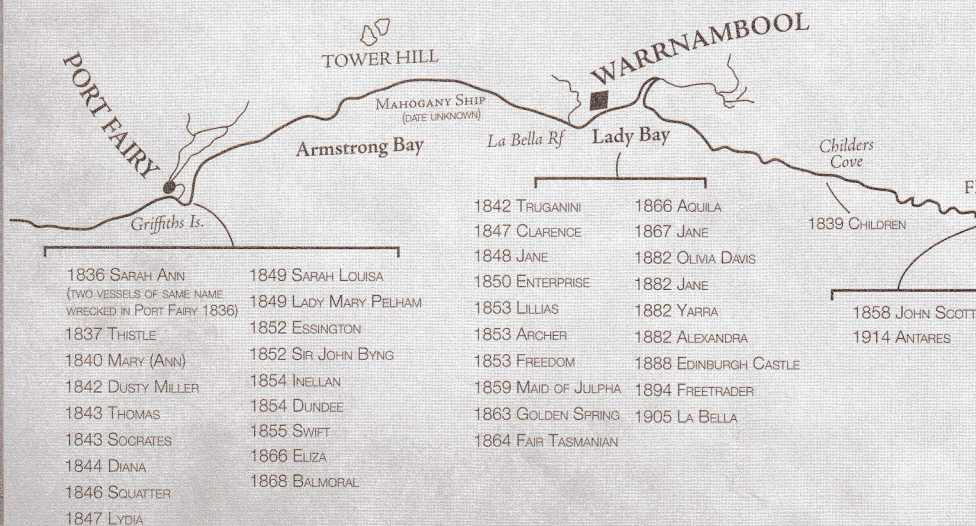
While the original *Flagstaff* no longer conveys ship to shore communication, the signal flags that daily on the hill spell out F, H, M, V and O, P, E, N.

Flagstaff Hill Maritime Village first opened in 1975 following three years of planning by members of the local community. The local government keenly supported their dedication and passion for preserving and displaying the region's intriguing maritime heritage.

Over the past 30 years the site, set on 4 hectares (10 acres) of historic crown land, has continued to expand with the addition of new buildings, vessels and artefacts. Many hours of labour, funds and objects have been donated by the local community, establishing Flagstaff Hill as not only a tourist attraction, but also as a repository of national significance of community cultural heritage. It serves as a vital organisation for the collection, preservation and interpretation of material culture that reflects Australia's maritime history.

Heritage Founded on a Community

Flagstaff Hill continues to operate as a non-profit community facility, which is managed under the guidance of the Warrnambool City Council. It is supported by an enthusiastic group of Heritage Volunteers who populate the village and relish the opportunity to talk with visitors about the fascinating maritime history of the Shipwreck Coast.



The notorious Shipwreck Coast

AGSTAFF HILL MA

We encourage you to immerse yourself in the past, the stories of seafarers, the traditions of pioneer communities and the crafts of superseded trades. Enjoy and engage in Flagstaff Hill's displays, activities and regular community events. If you would like to support the continued preservation of your maritime heritage please ask about our *Membership, Ambassador and Heritage Volunteer* Programs.

MARITIME VILLAGE AND WHARF

As you exit the *Great Circle Gallery*, where the *Loch Ard Peacock* and *Schomberg Diamond* are displayed, the Maritime Village and Wharf stretch south below you, representing a typical seaport, including businesses and trades indicative of the late 19th century. The buildings have been recreated using original and replicated materials. In fact, some materials are salvaged cargo from shipwrecks, including slate roof tiles recovered from the *Falls of Halladale*. Most of the objects on display are original and from the period.

We acknowledge that some of the vessels and displays extend beyond this era, but are included as they lend great significance to local history or Australia's maritime heritage.

Port Medical Officer

Local doctors are important in any community, but the doctor chosen to serve as the Port Medical Officer (PMO), was vital in a small seaport. Due to poor sanitation and malnutrition, diseases such as typhoid, consumption, scarlet fever, cholera and measles were rife on immigrant ships. If necessary the PMO had the power to quarantine a ship and all on board in an attempt to confine the spread of killer diseases.

