
Batman Park & Boat Sheds

The Esplanade, Indented Head



Heritage Review

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August 2013

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HERITAGE REVIEW

Commissioned & Funded by
City of Greater Geelong

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Cover Photographs: Batman Park Sign, 1929. Source: Crown Land file Rs 5154, DSE. Wray family at their boat shed, early 1940s, Source: Lesley Helmer. Beach with Boat Club building in the middle ground, c.1954. Source: La Trobe Picture collection, State Library of Victoria, image H32492/9589.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0 Introduction

The City of Greater Geelong commissioned Dr David Rowe of Authentic Heritage Services Pty Ltd and Wendy Jacobs, Architect and Heritage Consultant, to prepare a heritage review of Batman Park and boatsheds, The Esplanade, Indented Head, in October 2012. The report has been prepared by David Rowe and reviewed by Wendy Jacobs. Historical research has been carried out by David Rowe and Pam Jennings of Authentic Heritage Services Pty Ltd. Considerable in-kind assistance has been given by Ingrid Novosel (distribution of study brochures, informal consultation with locals, collection of historical photographs) and Chris Idle and staff of Idle Architecture Studio (collection of information and photographs of the boat sheds). A draft of this Report was provided to the City of Greater Geelong in April. It was placed on select informal exhibition until 31 July 2013.

The purpose of the assessment has been to review the Batman Park Foreshore area and associated boat sheds to more accurately determine their heritage significance through an assessment of the existing fabric and their historical associations.

2.0 Brief Historical Overview

In 1925, a Committee of Management was officially appointed to manage, protect and care for the narrow coastal reserve at Indented Head. The area was named Batman Park in honour of the explorer, John Batman, who established an encampment nearby the Park in 1835. The Committee's inaugural Chairman was Stephen Wrathall. From the 1920s and throughout the 20th century, the foreshore area was substantially transformed, with many major tree planting programs, fencing, building of amenities blocks and water tanks, and other infrastructure for the benefit of picnickers and campers. Batman Park benefited from the patronage of neighbouring local landholders who served on the Committee. Some of the members who contributed much to the development of the Park included W.R. Anderson Junior, the Committee's longest-serving Secretary, W.H. Warden, Albert Johnson, Ernest Taylor and Herbert Lewis. The latter was a local farmer and he was responsible for the construction of a number of the boat sheds that lined the Batman Park foreshore from c.1924-25. It was also in 1925 when the paddle steamer [P.S.] Ozone and Dominion hulks were wrecked in Half Moon Bay to form a breakwater.

In 1931, a stone obelisk was erected by Herbert Lewis towards the southern end of Batman Park in memory of John Batman, early explorer. The Park played host to thousands of visitors in 1935, marking the centenary of Batman's exploration, when a plaque was added to the memorial and which also recognized the exploration of the area by Matthew Flinders in 1802.

Between the 1920s and 1950s, Batman Park became popular as a camping ground for beach recreation and fishing. The Cooper family was one of the earliest families known to have camped in the Park in the early 1920s. From 1925, the Foreshore Committee prepared Regulations for the care, management and use of the Park. It was especially from the 1950s when Batman Park played host to hundreds of campers each year. The need for improved infrastructure and amenities constantly taxed the Foreshore Committee, as did deputations from campers and disputes between campers. In 1954, camp sites were more formally laid out along similar lines as those at the Torquay Caravan Park.

Local landholders regularly sort permission to erect boat sheds on the foreshore. Some of the earliest built in the 1930s were constructed of in-situ reinforced concrete by Herbert Lewis while others were built of lightweight materials including cement sheet and corrugated steel. With changing Government policy and increased pressures on the foreshore as a consequence of a growing number of private boat sheds, and particularly as a result of a public meeting in 1950, no further private sheds on new sites were permitted from this time. Recommendations from the public meeting gained momentum, including the construction

of a Boat Club and Hall building that could accommodate a number of boat compartments as well as serve as the clubhouse of the Boat Club and a community hub. Designed by L.H. Vernon and Associates, architects, the Indented Head Boat Club and Hall building was completed in 1954 and it was claimed to be a model for other bayside locations in Port Phillip Bay. A slipway near the Boat Shed was constructed in 1965.

Other important developments occurred in the 1950s and 1960s. The southern reserve area of the Park had been named Wrathall Reserve and in 1954 a brick shelter was constructed to the memory of the Committee's first Chairman, Stephen Wrathall. Additional tree planting occurred. The northern-most portion of Batman Park was named Anderson Reserve in 1954, in honour of the Committee's long-serving Secretary, the late W.R. Anderson. In 1963, a portion of the reserve was named the Taylor Reserve after E.J. Taylor, Chairman of the Committee between 1955 and 1962. A brick Administration Building was constructed in 1965. Two years later in 1967, a tennis court was laid out on the west side of Wrathall Reserve, adjacent to the Batman-Flinders Memorial. The idea of a tennis court had first been proposed as early as 1928.

Further developments continued in the 1970s. In 1971, the long awaiting public boat ramp was built at Wrathall Reserve and it was followed by the adjacent timber foot jetty in 1973. A circular car park was also constructed in connection with the boat ramp. In 1978, having been formed as a breakaway organization to the Boat Club in c.1966-67, the Indented Head Yacht Club building was officially opened.

3.0 Physical Overview

Batman Park is situated on the eastern coastline of the Bellarine Peninsula off The Esplanade at Indented Head. It consists of a narrow foreshore reserve commencing at the rocky outcrop known as White Woman's Rock to the north, terminating to the immediate south of the projecting point known as Indented Head. Generally, the natural vegetation has been modified throughout the 20th century and this is now manifested in the different landscapes that establish the character of Batman Park today. Remnant indigenous plantings (including Moonahs and Tea Trees) are combined with mature (and less mature) exotics, including Monterey and Golden Monterey Cypresses, Canary Island Palms and Monterey Pines. The topography within Batman Park is also varied, from the northern and southern parts and some central portions of the reserve being at level with the major adjoining thoroughfare, The Esplanade, while another southern-central portion is on much lower ground, with grassed slopes. The topography of Batman Park is especially characterised by the shoreline, with the principal central inlet, Half Moon Bay, featuring the P.S. Ozone wreck. The southern shoreline forms part of Hood Bight. Parts of the shoreline, such as Indented Head, have modest natural cliff faces defined by sea walls and rock revetments along the northern portions and around the central outcrop in the reserve. A range of sealed and unsealed roadways and thoroughfares have established grid-like patterns throughout the central and northern portions of the Park, where camping activities are located.

The varying characteristics of Batman Park are partially determined by the different reserves within the Park. In the northern reaches are Anderson, Aylmer and Taylor Reserves, the central portion taking in the foreshore of Half Moon Bay (and the foreshore immediately south of it) being Batman Park Reserve, and the southern-most area being Wrathall Reserve. Along the shoreline and within the Batman Park Reserve area are 24 gabled boat sheds that form distinctive features along the Hood Bight and Half Moon Bay beach frontages. Punctuating the long line of boat sheds and forming a local landmark is the Indented Head Boat Club and Hall building. A forecourt on the north side links to the Indented Head Yacht Club building.

The southern portion of Batman Park comprises Wrathall Reserve. It includes a memorial stone obelisk to Batman and Flinders (which is surrounded on three sides by Golden Cypress trees), Wrathall Memorial

Shelter to the north, central circular carpark, tennis court to the west, and a boat ramp and jetty to the east. Wrathall Reserve is also especially characterised by its landscape of mature and semi-mature Monterey Cypress, Canary Island Palm, Golden Cypress and Norfolk Island Pine trees.

4.0 Cultural Significance

4.1 Statement of Significance

What is Significant

Batman Park, The Esplanade, has significance as the centre of public coastal recreation at Indented Head for picnicking, camping and fishing since at least the early 20th century. While the foreshore of Port Phillip Bay was reserved for public purposes in 1873, it was not until 1925 when a Committee of Management was appointed to manage the narrow coastal foreshore between White Woman's Rock and the Indented Head. The reserve was named Batman Park in honour of the explorer, John Batman, who, with other members of the Port Phillip Association, was the first European to establish a temporary encampment in 1835 in Victoria at St. Leonards, south of the salt lagoon. The significance of Batman Park includes its evolution throughout the 20th century, the natural landscape being transformed by the ideas and attitudes of respective Foreshore Committees and Government Departments. Batman Park consists of five reserves (from north to south): Anderson, Aylmer, Taylor Batman Park and Wrathall Reserves. Each provides varying aesthetic characteristics that contribute to the overall appearance of the Park. Remnant indigenous plantings (including Moonahs and Tea Trees) are combined with mature (and less mature) exotics, including Monterey and Golden Cypresses, Canary Island Palms, Norfolk Island Pines and Monterey Pines. Some of these trees are showing signs of senescence. Of particular prominence are the rows of Monterey Cypresses in the central portion of the Batman Park camping area that extend into an avenue at the southern end. The south of Batman Park is defined by Wrathall Reserve which has a number of landscape and built features. Golden Cypresses enclose the Batman-Flinders Memorial, a stone obelisk constructed in 1931 (together with a stone seat) to commemorate the landings of the explorers, Batman and Flinders. Other landscape features of Wrathall Reserve include the circular car park, the row of Monterey Cypresses forming a border to the tennis court and the Canary Island Palms that form an entry to the Wrathall Memorial Shelter built in 1954 in memory of the inaugural Chairman of the Foreshore Committee, Stephen Wrathall. Nearby the shelter are a concrete boat ramp and timber jetty built in 1971 and 1973 respectively, the culmination of years of lobbying and preparation by the Committee and locals. Lining the beach frontages of Batman Park are 24 gabled boat sheds. Built between c.1924-25 and 1953 and variously constructed of reinforced concrete, vermiculated concrete block, cement sheet and corrugated sheet metal, these sheds provide a picturesque outline to the foreshores of Hood Bight and Half Moon Bay. Inside Boat Shed no. 22, 'Dalhousie', is an early winch and iron guide rails embedded in the concrete floor. Similarly, the winch and boat rollers survive in Boat Shed no. 20, 'Te Whare'. Another beachfront landmark is the gabled Indented Head Boat Club and Hall building constructed in 1954 of hand-made vermiculated concrete blocks. An alternative to the further construction of private individual boat sheds, the contextually prominent Boat Club and Hall building accommodates 20 boat compartments on the ground floor, with a community hall within an attic-like space above having projecting skillion dormers that provide uninterrupted views to Port Phillip Bay. Other buildings and structures that contribute to an understanding of the significance of Batman Park include the amenities block (public toilets) and former Foreshore Committee Administration building in the central area of the Batman Park reserve (built in c.1949 and 1965 respectively), and the timber sea wall at Anderson Reserve (built from 1968). The scenic qualities of Batman Park are further enhanced by the remnants of the P.S. Ozone Wreck that was hulked in Half Moon Bay in 1925, the anchor of this former steamer is now a memorial located on The Esplanade roadside adjacent to Taylor Reserve.

How is it Significant

Batman Park, The Esplanade, Indented Head, is historically, aesthetically, architecturally and socially significant at a LOCAL level.

Why is it Significant

Batman Park has historical significance for its associations with coastal recreation including picnicking, camping and fishing since at least the 20th century, and with successive Foreshore Committees, committee members and other figures that have shaped its development (Criteria A & H). It is one of a number of Crown Land foreshore reserves in the Bellarine Peninsula and Surf Coast regions that have played host to beach recreation under a Committee of Management. The control and establishment of regulations for the management, protection and care of Batman Park were established in 1926, a year after the formation of the Batman Park Foreshore Committee. A number of its members were critical to the transformation of this coastal outcrop into a popular tourist resort. They were local land owners from diverse socio-economic backgrounds, bringing their own skills and abilities to establish what has become a high regarded coastal recreation area. Of particular importance was the Committee's inaugural Chairman, Stephen Wrathall (1859-1940), who was responsible for directing much of the initial tree planting in the reserve. Wrathall Reserve was named in his honour and the Wrathall Shelter was built in his memory in 1954. W.R. Anderson Junior was the Committee's longest-serving Honorary Secretary between 1925 and 1952. Part of Batman Park was named Anderson Reserve in his honour in 1954. The local farmer, Herbert Lewis, was instrumental in the construction of many of the early boat houses from the 1930s and in operating the successful boat hire business from his own Boat Shed in the Park. Other Committee members who made substantial contributions to the development of the Park included T.H. Warden, A. Woodward and E.J. Taylor, the latter having a reserve in the Park named in his honour. Batman Park also has historic value for its associations with the erection of the Batman-Flinders Memorial in 1931, and as the location of successive anniversary celebrations of the explorers, Batman and Flinders, and the former Bellarine Shire Council throughout the 20th century. The Indented Head Boat Shed and Hall building, constructed in 1954 to a design by L.H. Vernon and Associates of Ballarat, has historical value as the location of Boat Club and local community gatherings for 60 years.

Batman Park is aesthetically significant for its important coastal scenic qualities, combining the natural beach frontages of Port Phillip Bay with the developed landscape of native and exotic plantings (Criteria D & E). It is one of very few foreshore camping reserves distinguished by a combination of both native and exotic trees, including the Monterey and Golden Cypress, Norfolk Island Pines and the Canary Island Palms. Batman Park is therefore a physical manifestation of the patronage of neighbouring local land holders who served on the Foreshore Committees. These landscape qualities continue to be valued by the local and wider community today. The developed aesthetic values are further defined by the row of 24 boat sheds along the foreshore and the P.S. Ozone wreck in Half Moon Bay. Batman Park is the only Crown Land foreshore reserve in the Bellarine Peninsula and Surf Coast regions that still accommodates early and mid 20th century private boat sheds in their original locations and serving their original purpose on the beach foreshore. The aesthetic values are also enhanced by the varying landscape qualities of the different reserves in the Park. At the southern end at Wrathall Reserve, the Batman-Flinders Memorial, Wrathall Memorial Shelter, jetty, boat ramp and tennis court combine to form a distinctive cultural landscape reflective of the aspirations of respective Foreshore Committees and the local community. A further boat ramp outside the Boat Club also contributes to the developed foreshore qualities of the Park.

The Indented Head Boat Club and Hall building in Batman Park is architecturally significant as a substantially intact and prominent mid-20th century boat compartment building combined with a community hall on the foreshore (Criteria D & E). It is a rare surviving intact example of its type, with similar mid 20th century structures built for the Frankston Yacht Club, Chelsea Yacht Club and Blairgowrie Yacht Squadron either noticeably altered or replaced. The early amenities block (public toilets) (built c.1949) has some

architectural value as a representative and surviving example of this building type. Similarly-designed amenities of identical vermiculated concrete block construction were built on other nearby foreshore reserves in the Bellarine Peninsula, including Ocean Grove. Other surviving examples appear to have been altered.

Batman Park, including the 24 boat sheds and the Boat Club and Hall building are socially significant as they are recognised and valued by the local and wider community for the long-serving roles they play in boating and fishing recreation (Criterion G). In particular, the boat sheds are indelibly linked to generations of families who have occupied them for boat storage and beach recreation since the 1920s and 1930s. The Boat Club and Hall building is especially valued as a centre of community activities in addition to its Boat Club function.

The reinforced concrete and to a lesser degree, the vermiculated concrete block boat sheds in Batman Park, and the vermiculated concrete block construction of the Indented Head Boat Shed and Hall building are scientifically significant for their contextually unusual rudimentary and vernacular construction types (Criterion F). The reinforced concrete boat sheds represent the largest grouping of this type of boat shed construction in Victoria, the only other known boat shed of similar construction being Boat Shed 168 on Dromana Beach built in 1903. The vermiculated concrete block boat sheds are representative of this type of construction for interwar boat sheds in Victoria, with many similar examples surviving on the Mornington Peninsula. The interiors of Boat Shed 22 'Dalhousie' and Boat Shed 20 'Te Whare' in Batman Park also have scientific significance as examples of early 20th century infrastructure in the surviving winches and iron rails in the floors that were used to guide the boats into the sheds.

4.2 Significance of Components

Batman Park has a range of heritage values and the significant and non-significant components of the Park are listed as follows. This list should be read in conjunction with the aerial maps in Section 3:

Primary Significance

This fabric constitutes the principal significance of the Park in contributing to its key landscape and other aesthetic values, as well as the primary coastal recreation function of the reserve throughout the 20th century. This fabric is also considered to be individually significant as well as playing an important contributory heritage role.

- Rows of Monterey Cypress trees in Batman Park Reserve.
- Monterey Cypress, Golden Cypress, Canary Island Palm and Norfolk Island trees in Wrathall Reserve.
- 24 boat sheds on foreshore fronting onto Half Moon Bay and Hood Bight.
- Interiors of Boat Sheds 20 and 22 (particularly the early winches and guide rails).
- Indented Head Boat Club and Hall building, Batman Park Reserve.
- Batman-Flinders Memorial, Wrathall Reserve.
- Wrathall Memorial Shelter, Wrathall Reserve.
- P.S. Ozone Anchor Memorial, Taylor Reserve.

Contributory Significance

This fabric contributes to the aesthetic, architectural, historic and social heritage values of Batman Park, but it is not considered to be individually significant. It is the collective contribution made by this fabric that enhances the heritage values of the Park.

- Timber sea wall, Anderson Reserve.

- Monterey Cypress trees, Anderson Reserve.
- Cypress trees, Aylmer Reserve.
- Cypress trees, Taylor Reserve.
- Amenities block (public toilets) west of former Administration Building, Batman Park Reserve.
- Former Administration Building, Batman Park Reserve.
- Boat Club Boat Ramp, Batman Park Reserve.
- Circular layout of car park, Wrathall Reserve.
- Boat Ramp, Wrathall Reserve.
- Jetty, Wrathall Reserve.
- Tennis Court, Wrathall Reserve.

Historical Interest

Throughout Batman Park is fabric that relates to the development of the site throughout the 20th century. This fabric has been much altered or has been introduced much later, but it does provide some additional appreciation of the evolution of the Park. This fabric is not considered to have heritage value (and therefore it is not considered to have individual or contributory significance).

- Indented Head Yacht Club Building, Batman Park Reserve.
- Amenities Block east of former Administration Building, Batman Park Reserve.
- Ramp and Steps, Aylmer Reserve.
- Timber sea wall, Aylmer Reserve.

No Significance

This fabric is not considered to have any heritage value to Batman Park.

- Amenities Blocks and Barbeque Shelter, Anderson Reserve.
- Car Park, Anderson Reserve.
- Children's Playground and Picnic Tables and Seats, Aylmer Reserve.
- Amenities Block, Taylor Reserve.
- Children's Playgrounds and Barbeque Shelter, Taylor Reserve.
- Car Park, Batman Park Reserve.
- Amenities Block north-west of Indented Head Yacht Club Building, Batman Park Reserve.
- Rock revetment, Batman Park Reserve.
- Children's Playground, Picnic Tables and Seats, and Barbeque Shelters, Batman Park Reserve.

5.0 Recommendations

Heritage Overlay

It is recommended that a heritage overlay apply to the full extent of Batman Park, from White Woman's Rock to Indented Head. It is recommended that the east boundary be to the high water mark and including the boat sheds, and that the west boundary be to The Esplanade.

Controls to the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay

External Paint Controls

Yes, to the Boat Sheds and Indented Head Boat Club and Hall building only.

Internal Alteration Controls

Yes, to the interiors of Boat Sheds 20 'Te Whare' and 22 'Dalhousie' only.

Tree Controls

Yes. Tree controls should apply to:

- Rows of Monterey Cypress trees in Batman Park Reserve.
- Monterey Cypress, Golden Cypress, Canary Island Palm and Norfolk Island trees in Wrathall Reserve.
- Monterey Cypress trees, Anderson Reserve.
- Cypress trees, Aylmer Reserve.
- Cypress trees, Taylor Reserve.

Outbuildings or fences which are not exempt under Clause 43.01-3

Yes, the boat sheds, Indented Head Boat House and Hall building, former Administration Building and the amenities block (public toilets) immediately west of the former Administration Building.

Included on the Victorian Heritage Register

No. Batman Park is not recommended for addition to the Victorian Heritage Register.

Prohibited Uses May be Permitted

No.

Name of Incorporated Plan

It is recommended that consideration is given to the preparation of an Incorporated Plan that might assist with the ongoing management of Batman Park through planning permit exemptions where no heritage impacts will arise. Discussions with the Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee may assist in determined the potential for an Incorporated Plan which may include permit exemptions for:

- Tree pruning (if carried out in accordance with an Arborist's Report and supervised by an Arborist).
- Alterations and additions to existing buildings of historical interest and no significance, where the changes to do not represent any increase in height, involve up to 30% of additional footprint, and non-reflective construction materials.
- Upgrades to the graveled surfaces of existing thoroughfares.
- Boundary fencing constructed of timber post and wire, to match existing boundary fences in most parts of the Park.
- Addition of Park furniture, children's playground equipment and signs and other minor works forming part of a Masterplan approved by Council (and Council's Heritage Advisor).

Aboriginal Heritage Place

No.

Other Recommendations

It is recommended the existing individual heritage overlays applying to a portion of Batman Park (HO1600), Anderson Reserve (HO1601), Ozone Monument (HO1602) and Batman Memorial (HO262) be removed as part of an amendment to apply one heritage overlay over the entire Batman Park area.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

The City of Greater Geelong commissioned Dr David Rowe of Authentic Heritage Services Pty Ltd and Wendy Jacobs, Architect and Heritage Consultant, to prepare a heritage review of Batman Park and boatsheds, The Esplanade, Indented Head, in October 2012. The report has been prepared by David Rowe and reviewed by Wendy Jacobs. Historical research has been carried out by David Rowe and Pam Jennings of Authentic Heritage Services Pty Ltd. Considerable in-kind assistance has been given by Ingrid Novosel (distribution of study brochures, informal consultation with some locals, and collection of historical photographs) and Chris Idle and staff of Idle Architecture Studio (collection of information and photographs of the boat sheds). A draft of this Report was provided to the City of Greater Geelong in April. It was placed on select informal exhibition until 31 July 2013.

1.2 Purpose

The purpose of the assessment has been to review the Batman Park Foreshore area and associated boat sheds to more accurately determine their heritage significance through an assessment of the existing fabric and their historical associations. The assessment has followed the first four steps outlined in the sequence of investigations table provided in *The Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance* (1999) (see Appendix 8.06). The steps are:

1. Identify Place and Associations.
2. Gather and Record Information about the Place sufficient to understand Significance.
3. Assess Significance.
4. Prepare a Statement of Significance.

The above steps have largely been considered in accordance with the Key Components outlined in the first part of Heritage Victoria's *Conservation Management Plans: Managing Heritage Places, A Guide 2010* as follows:

KEY COMPONENTS	TOPICS	WHY IS THIS NEEDED?
Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background • Purpose • Study Area • Scope • Limitations • Acknowledgements 	Sets the scene for the project, explains the scope and study area.
History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History relevant to the place. • Chronology. • Development Sequence. • Ownership & Use. • Significant people & groups associated with the place. 	Assists in understanding the place as a whole: how it has changed over time and what factors have contributed to change.
Physical Overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape, setting, views. • Buildings & structures. • Cultural landscape, plantings, patterns. 	Assists in understanding the elements that contribute to the place and the condition of these elements, and the people who have an interest in the place.
Significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparative Analysis. • Assessment Criteria. • Statement of Significance. 	Identifies the importance of the place and its individual elements through comparative analysis and through the application of recognized heritage assessment criteria.

1.4 Scope

The Batman Park and Boat Sheds Heritage Review has involved fieldwork, historical research, comparative analysis and a heritage assessment, together with a peer review of this assessment.

Fieldwork

Several days of site visits were carried out where the fabric of Batman Park: trees, natural and developed features, buildings (including the boat sheds), structures, and infrastructure were recorded. Additional photographic analysis of the boat sheds by Chris Idle also informed the fieldwork.

Historical Research

Considerable historical research was carried out which has formed a key basis to this assessment. The research has involved visits to the Public Record Office Victoria, State Library of Victoria, Department of Sustainability and Environment, Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee (where the Foreshore Committee minutes 1952-1987 were accessed), Geelong Heritage Centre, and the Bellarine Historical Society Inc. Further historical information has been obtained online from numerous sources, as well as from private individuals in the possession of newspaper articles, memories, stories, aerial images and historical photographs.

The historical analysis has concentrated on those years when Batman Park was controlled by an autonomous Committee of Management, being between 1925 and 1987. Some key developments subsequent to 1987 have also been included.

Comparative Analyses

Comparative analysis was carried out involving research into other foreshore reserves on the Bellarine Peninsula and Surf Coast regions, other surviving boat sheds in Victoria and other boat and yacht club buildings with purpose-built boat compartments.