Dr Angus was the last Port Medical Officer for Warrnambool, relinquishing that position in the early 1940's. On his passing in 1966, his family donated his practitioner's plaque, some of his medical instruments and personal belongings, which are now on display.

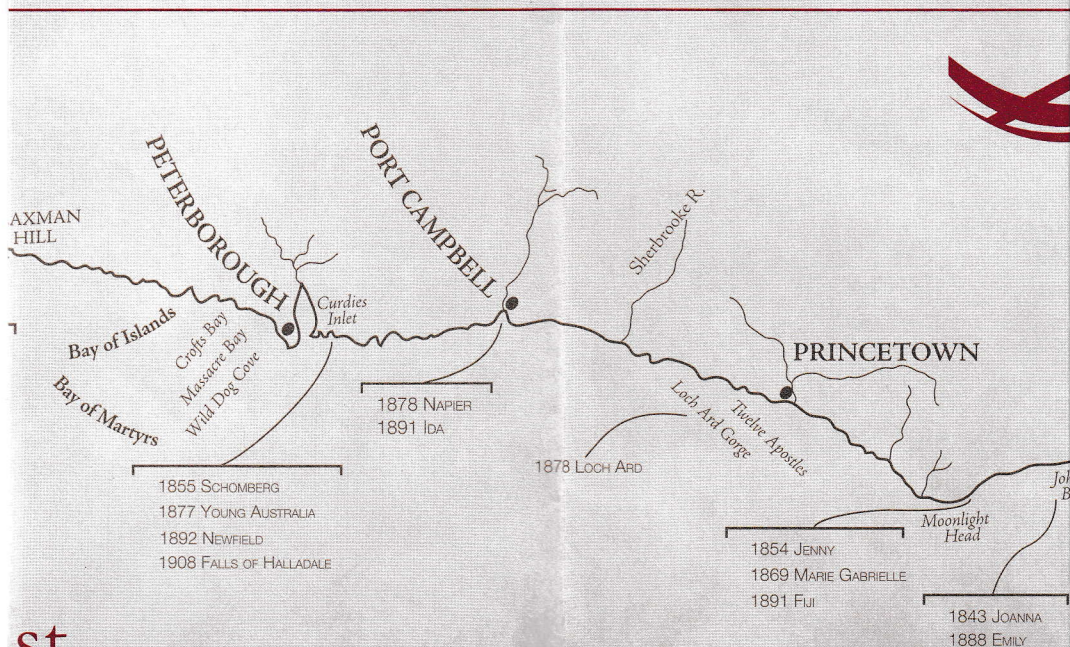
Rocket House Sea Rescue

The equipment housed in the Rocket House was used in attempts to rescue the crew of ships, which were wrecked on a reef while entering Warrnambool Harbour.

The success of a *Rocket Rescue* was dependant on the crew being able to accurately fire the rocket, with a line attached, over the hull of the distressed ship. Once executed a type of flying fox was erected with a breeches buoy (a lifebuoy fitted with canvas breeches) used to winch survivors ashore. As many shipwrecks occurred in storms and turbulent seas, this type of rescue was not very successful in this region.

Ship Chandlers

Competitiveness among Captains to complete their transoceanic voyages as fast as possible meant they had to have enough supplies to sustain the crew for months and adequate equipment to maintain and repair the ship at sea.



MRITIME VILLAGE

Due to the high demand for seafaring supplies a specialised merchant known as a *Ship Chandler* emerged near the wharfs, offering virtually everything necessary to repair, maintain and provision a ship. Goods sold at a Chandler's were varied but included rope, oars, navigation lights, cork floats, lifebuoys, brass fittings, ship's wheels, flags, clothing, canvas, sail making equipment, bells, tools, pulley blocks, anchor chain, blankets, hammocks, harpoons, whale oil, candles, and paint.