Consultation

Extensive community consultation has formed part of the project. It has included the preparation of an Information Brochure about the Heritage Review, community workshop in the Indented Head Boat Club and Hall building in November 2012, meetings and/or discussions with individuals and organisations that are key stakeholders in the ongoing management and function of Batman Park (including the Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee, Indented Head Boat Club, Indented Head Yacht Club, Indented Head Community Association and the Indented Head Boat Shed Association). There have also been several emails and telephone calls to other individuals with information about Batman Park and the boat sheds.

A draft of the Review (completed in April 2013) was made available to the key stakeholders and interested residents of Indented Head until 31 July 2013. All the comments received have been considered and changes and corrections have subsequently been made to the Report.

1.5 Limitations

Although considerable historical research and detailed evaluation of Batman Park and the boat sheds has been carried out, internal access to all boat sheds was not possible. Detailed research of the Foreshore Committee Minute Books was also limited to the period 1925-1987. The Minute Books after 1987 were not available.

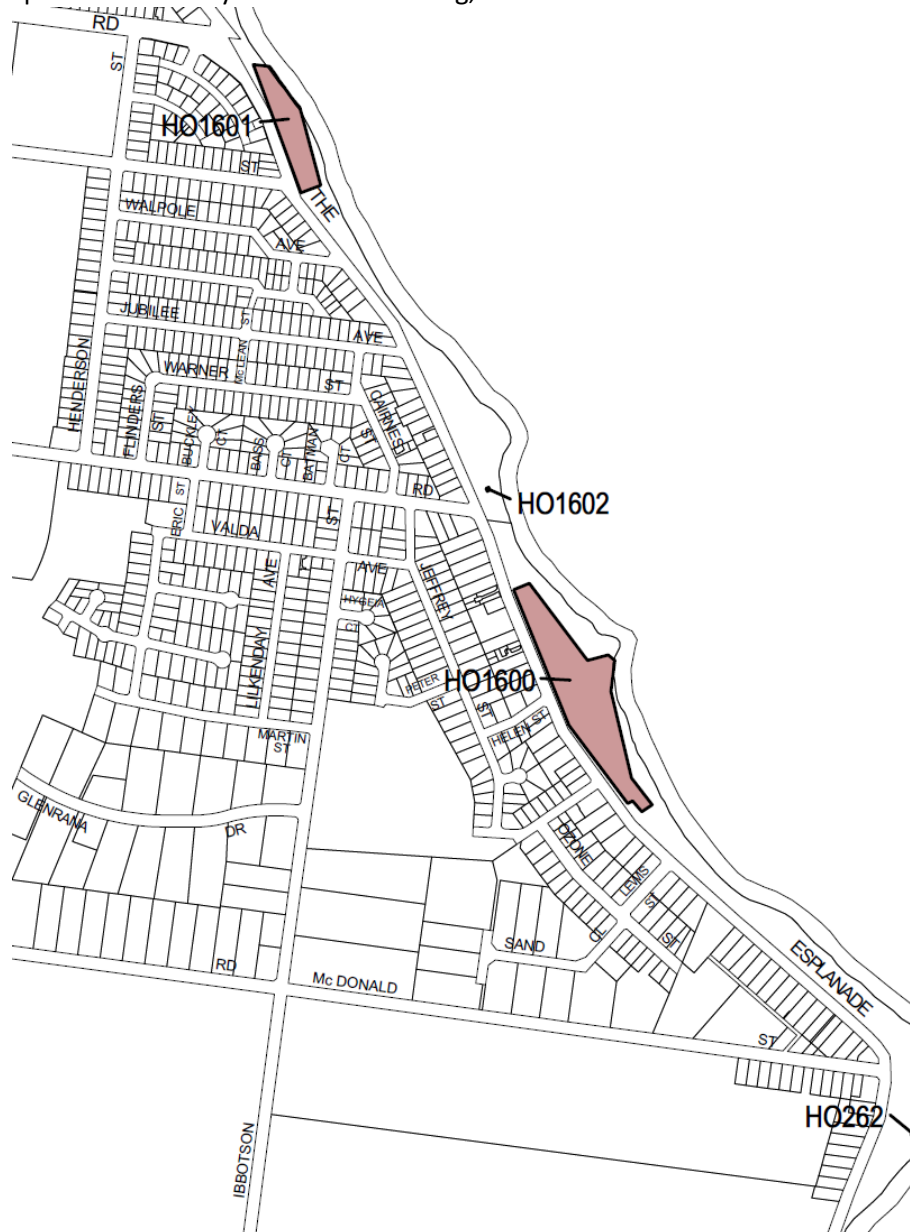
1.6 Existing Heritage Listings

Existing heritage overlays apply to portions of Batman Park as follows:

- HO262: Batman Memorial.

- HO1600: Batman Park.
- HO1601: Anderson Reserve.
- HO1602: Ozone Monument.

The locations and extents of heritage overlays are shown in the following map. Brief heritage assessments in support of these heritage overlays are provided in Huddle, Howe, Lewis and Francis, 'Bellarine Heritage Study', vol.3, prepared for the City of Greater Geelong, June 1996.



1.7 Acknowledgements

The consultants acknowledge and appreciate the valuable assistance provided by the following people. The success of the project and the accuracy of detail would not been possible without their support.

- Cr Lindsay Ellis, City of Greater Geelong.
- Barry Gough, City of Greater Geelong.
- Ingrid Novosel, Indented Head.
- Vin McKay, CEO, Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee of Management Inc.
- Paul Gangell, Operations Manager, Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee of Management Inc.

- Leanne Kahn, Coastal Planner, Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee of Management Inc.
- Janet Smith, Executive Assistant, Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee of Management Inc.
- The late Lynette Chambers.
- Chris Idle and staff, Idle Architecture Studio.
- Judy and Robert Idle, Indented Head.
- Marian Vessey, Indented Head.
- Ken Durran, Indented Head.
- Lesley Helmer, Indented Head.
- Bob Cooper, Indented Head.
- Cheryl Morgan, Indented Head.
- Patricia Harvey, Indented Head.
- Jimmy Windmill, Indented Head.
- Dawn Rowe, Indented Head boat shed licensee.
- Tony Marks, Indented Head.
- David Marks, Indented Head Boat Shed Association.
- Sally Cohen, Indented Head.
- Ray Allen, Secretary, Indented Head Boat Club.
- Bill Dix, Indented Head.
- Beverley Morwood, Indented Head.

2.0 Historical Overview

This history is provided to form an historical basis and context for the surviving significant physical fabric at Batman Park, and to assist in determining the cultural heritage significance of the place. An emphasis on physical fabric has therefore been given, but where important associations with significant events and figures in the history of the Park have played a critical role in shaping the place today, they have been outlined. Experiences and values associated with a number of visitors, campers, boat shed licensees and others who frequent (or have frequented) Batman Park have also been outlined.

A thematic outline has been used to capture the historical evolution of Batman Park and it includes the history of the boat sheds along the foreshore. More specific details on the boat sheds are given in datasheets for each of the boat sheds in Appendix 8.04.

2.1 Before the Reservation of Batman Park

2.1.1 The Original Inhabitants & William Buckley

At least 50,000 years ago, archaeological evidence suggests that the descendants of the Aborigines crossed from South-East Asia to the Australian shores.¹ After several thousand years of occupying northern Australia, the Aborigines finally made their way to Victoria.² These people were the second phase of emigrants, known as the Murrayians, the first being the Barrinean Negritos. They dominated 'south-eastern Australia and the southern coastal regions to the west coast of the continent.'³ The Aborigines made numerous settlements in Victoria throughout these years – not settlements of the European kind – of farms and townships ruled by clocks and calendars, but by tribal land segregation. The 'group' ownership of the land was the foundation on which 'they built up the structures of organized life in a complex and interconnected whole.'⁴ Large family tribes lived on their own tribal land or territory. It is believed that Victoria was divided into thirty-four tribal lands, with each tribe possessing their own language and customs.⁵

The tribe known to have occupied the Bellarine Peninsula including Indented Head was the Beangala, the land of the Bengalit or Beangala clan of the Wathaurong tribe of the Kulin Nation (Figure 2.01).⁶ Their territory stretched between the Peninsula, Geelong and Mt Buninyong.⁷ According to Peter Munster in *Little of Interest? A History of St. Leonards, Victoria*:

The Beangala people fished in the shallow waters of Swan Bay, collected shell fish and crustaceans on the mud flats and salt lagoons and caught eels in St. Leonards Creek. They dug murrnong (yam daisy roots) on Edward's Point and hunted kangaroos and other native animals among the red gums and acacias of the hinterland. In winter they moved from the coast to places sheltered from the cold off-shore winds, such as the McLeod Waterholes at Drysdale, where fresh-water mussels and lake-side plants provided plentiful nourishment for the clan. They were able to hunt ducks and geese and collect eggs and honey.⁸

Physical evidence of the occupation of the Wathaurong at Batman Park was uncovered in 1969. A letter was received from the Indented Head Foreshore Committee from a Mr E.H. McKenzie who had identified the existence of middens in Wrathall Reserve.⁹



Figure 2.01: Wathaurong people, c.1857. Source: Munster, *Little of Interest*, p.1.

William Buckley, an escaped convict from the Sorrento settlement of 1803 was a principal figure in the initial contact between the Wathaurong and the first white explorers.¹⁰ Buckley had been resident with the Wathaurong for over 30 years and had learnt their customs, language and behavior.¹¹ On the Bellarine Peninsula, Buckley trekked from Swan Island to Spring Creek (Torquay).¹² In 1835, Buckley first made renewed contact with Europeans at John Batman's encampment at St. Leonards.¹³

2.1.2 European Explorations

Initial European Exploration of the Indented Head area occurred in 1802 when Lieutenant James Murray entered Port Phillip Bay.¹⁴ Murray was soon followed in April 1802 by Captain Matthew Flinders who undertook a more extensive exploration of the Bellarine Peninsula. Flinders described it as follows:

Indented Head, at the northern part of the western peninsula, had an appearance particularly agreeable; the grass had been burned not long before, and had sprung up green and tender; the wood was so thinly scattered that one might see to a considerable distance; and the hills rose one over the other to a moderate elevation, but so gently, that a plough might everywhere be used. The vegetable soil is a little mixed with same, but good, though probably not deep; as I judged by the small size of the trees.¹⁵

In 1803, another exploration was led by Charles Grimes, Surveyor General of New South Wales. One of Grimes' associates, James Flemming, landed with a small party near Portarlington and explored the inland area. Flemming remarked that on top of the hill 'the land is good and fine pasture from ten to eighteen inches deep.'¹⁶

The most significant exploration of Indented Head occurred in 1835 when John Batman and other members of the Port Phillip Association from Tasmania established an encampment, which according to J.B. Cooper in 1932 was located to the north of Swan Bay¹⁷ (Figure 2.02). In particular, Batman and his party first made landfall in St. Leonards Bay near the site of the present pier.¹⁸ The exact location of Batman's encampment was at St. Leonards, south of the salt lagoon, and not, as some attributed, the location of the present-day Batman and Flinders Memorial in Batman Park (Figure 2.03). Dr Phillip Brown in the introduction to *The Todd Journal* (the journal of William Todd who had accompanied Batman to Indented Head in 1835) gave details of the encampment:

... It did not specifically denote the site of Indented Head township at North Red Bluff, about six kilometres south-east of Portarlington, nor that of St. Leonards township, centred two-thirds of the way along the further four or five kilometres of South Red Bluff.

... Probably the site chosen was closed to Batman's original landing-place. From his Rebecca journal it seems clear that he brought his party straight from the Yarra river to a known spot. It is certainly clear that his party needed dependable water, even in wintry June. An ancient natural creek, once called the Chinamen's, long



Figure 2.02: Map of Indented Head showing Batman's Encampment. Source: J.B. Cooper, 'Indented Head: Batman's Encampment' in *The Argus*, 14 May 1932, p.19.

nameless and intermittent, but now contributing to a small roadside lake which skirts a hill produced by modern earth-movers, overflows into the Bay within ready walking reach north of South Red Bluff, but closer to a low headland just south of St. Leonards and its Batman monument.¹⁹

This encampment was intended as the site of Batman's permanent settlement, but in later months settlement was established on the Yarra basin, Melbourne. His initial settlement at Indented Head and subsequent re-settlement at Melbourne is outlined by J.B. Cooper as follows:

On June 7 [1835] Batman decided to leave the three white men employed by him, William Todd, James Gumm, and Alexander Thomson, five Sydney aborigines, and six dogs for hunting kangaroos, "on my land at Indented Head, with three months' supply of provisions." Having done so, Batman set sail in the Rebecca, and reached Van Diemen's Land on June 11, 1835. The pioneers of Indented Head, Todd, Gumm, and Thomson, fashioned a dwelling-house with sods, and a kitchen garden and orchard were sown and planted with vegetable seeds, potatoes, and fruit trees. Obviously John Batman selected Indented Head as his first settlement. Almost daily the three men went hunting, with uncertain success, due to the lack of brush shelter in the prevailing open country.

On August 16, according to Todd's diary, those at Indented Head saw a schooner, the Enterprise, coming up the bay. The Enterprise reached the Yarra basin on August 29, 1835. Close to the schooner's wake was the schooner Endeavour. On board her, among others, was John Aitken, one of the first squatters at Port Phillip. [Explorer] Wedge found the Enterprise party on September 2 happily camped near fresh water, in the vicinity of the Customs House in Flinders street. Later, on September 13, it was probably he who, as manager of the [Port Phillip] association, made the arrangement with Francis Henty to carry the Indented Camp materials, frame house, &c., to the Yarra basin, which was done.²⁰

In 1954, the Indented Head Foreshore Committee sought advice from the Geelong Historical Society to ascertain 'whether well being developed by Public Works Dept. near Laze Away [in Anderson Reserve] is the original well sunk by Batman.'²¹ No response from the Historical Society was outlined in later Committee minutes, which probably suggests that the well may have been a water bore installed in the early years of the Foreshore Committee.

2.1.3 European Settlement

Batman's reports across Bass Strait excited the interest of many prospective pastoralists. At Indented Head by May 1836, much of the eastern portion of the Bellarine Peninsula, including the area initially proposed for the permanent settlement of Victoria, was taken up by Captain Charles Swanston as a cattle station. This station was managed by Dr Alexander Thomson who also had a sheep station that was to



Figure 2.03: Likely location of Batman's Encampment, drawn by Peter F.B. Also in the Todd Journal. See Appendix 8.01 for enlarged image.

become the township of Geelong.²² By November 1837, Swanston's large cattle station was under the control of the Derwent Company when there were 400 cattle in occupation.²³ This Company was largely owned by Charles Swanston.²⁴ In 1842, the Derwent Company was dissolved and the cattle station at Indented Head reverted to Swanston who continued occupation with his son in law, Edward Willis, until 1837.²⁵ The original home station was situated on the Yarram Creek, to the south-west of Swan Bay, as shown on a 'Plan of Indented Head' in c.1837 (Figure 2.04). From this time and until at least the 1860s, the majority of the Bellarine Peninsula was known as Indented Head.²⁶

A second station had also been established in July 1837 on the north-western shores of Gellibrand Harbour on the Peninsula by a Mr Smythe, as it too was shown on the Plan of Indented Head. This station appears to have only been temporary and may have been associated with W.H. Smythe, Assistant Surveyor. Others that appear to have also settled at Indented Head prior to 1840 included William Booth and Henry Baynton.²⁷

A.J. Skene's Map of the District of Geelong of 1845 (Figure 2.05) reveals that the earliest settlers had been joined by four others on the Bellarine Peninsula. They were Brown, Sproat, Fenwicke and Langdon (further details on J.C. Langdon are given later). A year later, the Misses Caroline Newcomb and Ann Drysdale had also taken up their run on the Peninsula near the township of Drysdale, known as Coriyule.²⁸

2.1.4 Early European Settlement at Indented Head

With the dissolution of the Derwent Company in 1842, it appears that the vast landholdings of the cattle station at Indented Head were reduced in size. While Swanston and Willis continued to occupy a notable proportion of the Bellarine Peninsula, the eastern fringe was taken up by James Conway Langdon, former British army captain. The actual date of his initial occupation is unclear, although it is known that Langdon and his wife, Ellen, arrived in Victoria in December 1841.²⁹ They possibly settled at Indented Head in 1843 as they are not listed in the Port Phillip Directory in 1842.³⁰ Langdon had certainly taken up land by 1844 as he had applied for a depasturing license in September of that year.³¹

While J.C. Langdon is identified on A.J. Skene's Map of the Geelong District in 1845 and in Thomas Ham's Map of Australia Felix in 1847 as being located on the land now known as Spray Farm (2261 Portarlington Road, Bellarine), it appears that his first Ellendale Station was situated on the eastern fringe of the Bellarine Peninsula.³² Thomas Ham's updated Map of the Purchased and Measured Lands, Counties, Parishes, etc. of the Melbourne and Geelong Districts for 1849 (Figure 2.06) shows J.C. Langdon located immediately south-west of the salt lagoon north of Swan Bay. It was here, and not as some historians have claimed,³³ where Langdon established his sheep station and early homestead. A plan of Langdon's Ellendale Run (the property probably being named after his wife, Ellen) (Figure 2.07), is included in the Pastoral Run Papers. The plan shows that the land adjacent to and including the Batman Park foreshore formed part of the Ellendale Run.



Figure 2.04: Plan of Indented Head, n.d. [c.1837] showing Derwent Company and Smythe's Stations, and Batman Park and the Salt Lagoon. See Appendix 8.01 for enlarged image.



Figure 2.05: A.J. Skene, Portion of Map of the District of Geelong, 1845, Source: National Library of Australia online at <http://nla.gov.au/nla.map-rm983>. See Appendix 8.01 for enlarged image.



Figure 2.06: T. Ham, Portion of Map of the Purchased and Measured Lands, Counties, Parishes, etc. of the Melbourne and Geelong Districts, 1849. J.C. Langdon is clearly marked in the location of the original Ellendale homestation near St. Leonards (eastern coastal fringe of Indented Head). Source: National Library of Australia online at <http://nla.gov.au/nla.map-nk10500-e-cd>. See Appendix 8.01 for enlarged image.

Letters by J.C. Langdon and William Harding to the Colonial Secretary and Commissioner of Lands between 1850 and 1852 confirm that the Ellendale Run was first occupied by J.C. Langdon; that it was situated near Swan Bay and that the homestead, constructed of weatherboard, was south-west of the salt lagoon.³⁴ For example, on 23 August 1852, Langdon wrote the following to C.C. Addis, Commissioner of Lands:

Agreeable to instructions received from the Hon.ble. Colonial Secretary – We have valued that portion of the Village reserve, Parish of Paywit, Country of Grant ... having a frontage of half a mile to the Bay, and one mile back/320 [?] and running about the quarter of a mile from the Cliff, each side of the Weatherboard House, forming the Homestead of the Station called Ellendale.³⁵

The village reserve that Langdon appears to have referred to was the St. Leonard’s township. This township was earlier laid out in a triangular plan as shown in the Geological Survey Map of Victoria no. 23 in 1863 (Figure 2.08). This map shows a number of proposed small allotments south of the salt lagoon in the vicinity of Langdon’s original weatherboard Ellendale home station.

The effects of drought, financial losses, and his purchase of freehold land in the Parish of Bellarine (the land now comprising Spray Farm) in 1849, may have been the impetus for the sale of the Ellendale Run in early 1850. Another reason was Langdon’s anticipated brief return to England. Portions of Langdon’s Ellendale Run were purchased by William Harding between 1850 and 1852, and as freehold from 1854.³⁶ The earliest portion taken up appears to have been the original home station and the land adjacent to Swan Bay, as the *Hobart Courier* reported on a fire at the Heads in February 1851 whereby it had broken out ‘on the station of Mr. Harding, at the Swan Ponds, off Indented Head.’³⁷

2.1.5 Early Freehold Settlers

The Crown land adjoining the Batman Park foreshore was first offered for sale in 1857. The southern-most allotment adjacent to the Indented Head was purchased by Captain George Ward Cole, the ‘founder’ of the St. Leonard’s township³⁸ (Figure 2.09). By the early 20th century, a portion of Cole’s land (now 358 The Esplanade opposite the Batman/Flinders monument) had been sold to Edward Rigby, a fishermen-farmer.³⁹

Much of the land neighbouring the Batman Park foreshore was first owned by Alexander Hood. It comprised allotment 13 in the Parish of Paywit, amounting to 100 acres (Figure 2.09), together with the adjoining northern allotments (lots 40-45 in the Township of Portarlington) of 98 acres. Hood was born at Antrim, near Belfast, Ireland, in c.1826.⁴⁰ He emigrated to Port Phillip with his parents, James and Margaret and four siblings, in 1844.⁴¹ After working as a station hand, limeburner at Queenscliffe and a carter in the Western District, and after trying his luck at the Ballarat and Forest Creek goldfields, Hood came to Indented Head. There, he served as a member of the Portarlington/Indented Head Road

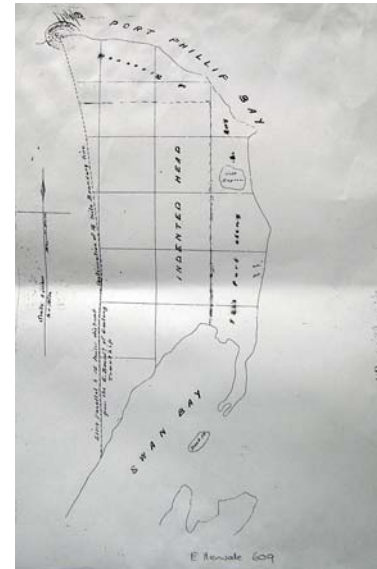


Figure 2.07: Ellendale Run, n.d. (c.1850). Batman Park is at the top of the map. Source: Pastoral Run Plans, no. 609, Public Record Office Victoria.

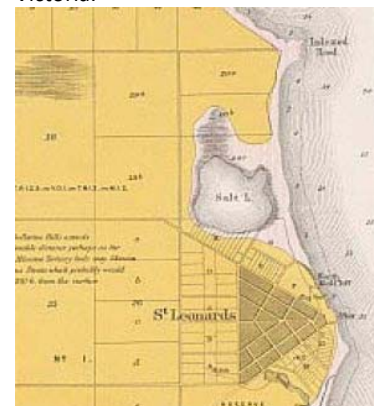


Figure 2.08: Geological Survey Map of Victoria, no.23, 1863, showing the triangular subdivision of the St. Leonard’s Township . Batman Park is at the top of the map.

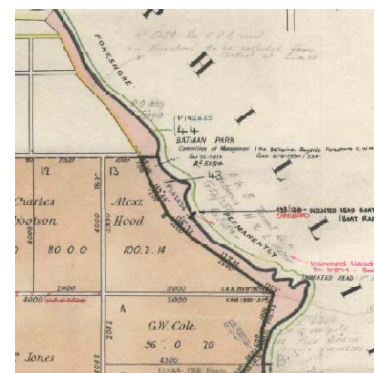


Figure 2.09: Plan of the Parish of Paywit showing the foreshore area of Batman Park & adjoining lot 13 first owned by A. Hood. Source: VPRS 16171, Public Record Office Victoria.

Board in 1859, 1864 and 1865.⁴² It was opposite Batman Park where Hood settled on his farm with his wife, Ann and three sons, George Alexander, Joseph Latrobe and Daniel James.⁴³ At the time of his death in 1888, Hood's property opposite the foreshore was described as 'a wooden farm house and outbuildings roof of iron and is fenced with posts and three wires.'⁴⁴ Mrs Lynette Chambers (nee Lewis) recalled that the property was large in the 1920s and that the house was situated 'well back from the road on a gentle rise.' It was located on the site that is now addressed as the corner of Jeffrey and Peter Streets.⁴⁵ In the 1920s, it appears to have been occupied by Joseph Latrobe Hood and his wife).⁴⁶ In 1934, the property was owned by Mrs J.L. Hood.⁴⁷

In 1886, Christina Miles Cox (nee Horn) appears to have acquired part of Hood's property (being part of lot 45, comprising 22 acres, 3 roods and 38 perches) with buildings.⁴⁸ This was five years after she had married Charles William Cox (1858-1940) in 1881.⁴⁹ Christina Cox died in 1905 at the age of 45 years.⁵⁰ The Statement of Assets in her Probate at this time described the dwelling as 'a five roomed weatherboard house', valued at £300.⁵¹ The dwelling had a hipped roof and front verandah, with a gabled addition at the rear (Figure 2.10). Probate of Christina's Estate was finalised in 1910 and the property was sold (the proceeds being distributed equally to her four children).⁵²

2.1.6 Early 20th Century Residential Developments & Owners

These farmlands that met the foreshore at Indented Head were characterised by open paddocks and treed foreshore embankments, with a gravel track denoting the boundaries of private property and Crown land (Figure 2.11). They were later to be subdivided and taken up by fishermen and holiday-makers.

Thomas Cooper, 294 The Esplanade

Thomas J. Cooper built the existing timber dwelling at 294 The Esplanade (Figure 2.12) in 1921-22 as the Cooper family home. T.J. Cooper Pty Ltd, Tanners, Curriers and Leather Merchants, first located in Richmond, had originally travelled to Portarlington in the early 1900s to buy Wattle bark to use in the tanning process at their Richmond Tannery. They then travelled to Indented Head for holidays (see Section 2.7.1 for further details).

Albert Johnson, 'Ailsa-craig', 326 The Esplanade

By the early 20th century, Albert E. Johnson had acquired part of Hood's farmland opposite Batman Park. His house, 'Ailsa-craig', was situated at 326 The Esplanade.⁵³ A fisherman, Johnson had a jetty for the mooring of his boat off the foreshore at Half Moon Bay.⁵⁴ Albert Johnson – known as 'Squeaker' due to his high-pitched voice, lived at 'Ailsa-craig' with his wife and daughter. Mrs Johnson tended to a colourful garden.⁵⁵

Although Albert Johnson was friends with a number of locals (Figure 2.13), he was also a forthright man who was often critical of the Batman Park Committee of Management, Lands Department and even the Minister for Lands. In 1926, the Lands Department responded to Johnson's criticisms of the fencing in of Crown Land, claiming that his



Figure 2.10: Cox family home, n.d. [c.1900]. Source: Bellarine Shire collection, s39n23, Bellarine Historical Society Inc.



Figure 2.11: Pratt, Aerial view looking north from St. Leonard's pier to Indented Head showing rural coastal scenery, c.1925. Source: Pratt, La Trobe Picture collection, State Library of Victoria, accession H91.160/1652. See Appendix 8.01 for enlarged image.



Figure 2.12 Cooper family home, n.d. [c.1920s]. Source: Bellarine Historical Society.



Figure 2.13: From left to right: Tom Cooper, Albert Johnson, George Cooper and Belle Cooper, c.1930. Source: Robert G. Cooper, Indented Head.

concerns were ‘very trifling.’⁵⁶ Johnson took exception to this response and damningly replied ‘How do you know that it is trifling? The man you sent down here did not know anything about it ... Another matter I wish you to bear in mind that it was myself Albert E. Johnson who sent you the letter about the crown lands being fenced in, not Mrs Johnson so it shows what notice you had taken in the matter.’⁵⁷ Again in 1928, he wrote to the Lands Department stating ‘There has been very little done to improve the Park and there is one man on the committee who seems to run the show and do as he likes.’⁵⁸ Of the Minister for Lands, he demanded in 1934 that he do his ‘duty as Minister of Lands to see into’ the claim of the fencing in of Crown Lands by his neighbour, Mrs J.M. Hood.⁵⁹

Johnson also regularly submitted letters of complaint to *The Argus* newspaper. In 1929, he wrote that ‘The fishermen of Geelong complain about finding boxthorn in their nets, and they blame the farmers of St. Leonards. The fault is that of the Batman Park Committee.’⁶⁰ In 1941, Johnson’s complaint about stolen fish was published:

Sir. – Something should be done to stop the stealing of fish consigned to the fish market in Melbourne. I sent up a medium box of whiting last week and had seven stolen; out of a small box of 26 whiting were stolen. It was not the first occasion either. The thief who steals fish after someone has gone to the trouble to hook them is as bad as the shark in the sea (or worse). The sharks wait till someone catches the schnapper on the line and then comes and steals them. So we have worse sharks on the land than we have in the sea.⁶¹

Johnson’s regular outbursts did nothing to gain him credibility or actions on the issues he raised. Rather, they frustrated the Batman Park Committee and the Lands Department. In 1936 for example, the Inspector of Lands, James Harrison, reported that Johnson ‘appears to be the only man in the community who is not working in unison with the local [Batman Park] committee. He appears to be a vicious type of person, never neglecting an opportunity of creating trouble.’⁶²

Herbert Lewis and Family, ‘Lydford’, 333 The Esplanade

In 1920, Herbert and Alice Lewis purchased 40 acres of farmland fronting The Esplanade from Albert Johnson.⁶³ The name “Lydford” was given to the property after the home town in England of Herbert and Alice Lewis’ upbringing.⁶⁴ Lewis (Figure 2.14) ran a subsistence farm in the initial ensuing years (Figures 2.15-16). However, with the growing popularity of Indented Head as a fishing spot and holiday resort, Lewis supplemented the family income in the letting out of a Bungalow near the front of his property (this Bungalow was to become the permanent home of his widow, Alice, in 1949) (Figures 2.17-18) and running a pilot business from boat sheds on the foreshore (further details on Lewis’s boat sheds and boat hiring business are given in later subsections).⁶⁵ From the 1920s, he also built a number of the local homes and boat sheds.



Figure 2.14: Herbert Lewis, n.d. Source: Marian Vessey, Indented Head.



Figure 2.15: Herbert Lewis on his farm, c.1920s. Source: Mrs Lyn Chambers.



Figure 2.16: Herbert Lewis on his dray in McDonald Street adjacent to his farm, 1928. Source: Mrs Lyn Chambers.



Figure 2.17: “Lydford” Bungalow, 333 The Esplanade, 1931. Source: Marian Vessey, Indented Head.

Other Early Owners

In the early 1920s, enticed by the good fishing prospects at Indented Head, land was taken up by a number of holiday-makers where holiday houses were built. These included the homes of Captain Forbes, Thomas Warden (known as “Dalhousie”), Stephen Wrathall, W. Anderson (known as “Te Whare”), David Galt, T.A. Dickson, Robert Cranston (“Batman Lodge”), and Bert Wills.⁶⁶ Further details on these property owners and their associations with Batman Park are given in later subsections.

In 1926, Herbert Lewis, subdivided part of his farm fronting The Esplanade into 20 building blocks known as the St. Leonards Indented Head Estate (Figure 2.19). The sale notice for the subdivision described the land as ‘The Choicest Sites in this Seaside Resort, Beach within stone’s throw, Splendid Homes adjoining, Best Fishing around the bay, Lovely Safe Bathing Beach.’ In addition, Lewis offered to ‘give sand to purchasers, free of cost, for building.’⁶⁷ The first to purchase an allotment was William Gray, a Geelong plumber. He acquired 331 The Esplanade and constructed a garage of concrete block. The onset of the Depression halted the building of the dwelling that was never completed.⁶⁸ The garage still survives at the rear of the site at 331 The Esplanade. Other land owners are outlined in the subsection on Boat Sheds.

2.2 Establishment of the Batman Park Reserve

2.2.1 Establishment of the Batman Park Committee of Management

In 1873, the Victorian State Government permanently reserved the foreshore of Port Phillip Bay for public purposes.⁶⁹ It was not until 1915, under the provisions of the Land Act, when the foreshore lands in the Parish of Paywit (including Indented Head) were permanently reserved from sale.⁷⁰ In July 1924, the Bellarine Shire Council was willing to take control of the foreshore between Portarlington and St. Leonards, ‘so long as the Council was not responsible for the eradication of noxious weeds and the suppression of vermin.’⁷¹

The attempt by the Bellarine Shire to take control of the foreshore land does not appear to have had local community support. On 3 November 1924 at the home of Stephen Wrathall, there was a meeting of residents ‘to consider the future protection and improvement of the shore and improvement of the foreshore and reserves immediately opposite their respective holdings.’⁷² Present at the meeting were Messrs. Herbert Lewis, George Hood, Joseph Hood, Captain Forbes, H. Stephen, E. Harvey, Captain Whiting, James Gray, T. Harvey, G. Holden and Stephen Wrathall (who acted as Chairman).⁷³ Apologies had been received from T.A. Dickson and Robert Cranston ‘who desired to fall in with the decision of the meeting.’⁷⁴

The resolution of the community meeting as proposed by Captain Forbes (and seconded by James Gray) was:

That the Lands Department be requested to grant all that portion of Beach and Reserve from White Woman’s Rock to Indented Head, as a Park, vested in those present, the same to be known under the



Figure 2.18: “Lydford” Bungalow, 333 The Esplanade, November 2012.



Figure 2.19: Indented Head Estate Subdivision Sale Notice, n.d. [1926]. Source: Maps collection, Geelong Heritage Centre collection, map 112. See Appendix 8.01 for enlarged image.

title of “Batman Park” in commemoration of the landing of that worthy and noble [missing part of page] which he named “Indented Head”.⁷⁵

On 17 June 1925, the Batman Park Committee of Management was formally gazetted.⁷⁶ The original members of the nine-member Committee (appointed for a term of three years) were: Herbert H. Lewis, George Alexander Hood, Joseph Latrobe Hood, William Chalmers Forbes, Harry Parland Stephen, Edward Alfred James Harvey, James Gray, William Edward Rigby and Stephen Wrathall. The first meeting of the Committee took place on 10 July 1925.⁷⁷ Stephen Wrathall was elected the inaugural Chairman and Harry Stephen its Secretary (Stephen resigned just a few months later in October 1925 and he was replaced by W.R. Anderson Junior as Secretary).⁷⁸ The first motion of the Committee was:

... that the park be cleared of all the dead wood and rubbish be removed. Each member to plant and fence off the portion opposite his residence according to his own ideas.⁷⁹

The Committee constituted a mix of prominent businessmen (with holiday residences at Indented Head) and permanent residents who were farmers and fishermen. A number of members had property nearby Batman Park, including Robert Cranston who seems to have owned “Batman Lodge” built in c.1925 at 347 The Esplanade (Figure 2.20). Others owned property in the Indented Head area. A brief biography of some of the first Committee members is as follows:

Stephen Wrathall

Stephen Wrathall (1859-1940) was the Foreshore Committee’s first Chairman in 1925.⁸⁰ A son of Richard and Eliza Ann Wrathall, Stephen Wrathall was claimed to have made his early fortune selling water to miners in Kalgoorlie.⁸¹ According to Lynette Chambers, ‘he always had a grand scheme going.’ In Geelong by 1890, he established a printing business. He married A.B.M. Wrathall and they had two children, Lieut. H.S. Wrathall and Leagoe Ethel Wrathall (who, after the death of her father, married E.J. Taylor, a later President of the Indented Head Foreshore Committee).⁸²

In 1914, Wrathall had a substantial Federation house (known as ‘Laurel’) built at 47 Virginia Street, Newtown, Geelong⁸³ (Figure 2.21). He was also a prominent member of the Kardinia Masonic Lodge No. 253 and an Alderman of the Geelong City Council.⁸⁴ Wrathall also inaugurated the Geelong Stock and Station Journal.

At Indented, Wrathall was one of the first to construct a holiday house fronting The Esplanade opposite Batman Park.⁸⁵ This might have been the now substantially altered interwar Bungalow at 351 The Esplanade that appears to have been constructed in the early 1920s (Figure 2.22). Wrathall was an influential figure in the establishment of the Indented Head Foreshore Committee. He served as a Committee member from its inauguration in 1925 until his death in 1940.⁸⁶ According to Lynette Chambers, Wrathall:



Figure 2.20: “Batman Lodge”, 347 The Esplanade, first owned by Committee member, Robert Cranston.



Figure 2.21: “Laurel”, 47 Virginia Street, Newtown, 2013.

... planted many exotic trees popular at the time, from Dicksons property to the “Day Picnic Area”. Many of the exotics, including the golden Cyprus [sic.] died, but the green Cyprus [sic.] grew in the shelter of the ti-tree.⁸⁷

It has been claimed that Wrathall formulated the idea of the Batman monument in Batman Park for the centenary of Batman’s landing in 1935, to create more interest in the Indented Head area.⁸⁸ Further details on the Batman-Flinders monument are given in a later subsection.

In 1954, the south end of Batman Park was named “Wrathall Reserve” (Figure 2.23) in honour of the late Stephen Wrathall.⁸⁹ At this time, the Foreshore Committee declared that ‘the late Mr Wrathall [was] a pioneer who did so much for the betterment of this area.’⁹⁰ The reserve seems to have been situated opposite his holiday home at 351 The Esplanade.

It was also in 1954 when E.J. Taylor, the son in-law of the late S. Wrathall gained approval ‘to erect memorial archway as an entrance to Wrathall reserve.’ The costs were to be borne by Wrathall’s relatives.⁹¹

Edward Alfred James Harvey⁹²

Edward A.J. Harvey was the son of Edward Harvey Senior of Ireland, and Kate Morgan. They settled on Captain F.W. Langdon’s “Woodall” farm that was renamed Fernside. Edward A.J. Harvey inherited the 4,000 acre property. He served as a Councillor with the Bellarine Shire Council between 1905 and 1941. Harvey served two terms as a member of the Batman Park Foreshore Committee between 1925 and 1931.

Captain William Chalmers Forbes⁹³

Captain W.C. Forbes lived at the property later known as “Lazy Days”. He had been captain of the steamship, “Edina”, one of the longest serving steam vessels in the world. By 1924 “Edina” had made over 12,000 Melbourne-Geelong passages and carried over one million people. The vessel was first taken out of service in 1928, although later renamed “Dinah”, serving until 1958. Captain Forbes was commissioned to bring the “Ozone” paddle steamer to Indented Head to be hulked as a breakwater. He was part of a syndicate of local men in this venture. See the later subsection for further details on the “Ozone”. Captain Forbes served one term on the Batman Park Foreshore Committee between 1925 and 1928.

Other Subsequent Prominent Committee Members

Between 1925 and 1987, Batman Park has been managed by a large number of Committee members, elected for three year terms. In 1928, it was resolved that the Committee be reduced from nine to five members,⁹⁴ although this was changed to a seven member Committee in 1931.⁹⁵ This number of members largely remained until 1987.⁹⁶ By 1945, the name of the Committee changed to the Indented Head Foreshore Committee (Batman Park).⁹⁷



Figure 2.22: Dwelling at 351 The Esplanade (now altered), 2013.



Figure 2.23: Wrathall Reserve sign, n.d. Source: ‘Stephen Wrathall’s descendants’ website.

A chronological list of each of the respective Committees and the members is given as Appendix 8.02. Like the inaugural Committee members, membership included property owners adjacent to Batman Park or in the Indented Head area. T.A. Dickson, for example, was elected in 1928, the year his substantial home at 336 The Esplanade was constructed (Figure 2.24).

Some of the more prominent members that made a significant contribution to the ongoing management of the foreshore area included the following.

William Robert Anderson Junior

W.R. Anderson junior (Figure 2.24a) of Geelong was the son of William Robert Anderson Senior, of McKillop Street and former Mayor of Geelong. Anderson Junior was a Commercial and Insurance Agent for companies including Robur Tea and Arnott's Biscuits.⁹⁸ He was attracted to Indented Head because of the area's good fishing.⁹⁹

W.R. Anderson jnr. had a holiday house built of concrete block by Herbert Lewis at 342 The Esplanade in the early 1920s¹⁰⁰ (Figure 2.25). A severe storm in 1926 caused the chimney to collapse.¹⁰¹ On 2 October 1926, the *Geelong Advertiser* reported that 'Mr W.R. Anderson is enlarging his summer residence'¹⁰² (Figure 2.26). Named "Te Whare" the property survives in an altered state today (Figure 2.27).

W.R. Anderson jnr. was the longest-serving secretary of the Batman Park and Indented Head Foreshore Committees. Appointed honorary secretary in 1925, he remained in office for 27 years until he was forced to resign due to ill-health in 1952.¹⁰³ At this time, the Indented Head Foreshore Committee sent a letter to Mr Anderson, on behalf of the Committee members and residents of Indented Head, 'expressing appreciation of his long and faithful service in the Batman Park Foreshore Committee.'¹⁰⁴ With Anderson's death in 1954, the Foreshore Committee extended camping in the northern-most portion of Batman Park and named it "W.R. Anderson Camping Park" in his memory.¹⁰⁵ A memorial notice board in honour of the late W.R. Anderson – to be located at the entrance to Anderson reserve – was also proposed. Unfortunately, the board appears to have been incorrectly located, as in November 1955 the Foreshore Committee instructed the Ranger 'to erect the Anderson notice board in its correct position.'¹⁰⁶

Thomas Howie Warden

The Scot, Thomas Howie Warden, had Herbert Lewis build a reinforced concrete holiday house at 340 The Esplanade in 1926¹⁰⁷ (Figure 2.28). Called "Dalhousie", the *Geelong Advertiser* reported on 2 October of that year that 'Mr T.H. Warden's residence is almost completed.' Warden served on the Batman Park Foreshore Committee from 1928 until his premature death in 1935.¹⁰⁸ *The Argus* newspaper gave the following obituary:

Advice was received in Geelong on Saturday of the death in London of Mr Thomas H. Warden, who toward the end of last year retired



Figure 2.24: Dwelling at 336 The Esplanade, originally owned by Committee member, T.A. Dickson.



Figure 2.24a: W.R. Anderson Junior, n.d. Source: Judy Idle.



Figure 2.25: W.R. Anderson's "Te Whare" dwelling under construction by H. Lewis, 1920s. Source: Marianne Vessey.



Figure 2.26: Herbert Lewis completing upgrades to "Te Whare", 1927. Source: Chris Idle.

from his position as licensee of the Victoria Hotel. Mr. Warden, with Mrs. Warden, and his son (Dr. Warden, of Melbourne), and his daughter, Miss Muriel Warden, left Geelong some months ago for an extended visit oversea [s]. Mr. Warden was for some years chief steward on a bay steamer. He then took over the control of the Grand Hotel at Portarlington. He had a summer house at Indented Head, and he was one of the keenest supporters of the Batman Pageant at Indented Head. After 10 years at Portarlington, Mr. Warden spent about 11 years in Melbourne before he took charge of the Victoria Hotel in Geelong, about 14 years ago. When in Geelong Mr. Warden identified himself with a number of organisations, and he gained most pleasure in being able to give assistance to those in need without his benefactions being made known. He was a member of the committee of the Batman Park at Indented Head, and he was one of the foremost Freemasons in the district.¹⁰⁹

E.J. Taylor

Ernest John Taylor (1881-1974) (Figure 2.28a) was appointed to the Indented Head Foreshore Committee in 1952.¹¹⁰ From 1955 until his retirement from the Committee in 1962 he served as Chairman. Taylor was Chairman of the family business, J.C. Taylor and Sons from 1921, after the death of his father, John William Taylor.¹¹¹ The building company of J.C. Taylor and Sons was one of the longest-serving and most successful in Geelong, having been founded by John Charles Taylor and two of his sons, John William and Henry Alfred, in 1860.¹¹² In 1929 a Melbourne branch of the company was established. E.J. Taylor served as Chairman of Directors until his retirement in 1960.¹¹³ The business relocated to Richmond where it continued until 1990.¹¹⁴

Taylor married Miss Ada Ethel Lee in 1909.¹¹⁵ After her death in 1946, he wed Miss (Leagoe) Ethel Wrathall, daughter of the late Stephen Wrathall.¹¹⁶ They took up residence at the Wrathall family home, 'Laurel', 47 Virginia Street, Newtown.¹¹⁷ E.J. Taylor built a holiday home at Indented Head that appears to have been named "Yallum Cottage"¹¹⁸ (Figure 2.28b).

Prior to his arrival at Indented Head, E.J. Taylor had contributed much to community life in Geelong and Torquay. He served as President of the Geelong Master Builders' Association and the Corio Bay Rowing Club; he was Flag Officer of the Geelong Royal Yacht Club; and a founding member of the Geelong Rotary Club and the Moorak Masonic Lodge.¹¹⁹ At Torquay, Taylor was the Founding President of the Golf Club and several times President of the Torquay Progress Association.¹²⁰ It was at Torquay where Taylor seems to have holidayed as a child and where his father, J.W. Taylor, was a staunch advocate for the retention of the public reserve on The Esplanade and which was named in his honour after his death in c.1922.¹²¹

At the Indented Head Foreshore Committee meeting on 14 April 1963, E.J. Taylor proposed that a new camping area south of Anderson Reserve be named Woodward Reserve, in honour of Committee member, Albert Woodward. However, a successful counter proposal by Woodward



Figure 2.27: "Te Whare", 342 The Esplanade, November 2012.



Figure 2.28: "Dalhousie", 340 The Esplanade, November 2012.



Figure 2.28a: E.J. Taylor, n.d. Source: Robert Pockley photography, box 21, 6/3/3, University of Melbourne Archives.



Figure 2.28b: Holiday home of E.J. and E. Taylor, n.d. Source: Photograph album, box 20, 6/2/2, University of Melbourne Archives.

ensured that the new camping area was named "Taylor Reserve" in honour of E.J. Taylor.¹²²

Albert Woodward

Albert John Woodward (1902-1974) owned a timber yard in Ballarat.¹²³ He also appears to have been the secretary of the Ballarat branch of the Commercial Motor Users' Association in 1939, the same year he unsuccessfully stood as an Independent candidate in the State election for the Warrenheip-Grenville seat.¹²⁴

Albert married Ada Rose Hyatt (1896-1962) and they appear to have had five children: John, Frank, Les, Ruth and Donald.¹²⁵ While retaining their principal residence in Ballarat, with his wife and family, Albert Woodward came to Indented Head in 1947 where they established the Laze-Away Pty Ltd Camping Park opposite Anderson Reserve (further details on the Laze-Away Park are given in a later subsection).¹²⁶ Woodward served on the Indented Head Foreshore Committee from 1949 to 1955 and from 1958 to 1963. He was Chairman between 1950 and 1952.¹²⁷

Albert Woodward's commitment to local community life at Indented Head extended beyond his tenure of the Foreshore Committee. He championed the installation of mains electricity supply at Indented Head. First mooted in 1937, it was not until 1947 upon Woodward's arrival at Indented Head, when it became a four year project before the installation occurred in 1951.¹²⁸ While probably in his commercial interests to have mains supply to his business, Woodward's devotion to the cause for the wider community was not lost on the Foreshore Committee:

The Residents of Indented Head are thankful to A. Woodward, Esq. for his interest in making it possible for the Electric Light to be conveyed to Indented Head. Mr. Woodward has put his time and financial help into the enterprise which is almost completed. This will be of considerable advantage to the Campers on the Foreshore, and residents during the holiday season.¹²⁹

Meetings of the Committee

From the 1920s until the 1950s, Committee meetings were usually held once a month at the home of one of the Committee members (usually the home of the Chairman). From 1949, the meetings were held at the Laze-Away store of the newly-elected member, Albert Woodward. In subsequent years until 1965, the Indented Head Boat Club Hall was the venue for meetings. After 1965, Committee meetings were held in the Committee Room of the Administration Building in Batman Park.¹³⁰

2.2.2 Regulations

In October 1925, the Batman Park Foreshore Committee prepared regulations for the care, protection and management of Batman Park.¹³¹ The Committee looked to the regulations of the Queenscliff and Torquay Foreshore Committees for ideas. By December 1925, the draft regulations had been completed and they were unanimously accepted by the Committee.¹³² The 16 regulations were gazetted on 26 May:

1. The Park shall be open to the public from sunrise to sunset, free of charge, except on such days (not exceeding twelve in any one year) as the Park may be set apart for cricket or football matches, fetes, sports, or holiday amusements, on any of which occasions a sum not exceeding One shilling may be charged and taken for the admission of every adult to the Park.
2. No person shall enter or remain in the Park who may offend against decency as regards dress, language, or conduct.
3. No person shall damage in any way the trees, shrubs, or flowers in the Park.
4. No person shall climb or jump over the gates or fences in or around the Park, stick bills thereon, or cut names on, or in any way damage or injure any of the buildings, gates, fences, seats, or trees in the Park, nor leave or deposit any glass, paper, or rubbish, nor roll or throw stones or any missiles of any kind therein. Picnic parties must leave the Park in a clean condition; all paper, rubbish, or other debris must be cleared up.
5. No person shall put in the Park any cattle, horses, sheep, goats, pigs, or other animals without the permission in writing of the Committee of Management first obtained. Provided always that the moneys received for agistment shall be expended in the maintenance and improvement of the Park, and that an account thereof shall be furnished annually to the Board of Land and Works.
6. No person shall camp in the Park, or light any fire, nor erect therein any dwelling, nor any booth or other structure for the purpose of offering for sale any article, without the permission in writing of the Committee of Management first obtained.
7. No person shall take part in any public entertainment of any sort in the Park without the permission in writing of the Committee of Management first obtained.
8. No person shall spit or expectorate on the paths or on any structure or erection in the Park.
9. No person shall bet publicly in any part of the Park, and every person infringing this Regulation shall be liable to expulsion from the enclosures and Park.
10. No person shall play, practise, or engage in any game or sport within the Park on Saturday.
11. Persons renting or hiring any stand, building, erection, or enclosure on the occasions of any fetes, sports, or holiday amusements may be required to deposit any sum which the Committee of Management may at any time determine, not exceeding Ten pounds, by way of guarantee that due care shall be taken of such stand, building, erection, or enclosure, and such Committee in its absolute discretion may make good any damage or injury sustained by such stand, building, erection, or making good such loss or damage from the sum of money deposited by way of guarantee, and all persons so renting or hiring shall abide by these Regulations and by any order given by the Committee of Management.
12. Persons camping in the Park shall pay such fees and comply with such conditions as may from time to time be determined by the Committee of Management.
13. No person, except labourers and workmen employed in the Park, shall enter any plots therein which may be enclosed for plantation of young trees or shrubs.