Sailmaker's Loft

The Sailmakers of the Tall Ships era were highly regarded craftsmen. While they were known for designing, making and repairing sails, their skills extended far beyond large stretches of canvas. They fashioned various items including canvas buckets, bathtubs, awnings, shelters, sailor's hammocks and even the shrouds for sea burials.

The nature of their work demanded great expanses of space for cutting and hanging the enormous canvas sails. Tools of their trade included long benches, which they straddled to sew and repair sails. Using large needles and heavy twine or boltrope, which was lubricated with beeswax, they hand stitched the raw edges of the sails to prevent tearing.

HISTORIC PRECINCT

On the east side of Flagstaff Hill sprawls the Historic Precinct. These original maritime buildings, lighthouses and coastal defence fortifications are fundamental to Warrnambool's and Victoria's cultural heritage.

Garrison Artillery Battery

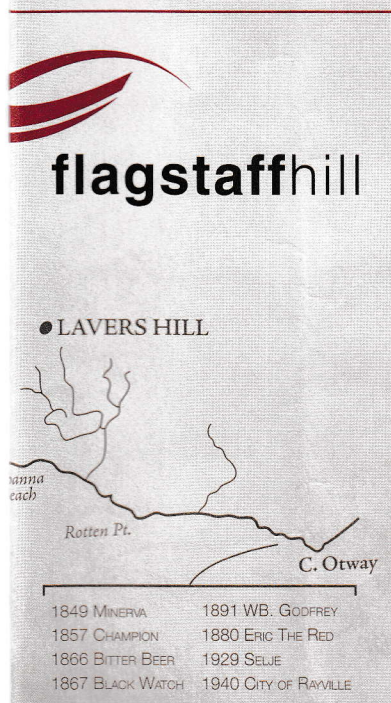
In the years following the Crimean War there was a great concern in the Colony that the Russians would attempt an invasion. Coastal defences were greatly strengthened, and so in 1887 the Warrnambool Garrison Artillery Battery on Flagstaff Hill was completed. The Armoury was built at the same time to serve the volunteers who manned the battery.

Flagstaff Hill Lighthouses

It was recognised that the *Flagstaff* and two *obelisks* were not enough to guide ships into port. In 1859 a lighthouse was erected on Middle Island to identify Warrnambool from sea, and in 1860 one was built on the beach below to guide vessels into Warrnambool Harbour. The Beach lighthouse was ineffective in frequent high seas and adverse weather because its light was obscured by huge waves and sea spray.

In 1871 the entire Middle Island lighthouse complex, which included the Keeper's Cottage, Chart Room and Privy were moved stone by stone to Flagstaff Hill to replace the upper obelisk. The lighthouse is now known as the *Upper Lighthouse*. The beach lighthouse was then dismantled and its light placed on the lower obelisk. It is known as the *Lower Lighthouse*. Both are still in operation today.

Vessels entering or leaving the port can safely navigate the deep-water channel by day simply by keeping the two lighthouses in line, while at night this is achieved by keeping the lights in line.



flagstaffhill

● LAVERS HILL

Warrnambool
Rotten Pt.
C. Otway

1849 MINERVA	1891 WB. GODFREY
1857 CHAMPION	1880 ERIC THE RED
1866 BITTER BEER	1929 SELJE
1867 BLACK WATCH	1940 CITY OF RAVILLE

SHIPWRECKED SOUND AND LASER SHOW

Flagstaff Hill comes to life each night as the tragic tale of the wreck of the *Loch Ard* is retold in a spectacular world class multimillion-dollar sound and laser show, *Shipwrecked*. Book at Reception for a 70 minute voyage of a lifetime.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Information sheets detailing aspects of some of the buildings, vessels and artefacts on display at Flagstaff Hill are available at reception, where you can also get information on our guided tours and lodge more specific requests. The gift shop has a range of books videos and DVD's on shipwrecks and maritime history.

VOLUNTEERING

Our precinct is heavily supported by a range of volunteers and if you, or you know someone who is interested in volunteering with us, please register your interest at reception.

Recycle bins are provided throughout the site.

Flagstaff Hill is a not for profit organisation.