14. No person shall erect any bathing-box or boat-house or shed on the Park without the permission in writing of the Committee of Management first obtained, and such permission may be granted subject to such terms, fees, and conditions as may be deemed advisable by the Committee of Management, but no person shall cause to be used or use any bathing-box, boat-house, or shed for residential purposes.
15. Every person bathing from the Park shall be decently attired from the neck to the knee in a two-piece Canadian costume of dark-coloured material.
16. No person shall drive or ride any horse, motor car, motor cycle, or other vehicle on the Park, without the permission of the Committee of Management first obtained.¹³³

Four years later in 1929, three additional regulations were added:

- Certain portions of the park may be set apart by the Committee of Management for the accommodation of vehicles and horses in the care and custody of those using the same, provided that the owner or user, for the time being, shall tie up such horse in such a way as not to cause any damage to fences, trees, seats, or other improvements, and the owner or user for the time being of any horse found wandering without restraint on any portions of the park shall be guilty of an offence against these Regulations.
- No person or persons shall park any vehicle, motor car, or other motor-propelled vehicle, or tether any horse within the park, excepting at such places as are specially set apart by the Committee of Management for the purpose.
- The Committee of Management may charge and take a fee not exceeding One shilling per day for the admission of each vehicle, horse, motor car, or other motor-propelled vehicle to such parking areas.¹³⁴

A notice had been placed on the southern entrance gate of the Park in 1929 (Figure 2.29) giving a very basic overview of the regulations relating to park fees, camp fees, availability of keys, hot water, milk, etc., at W.E. Rigby's, and the prohibition of fires, damaging trees and agistment of cattle. Later notices (made of fabric) were placed in the Park notifying the public of specific rules.

In 1941, a further regulation on the mooring and/or using of 'any boat, winch, or boat gear on the Reserves'¹³⁵ was gazetted, while in 1945, a total of 25 regulations were published.¹³⁶ Further updates occurred in 1948, including the following:

- No tent shall be erected, nor any caravan, car or vehicle of any kind parked within 30 yards of any boat-house on the Reserve.
- No person, other than a person desirous of holidaying on the area set apart for camping in the Reserve, shall bring a caravan therein, and then only for a period of not more than four weeks at any one time, nor shall any person sub-let a caravan therein.¹³⁷

Another update to the regulations was made in 1953. They were again amended in 1978.¹³⁸



Figure 2.29: Batman Park Notice on gate, 1929. Source: Crown Land Reserve files, Rs 5154, DSE.

2.2.3 Changes to the Foreshore Area under the Control of the Batman Park Committee

The official reserved area under the control of the Committee of Management at its inception was from White Woman's Rock to the north and Indented Head to the south¹³⁹ (Figure 2.30).

In 1966, the Indented Head Foreshore Committee sought to take control of the area west of White Woman's Rock to the creek.¹⁴⁰ Consent from the Portarlington Reserve Committee was sought and in 1968 this foreshore area was added to the control of the Indented Head Committee.¹⁴¹

2.2.4 Committee of Management Staff

Between 1930 and 1987, the Committee of Management employed approximately 28 staff.¹⁴² The roles of the staff members changed over the years but the work largely included maintaining the grounds, collecting camp and other fees, cleaning toilets, showers and laundries, labouring, and office administration.

The first Curator of Batman Park was Albert Johnson in 1930.¹⁴³ His contract was terminated on 31 October 1931 when he was replaced by Peter Locke.¹⁴⁴

A full list of staff to 1987 is given as Appendix 8.03.

2.2.5 Other Developments

Throughout its history, challenges to the control of Batman Park have been made. In 1938 the RACV Caravan Club sought to take over the 'parking area and control same.'¹⁴⁵ Nothing eventuated from this proposal.

In 1950, there was a turning point in the Park's management by the Foreshore Committee. A public meeting attended by 100 residents was held at Woodward's Laze-Away Hall 'to consider general improvements to the resort.'¹⁴⁶ Impetus for the meeting had come from the increased popularity of Indented Head as a holiday destination. The meeting led to the election of Foreshore Committees on public holidays or on Saturdays (to allow more land owners to become involved), establishment of the Indented Head Community Boat Shed and Hall, appointment of a special Committee to consider boat shed jetties, slipways and breakwater, and repairs to fencing in the reserve.¹⁴⁷ Some of these issues are discussed in later subsections.

Several years later in 1974, the Bellarine Shire Council proposed to take over the foreshore in the Shire. The Foreshore Committee informed the Council 'that this Committee strongly objects to any takeover.'¹⁴⁸ This proposal also never eventuated.

2.2.6 Amalgamation of the Indented Head and St. Leonards Foreshore Committees

The most notable changes to the Committee structure occurred in the late 1980s. In 1986, the Committee found that it was the only Committee



Figure 2.29a: Batman Park Notice (made of fabric), n.d. Source: Judy Idle.



Figure 2.30: Map showing original Batman Park Foreshore Reserve, 1926. See Appendix 8.01 for enlarged image.

of Management not incorporated and it immediately made application to become so.¹⁴⁹ It was also in 1986, as a consequence of a State Government Task Force established in 1984, when the decision to amalgamate the Indented Head and St. Leonards Foreshore Committees was first recommended.¹⁵⁰ The proposed date set for the amalgamated committee was 19 November 1986. From this time, it was agreed that both committees commence working together from 1 May 1987, the formalisation of the new committee structure occurring upon the election of members in 1988.¹⁵¹

2.2.7 Establishment of the Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee

In 1994 the Indented Head and St. Leonards, and the Portarlington Foreshore Committees were replaced with the Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee of Management Inc.¹⁵² It became the local coastal foreshore manager for the 'responsible planning, management, care and protection of the foreshore and Crown assets between Pt Richards in Portarlington and Edwards Point State Reserve in St. Leonards.'¹⁵³

A very recent initiative of the Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee in December 2012 has been the release of the draft 'Northern Bellarine Foreshore Master Plan' for public consultation.

2.3 Evolution & Development of Boat Sheds on the Foreshore

The following gives a broad historical overview of the development of the boat sheds on the Indented Head foreshore. More specific details on some sheds are given in the Boat Shed Datasheets in Appendix 8.04.

2.3.1 The Early Boat Sheds

The earliest boat sheds along the Batman Park foreshore were built prior to the formation of the Committee of Management. At the meeting of 3 November 1924 to establish the Committee, apologies were received from 'others who are only week-end visitors but have boat sheds on the site.'¹⁵⁴ One of these 'others' appears to have been Mr R.J. Webb, as according to Lynette Chambers, his was the first boat shed to be erected on the foreshore.¹⁵⁵ The boat shed seems to have been constructed in the early 1920s and it was located 'under the cliffs near the Ozone wreck.'¹⁵⁶

The Webb boat shed was soon followed in c.1924-25 by others for H. Corby, F.R. Russell, R.F. Burns (possibly boat shed no. 5), H.J. Wills, A.E. Newing, S. Wrathall (boat shed no. 27), and D. Galt (shed no. 15).¹⁵⁷ L.R. Sage had also built a boat shed in these early years, but it was soon dismantled.¹⁵⁸ In 1925, Alfred James Payne of 203 Lt Malop Street, Geelong, a boatman, sought permission to construct a boat shed at the northern end of Half Moon Bay. Permission was postponed as others had also made application for boat sheds and the Committee had not prepared conditions for their location, construction and use at this time.¹⁵⁹ Permission was subsequently granted to Alf Payne Senior (Figure 2.31) to build his shed (Figures 2.32-33). It was located 'in the lee of the hulk', Ozone, and building materials for its construction were transported on the boat, 'Lolaire' from Geelong.¹⁶⁰ Alf Payne was assisted by two of his brothers in the building of the shed, whereby a 'wooden frame was



Figure 2.31: Alf Payne Senior, n.d. Source: Patricia Harvey, Indented Head.

covered with corrugated iron.¹⁶¹ The timber floor boards were made from the wreck of the Ozone.¹⁶² In later years, fibro cement cladding replaced the corrugated iron wall cladding.¹⁶³

In 1934, approval was given for the construction of a further three boat sheds for T. Warden (boat shed no. 22), W.R. Anderson (boat shed no. 20) and H. Lewis (boat shed no. 18)¹⁶⁴ (Figures 2.37-38). They were followed by a boat shed for J. Fowler in 1935.¹⁶⁵ By 1935, there was a total of 12 boat sheds on the foreshores of Half Moon Bay and Hood Bight.¹⁶⁶ The locations of the sheds generally reflected the locations of some of the private properties nearby Batman Park. These boat sheds were mapped by the Lands Department in 1937 (Figure 2.34).

2.3.2 Later Boat Sheds

By 1948, the number of boat sheds on the foreshore had swelled to 25.¹⁶⁷ Sheds had been built for F.S. Nelson (boat shed no. 26) in 1937; Herbert Lewis (extension of his earlier boat shed) in 1937; Edwin Backwell (boat shed no. 24) in 1940 (the site 'being between Messrs Warden and Anderson's boat sheds'); Norman Wray (boat shed no. 9) (Figure 2.39) in c.1937-38; Albert Rushbrook (boat shed no. 2), Dr Alan Murray (boat shed no. 25) in 1941; George McLeod (boat shed no. 12) and V.C. Durran (boat shed no. 13) in 1942; Vivienne Gomm (boat shed no. 10) before 1943; and Mr Irvine (boat shed no. 3), Frank Mockridge (boat shed no. 6), and Tom Pascoe (boat shed no. 11) before 1945; and J.E. Anderson (boat shed no. 23) in 1947.¹⁶⁸

The last of the boat sheds to be constructed on a completely new site was that of George Cooper (boat shed no. 1) in 1950.¹⁶⁹ It was located adjacent to Albert Johnson's old jetty. However, there were other boat sheds constructed in the 1940s and 1950s as replacements of earlier sheds. In 1953, the original shed of H. Corby was removed to allow for the construction of a rotunda at Wrathall Reserve.¹⁷⁰ At this time, the shed was leased to Arthur Vyse (Vise). His replacement shed (boat shed no. 4) was subsequently constructed in the existing location on the foreshore at Half Moon Bay.¹⁷¹

What appears to have been the original boat shed at Indented Head leased by the Webb family was relocated to Grassy Point by Henry Warburton after he took up the licence in 1943.¹⁷² In 1952, having returned to Half Moon Bay, a request to build a new shed on the old site was granted.¹⁷³

A further boat shed was built for Laze-Away Pty Ltd private camping park distant on the foreshore near Anderson Reserve in c.1947¹⁷⁴ (Figure 2.43). This shed was contextually larger than a number of the other sheds within the Batman Park reserve. In 1971, the Foreshore Committee entertained the idea of acquiring the boat shed and converting it into a dressing shed.¹⁷⁵ This proposal never eventuated. By 1972, the boat shed was no longer in use and the Foreshore Committee sought its removal that was subsequently carried out by the Ranger in 1973.¹⁷⁶

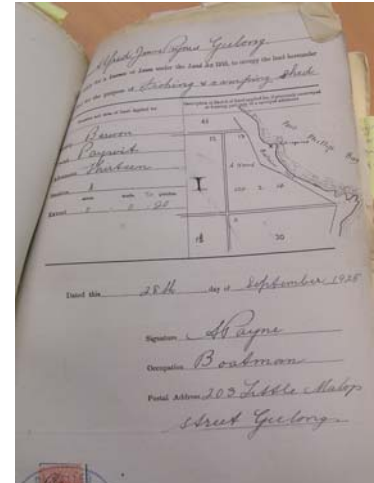


Figure 2.32: A.J. Payne's Application for a boat house, 28 September 1925. Source: DSE. See Appendix 8.01 for enlarged image.



Figure 2.33: Payne's Boat Shed No. 14?, n.d. [c.1920s]. Source: Dawn Rowe.

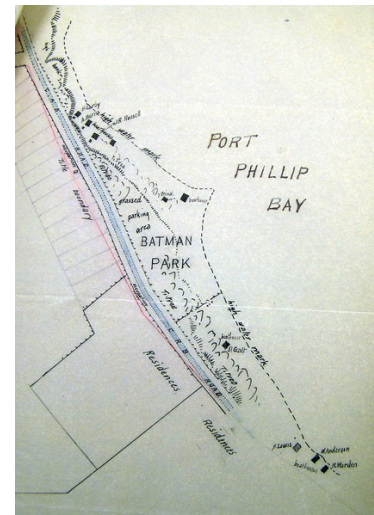


Figure 2.34: Lands Department Map of Batman Park showing boat sheds, 23 July 1937. Source: Crown Land Reserve file, Rs5154, DSE. See Appendix 8.01 for enlarged image.

2.3.3 Boat Shed Names

A number of the early boat sheds were given the names of the associated properties adjacent to Batman Park. Herbert Lewis' boat shed no. 18 was named "Lydford" after his farm at 333 The Esplanade, while W.R. Anderson's "Te Whare" boat shed no.20 was named after the holiday house built in the early 1920s at 342 The Esplanade. "Dalhousie" (boat shed no. 22) was named after Thomas Warden's summer residence at 340 The Esplanade built in 1926, with boat shed no. 15 named "Wykarra House" after D. Galt's neighbouring property. Syd Nelson's "Bay Vue" (boat shed no. 26) appears to have been named after his property, while Dr Alan Murray's boat shed no. 25 was named after his "Trevallyn" property at 346 The Esplanade. The dwelling at this property appears to have been built in 1941-42.¹⁷⁷

2.3.4 Boat Shed Construction

Most of the earlier sheds, including those of Wrathall (boat shed no. 27), Warden (boat shed no. 22), Lewis (boat shed nos. 18-19), Anderson (boat shed no. 20), Nelson (boat shed no. 26) and Bowman (boat shed no. 21) were built by Herbert Lewis.¹⁷⁸ Shed no. 24 (occupied by Edwin Backwell) was built by Backwell with the help of Herbert Lewis.¹⁷⁹ They were constructed of reinforced concrete (beach sand and cement reinforced with recycled wire) using timber formwork boards (except boat shed no. 22 where corrugated iron formwork was adopted).¹⁸⁰ These walls remained unpainted. They were given timber framed gabled roofs clad in corrugated sheet metal that appear to have been painted green in later years.¹⁸¹ Concrete floors, cement sheet gable infill and vertically-boarded tongue and groove front doors appear to have predominated.

Some other later sheds, including shed nos. 1, 17, 23 and 25 were constructed of unpainted vermiculated concrete block walls and similar gabled roof construction as the earlier sheds (although some were built of corrugated cement sheet roof cladding and a number of the later sheds featured shallower-pitched gabled roof forms). Other sheds were more lightweight, being built of corrugated sheet metal or cement sheet wall cladding. These sheds were located in the central and particularly northern shore line of Half Moon Bay and included shed nos. 2, 4, 5, 6, and 7.

2.3.5 Changing Rules Governing Boat Sheds

Use of Boat Sheds

Soon after the establishment of the Foreshore Committee in 1925, consideration was given to the management of proposed boat sheds on the Batman Park foreshore, and to restrictions on their use. With the application by Alfred Payne to construct a shed in September 1925, E. Giblett of the Land Office wrote the following to the Chief Clerk of the Lands Department:

Area applied for is proposed to be utilized for purpose of a Boat shed and a slip way to be provided to enable boats to be hauled up into the shed when not in use. Shed may be used as a temporary camping place when owner or friends wish to indulge in fishing. The residents adjacent apparently have no objection, several of them



Figure 2.35: Half Moon Bay showing Johnson's jetty in foreground and boat sheds in background, c.1920s. Source: Robert G. Cooper.



Figure 2.36: Boating party (W.R. Anderson standing at right), c.1930s. Source: Wanda Nelson.



Figure 2.37: Herbert Lewis' "Lydford" Boat Shed no. 18), n.d. Source: Marian Vessey, Indented Head.



Figure 2.38: Lewis's "Lydford" Boat Sheds (no. 18 & 19), 1937. Source: Chris Idle.



Figure 2.39: Wray family at their boat shed (no. 9), early 1940s. Source: Lesley Helmer.

having boat sheds or bathing sites in the vicinity. Committee of Management of the Batman Park have no objection. The growing popularity of this section of foreshore for campers however calls for some regulations or supervision to prevent improper deposits of debris and excreta by campers in order to prevent a nuisance or menace to Public Health. Many persons visit the locality in cars and vehicles during summer months.¹⁸²

Given that the Committee were in the process of preparing regulations for the Batman Park Reserve, new licences were postponed until their gazettal in 1926.¹⁸³ By 1934, the Committee insisted on signed declarations by the boat shed applicants so that the shed would 'not be used for residential or living purposes.'¹⁸⁴ The following year in 1935, the Committee resolved that boat shed sites would only be granted to residents of the Paywit Riding.¹⁸⁵

From the 1920s with the increase in boat shed construction at Barwon Heads (and their use as quasi-holiday houses), complaints by local residents grew louder to a point that the Victorian Parliament changed the Land Act.¹⁸⁶ From 1936, boat houses along the Barwon Heads and Ocean Grove foreshores were removed¹⁸⁷ (Figure 2.44). This change to the Land Act formed the basis for a uniform policy on private occupation of foreshore throughout the State.¹⁸⁸ Pressure was brought to bear on the Batman Park Committee of Management from two sides: from Government that insisted on the enforcement of the Act whereby no sheds were to be occupied for residential purposes; and from local residents that lobbied against the enforcement. The issue was reported in *The Argus* in 1937:

Following the decision of the Lands Department that the Barwon Heads boat houses must be removed, the department has caused the Indented Head foreshore committee to serve notice on the owners of boathouses that such places must not be used as places of residence. The owners appointed a deputation to ask the foreshore committee not to enforce the notice, but it was pointed out that the decision of the department left the committee no choice. One of the houses will be removed and used as a garage. Other owners have overcome the difficulty by placing boats in their houses and erecting tents for sleeping purposes in the camping area.¹⁸⁹

At Indented Head, boat sheds had been used as holiday homes and the locations for festive social events in the early years. Lynette Chambers recalls visits to the Webb family shed:

When they were holidaying there, they would invite all who would, to an old time dance, and I can remember my parents taking me to the boat-shed full of dancing, laughing people. When the fiddler stopped, some dancers would walk out onto the beach to cool off. I waited for the supper, when loads of good things to eat would be carried around on trays.¹⁹⁰

The Batman Park Committee also came under pressure due to complaints by Albert Johnson about the construction of the sheds on the beach. In



Figure 2.40: Unidentified boat shed, n.d. [c.1950s] Source: Dawn Rowe.



Figure 2.41: Boat sheds on the foreshore, August 1955. Source: Victorian Railways, La Trobe Picture collection, State Library of Victoria, image a29627.



Figure 2.42: Boat Sheds at Half Moon Bay, August 1955. Source: Victorian Railways, La Trobe Picture collection, State Library of Victoria, image a29628.



Figure 2.43: Laze Away Boat Shed in background, c.1950s. Source: E.J. Taylor Photograph Album, box 20, 6/2/2, University of Melbourne Archives.

November 1936, he wrote to the Lands Department:

I am sorry that you did not come down there and see how things are down here, as it is a shameful thing the way things are going on down here. There is a body of men known as the "Batman Park Committee," but it should not be allowed to exist, as they allow persons to erect boat houses, and also erect boat houses themselves and charge £2.0.0 per year and allow some of them to be used as a residence at certain times of the year which should not be allowed, as you would not allow the same thing to be done at Barwon Heads.¹⁹¹

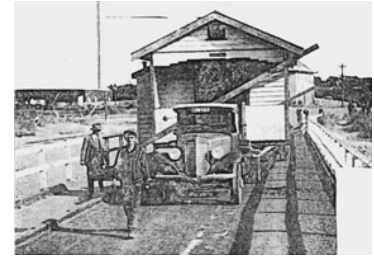


Figure 2.44: Boat House on Barwon Heads Bridge being transported to Ocean Grove. Source: The Sun 11 June 1936.

Johnson's complaints caused an investigation and a report that included the following:

Use of boat houses for residences – of the 12 boat houses on the foreshore, two are definitely fitted up with furniture, stove and W C's for residence purposes, and both were occupied at the date of my visit. The names and addresses of the holders of these boat houses are as follows:

- Mr A. Newing, 8 Wellington St. Middle Brighton
- Mr W. Jenkins, 5 Willis St Hampton

The former is a personal friend of Johnson. I am informed that the boat house held by Mrs A. Payne, 260 Malop St Geelong, is also occupied as a residence at times, but there was not any evidence of such use when I inspected it.

I would suggest that the Department take action to enforce an immediate cessation of the residential use of the 3 boat houses named (Newling, Jenkins & Payne). There is a disgruntled section in Geelong which is watching all such cases very closely since the Barwon Heads removals. The Committee of Management has warned the local boat house holders that residences will not be permitted and notices containing a similar warning have been posted up in the Reserve. Mr Anderson, Secretary, has requested that the Dept. also forward him a letter stating that residence in these boat houses is prohibited. He will then have a copy of such letter forwarded to each person concerned.¹⁹²

In the following years, the Committee became increasingly concerned about the growing number of sheds on the foreshore. In 1945, the Committee had unsuccessfully attempted to prevent further boat sheds in the southern portion of the foreshore fronting Hood Bight, where the earliest sheds had been constructed, for a more northern location around the shore line of Half Moon Bay. An applicant had threatened legal action against the Committee for not allowing a shed in the southern foreshore area.¹⁹³ The Committee had restricted more boat sheds in this part of the area because it was considered 'an excellent bathing beach, sandy bottom and quite safe for children and is sheltered by a fine growth of ti-tree.'¹⁹⁴

The increased number of applications for boat sheds and the subsequent pressures placed on the Foreshore Committee was due in part to the further subdivisions of residential land adjacent to Batman Park. In addition to the subdivision of Lewis' farmland in 1926 was the subdivision of Stephen Wrathall's land and Cox's farm in 1928¹⁹⁵ (Figure 2.45), as well as a range of subdivisions of previously subdivided land opposite the Park, including that prepared by S.C. Thoms, Surveyor in 1936 (Figure 2.46). To the north of Batman Park, Webber's farm¹⁹⁶ was subdivided into '57 choice allotments' as the "Blue Shore Estate" (Figure 2.47).

Further complaints were made in 1944 and an inspection by the Shire of Bellarine 'found some boathouses with beds and furniture and appeared to be used as a residence.'¹⁹⁷ In 1950, following an inspection, the Lands Department decreed that no more boat shed sites should be granted and that none of the existing sheds should be used for residential purposes.¹⁹⁸ The Indented Head Foreshore Committee agreed with this recommendation and only the replacement of some existing sheds was granted in the ensuing years.¹⁹⁹

In 1983, the Foreshore Committee proposed that the Port Phillip Authority take charge of the management of the boat sheds.²⁰⁰ However, the Foreshore Committee still oversaw the management the sheds on behalf of the Port Phillip Authority. The Committee was instructed by the Crown Land Office, Geelong, to photograph all of the sheds so that a record could be made of their condition.²⁰¹ In 1983, it was announced by the Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands that the licences to all boat sheds on the foreshore would be terminated on or before 1990.²⁰² In 1985, there was further discussion of 'phasing out the sheds'²⁰³ which came to the attention of the *Geelong Advertiser* (Figure 2.48):

The end is in sight for these boat sheds on the foreshore at Indented Head.

The Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands is expected to reconfirm an existing policy requiring the sheds to be phased out by 1990.

This will flow from recommendations of a coastal management task force now nearing completion of its report.

Land management officer in Geelong, Mr Michael Goode, said yesterday the policy will only affect sheds in private ownership.²⁰⁴

Such action fell on deaf ears with the Indented Head Foreshore Committee. In 1986, the Committee strongly supported 'continuing with Sheds on our foreshore.'²⁰⁵

The primary purpose of the boat sheds was to house boats. Until 1951, heavy clinker-built fishing boats were stored in them, being manually winched from the shoreline on iron rails (see a later subsection for further details on the boat shed slipways).²⁰⁶ Electric winches were used after the arrival of electricity in the early 1950s. During the second half of

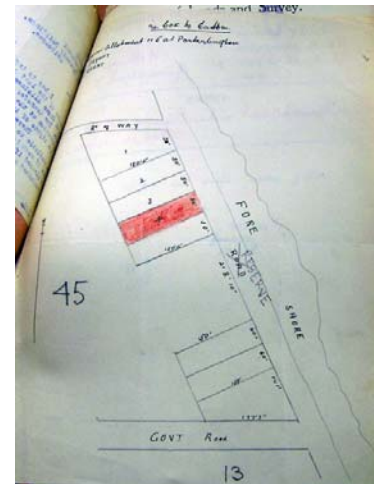


Figure 2.45: Subdivision of Cox farm, 1928. Crown Land Reserve file Rs 5154, DSE.

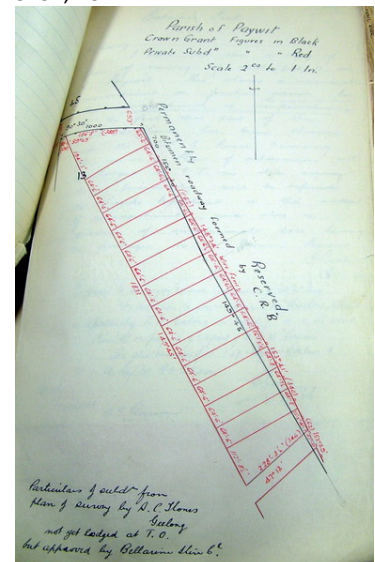


Figure 2.46: S.C. Thoms, private subdivision of land opposite Batman Park, 1936. Source: Crown Land Reserve file Rs 5154, DSE.



Figure 2.47: "Blue Shore Estate" Subdivision plan, n.d. Source: Map B7, Geelong Heritage Centre collection. See Appendix 8.01 for enlarged image.

the 20th century, lighter aluminium boats with outboard motors became popular.²⁰⁷ They were superseded by fibreglass-built boats. Today, the sheds house a range of small craft including yachts, canoes, kayaks and sail boards.²⁰⁸

Maintenance of Boat Sheds

Although electricity was supplied to some sheds in the early 1950s,²⁰⁹ little maintenance had been carried out by the lessees. It was about this time when the Foreshore Committee directed 'boat shed owners to repaint and repair' their sheds.²¹⁰ Walls were to be painted white and roofs painted green.²¹¹ In 1953, following an inspection of the sheds, the Foreshore Committee notified the following boat shed owners 'to carry out improvements or repairs':

Mr. A. Vise, completely rebuild to the satisfaction of this committee, or be allowed an alternative site for new structure.

Mr Wills, repaint.

Mr O. Michaelis, repair or replace roof.

Mrs Goom, repaint.

Mr J. Fowler, repair roof and walls.

Mrs E. Warburton, ridge roof and repaint.

Mr R.J. Burns, paint and repair roof.²¹²

Approval was subsequently given to Mr Vise for the construction of a new shed on a new site.²¹³

Further inspections by the Committee were carried out throughout the 1960s and 1970s.²¹⁴ In 1972, the Committee resolved that the boat sheds 'must be brought up to a respectable standard and that they be painted a uniform colour. Roof – Bergers Permanent Green Roof Paint, and walls, doors and trim – white.'²¹⁵ In later years from the 1990s, walls were to be painted 'Summer Straw' and the roofs Colorbond 'River Gum' green.²¹⁶

2.3.6 Boat Shed Slipways

The erection of the boat sheds also brought about the construction of slipways and rails in which boats could be transported from the bay into the sheds by winches (Figure 2.49). The earliest description of the slipways to three of the sheds²¹⁷ was given in a letter by Albert Johnson in 1934:

The Batman Park Committee is building boat houses on the foreshore at Indented Head. They have two up now and are going to put up another. They have blocked up the right of the foreshore. I always thought that the foreshore was for the use of the public. They are digging the sand out of the bank for which they make a concrete and are going to run slips out into the water. So it will not be possible to get along the beach with a motor car or any other vehicle.

... I wish to let you know that some members of the Batman Park Committee are building concrete boat houses on the shore, and that they are running rails into the sea, built up on concrete blocks, and blocking up the beach from the public.²¹⁸



Figure 2.48: Boat sheds on the foreshore. Source: *Geelong Advertiser*, 13 April 1985.



Figure 2.49: Boat shed slipway on beach at Indented Head, c.1950s. Source: Rose Series, La Trobe Picture collection, State Library of Victoria, image H32492/8786.

The winches were manually operated in the initial years. After the connection of electricity supply in 1951, electric motors were installed to some winches, including those at 'Dalhousie' (boat shed 22) and 'Glenfyne' (boat shed 24). At 'Glenfyne', 'a cord would reach the sea to stop and start the winch by one person, Mr Backwell, while he would be placing rubber rollers under the boat.'²¹⁹ Electricity was disconnected to this boat shed in 1996 and the small winch was removed.²²⁰

Additional slipways were constructed in subsequent years to other boat sheds, including the Laze-Away Shed near Anderson Reserve. In 1966, Laze Away Pty Ltd was requested to repair its slipway 'and that proper access be made available for the public to negotiated without trouble, or remove same.'²²¹ Ironically, this had been the basis of Albert Johnson's complaints in the 1930s.

2.3.7 Boat Sheds Used for Commercial Purposes

The use of the boat sheds for commercial purposes was prohibited unless approved by the Foreshore Committee. Limited approvals were given for these purposes. The earliest commercial use was by Herbert Lewis in 1937, when he commenced the operation of a pilot business with four clinker rowing boats 'in which he would take visitors out into the bay to fish and enjoy the scenery'²²² (Figure 2.50). Lewis was given 'the sole right for five years for hiring of boats'²²³ although this business continued beyond this time. Lewis's boat hire business also extended to boat storage.



Figure 2.50: Herbert Lewis with Mrs Heywood outside "Lydford" boat shed with boats for hire, Christmas 1937. Source: Chris Idle.

In 1973, Norm Wray was permitted to hire three boats:

... from the beach in the locality of his boat shed, for a fee of \$10 per year, provided that the area be controlled by him, and not to allow interference with swimmers or the beach public, and to be certain that no fish are cleaned on the beach in this locality.²²⁴

Wray's boat hire business continued until 1986 when he proposed its sale.²²⁵ In more recent years, Boat Shed No. 8 has been the location of the Boat Hiring business of Rodney Ludlow.

Another use was made of Alf Payne's original boat shed from 1968. It became the club house of the Batman Park Power Boat and Angling Club,²²⁶ of which Alf Payne was a member. In 1979 he was 'asked to submit to the Foreshore Committee a full list of club members and requesting to know why non campers are holding official positions in Angling Club.'²²⁷ Payne's boat shed was destroyed by fire in 1981.²²⁸ Given the Government's regulations for prohibiting the construction of new boat sheds, Payne was offered Boat Shed No. 4 (previously owned by Arthur Vise and Graham Harvey) in 1983.²²⁹

2.4 Major Building & Infrastructure Developments in Batman Park

2.4.1 Building Fences, Paths & Roads

Fencing

The building of and attention to fences, paths and roads was constantly on the agenda of the respective Foreshore Committees throughout the 20th century. The first motion of the Batman Park Committee was for each Committee member to 'fence off the portion opposite his residence.'²³⁰ At this time, The Esplanade was a gravel road that formed part of the Crown Reserve and which was not considered to be the principal thoroughfare for residents adjoining the Park.²³¹ Between 1926 and 1928, barbed wire fencing had been erected 'around the Park and also about a mile along the foreshore.'²³² Not surprisingly, the fences were heavily criticised by Albert Johnson, arguing that they obstructed the public enjoyment of the foreshore. He wrote a scathing letter to the Editor of *The Argus* newspaper on the matter:

The things that do want blowing up are the barbed wire fences that the Ports and Harbours branch has allowed the Batman Park committee to erect along the beach. They would not be tolerated anywhere else along the bayside. There are six barbed wire fences within a little more than half a mile along the beach ... If things do go on as they have gone these last few years one will not be able to walk along the beach for barbed wire ...²³³

The main purpose of these fences was to prevent stock wandering into the Park and to protect young plantations of tea-trees.²³⁴ In a rebuttable of Johnson's claims, the Land Officer of the Lands Department declared that 'stock-proof openings in each fence allow full access to the public at convenient points'²³⁵ (Figure 2.50a). Additional fences to stop wandering stock were erected in 1937.²³⁶ In 1941, the Victorian Government made £25 available from unemployment relief funds for the construction of extra fences.²³⁷



Figure 2.50a: Anderson family at "stock-proofing opening" to Batman Park, n.d. [c.1930s]. Source: Judy Idle.

The boundary fencing at Batman Park was valued by the local community. In 1950, at a public meeting attended by 100 people, one of the key improvements sought was the retention and repair of 'the existing fence along the foreshore.'²³⁸ By this time the original barbed wire fencing had been replaced, presumably with timber post and wire fences. It was in 1959 when the Foreshore Committee seriously entertained the idea of replacing the fencing enclosing the foreshore, as outlined in the Committee Minutes:

Mr Woodward deferred arrangement for erection of iron and wire fence because he felt the committee should further discuss this matter and decide to erect a wooden fence as suggested by some residents. He now considers the iron fence would require greater maintenance and not look so well.

Agreed by Committee: Post and Osamond railing wooden fence to enclose foreshore extending from Laze Away Boat Shed to Wrathall Reserve... It was agreed the construction of this fence should be left until next year.²³⁹

The new fence never eventuated. The Country Roads Board and the Tourist Authority were against the idea.²⁴⁰

Paths and Roads

Thoroughfares within Batman Park

It appears that access tracks for vehicles from The Esplanade to allotted car parking areas were not laid out until 1929, when additional regulations were gazetted. These tracks were gravelled. Main vehicular thoroughfares do not appear to have been laid out in the portion of Batman Park Reserve opposite Half Moon Bay until the early 1940s²⁴¹ (Figure 2.51), although they were certainly in existence by the early 1950s when caravanning became increasingly popular²⁴² (Figure 2.52). Given the increased demands from and changes in camping from the 1950s, additional access tracks were subsequently created in Anderson and Taylor reserves. 'Cement tablets' were laid out to identify camp sites in 1950 and in 1954 the Committee sought the Public Works Department 'to lay out the camp to the best advantage on lines similar to that of Torquay.'²⁴³ Labels and bricks were used to signify each camp site.²⁴⁴ Additional camp site subdivisions from this time caused further thoroughfares to be created, as shown in an aerial image of Batman Park in 1968²⁴⁵ (Figure 2.53). These tracks remained gravelled until at least the 1980s, after which some of roadways were sealed with bitumen.

An access track and car park had been laid out in the Wrathall reserve portion of the Park from an early time.²⁴⁶ In 1969, a sealed circular road and associated car park in the reserve was proposed in addition to a boat ramp (it appears that the circular form of the road and car park followed an earlier layout as partly shown on an aerial of the foreshore in 1943)²⁴⁷ (Figures, 2.51 & 2.54). Funds were allocated for the project by the Tourist Development Authority and plans and specifications were submitted to the Public Works Department and the Port Phillip Authority in 1970 for approval.²⁴⁸ In 1986, a proposed bicycle track from Portarlington to St. Leonard's (including through Batman Park) was supported by the Foreshore Committee.²⁴⁹

The Esplanade

Although The Esplanade had been created since c.1877 and used as a public thoroughfare, it was initially part of the Crown Land reservation of Batman Park.²⁵⁰ The ownership and access rights to The Esplanade came to a head in 1927 when land was subdivided adjacent to the Park. At the time, F.G. Menzies, the Crown Solicitor declared:

Subdividers should provide roads from their own land except of course where roads already front the subdivision, which is not the fact in this instance, there having been no legal dedication of the land for that purpose.²⁵¹

At this time, The Esplanade had been metalled (but not sealed)²⁵² (Figure 2.54a). The pressures of subdivisions and the potential greater use of the road instigated discussion by the Foreshore Committee, which 'thought advisable to get the road along the foreshore proclaimed a main road.'²⁵³



Figure 2.51: Aerial of Batman Park, 1943. Source: Bellarine Historical Society Inc. See Appendix 8.01 for enlarged image.



Figure 2.52: Camping Area, Batman Park, showing vehicular track, c.1950s. Source: Rose Series, La Trobe Picture collection, State Library of Victoria, image H32492/9591.

During 1936 and 1937, The Esplanade was upgraded, and given that it was still part of Foreshore land, the Committee 'expressed appreciation' to the Country Roads Board for the works.²⁵⁴ Such appreciation was not to last. In 1951 the Foreshore Committee called for the metaling and sealing of the road 'without delay'²⁵⁵ (Figure 2.55). Eleven years later in 1962 the Foreshore Committee strongly objected to 'decisions being made regarding the road through Indented Head' by the Country Roads Board without the involvement of the Committee.²⁵⁶

It was not until 1971 when enquiries were first made to revoke the land 'on which the main road is now constructed from the Foreshore Reserve and show it as road on departmental plans.'²⁵⁷ In 1972, The Esplanade came under the control of the Country Roads Board.²⁵⁸

2.4.2 Building Structures

Amenities

Because of the growth in popularity of Batman Park as a recreation and camping ground from the 1920s, amenities were required. In 1931, Albert Johnson constructed two concrete conveniences and a fireplace on the foreshore.²⁵⁹ One of these buildings is shown on the plan of Batman Park in 1937 (Figure 2.34). In 1936, two additional conveniences were proposed and the Committee reported that 'Mr H. Lewis would do the work for free and Batman Park Committee to supply materials.'²⁶⁰ The conveniences were erected near Mr Lewis' boat shed and they were completed in 1937.²⁶¹ In January 1938, *The Argus* reported that 'the committee has exhausted its funds ... in providing conveniences.'²⁶²

In 1949, a further six toilet blocks were under construction, as outlined in the *Geelong Advertiser*:

Although six toilet blocks have been erected in Batman Park, Indented Head, they cannot be used until the necessary fittings are installed. The committee of management is anxious that units should be completed before the holiday season, and as there are a number of campers already in the park, it is hoped to obtain the fittings without delay.²⁶³

The need for amenities blocks continued to be an ongoing concern for the Foreshore Committee. In 1953, there was a discussion about the need for 'additional sanitary arrangements along the beach particularly in the vicinity of Laze Away Camp.'²⁶⁴ In 1954, £216 was sought from the Public Works Department as a proportionate payment towards these conveniences.²⁶⁵ Six years later in 1960, a new toilet block was erected at Wrathall Reserve, although because water would not be laid on immediately, the Committee decided 'that temporary toilets be opened for the oncoming [summer] season.'²⁶⁶ A toilet block was proposed in Anderson Reserve in 1965.²⁶⁷ An objection to the construction was received from Mrs Robertson and the Committee notified her 'that the building will be of modern attractive construction with trees planted on the west side of same.'²⁶⁸ This toilet block was subsequently built and in 1969 a laundry was added to it.²⁶⁹



Figure 2.53: Aerial image of Batman Park, 1968 (Half Moon Bay is centred). Source: Indented Head Port Phillip Foreshore Run 31, State Aerial Survey VIC2396, Bellarine Historical Society Inc. See Appendix 8.01 for enlarged image.

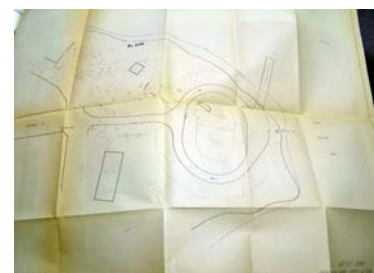


Figure 2.54: Shire of Bellarine, Layout Plan for Proposed Ramp and Car Park, Wrathall Reserve, 16 December 1969. Source: Crown Land Reserve file, Rs 5154, DSE. See Appendix 8.01 for enlarged image.

For many years, the operation of the amenities in Batman Park relied on septic systems and at least for one toilet block, on an effluent pipe that projected into the bay. In 1959, the Batman Park Campers' Association objected to the 'bad odour from the lavatory outlet.'²⁷⁰ The Foreshore Committee resolved to 'extend the effluent pipe further out to sea.'²⁷¹

In 1981, discussions commenced on installing sewerage pipes to the foreshore toilets from the trunk sewerage mains.²⁷² Throughout 1984 and 1985, these works were completed by a number of contractors including Corder Pty Ltd, D. Bird, Des George and M. Thompson.²⁷³

Water Supply

Water supply was a constant cause of concern for the Foreshore Committee before the connection to mains supply. In 1938, an underground concrete water tank was constructed on the foreshore 'for campers and visitors.'²⁷⁴ So critical was the water supply issue that the Committee made an inspection of boat sheds 'to see if possible to get any extra catchment to augment the water supply' through the installation of tanks.²⁷⁵ The drought of 1944 forced the Committee to place a notice in the *Geelong Advertiser* requesting boat shed licensees and campers to conserve water.²⁷⁶ From this time, water was carted by truck from Portarlington. The frustration in the slow progress in connecting Batman Park to mains water supply was revealed in the Committee Minutes in 1951:

Our greatest need is Water to supply Campers who pay for their Camping site. At our own expense, we have a 3000 gallon tank on the foreshore, and an additional 1000 gallon tank. To keep these 4000 gallons filled, it is necessary to pay a carrier to convey 500 gallons water at a time from Portarlington, a distance on the return journey of nearly 7 miles. In the very hot weather, the 500 gallons does not last long, and this is almost a daily trip. People from all of the State use this water, and being a state matter, and only about 3 miles of pipes required, think Water Supply should be expedited without any further delay.²⁷⁷

In 1947, the Committee investigated the idea of boring for water.²⁷⁸ After deliberations with the St. Leonards Foreshore Committee where 'common problems particularly the provision of water' were discussed,²⁷⁹ drilling for water commenced in 1956.²⁸⁰ Additional water tanks and stands were erected.²⁸¹ Ongoing concerns about a reliable water supply were overcome in 1962 when the Geelong Waterworks and Sewerage Trust's mains supply on the Bellarine Peninsula was extended to Indented Head and St. Leonards.²⁸²

Rotundas

Early Rotunda

One of the earliest structures in Batman Park appears to have been a rotunda on the foreshore, as it is shown in an historical photograph of the beach at Indented Head (Figure 2.56).



Figure 2.54a: The Esplanade looking south (with Batman Park on the left), c.1930s. Source: Judy Idle.



Figure 2.55: The Esplanade, Indented Head, c.1950s, having been sealed. Source: Chris Idle.



Figure 2.56: Rotunda, Indented Head, n.d. Source: Bellarine Shire collection, image s29n09, Bellarine Historical Society.

Wrathall Memorial Rotunda at Wrathall Reserve

In 1951, the Foreshore Committee proposed the construction of a shelter in the Park for the 'convenience of Picnic Parties.'²⁸³ Impetus for the idea emanated from a bequest from Mrs Taylor (nee Wrathall) offering financial support for the construction of a memorial to her late father, Stephen Wrathall.²⁸⁴ On 14 September 1952, the Committee met with Mr and Mrs Taylor and a site for the new shelter shed was selected near the Batman and Flinders Memorial and the boat shed of Mr Vise²⁸⁵ (Figure 2.57). Works on the shelter were slow to proceed and Mr Taylor expressed his dissatisfaction on the matter.²⁸⁶

By April 1953, the shelter had been completed although the Committee suggested to Mr Drew of the Public Works Department that 'spouting, downpipe and catchment well for the storage of water' be added.²⁸⁷ In February 1954, permission was sought and given to Mr Taylor 'to install plaque on west fireplace as memorial to Stephen Wrathall, a pioneer of Indented Head.'²⁸⁸ The official opening ceremony of the memorial shelter occurred on 10 April 1954. The event was reported in the *Geelong Advertiser*:

A tablet of bronze, commemorating the interest and work of Mr Stephen Wrathall in the progress of the foreshore at Indented Head, was unveiled during the ceremony of handing over to the trustees of the Foreshore the picnic shelter recently completed in Batman Park.

The building was made possible as a result of the generosity of a daughter of the late Mr. Wrathall Mrs E.J. Taylor who performed the unveiling ceremony in honor of her father.

Aided by the Public Works Department, and its supervising officer (Mr. Drew), Mr. Wrathall was largely responsible for the development of this seaside resort.

On behalf of his wife, Mr. Taylor expressed gratification at the completion of the building, and the hope that it would give pleasure to those who frequented the park or the seashore in future years.

... Afternoon tea at Yallum Cottage was the concluding portion of the ceremony.

The picnic shelter is a structure measuring 30 feet squarer, with brick piers and concrete floors, with a fibrecement corrugated roof.

It is divided into four compartments, each of which is equipped with a fireplace of Castlemaine stone and suitable for cooking. In each also are large seats and a concrete table two feet six inches in diameter.²⁸⁹

In 1965, four sets of tables and seats were proposed to be installed in the Wrathall Rotunda and secured to the partition walls.²⁹⁰ The work was carried out in the following months although in November 1965, the Committee wrote to the Bellarine Shire Council (the authority responsible



Figure 2.57: Shire of Bellarine, Site Plan of Wrathall Reserve showing Wrathall Rotunda, 1969. Source: Crown Land Reserve file, Rs 5154, DSE. See Appendix 8.01 for enlarged image.

for their installation) ‘advising of the unsatisfactory installation of picnic seats and tables at the rotunda, Wrathall Reserve.’²⁹¹ In December 2008, after repairs carried out by the Lions Club of Portarlington/Drysdale and the Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee, the shelter was re-opened.²⁹²

Seats and Tables

In 1948, Laze-Away Pty Ltd sought permission to erect six sheltered seats along the foreshore in Anderson Reserve. These timber seats, designed with gabled roofs and supported by timber posts at each end, were subsequently constructed²⁹³ (Figures 2.43 & 2.58). Further picnic seats and tables were erected in Batman Park in the ensuing years, including four tables at Wrathall Reserve in 1960-61 and an additional nine sets of seats and tables in this location in 1968.²⁹⁴



Figure 2.58: Seat shelters along the Anderson Reserve foreshore, c.1950. Source: Rose series, La Trobe Picture collection, State Library of Victoria image H32492/6533.

Administration Building

In 1961, the Foreshore Committee allocated £500 for the construction of an administration building on the foreshore.²⁹⁵ Four years were to elapse before drawings were prepared in 1965 for a single storey skillion structure that was to be built of brick wall construction and ‘Hardies Fibro-lite’ corrugated roof sheeting (Figures 2.59-60). The building was proposed to accommodate a Ranger’s Office, Committee Room, Store Room and a First Aid Room.²⁹⁶ Tenders were called for the erection of the building and the tender of G.W. Thomas for the sum of £2007 was accepted.²⁹⁷ It was built between the existing toilet blocks in the foreshore reserve adjacent to Half Moon Bay.

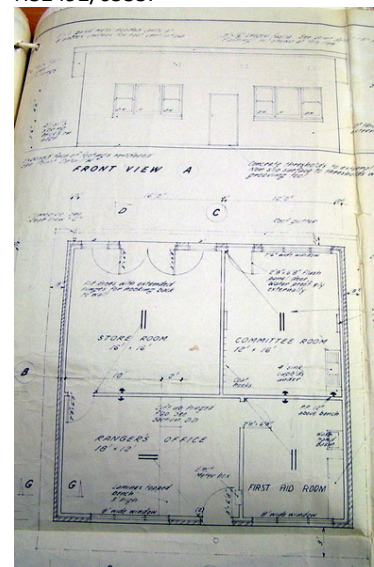


Figure 2.59: Floor Plan & Front Elevation of proposed Administration Building, 1 August 1965. Source: Crown Land file Rs 5154, DSE.

2.4.3 Establishment & Celebration of the Batman-Flinders Memorial

In 1929 on the 94th anniversary of John Batman’s landing in Port Phillip Bay, a number of organisations looked to the construction of a fitting memorial to mark the occasion. In June of that year, a concert ‘of national and historical music was given by members of the University Conservatorium of Music in aid of the Old Pioneers’ Memorial Fund’ in Melbourne.²⁹⁸ The aim of the historical memorials committee was to construct a memorial to Batman in 1930, to complete this committee’s task, as outlined in the *Examiner* (Launceston) newspaper:

That all Victorians should interest themselves in a movement to complete the chain of memorials which marked the routes taken by the Victorian explorers was emphasised by the chairman (Sir James Barrett). The memorials which were the links in these chains had been completed in the case of Bass, Flinders, Grant, Murray, Hume, Hovell, and others, but those of Mitchell and Sturt had not been completed.²⁹⁹

In August 1929, James Wilshire, Honorary Secretary of the Bellarine Peninsula Development League, wrote in *The Argus* of a similar proposal:

It is 94 years since John Batman landed at Indented Head, Port Phillip Bay, from the Rebecca. The Bellarine Peninsula Development League considers it incumbent upon it to endeavour to place some permanent memorial on the historic landmark, which every Victorian should cherish. The Historical Society of Vitoria has, up to the present, placed chains of cairns to indicate the route

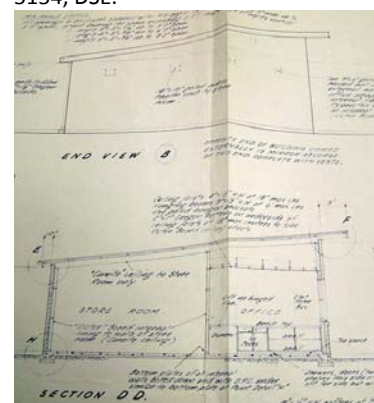


Figure 2.60: Side elevation and section drawing of proposed Administration Building, 1 August 1965. Source: Crown Land file Rs 5154, DSE.

taken by Hume and Hovell and McMillan and Strezlecki, and it will no doubt readily co-operate in the proposed memorial to John Batman. Half Moon Bay, which is contiguous to Indented Head, can justly claim to be the Botany Bay of Victoria. Within the last four years a number of imposing seaside residences have been erected along the foreshore at Indented Head. The newcomers were soon alive to the historical importance of the locality, and gained permissive occupancy of a stretch of foreshore. This portion of the foreshore is enclosed, and is designated Batman Park. The Batman Park committee, the Bellarine Shire Council, and the Bellarine Peninsula Development League are unanimous in their endeavours to provide some permanent testimony of their appreciation to John Batman. Donations aggregating £22/6/6 are to hand.³⁰⁰

Enthused by the prospect of both commemorating Batman's arrival and the opportunity to exploit Batman Park as a tourist destination, the Batman Park Committee proposed to erect a Public Hall 'in concrete to the memory of Batman in the Reservation area at Indented Head near Batman's landing.'³⁰¹ Although Batman's landing site and encampment does not appear to have actually been the reserved area at Indented Head (see Section 2.1.2 for details), it was the southern-most portion of the foreshore reserve officially named after him. The projecting peninsula reserve into Port Phillip Bay had been first named 'Indented Head' by Matthews Flinders in 1802. The proposed location of the monument was therefore more symbolic than necessarily accurate.

Although it was hoped that a memorial would be opened on 20 May 1930 to mark 95 years after Batman's landing,³⁰² the planning of the monument was to take longer. By 1931, it had been resolved to build a memorial cairn in the location of the memorial hall previously proposed.³⁰³ Permission was sought from the Lands Department to procure iron stone and sand from Batman Park (where erosion was not in evidence) 'to construct an additional attraction and adornment to the Park in the form of an obelisk.'³⁰⁴

Designed and built by Herbert Lewis, the stone had been carted from the Indented Head point by Mr Harding of Portarlington.³⁰⁵ The Batman monument had been completed by December 1931 as it featured in *The Argus* newspaper:

Accommodation at all the seaside resorts on the Bellarine Peninsula was well booked up for the Christmas and New Year holidays. The roads to the beauty spots are all in such good condition, and the newly erected Batman memorial cairn in Batman Park, on the foreshore at Indented Head, on the Beach road to St. Leonards, is now a popular drive for motorists.³⁰⁶

Herbert Lewis also built a stone and concrete seat adjacent to the monument. The Lewis family laughingly called it 'Batman's tomb.'³⁰⁷

By 1933, preparations were under way by the Melbourne Centenary Celebrations Council (led by Brigadier-General C.H. Jess) to mark the centenary of Batman's landing in 1935.³⁰⁸ Deliberations included

representatives of progress associations in the Bellarine Peninsula and a sub-committee of head teachers of the district was formed to arrange children's displays.³⁰⁹ This culminated in a 'Monster Children's Picnic' forming a key part of the proposed celebrations at Indented Head.³¹⁰

The considerable disappointment that had ensued when a visit by the Duke of Gloucester could not be arranged for the celebratory occasion³¹¹ was set aside for a highly successful pageant on 29 May 1935, presided by the Hon. Mr Malty M.L.A.³¹² (Figures 2.61-62). Mr Holden played the 'wild man', William Buckley, and local fisherman also took part amongst a gathering of 3,000 people including 700 school children.³¹³ The event was widely reported in *The Argus* and *Age* newspapers, and locally in the *Geelong Advertiser* that boasted:

The movement initiated by the "Geelong Advertiser" some time ago to celebrate the Centenary of the Landing of John Batman at Indented Head culminated yesterday in a most pronounced success. Despite the threatening weather, there was an attendance of about 3000 persons, including large numbers of children from every school on the Bellarine Peninsula. The Historical Society of Victoria was particularly well represented.³¹⁴

Another important part of the celebrations was the placing of a tablet on the memorial cairn. This tablet not only outlined Batman's landing in 1835, but also the landing of Matthew Flinders in 1802. From this time throughout the 20th century the Foreshore Committee referred to the memorial as the Batman-Flinders monument.³¹⁵

The Batman and Flinders Monument also played host to later commemorative celebrations. In 1963, the Batman Re-enactment Committee had the 'fullest co-operation and support' of the Foreshore Committee for any future celebration.³¹⁶ Two years later in 1965, the Foreshore Committee asked the Bellarine Shire Council to invite the Governor to visit the memorial during the Shire's centenary celebrations.³¹⁷

In 1974, in readiness to mark the Bi-Centenary of the landing of Matthew Flinders in 1977, the 'temporary fence' around the Batman and Matthew Flinders Memorial was replaced with a pipe fence and flood lighting was installed.³¹⁸

On 26 May 1985, to mark the 150th anniversary of Batman's landing, a street parade was held between St. Leonards and Indented Head.³¹⁹ It culminated with a re-enactment pageant in Batman Park (Figure 2.64) and the unveiling of a commemorative tablet on the memorial by the Hon. N. Tresize M.L.A. in the presence of the Bellarine Shire President, Cr Gwynneth Maddison.

2.4.4 Establishment of the Indented Head Boat Club & Building

Although a public hall within the Batman Park foreshore reserve had been first mooted by the Foreshore Committee in 1929,³²⁰ impetus for the construction of a hall associated with boat storage came from a public



Figure 2.61: Celebration at the Batman Memorial, Indented Head, 29 May 1935. Source: *The Argus*, 30 May 1935.



Figure 2.62: Celebration at the Batman Memorial, Indented Head, 29 May 1935. Source: *The Age*, 30 May 1935.



Figure 2.63: Batman-Flinders Memorial, August 1955. Source: Victorian Railways, La Trobe Picture collection, State Library of Victoria, image a29625.



Figure 2.64: Re-enactment of Batman's landing, Indented Head, 1985. Source: Tony Marks.

meeting attended by 100 residents at the Laze Away Pty Ltd hall in 1950.³²¹ Unanimous agreement had been given to the formation of an Indented Head Boat Club, with an Advisory Committee appointed 'to work in close liaison with the Foreshore Trust to implement the scheme.'³²² A promotional flyer was prepared and feedback from the local community was sought on the key objects of the proposal that was:

To provide individual boat storage units, club room, slipway and breakwater. The scheme to be completed in stages. Provision to be made for boats of different sizes, together with dual lesseeship. ... The Committee envisages for the future the Club area, and particularly the flat roof, becoming the recreation centre.³²³

Another significant reason for a new building with a number of boat storage units had been the recent prohibition in the construction of new private boat sheds on the foreshore (see section 2.3.1 for further details).

With widespread community support, a preliminary design for 'a modern boat-house with a flat roof planned as a dancing pavilion' had been prepared by January 1951.³²⁴ The design of the building progressed further and a site chosen (Figure 2.65), as outlined in a report by K.L. Chappel, Assistance Surveyor General, in April 1951:

A frontage of 300 feet to Port Phillip Bay is desired to provide for the present proposed building and to allow for extensions. A tentative design for a boathouse has been prepared, measuring overall 140 feet in length and 40 feet in depth, providing separate compartments for 26 boats. It is proposed to have a yard approximately 30 feet wide at the rear of the boathouse, to provide storage for boats too large for the designed compartments. A room over the boathouse will provide a meeting place for Club members, a proposed lifesaving club, etc. We were assured that there is no intention to use it for public dances but it may be used by club members for card evenings and other meetings. Furthermore there is no intention to limit the personnel for the boatclub to local ratepayers.

We were advised that it was proposed to erect a concrete building but on account of the present cement shortage the latest proposal is to erect a building of hardwood, with malthoid roofing and asphalt floor.

... I later inspected the desired area with Messrs. Taylor and Sutherland [Committee members]; it is that shown outlined red on my sketch herein. It consists partly of a sand flat about two feet above apparent high water mark, a flat that is thinly covered with marram grass; also with a few rushes and scattered small dumps of ti tree to three feet in height. On the desired area there is also a sand slope of about 1 in 4 and between same and the fence abutting the C.R.B. bitumen roadway a high flat averaging about 25 feet wide. Both the slope and the high flat are covered densely with fairly large ti tree and with scattered sheoke and pine.

... The proposal is for each person desiring boat storage to pay £100 towards the cost of building the boathouse and in addition he will

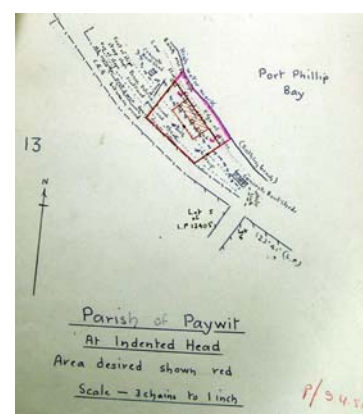


Figure 2.65: K. Chappel, Site plan showing desired location of proposed Boat Club building, 9 April 1951. Source: Crown Land Reserve file, Rs 5154, DSE. See Appendix 8.01 for enlarged image.

pay an annual rental for his boat compartment. He will have the right to sell his interests in the boathouse to any person approved by the boathouse committee. £2,000 has already been offered.

The proposed boathouse should minimise the number of boatsheds at Indented Head and tend to reduce the present practice of some boatshed owners residing for lengthy periods in their sheds. For these reasons, I recommend that this Department give its approval to the project, subject to the Public Works Department and Country Roads Board being first advised of the proposal and asked to comment on same, the Public Works Department because of the low level proximity to high water mark and the Country Roads Board because the area extends to within approximately 12 feet of the bitumen road formation.³²⁵

On 31 December 1953, the Lands Department approved the establishment of the Indented Head Boat Club.³²⁶ Work had continued in developing the design of the building following the commissioning of L.H. Vernon and Associates, architects of Ballarat. L.H. Vernon was apparently a camper of Batman Park.³²⁷ Vernon's drawings were completed on 2 February 1954 (Figures 2.66-68). They showed a broad gabled building with 20 boat compartments at ground level and a main hall and small hall on the first floor lit by skillion dormers. Entry was from a walkway bridge at the rear, or from open timber stairs at the northern and southern ends. Throughout 1954, construction of the building was carried out. Voluntary labour by locals was involved, including the making of sand and concrete bricks for the boat compartment walls,³²⁸ with cement sheet wall cladding used in the gable ends, the roof being corrugated cement cladding. Timber for the new building was supplied by Albert Woodward's timber yard in Ballarat.³²⁹ Tram lines were to be laid down to transport the boats from the building to the shore line.³³⁰

The first stage of the Indented Head Boat Club and Hall building was officially opened on 27 November 1954 by the Minister for Public Works, Mr Merrifield, M.L.A.³³¹ He claimed the building to be a model for the construction of boat houses around Port Phillip Bay. Details on the concept and the construction of the building were reported in the *Geelong Advertiser*:

This conception of a boathouse shows the way to the rest of the resorts around Port Phillip Bay, and is a model that might well be followed, said the Minister for Public Works (Mr. Merrifield, MLA), officially opening the new boathouse of the Indented Head Boat Club on Saturday afternoon.

... The boathouse, built within a few feet of the water's edge, has a length of 100 feet by a width of 52 feet, and has a floor space of 9000 square feet on each of the two floors.

It has provided the answer to the unsightly single unit boathouses scattered along beaches, for the ground floor provides 20 boat compartments – 10 facing the bay and a similar number at the rear – to which boats will be brought on a tram line from the seas.

The upstairs section will provide an entertainment hall which

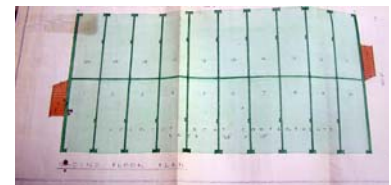


Figure 2.66: L.H. Vernon & Associates, Ground Floor Plan of proposed Boat Club Building, 2 February 1954. Source: Crown Land Reserve file Rs 5154, DSE. See Appendix 8.01 for enlarged image.

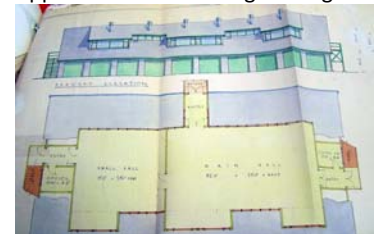


Figure 2.67: L.H. Vernon & Associates, Upper Floor Plan & Seaward Elevation of proposed Boat Club Building, 2 February 1954. Source: Crown Land Reserve file Rs 5154, DSE. See Appendix 8.01 for enlarged image.

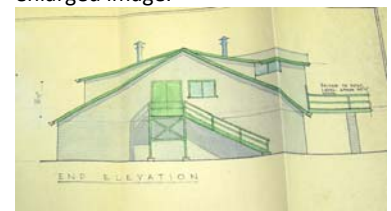


Figure 2.68: L.H. Vernon & Associates, End Elevation of proposed Boat Club Building, 2 February 1954. Source: Crown Land Reserve file Rs 5154, DSE. See Appendix 8.01 for enlarged image.

should serve the district for many years. There are three entrances to this hall, one at each end and one from the main road, with a number of tanks for water catchment at convenient places.

Its erection was financed by the issue of debentures, and without any Government aid.

The building was a result of public spirited efforts and arduous voluntary labor, said the Minister, and was a heritage that would be handed down to succeeding generations.

... The boathouse would not only serve those who found relaxation in their boats, but it also would serve for the purpose of general entertainment.

... The first [Boat Club] Committee, which was formed in connection with the erection of the boathouse, was elected in 1950 [sic. – 1953], and since that time has worked incessantly to achieve its objectives. The secretary (Mr Sutherland) explained that it was not an exclusive club, and that membership of it cost only three farthings a day.³³²

The second stage of construction appears to have been the completion of the upstairs hall areas. It seems that the building was finally completed by January 1955 as the *Geelong Advertiser* published a photograph of the hall (Figure 2.69) and proudly declared that it was ‘the outstanding achievement of the year’ from the centres visited of all district resorts.³³³ The total cost of the building was £6,000.³³⁴

The first members of the Boat Club appear to have been approved upon its establishment in 1953. In July 1954, F.N. Webb, Mr McAllister and R.B. Dodds were approved as members and given boat compartments 17, 19 and 3 respectively.³³⁵ Club memberships (without boat compartments) also included Master W.H. Thomas (junior member), J.A. Thomas, Master J.W. Thomas, I. Donald and E. Harrison.³³⁶ It was at this time when the first By-Law of the Boat Club was drafted:

No member shall conduct professional fishing or professional boating or sell fish from club premises or precincts and no boats used for professional purposes shall be stored therein or be assisted, except in an emergency by the club’s facilities.

This bylaw shall not prevent the occasional long term lease or charter of boats. Cases of doubt arising under this bylaw shall be considered by the [boat club] committee, whose decision shall be final.³³⁷

In 1961, the Indented Boat Club resolved that the Boat Club building should be taken over by the Foreshore Committee.³³⁸ As the Lands Department had no objection, plans were put in place for the take over through the establishment of a committee consisting of three members of the Foreshore Committee and four members of the Boat Club.³³⁹ However, the Boat Club took back temporary control in 1965 until the building was again under the management of the Foreshore Committee



Figure 2.69: Newly-complete Boat Club and Hall Building. Source: *Geelong Advertiser*, 7 January 1955.



Figure 2.70: People on beach at Batman Park with Boat Club Building in the middle ground, c.1954. Source: Rose series, La Trobe Picture collection, State Library of Victoria, image H32492/9589.



Figure 2.71: Jacobi family at their boat, Indented Head, c.1950s. Mr Jacobi is second from the right, with one of his sons on the right. Alan Jacobi is second from the left. The Jacobi family stayed in the Rimmers’ House that was later owned by Jill and Digby Crosier before being owned by Max Burrell (who demolished it and replaced it with the existing brick dwelling).³⁶⁹ Source: Ruth Marks (supplied by Ingrid Novosel).

from 1976 (a consequence of controversy between the Indented Head Boat and Yacht Clubs).³⁴⁰

Since its opening, the Indented Head Boat Club building has undergone a number of repairs and alterations. In 1963, six hopper sash windows and three fixed windows were installed on the east wall.³⁴¹ In 1968, a cream brick garage measuring 25 feet by 20 feet was built by R.S. Knox at a cost of \$1512 'to house the tractor and trailer' to the north-west of the boat club building (it now forms part of the Indented Head Yacht Club building).³⁴² External painting was also carried out throughout the 20th century. In 1972, the Foreshore Committee instructed the Boat Club that the building's roof should 'be painted the same colour as requested to the owners of private boat sheds.'³⁴³ In 1980, the original timber steps and winch house at the northern end of the building were replaced in brick.³⁴⁴ Further maintenance was carried out in 1981.³⁴⁵

2.4.5 Building the Indented Head Yacht Club House

In c.1966-67, a yachting section of the Indented Head Boat Club was formed for the benefit of the children of Boat Club members.³⁴⁶ A separate Indented Head Yacht Club was established in 1971.³⁴⁷ Initially, the Yacht Club operated from the beach to the south of the Boat Club building, with timekeepers sitting under beach umbrellas to record the finish times during yachting competitions.³⁴⁸

Membership of the Yacht Club increased dramatically, from 15 people at the time of the club's formation in 1971 to 200 members in 1974.³⁴⁹ Membership was not restricted, apart from the need of a mono-hull yacht.³⁵⁰ The speedy increase in members caused some concern to members of the Boat Club who felt that their Club would become secondary to the Yacht Club.³⁵¹

With such a large membership, the Yacht Club sought the construction of a building. Initially the Foreshore Committee proposed a site at the northern end of the Reserve between White Woman's Rock and the creek but this was rejected by the Yacht Club.³⁵² Eventually in 1972, agreement was reached on a site to the north of the Boat Club building. Members of the Indented Head Yacht Club were soon outraged by a local's objection to the proposed site.³⁵³ Numerous protest letters were sent to the Minister for Lands.³⁵⁴ A temporary prefabricated Yacht Club building was proposed at the original club site to the south of the Boat Club³⁵⁵ but this was not built.³⁵⁶ Another temporary structure was approved by the Port Phillip Authority in this same location in 1974 and it too was not erected.³⁵⁷

Orwell Michaelis' boat shed (no. 22) became the headquarters for all yacht races in the early years and an empty boat shed next to the Boat Club House was used to store the Yacht Club's rescue boat.³⁵⁸ The Michaelis boat shed had electricity supplied and 'a large urn was always on the boil and available for all crews to get a hot drink after their race.'³⁵⁹ Boat shed No. 20 was open on race days and it was often used when the fleets were large. The official time keepers and other officials sat on the beach under umbrellas in all weather conditions.³⁶⁰ They also



Figure 2.72: Indented Head Rigging area, 1974. Source: Tony Marks.



Figure 2.73: Original Location of Indented Head Yacht Club south of Boat Club Building, pre 1969. Source: Tony Marks.



Figure 2.74: Yachts at Indented Head, c.1980s. Source: Tony Marks.

watched for overturned yachts and they would contact Jack Smith and Tony Marks in the crash boat to make the rescues.³⁶¹ The wooden rescue boat was driven by an old Seagul motor and it often refused to work and so oars were required to row the boat to yachts in distress.³⁶²

In 1976, a permanent Yacht Club building was proposed. Plans were submitted for a structure to house two rescue boats with an observation deck above.³⁶³ The Foreshore Committee requested that the plans be reviewed and that the 'outside steps be deleted.'³⁶⁴ Construction commenced on a site to the north of the Boat Club building after the design had been approved by the Port Phillip Authority.³⁶⁵ The building was erected by voluntary labour supplied by Yacht Club members. The building was officially opened by Mr Phil Gude, M.L.A. on 30 April 1978.³⁶⁶ In 1985, a toilet and shower block addition was approved and it was officially opened in early 1986.³⁶⁷ The boat club garage, built in 1968, had also formed part of the Yacht Club building complex.³⁶⁸

2.5 Building Marine Infrastructure

2.5.1 Establishing Breakwaters

Considered essential by the early residents and new-comers to Indented Head in the early 20th century was the need for safe harbourage. The provision of breakwaters through the hulking of retired vessels was the method employed.

The 'Pharos' Wreck³⁷⁰

The wooden tug, the 'Pharos' (Figure 2.75) was built at Williamstown for the Victorian Government in 1864. For many years it operated in Port Phillip Bay and it was later transferred to the Melbourne Coal and Shipping Company. It was hulked off Indented Head in 1917 and it broke up in 1934, leaving little (if any) physical evidence today.

The 'Ozone' Wreck

In 1925, the unused paddle steamer 'Ozone' (Figure 2.76) was lying in Melbourne, having been officially retired in 1918.³⁷¹ A syndicate consisting of Captain W.C. Forbes, Jimmy Reid and Alf Payne Snr. purchased the steamer (less the engines that had already been removed) and towed it to Indented Head by the tug, 'Minah'.³⁷² The intention was for the 'Ozone' to be sunk off Indented Head to create a safe harbour on a coastline badly affected by northerly and easterly gales.³⁷³ The hull was stripped, with some decking used to make a floor for the Payne family boat shed while the portholes were used in Jimmy Reid's shell punt.³⁷⁴

Mrs Lynette Chambers recalls the sinking of the paddle steamer [P.S] Ozone as a child:

When I was six, in 1925, my parents took me to the beach one calm mild evening to watch the Ozone being towed in to Indented Head. The Geelong Yacht Club was interested in using her as a breakwater and commissioned Captain Forbes to bring her from Port Melbourne, then experts would indicate the correct position to settle her.



Figure 2.75: 'Pharos' at the Melbourne [?] dock, n.d. Source: La Trobe Picture collection, State Library of Victoria, image b37946.



Figure 2.76: 'Ozone' steamer. Source: *Illustrated Australian News*, 18 December 1886. Source: La Trobe Picture collection, State Library of Victoria.

It was a beautiful sight, watching the Ozone, fully outlined in lights, slowly coming towards us, and there was excitement in the crowd. After it was anchored, Captain Forbes rowed to shore in a small boat and on to his house where a merry celebration party continued into the small hours.

Suddenly, a storm blew up and the Ozone began to drag anchor. The Captain, well under the weather himself, panicked. He rowed out, scrambled aboard and opened up the sea-cocks, letting her down where she was.

What a row when the experts arrived in the morning to find the paddle-steamer too near the shore. It wasn't long before the Ozone sanded up and was useless except for anglers and children to play on.

For years, we children climbed the paddles, chased around the gunnels, and dived into the engine-well, imaging exciting pirate roads and battles at sea.³⁷⁵

The P.S. 'Ozone' had been built in 1886 near Glasgow, Scotland and it was sailed to Australia via the Mediterranean Sea, through the Suez canal across the Indian Ocean and down the east coast of Australia.³⁷⁶ Painted green and white with bright orange funnels and lit at night by electric light, the 'Ozone' had three decks with a dining room, a ladies saloon and several bars.³⁷⁷ The steamer was used to transport passengers between Melbourne and Geelong, as well as in other parts of Port Phillip Bay. Upon the arrival of the steamer to Melbourne in 1886, the *Illustrated Australian News* gave the following glowing description:

Not a few prominent citizens have summer residences at Queenscliff, Sorrento, Portsea, Mornington, or other places on the shores of the harbour [Port Phillip Bay], and they find the change from the dust and bustle of the city as efficacious as a tour in Tasmania, while it may be indulged in frequently at little expense. A notable indication of the popularity of these trips is the arrival of the grand new excursion steamer the Ozone, which has a speed of 17 miles per hour. This vessel greatly reduces the time occupied in the water journey, and gives increased opportunity for the passengers to enjoy themselves on land.³⁷⁸

The 'Dominion' Wreck³⁷⁹

Built in Quebec, Canada in 1875, the wooden barque 'Dominion' first operated as a wool ship then a coal hulk in Newcastle. It was registered to Howard Smith and Co Ltd in 1902, before being registered by Australian Steamships Ltd. Along with the 'P.S. Ozone', the 'Dominion' was purchased by Captain Forbes in 1925 to act as a breakwater in Half Moon Bay, however vandals set fire to the 'Dominion' soon after its arrival at Indented Head.

Concerns about the Breakwater Wrecks

Criticism of the failed breakwater scheme of the 'Dominion' and 'Ozone' wrecks – a consequence of the fire damage to the 'Dominion' and the incorrect positioning of the 'Ozone' – grew louder as the years passed.

Debate about the best location of safe harbour in the area led to a petition being organised which first came to public attention in 1927 in a letter by a “fisherman” in *The Argus*:

The petition forwarded to Mr. Morley, M.L.A., for presentation to the Minister for Public Works (Mr. Goudie), is contrary to the ideas of the St. Leonards fishermen and residents. Many of the fishermen never had the privilege of seeing the petition. Why do not the residents of Indented Head give the people of St. Leonards an opportunity of making further suggestions to the department and await their decision before suggesting the position at Half Moon Bay, where the Ozone now lies embedded in the sand? What benefit would the St. Leonard’s fishermen derive from an anchorage in this spot? It would be used only by visiting yachtsmen through the summer season, and it would be idle during the winter. Why not select a position suitable to the men who work for their living from the sea as well as the pleasure-seekers, who would not mind where the anchorage was so long as they could shelter for a week-end cruise? Most of the residents of St. Leonards recommend to the Ports and Harbour officials the construction of a breakwater opposite the suggested creek site, or else within 200 yards north of the St. Leonards pier. Should a breakwater be built, either of these positions is preferable to Half Moon Bay, and either would be acceptable to visiting yachtsmen, as well as doing justice to the St. Leonards fishermen.³⁸⁰

In 1933, the Batman Park Foreshore Committee wrote to the Ports and Harbours Department requesting that the ‘Ozone’ vessel (Figures 2.77-2.77a) be blown up and removed as it was considered ‘an eyesore on the pretty Half Moon Bay.’³⁸¹

A Batman Park Improvement Committee of local land owners had also formed in an effort to have the bulk removed, complaining that it caused siltation.³⁸² The issue was even reported in *The Argus* in 1934, contending that ‘the hulk is an eyesore and should be removed before the Centenary pageant at Indented Heads [sic.] that was to be held in the following year.’³⁸³ The private and public lobbying was to no avail. An officer of the Ports and Harbours Department estimated that the cost of removing the hulk was £1,000, being prohibitively expensive and therefore with ‘little prospect of being removed.’³⁸⁴ Not surprisingly, Albert Johnson chimed in on the debate. His opinion was published in *The Argus* in 1935:

Further representations will be made to the Ports and Harbours branch to have the hulk Ozone blown up. There is not only the Ozone but also the hulk of the Dominion, which was burnt to the water’s edge some few years ago, and the hulk of the Pharos, which sank soon after the Ozone began to break up. If the Ozone could be blown up it would be almost impossible to move the debris and the other two hulks, and it would cost a large amount of public money. It would be very dangerous to fishing boats if the Ozone were blown up and left. There would not be anything left to warn them of the danger of having their boats broken up. It is better to leave the Ozone as she is. She is doing no harm to anybody.³⁸⁵



Figure 2.77: ‘Ozone’ wreck in Half Moon Bay, 1928. Source: Dawn Rowe.



Figure 2.77a: ‘Ozone’ wreck and jetty in Half Moon Bay, n.d. [c.1930s]. Source: Judy Idle.



Figure 2.77b: ‘Ozone’ wreck and jetty in Half Moon Bay, c.1934. Source: Holmes collection, c/o David Rowe.

While a further request for the removal of the 'Ozone' hulk was made by the Foreshore Committee in 1937 given that 'it is just hanging in there', the wreck remained.³⁸⁶ It has gradually deteriorated over the years and has become a well-known and endearing feature of picturesque Half Moon Bay.

2.5.2 The 'Ozone' Anchor Memorial

In 1992, the anchor of the 'Ozone' wreck was retrieved. Eric Hourn was one of the people involved in its recovery.³⁸⁷ Three years later in 1995, the anchor was placed on The Esplanade roadside and made into a monument (Figure 2.78). Herbert Payne and Dr Henry Hudson took part in the unveiling ceremony.³⁸⁸



Figure 2.78: Unveiling of 'Ozone' Anchor Memorial, 1995. Source: Newspaper article (not known) provided at community consultation, 20 November 2012.

2.5.3 Building the Jetties

The earliest jetty adjacent to Batman Park reserve appears to have been Albert Johnson's private jetty in Half Moon Bay in c.1924 (Figure 2.78a).³⁸⁹ In 1933, the Victorian Fishermen's League proposed a site for a new jetty at Indented Head.³⁹⁰ Nothing appears to have eventuated from this proposal and in 1937 the Foreshore Committee wrote to Mr Maltby M.L.A. seeking 'to have a small jetty erected 150 feet by 6 feet' and 'to point out no money whatever has been spent on Indented Head foreshore.'³⁹¹ The proposal was published in July of that year when the Ports and Harbours Department was requested to contribute toward the cost.³⁹²



Figure 2.78a: Early jetty in Half Moon Bay, c.1934. Source: Holmes collection, c/o David Rowe.

In 1948, Albert Woodward of Laze Away Pty Ltd sought permission to erect a jetty, presumably in the location of Anderson Reserve opposite his Laze Away Caravan Park.³⁹³ He made a generous offer 'to donate a substantial amount for the erection of a jetty if this approved by Land Dept and Port and Harbours.'³⁹⁴

In 1963, the Foreshore Committee sought approval and assistance from the Public Works Department for the construction of a pier.³⁹⁵ The response was that the small fishing industry at Indented Head did not warrant a pier.³⁹⁶ Another eight years elapsed before the Foreshore Committee sought plans in 1971 for a 'foot jetty' to span 100 feet past the marker posts.³⁹⁷ Complete plans for a concrete jetty to the design and specification of Carina Construction were prepared and application was made for a grant to the Ministry of Tourism for \$11,000 for the work.³⁹⁸ However, the jetty concept was abandoned in August 1971 until a revised design (of timber construction) was adopted by the Foreshore Committee in September 1971.³⁹⁹ Further discussions with the relevant authorities took place throughout 1972, with the location next to the boat ramp at Wrathall Reserve selected.⁴⁰⁰ The Public Works Department had agreed to the erection of a timber jetty at a cost of \$13,000 subject to certain conditions.⁴⁰¹ The jetty was subsequently constructed in 1973.⁴⁰² Repairs were made to it in 1986.⁴⁰³

2.5.4 Boat Ramps & Slipways

Slipways and boat ramps were constructed along the Batman Park foreshore from the 1920s, the earliest being concrete ramps with iron rails in which to winch boats into the private boat sheds (see earlier

subsection for details). The construction of the Boat Club building brought with it the need for a slipway in 1953.⁴⁰⁴ In 1965, the Boat Club sought the installation of a boat ramp in front of the Boat Club building.⁴⁰⁵

A public boat ramp was supported by the Public Works Department in 1963. It was considered a more realistic option than a jetty.⁴⁰⁶ The Tourist Development Authority gave a grant towards the construction of the boat ramp and an associated car parking area in Wrathall Reserve.⁴⁰⁷ A number of years elapsed before the boat ramp was constructed in 1971. The Foreshore Committee was dissatisfied with the end result and the Bellarine Shire Engineer's Assistant, R. McKenzie agreed that the 'last slab be removed and re-laid at a steeper gradient,' the work to be carried out as soon as possible.⁴⁰⁸

Other boat ramps were erected along the foreshore. It appears that a boat launch ramp had been built at Anderson Reserve in the early 1960s,⁴⁰⁹ being of timber construction and 12 feet wide to sand seabed, and only recommended for light craft.⁴¹⁰ Another was constructed in 1966, measuring 40 feet by 14 feet and of timber construction, recommended only for light craft.⁴¹¹ In 1977, the surviving boat ramp at Anderson Reserve was closed. The following year it was removed by Foreshore Committee staff.⁴¹²

A ramp had also been proposed at Taylor Reserve in 1966, but this idea was superseded by the building of the ramp at Wrathall Reserve.⁴¹³

2.6 Sporting & Recreation Areas

2.6.1 Tennis Courts

In 1928, the Batman Park Committee proposed to build a tennis court on the foreshore reserve.⁴¹⁴ The Committee sought funds from the Lands Department for the project, claiming that the court would 'be greatly appreciated by picnic parties' and that 'on the proposed site there is ample space available and most suitable for recreation and big sports ground.'⁴¹⁵ Nothing seems to have happened for another 27 years. In 1965, in association with the Indented Head Progress Association (which seems to have formed in 1953⁴¹⁶), the Foreshore Committee sought financial assistance from the Municipal Association Fund. This Fund granted £400 towards the construction of a court at Wrathall Reserve, with the balance of £200 to be paid by the Committee.⁴¹⁷ The court was to be under the maintenance and control of the Progress Association, with yearly revision by the Foreshore Committee.⁴¹⁸ Delays ensued with the building of the tennis court and when it was finally completed in early 1967 the Foreshore Committee was not satisfied with the end result for the following reasons:

1. No access through fence for maintenance equipment.
2. Wire mesh is too large to keep tennis balls from going through.
3. Weeds have come through bitumen.
4. Bitumen should be built up around net posts.
5. Surrounds of court surface should be sealed as sand is working loose.⁴¹⁹

In 1979, the Indented Head Progress Association sought to have another court constructed and the Foreshore Committee felt that permission for the additional court from the Port Phillip Authority 'would be most unlikely.'⁴²⁰ The opinion of the Committee had changed by 1986 when a second tennis court was proposed, with the idea of establishing a Tennis Club also mooted.⁴²¹ In 1987, the additional court was submitted with the Committee's master plan for works to be carried out over the following five year period.⁴²²

2.6.2 Children's Playgrounds

In 1955, a children's playground was proposed adjacent to the foreshore near the Boat Club building.⁴²³ Mr Durran, who held open air pictures for campers during the summer period, offered £60 towards equipment for the play area.⁴²⁴ E.J. Taylor also offered £10 and by March 1956 a double swing, junior slide, log swing and a double sea-saw had been purchased.⁴²⁵

In 1960, the Committee acquired additional playground equipment that was installed at Anderson Reserve.⁴²⁶ This equipment was proposed to be replaced in 1986.⁴²⁷ In more recent years, new playground equipment has been installed in Batman Park.

2.7 A Tourist Attraction: Picnicking and Camping at Batman Park

2.7.1 The Early Years

From the 1920s, Batman Park became a popular picnicking and camping spot for beach recreation and fishing. The safe harbour was considered to be attractive for children. As early as 1927, Indented Head featured as a 'Holiday Resort' in *The Argus* newspaper:

... Motor trips may be made to Portarlington, Indented Heads, St. Leonards, Queenscliff, Point Lonsdale, and Ocean Grove, all of which are short runs through interesting country, with delightful landscape and seascape scenery.⁴²⁸

Batman Park had been the location for camp holidays before the establishment of the Committee of Management in 1925. Thomas Cooper of T.J. Cooper Pty Ltd, Tanners, Curriers and Leather Merchants, North Melbourne, declared in October 1925 that 'for some years pass [sic.] I have with my family during the holidays camped on the foreshore at Indented Head near St. Leonards.'⁴²⁹ The Cooper family camped at Taylor Reserve in these early years in a rudimentary caravan and a tent (Figures 2.79-81).

The establishment of the Batman Park Foreshore Committee from 1925 brought with it greater control of camping in the Park. Permission was required to camp along the foreshore from this time. Whilst the earliest offerings of the Committee were the availability of hot water and milk from W.E. Rigby nearby⁴³⁰ (Figure 2.29), much of the Foreshore Committee's energies from the 1930s onwards was ensuring adequate provision of camp amenities and facilities. From 1930, the Committee appointed staff to assist with both the care of the park and with the collection of camp fees (see earlier subsection 2.2.4).



Figure 2.78b: Holmes family on the beach with the Ballarat Camera Club, c.1934. Source: Holmes collection, c/o David Rowe.



Figure 2.78c: Holmes family 'on the sands', c.1934. Source: Holmes collection, c/o David Rowe.



Figure 2.79: Cooper family camping at Taylor Reserve, 1920s. Source: Robert G. Cooper.

One of the earliest families to camp at Batman Park under the newly-founded management of the Batman Park Committee was the Payne family. Alf Payne Snr. first visited Indented Head looking for beach shells as part of his employment with the Geelong Harbour Trust.⁴³¹ After the sinking of the 'Ozone' in 1925, he built the family's first boat shed on the foreshore.⁴³² The initial intention of the boat shed was to use it 'as a temporary camping place ... to indulge in fishing' and water recreation⁴³³ (Figures 2.82-2.82b). It would seem that the Payne family were one of the very few boat shed occupiers that did not own land in the nearby vicinity.⁴³⁴

A particular effort was made by the Committee in 1934 when Batman Park was the location of the annual Australian Labour Party Camp. A special attraction was the newly-erected Batman Monument.⁴³⁵ In 1935, *The Argus* gave another glowing description of Indented Head and the idyllic camping opportunities that awaited the beach goer or keen fisherman:

St. Leonards and Indented Head are two favourite holiday resorts on Port Phillip Bay. The sandy, shelly beach with the natural tea-tree extending along the foreshore for many miles from White Woman's Rock to St. Leonards pier provides excellent facilities for bathing. Good whiting fishing is obtainable a short distance from the shore, while a little farther afield schnapper fishing is good. There is good quail shooting to be had on the peninsula and hares and rabbits are plentiful close to the village.⁴³⁶

In addition to the provision of infrastructure in the Park, the Foreshore Committee was constantly enforcing camping rules and regulations. In 1938 for example, campers refused to pay fees at White Woman's Rock and deliberation and discussion on whether or not the Committee controlled this area continued until 1945.⁴³⁷ In 1945, the Committee ceased allowing camping in front of the boat sheds as it 'obstructed the comings and goings of boats.'⁴³⁸ Two years later, the Committee went a step further, preventing the erection of tents or caravans between boat sheds except boat shed owners who were allowed to erect a tent adjoining their shed.⁴³⁹

There were also a range of other issues confronting the Committee in the early years. One of the more extraordinary was a man's leg found on the beach at Indented Head in 1930 as reported in *The Argus*:

Mr. Frederick Lock, while cycling along the beach at Indented Head towards Portarlington, found a man's left leg, extending above the thigh. On the foot is a brown-knitted sock and a plain blucher boot about size 10. From the size of the leg it is believed that the man was of tall stature. The boot has three cyclet holes, and is of uncommon design, being very low cut in front and recently half soled. The boot is in a good state of preservation. The discovery was reported to the police, and First-constable Goodall, of Portarlington, wishes to hear from anyone who can identify the boot.⁴⁴⁰

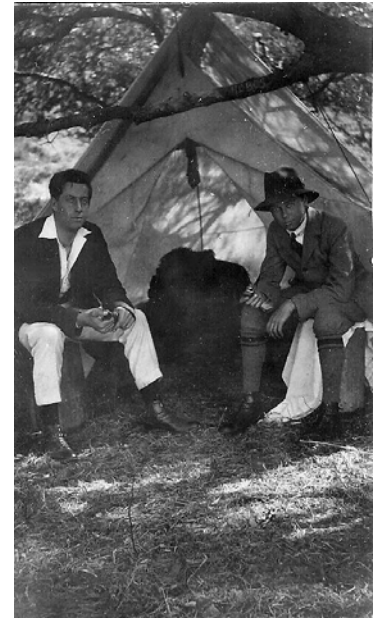


Figure 2.80: George Cooper & unknown person outside tent at Taylor Reserve, 1920s. Source: Robert G. Cooper.



Figure 2.81: Cooper family camp at Taylor reserve, 1920s. Source: Robert G. Cooper.



Figure 2.82: Ivy Mavis Payne enjoying Half Moon Bay (with 'Ozone' wreck behind), early 1950s. Source: Patricia Harvey.

2.7.2 Camping from the 1950s

Camping and Camp Management

The year 1951 witnessed a record number of campers from all over Victoria at Batman Park⁴⁴¹ (Figures 2.83-84). Continued positive accounts of the foreshore area certainly assisted the cause. In c.1950, for example, A.J. Bennett in the *Holiday and Business Guide to Geelong and District* described the area as a 'pretty seaside resort' with 'a fairly sheltered beach' and 'well-known angling centre.'⁴⁴² Camping was limited to four weeks per camper at this time to help alleviate overcrowding and demand.⁴⁴³

Contributing to the substantial increase in campers at the Park was the greater popularity and affordability of caravans and prefabricated units, a consequence of a larger proportion of the population owning a motor car. This in turn brought with it greater demands on the Foreshore Committee. Additional sites were constantly suggested by the Committee Ranger and others, and the setting out of sites was of particular interest to the Committee. Additional rules were needed, such as in 1952 when the Committee decreed that all caravans must not have the wheels removed.⁴⁴⁴ This issue continued for several years as in 1960 Mr Payne was asked 'to make sure that wheels were placed under his caravan in the Park, otherwise his site would not be available next season.'⁴⁴⁵ In 1953, an additional charge was made for 'cabin owners' using the reserve.⁴⁴⁶ In 1971, owing to havoc created by wind storms lifting some prefabricated structures, the Ranger was instructed to ensure that all camp structures were securely fixed at all times.⁴⁴⁷

One area of the Park that the Foreshore Committee resisted from allowing camping was at Wrathall Reserve. Although camping in this area had initially been contemplated in 1937,⁴⁴⁸ permission was not given to private campers or the R.A.C.V. Caravan Club in the mid 1950s.⁴⁴⁹

By 1956, Batman Park had 125 camp sites available, either for tents or caravans.⁴⁵⁰ This number of sites did not change until a new camping area was designated at Anderson Reserve in 1960.⁴⁵¹ It was also in 1960 when a number of sites were 'electrified' and electrical installations were laid out to a larger number of sites soon after.⁴⁵² By 1964, the number of camp sites had doubled to 300, with 80 sites having power.⁴⁵³ Also in 1964, tenders were called for the reticulation of electricity for sites at Anderson Reserve.⁴⁵⁴

One family who made the regular trip from Melbourne to camp at Indented Head in the 1950s was the Trevers family of Reservoir. Mrs Trevers (Figure 2.85) featured in *The Argus* newspaper in 1956 where she recalled the family holiday:

On December 25 they [Mrs Betty Trevers and family of Reservoir] are well settled into their usual holiday camping spot down Indented Head way, and it means she serves up a meal of fish.

"That's if my fishermen are up to their usual form," she laughed. To



Figure 2.82a: Gwenda Payne in boat on the shore line at Half Moon Bay, Christmas 1944. Source: Dawn Rowe.



Figure 2.82b: Syd Payne with his 'catch', c.1940s. Source: Dawn Rowe.



Figure 2.83: Camping at Indented Head, c.1954. Source: Rose Series, La Trobe Picture collection, State Library of Victoria image H32492/7499.



Figure 2.84: Camping at the beach, Indented Head, c.1954. Source: Rose Series, La Trobe Picture collection, State Library of Victoria, image H32492/9590.

make sure they are, Mr. Trevers has just built a new 13ft. fishing boat in the backyard.

... Mrs Trevers considers camping is the only real way a housewife can relax on holidays.

“There’s no strict boarding house routine, its easy living, and, beside, no one really cares if meals are late,” she said.⁴⁵⁵

During this peak era of camping activity, the Foreshore Committee faced several challenges. Legal liability claims, deputations from campers and the Campers’ Association, settling disputes between campers, and approving or prohibiting the sale of food and goods and other services, were some of the issues that taxed the Committee in the 1950s-1970s. Dealing with campers who contravened the regulations was also on the Committee’s agenda, such as the ‘illegal’ tapping into the water line by a camper to his camp site in 1968.⁴⁵⁶ In 1974, the Committee resolved that property owners were prohibited from taking camp sites in the Park and this was a particular issue with at least one local.⁴⁵⁷

Some of the initiatives of the Committee during these years included the installation of washing machines in the laundries from 1963, where a ‘slot system for hot water’ payment was considered.⁴⁵⁸ Gas hot water had been made available in earlier years for camp showers, and in 1964 it was resolved to limit the hot water from 8 minutes to 5 minutes per shower.⁴⁵⁹ The micro-management by the Committee of the Park even went so far as the selection of toilet paper. In 1969, the Committee resolved ‘to install Trish Container and Trish Pack loose left sheets in the toilets at Batman Park for the ensuing season to compare with the toilet rolls at present being used.’⁴⁶⁰ The success of the ‘Trish’ sheets led to ‘Trish’ containers being installed in all toilets from September 1969.⁴⁶¹

Camper’s Association

By 1957, a Campers’ Association had been formed, with Mr V.C. Durran as its President.⁴⁶² The Campers’ Association assisted the Foreshore Committee in a number of ways, including the offering of funds for a public ramp⁴⁶³ and in helping with drainage for the lavatories. The voluntary labour enabled an extra trench to be dug over the holiday season in 1957, the work being done by 12 campers.⁴⁶⁴

Camp Entertainments

At the height of popularity of camping at Batman Park from the 1950s came the need for camp entertainments and other services, some organised by the Foreshore Committee, but mainly by the campers themselves or others with the permission from the Committee.

From the 1952-53 holiday season, Mr V.C. Durran showed open air picture films on the reserve.⁴⁶⁵ He continued to provide films until at least 1960.⁴⁶⁶ At this time the Indented Head Boat Club sought permission to operate a movie projector from the southern end of the Boat Club onto the foreshore, during the Christmas season.⁴⁶⁷



Photo 2.85: Mrs Betty Trevers, 1956. Source: *The Argus*, 30 November 1956, p.11.

Other entertainments were also organised for the enjoyment of the campers (and some raised funds for charitable causes). In 1957, the Ballarat Pipe Band gave a concert on the beach,⁴⁶⁸ while in 1963, Mr S. Hughes ran a boat hire business from the southern of the beach near Wrathall Reserve⁴⁶⁹ and J.D. Burke installed two trampolines on the foreshore that were operational from December to January of the holiday season.⁴⁷⁰ The Church of England Ladies Guild of Drysdale held a stall on the beach in January 1964 and again in 1970.⁴⁷¹ Ten hire boats were operated by Rodney Birrell on the foreshore over the 1971-72 holiday season.⁴⁷² It was also during this season when the State Orchestra proposed to give concerts on the foreshore.⁴⁷³

From at least the 1960s, the Campers' Association held annual sports days on New Years' Day in Batman Park. The Foreshore Committee gave monetary donations towards the purchase of prizes.⁴⁷⁴

The Sale of Food in Batman Park

While there were stores at St. Leonards and Portarlington for the purchase of food and goods, it would appear that Woodward's Laze-Away Store opposite Anderson Reserve was the only general store at Indented Head in the late 1940s and 1950s. However, basic supplies such as ice, bread and milk were delivered regularly to the Park during the holiday season from the 1950s.⁴⁷⁵ Brown's Butchers of Portarlington offered camp deliveries of meat in 1954 (Figure 2.86) and Mr Daisley and Mr Rigby delivered the ice in the 1960s.⁴⁷⁶

A more permanent kiosk in the Park for the sale of food and beverages was originally prohibited by the Committee. In 1953, T. Townsend made application 'for permission to set up a caravan kiosk in Batman Park reserve for the sale of drinks and sweets.' The request was refused as the Committee 'agreed that a need did not exist for a kiosk.'⁴⁷⁷ Such prohibition had been relaxed by the 1960s, as W.E. Cutler was allowed to operate a caravan in the Park in which to sell hamburgers, chips, dim sims and rolls in 1961.⁴⁷⁸ It was also at this time when G.W. Thomas was authorised to sell sweets and drinks on the foreshore during the interval of the picture shows.⁴⁷⁹

2.7.3 Adjacent Private Holiday Establishments in the 1950s

Towards the 1950s, other private camping venues were established adjacent to Batman Park. Although in competition to the camping experience on the foreshore reserve, the additional publicity and promotion of the scenic and recreation values from these private establishments appear to have assisted the influx of visitors to the area.

Laze Away Pty Camping Park

In May 1947, the Foreshore Committee was asked to consider giving support to Messrs Bretland and Rectarick in establishing a Post Office and Petrol sump adjacent to Batman Park.⁴⁸⁰ The works would involve the construction of a general store and dwelling.⁴⁸¹ It is not known whether this proposal was the beginning of the Laze Away Pty Ltd Camping Park established by Albert Woodward in 1947, which also included a general store and petrol pump (Figure 2.87). The Laze Away Park was advertised



Figure 2.86: G. & E. Brown, Butchers, Advertisement. Source: *The Argus*, 26 January 1954, p.10.



Figure 2.87: Laze Away Store and Post Office (right), c.1954. Source: Rose series, La Trobe Picture collection, State Library of Victoria, image H32492/8785.

in *The Argus* in December of that year:

Indented Head, the place where Melbourne's founder, John Batman, landed in Port Phillip Bay, now has Victoria's finest camping park.

The clean, safe beach of Indented Head is perfect for children. Boats are available to take the angler to good fishing-grounds. Laze-Away Camping Park has water and firewood available, communal kitchens, showers, general store, with refrigerators, news agency, recreation hall, tennis-court.

A furnished cottage (3 bedrooms, living-room) is vacant from Jan. 20. Furnished auto tents vacant from Jan 7. Also 200 camping sites available.⁴⁸²

In 1949, the Laze Away general store was extended.⁴⁸³ By 1956, the Laze Away camping ground consisted of 9 acres, including 40 cabins.⁴⁸⁴ These cabins were Nissen huts which, according to Ruth Brennan (daughter of Albert Woodward), 'were left behind by the American Army which had bivouacked in the back paddock' during World War Two.⁴⁸⁵ The cabins were 'fully furnished for four persons except for linen and cutlery.'⁴⁸⁶ From c.1956, the Laze Away Camping Park was managed by Albert Woodward's daughter, Ruth, and son in-law, Les Brennan.⁴⁸⁷ It closed after 1976 and the land was subdivided as a residential estate.⁴⁸⁸

Paradise Park

In the early 1950s, the former farm of the Cox family was converted into the Paradise Park camping ground by Mr McLean and his son. Mr McLean had been the collector of camp fees at Batman Park in 1945.⁴⁸⁹ In 1956-57, Paradise Park consisted of an area of 28 acres with 300 available sites for tents or caravans. Cabins were also available 'for four to six persons by reservation only.'⁴⁹⁰ By the late 1950s, Paradise Park was offered for sale as a residential estate⁴⁹¹ (Figure 2.88).

2.7.4 Changes to Camping at Batman Park in the Late 20th Century

A range of studies and reviews were carried out on foreshore camping in the late 20th century. In 1971, the Port Phillip Authority sought information from all Committees of Management in Port Phillip Bay regarding camp sites that were occupied for a longer period than 6 weeks.⁴⁹² This survey appears to have led to a more in depth investigation into caravan parks and camping grounds in 1974, culminating in the Caravan and Camping Park Inquiry Report by the Caravan and Camping Park Committee of Inquiry in 1975.⁴⁹³ Amongst the findings, the Inquiry recommended: the adequate catering for caravanners, day trippers, boat users, locals and other use groups on foreshore land; development of foreshore caravan parks be undertaken in a manner that did not adversely affect the natural amenity of an area; and registered categories for caravan parks (with "nature" caravan parks and temporary areas only opened for camping when the demand existed and the length of stay was limited).⁴⁹⁴



Figure 2.88: Paradise Park Sale Notice, n.d. [c.1950s], Maps collection, Geelong Heritage Centre collection, map P33. See Appendix 8.01 for enlarged image.

By 1986, a new State-wide camping policy had been introduced that also affected the management of Batman Park. Prepared by the Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands, the policy included the following:

The policy acknowledges that only large caravan parks located in tourist zones or resort areas can operate viably solely from patronage derived in the summer holiday season. Therefore to enhance viability and to further promote tourism Crown Land caravan parks will be able to permit the occupation of sites by weekenders provided genuine holidaymakers and transit users are not unreasonably denied access.

Where weekender usage is permitted it shall be subject to the following conditions:

- i) Prime sites not to be monopolised,
- ii) Caravans are to be kept in good order and repair and to be capable of being towed off-site,
- iii) Associated annexes to be capable of being dismantled and be removed from a site within four hours,
- iv) Caravans must not be removed from sites without also removing their associated annexes,
- v) Caravans and associated annexes to be rotated at sufficient intervals to prevent site degradation,
- vi) Caravans are not be sub-let or hired to others, except under lease to the committee of management,
- vii) Caravans are to be removed off-site if offered for sale.

“Weekenders” are long-term users who do not live permanently in their van, but who use it intermittently.

“Permanents” are long-term users who have no alternative place of abode.⁴⁹⁵

Initially, the Indented Head Foreshore Committee was not overly enthusiastic about implementing the new policy. At its meeting of 17 December 1986, the Committee resolved:

We will not publically announce weekend or permanent situation however if enquiries are made we will act in accordance with the policy.⁴⁹⁶

2.8: Shaping the Environment

The narrow coastal strip of foreshore land comprising the area of Batman Park has been subject to numerous changes caused by natural and human interventions. The natural environment of sand, native grass and tea-trees has undergone a number of transformations in order to improve the environmental and recreational amenity of the area. These transformations have reflected the thinking of different Committees and Government Departments at different times.

2.8.1 Cutting Trees & Removal of Rabbits and Noxious Weeds

Some of the earliest tasks considered by the Batman Park Committee in 1925 were tree cutting and the removal of rabbits and noxious weeds (including box thorn).⁴⁹⁷ Not surprisingly, Albert Johnson was openly critical of the actions and inactions of the Committee. He complained to



Figure 2.88a: Batman Park, looking south, c.1934. Source: Holmes collection, c/o David Rowe.

the Forestry Branch of the Lands Department in 1925 about the unauthorised cutting of timber in Batman Park, an investigation finding that he too had been responsible for these actions.⁴⁹⁸ The cutting of tea tree sanctioned by the Committee was for maintenance purposes only.⁴⁹⁹ Further tea-trees were removed in 1926 as a result of the 'tornado' that severely damaged the reserve.⁵⁰⁰ The removal of boxthorn by the Committee in 1929 also bore the wrath of Johnson. He wrote in *The Argus* newspaper that because the Batman Park Committee had left the cut boxthorn on the beach, it had washed into the bay and had got caught in the nets of the fisherman of Geelong.⁵⁰¹

Even into the second half of the 20th century, the Foreshore Committee's attention to the eradication of noxious weeds in the Park continued. In 1953, brown spinach (Bower Spinach) was removed while in 1971 bone seed was destroyed.⁵⁰² Further removal of bone seed weed and box thorn took place in 1979.⁵⁰³

2.8.2 Tree Planting

One of the most significant and enduring commitments of successive Foreshore Committees has been tree planting in Batman Park. As early as 1926, tree planting was proposed.⁵⁰⁴ Further planting occurred in 1929 and the Committee established a fencing enclosure of 100 feet by 100 feet 'for protection of young trees and shrubs.'⁵⁰⁵ A driving force behind this early planting was the Committee's Chairman, Stephen Wrathall Lynette Chambers gave the following account of his Wrathall's contribution:

One thing Wrathall did achieve was the forming of the Batman Park Foreshore Committee to manage the foreshore. He planted many exotic trees popular at the time, from Dicksons property to the "Day Picnic Area". Many of the exotics, including the golden cyprus [sic.] died, but the green cyprus [sic.] grew in the shelter of the ti-tree. Once it established, it killed out the native vegetation, and now forms a dense cover which gives shade on a hot day, but is dark and draughty most of the time, not a sea-side tree.⁵⁰⁶

In 1940, a scheme to plant 500 trees in the vicinity of White Woman's Rock was proposed by the Foreshore Committee.⁵⁰⁷ The area was inspected by the Forest Commission officer and the trees were planted in 1941.⁵⁰⁸ This planting was followed up in 1943 with several tea trees and Lambertiana trees added to the camping ground.⁵⁰⁹

Several other tree plantings occurred in the following years. In 1947, thirty Lambertiana trees were planted in the camping ground and this was followed up with additional tree planting in 1951.⁵¹⁰ Trees were planted in Wrathall Reserve in 1957 while in 1965 six Golden Cypress trees were proposed to be planted around the Batman Memorial.⁵¹¹ In 1966, the Committee ordered 24 New Zealand Christmas trees for planting near the tennis court.⁵¹² Three year later in 1968, Norfolk Pines were purchased from the Eastern Park Nursery and they were planted on the foreshore opposite the Laze Away Camping Park.⁵¹³ With the construction of the new round about roadway, car park and boat ramp in



Figure 2.89: Batman Park, looking south, 1943. Source: Ingrid Novosel.



Figure 2.90: Batman Park (south end) looking to St. Leonards, August 1955. Source: Victorian Railways, La Trobe Picture collection, State Library of Victoria, image H91.330/4349.



Figure 2.91: Beach walk, Batman Park, August 1955. Source: Victorian Railways, La Trobe Picture collection, State Library of Victoria, image s29624.

Wrathall Reserve in 1971, further landscaping and tree planting took place.⁵¹⁴ It was at this time when 150 trees were purchased from the Conservation League and planted in the park, as well as 20 trees 'around the fence area of the car park at Wrathall Reserve' and another 20 Cypress trees 'for perimeter of foreshore side of the carpark.'⁵¹⁵ With some of the pine trees not taking, they were replaced in 1973 with Golden Cypressess.⁵¹⁶ In 1986, another 150 trees were acquired as part of the Foreshore Committee's tree replacement program. Some of the planting was to occur on the foreshore area west of White Woman's Rock, although 'real disappointment was expressed by several Committee members' given that the Department of Conservation, Forests and Lands would not 'allow the planting of some Norfolk Island pines in this area.'⁵¹⁷

2.8.3 Erosion

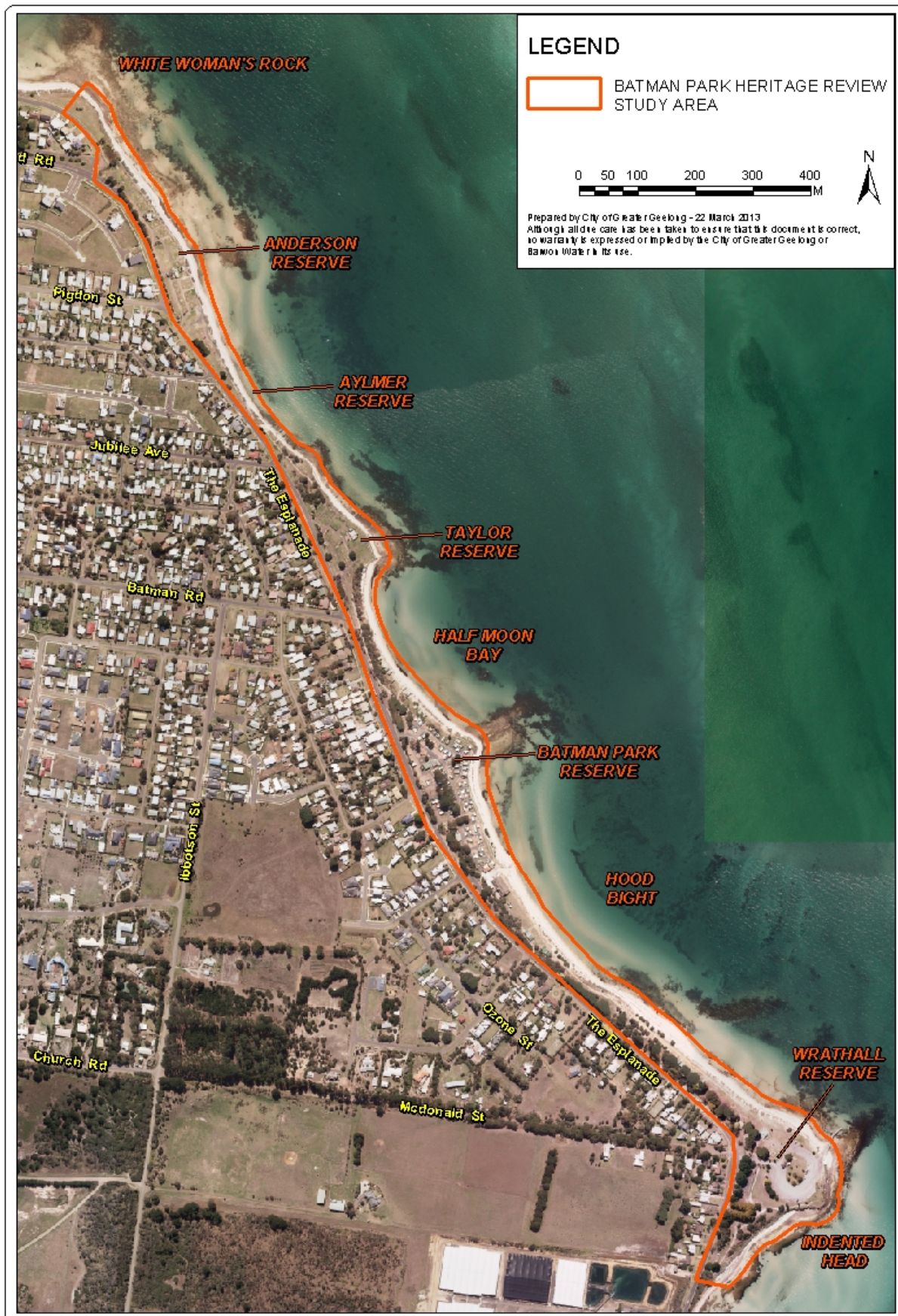
An ongoing issue throughout the 20th century has been the erosion of the foreshore land. As early as 1936, an analysis of photographs taken in 1926 revealed that 'a considerable amount of erosion has occurred in the intervening years' due to the removal of stone for road building purposes.⁵¹⁸ A Report of the Foreshore Erosion Board in 1936 concluded that 'the foot of the cliffs requires rock wall protection.'⁵¹⁹ Nothing seems to have been done about this problem for nearly 30 years. In 1962, the Foreshore Committee sought expert advice in order 'to overcome the very serious erosion which is evident on the foreshore in the Anderson Reserve area.'⁵²⁰ Six years later in 1968, a low timber wall was proposed.⁵²¹ The mitigation of erosion by the construction of this wall was to be short-lived. In 1971, the Public Works Department constructed 800 feet of rubble stone wall near the Laze Away Boat Shed and in 1972 repairs had already been required to the timber sea wall at Anderson Reserve.⁵²² In 1984, a timber retaining wall, 200 feet long, was proposed at Taylor Reserve, 'commencing at the foot of the ramp, from road to beach in front of Laze Away.'⁵²³

3.0 Physical Evidence

3.1 Introduction

Batman Park is situated on the eastern coastline of the Bellarine Peninsula off The Esplanade at Indented Head. It consists of a narrow foreshore reserve commencing at the rocky outcrop known as White Woman's Rock to the north, terminating to the immediate south of the projecting point known as Indented Head. Generally, the natural vegetation has been modified throughout the 20th century and this is now manifested in the different landscapes that establish the character of Batman Park today. Remnant indigenous plantings (including Moonahs and Tea Trees) are combined with mature (and less mature) exotics, including Monterey and Golden Monterey Cypresses, Canary Island Palms and Monterey Pines. The topography within Batman Park is also varied, from the northern and southern parts and some central portions of the reserve being at level with the major adjoining thoroughfare, The Esplanade, while another southern-central portion is on much lower ground, with grassed slopes. The topography of Batman Park is also especially characterised by the shoreline, with the principal central inlet, Half Moon Bay, featuring the P.S. Ozone wreck. The southern shoreline forms part of Hood Bight. Parts of the shoreline, such as Indented Head, have modest natural cliff faces, with sea walls and rock revetments characterising the cliffs along the northern portions and around the central outcrop in the reserve. A range of sealed and unsealed roadways and thoroughfares have established grid-like patterns throughout the central and northern portions of the Park, where camping activities are located.

The varying characteristics of Batman Park are partially determined by the different reserves within this larger foreshore area. In the northern reaches are Anderson, Aylmer and Taylor Reserves, the central portion taking in the foreshore of Half Moon Bay (and the foreshore immediately south of it) being Batman Park Reserve, and the southern-most area being Wrathall Reserve. Along the shoreline and within the Batman Park Reserve area is a number of surviving boat sheds. Further details of Batman Park and the landscaping, buildings and other features that characterise the area are given according to each of the designated reserves as follows.



Aerial Image of Batman Park showing the different reserves within this foreshore area.

3.2 Anderson Reserve

Anderson Reserve comprises the northern-most portion of Batman Park. Used for camping, this reserve is largely an open grassed area set out in a grid arrangement of gravelled thoroughfares defining the camp sites. There are two cream brick amenities blocks and a barbeque shelter in the reserve. Unlike other portions of the reserve, the landscaping is less expansive, with most of the trees located along the western boundary adjacent to The Esplanade. This vegetation includes mature Monterey Cypress trees at the northern end, and a variety of less mature plantings around the reserve perimeter. The shoreline of Anderson Reserve is especially characterised by a timber sea wall built from 1968. Timber stairs provide access to the beach. Rudimentary timber post and wire fencing also forms the boundaries in the reserve.



Aerial image of Anderson Reserve showing the locations of amenities blocks, timber sea wall, car park and the layout of the camp sites.



Photo 3.1: Northern end of Anderson Reserve, looking south.



Photo 3.2: Southern end of Anderson Reserve from car park, looking north.



Photo 3.3: Timber sea wall, Anderson Reserve.



Photo 3.4: Timber access steps to foreshore, Anderson Reserve.

3.3. Aylmer Reserve

To the south of Anderson Reserve is a narrow foreshore strip known as Aylmer Reserve.⁵²⁴ This grassed area has a gravelled pedestrian path that links with Anderson and Taylor Reserves. Towards the northern end of Aylmer Reserve is a stand of mature Cypress trees and a younger Norfolk Island Pine, and a children’s playground. Timber picnic tables and seats are dotted along the reserve that is bound by a low tubular steel fence. Towards the southern end of the reserve is a concrete access ramp and steps to the beach featuring a random rubble retaining wall with concrete capping. The southern portion of the reserve is also defined by some mature Cypress trees which are senescent.



Aerial image of Aylmer Reserve showing the locations of the timber sea wall, ramp and steps, and children’s playground.



Photo 3.5: Northern end of Aylmer Reserve, looking south.



Photo 3.6: Southern end of Aylmer Reserve, looking south.



Photo 3.7: Steps, ramp and retaining wall, Aylmer Reserve.



Photo 3.8: Timber sea wall, Aylmer Reserve.

3.4 Taylor Reserve

Taylor Reserve represents another open grassed camping reserve identified by gravelled thoroughfares forming an irregular grid arrangement. There are recent children's swings at the northern end of the reserve, while additional swings are located at the southern end that is surrounded by eucalypts and Norfolk Island Pines that appear to have been planted in the later 20th century. The western boundary fronting The Esplanade has a number of mature Cypress trees, and there are a range of native and exotic plantings within the reserve, including along the narrow escarpment in the southern portion. The area is bound by rudimentary timber post and wire fences, with a timber paling fence on the west boundary. In the centre of the reserve is an amenities block with an adjacent shallow-gabled barbeque shelter and a children's playground. Access to the foreshore is by timber and earthen steps with a gravelled path continuing northwards to Aylmer Reserve and southwards to Batman Park Reserve. The peninsula of Taylor Reserve is elevated from the foreshore. There is noticeable erosion of the cliff faces.

Set in a narrow grassed area within the southern escarpment of Taylor Reserve is the Ozone Anchor Monument comprising the anchor of the former Ozone steamer mounted on a tapered concrete stand. A metal interpretive panel provides historical details of the steamer.



Aerial image of Taylor Reserve showing the layout of the camp sites and the locations of the amenities block, children’s playground and boat shed 1.



Photo 3.9: Taylor Reserve, looking to the amenities block and children’s playground from the north.



Photo 3.10: Taylor Reserve from the foreshore of Half Moon Bay looking north. The amenities block is to the right, with the gabled building on the foreshore being Boat Shed 1.



Photo 3.11: Ozone Memorial Anchor, adjacent to Taylor Reserve.



Photo 3.12: Interpretive display, Ozone Memorial Anchor.

3.5 Batman Park Reserve

The central core of Batman Park is the Batman Park camping reserve. It has the highest density of open, grassed camp sites available, accessed by sealed thoroughfares. The topography is also terraced, the lower foreshore level including 24 boat sheds within the Half Moon Bay shoreline. They also extend along the shoreline of Hood Bight and are nestled within the grassed sloping ground. The projecting peninsula of the Batman Park Reserve is a key natural land feature. It is bound by rock revetment that is in poor condition, allowing further erosion of the cliff face. Another characteristic feature within Half Moon Bay is the P.S. Ozone wreck that was hulked in 1925.



Aerial of Batman Park Reserve showing the locations of the boat sheds, amenities blocks, Boat Club and Hall Building, Yacht Club Building, boat club slipway and the former administration building.



Photo 3.13: Rock revetment in disrepair at Batman Park Foreshore outcrop.



Photo 3.14: Ozone Wreck from Batman Park Foreshore reserve.

Landscape

Dominant features of the Batman Park Reserve are the Monterey Pine and Cypress trees that provide shade to the camp sites. They are located in central rows in the northern and central portions of the main camping area. To the south of this area is a cluster of native and exotic vegetation on the raised area of the western fringe. A row of mature Monterey Cypress trees is situated along the narrowest portion of the Batman Park Reserve at the southern end which extend into an avenue of mature Monterey Cypresses that link with Wrathall Reserve. The western boundary of the Batman Park Reserve area is defined by timber post and wire fencing.



Photo 3.15: Row of Monterey Cypresses along the narrow southern portion of Batman Park Reserve.



Photo 3.16: Row of Monterey Cypresses in the central camping section of Batman Park Reserve.



Photo 3.17: Avenue of Monterey Cypress trees at the southern end of Batman Park Foreshore reserve, adjoining Wrathall Reserve.



Photo 3.18: The foreshore and landscape of Batman Park Foreshore Reserve from the jetty (south).

Amenities and former Administration Building

Centrally located within the Batman Park Reserve are two amenities blocks between which is the former administration building built in 1965. The amenities block on the west side (public toilets closest to The Esplanade) is the more intact of the two amenities buildings, both of which were originally constructed of

unpainted vermiculated concrete block parapeted walls. The existing vermiculated concrete block buildings appear to date from 1949, with later brick additions to the east amenities block (camp toilets). The early fabric and design of these buildings are typical of foreshore amenities constructed in other parts of the Bellarine Peninsula at this time, including the foreshore reserves at Ocean Grove. The administration building appears to be moderately intact, with its skillion roof form and brick wall construction, although the overpainting to the walls has been introduced. The aluminium framed windows on the north side have replaced the original banks of timber framed double hung windows with central fixed lights, and the bank of full length windows on the south elevation have replaced original doors. To the north of the former administration building is a gabled barbeque shelter and an adjoining children’s playground.

Additional amenities blocks are located towards the west boundary to the north of the Indented Head Yacht Club building and to the south of the Boat Club and Hall building (the latter being temporary).



Photo 3.19: North elevation of early amenities block (public toilets) to the west of the former Administration Building.



Photo 3.20: South and west elevations of the early amenities block (public toilets).



Photo 3.21: North elevation of the altered early amenities block (camp toilets) to the east of the former Administration Building.



Photo 3.22: South elevation of the altered early amenities block.



Photo 3.23: North elevation of the former Administration Building.



Photo 3.24: South elevation of the former Administration Building.



Photo 3.25: Children’s playground and barbeque shelter to the north of the amenities blocks and former Administration Building.



Photo 3.26: Amenities block located in the west boundary to the north of the Indented Head Yacht Club building.

Indented Head Yacht Club Building

On low ground near the foreshore within the central southern portion of the Batman Park Reserve is the Indented Head Yacht Club building constructed in 1978. The two storey, face brick and gabled building has a projecting flat-roofed timber verandah and balcony on the east (foreshore) side. The gable ends are constructed of vertical timber boards with large banks of aluminium framed windows and doors. Under the verandah on the ground floor is a single door opening with a flush panel door, while the southern end of the east elevation has a vehicular door opening with a roller door. At the rear are parapeted and skillion garage wings, with at least one of these wings representing the original boat club garage built in 1968. The building appears to be in fair condition and of moderate integrity. On the north side of the Yacht Club building is a storage yard bound by high cyclone wire fencing.



Photo 3.27: Indented Head Yacht Club building, north and east elevations.



Photo 3.28: Detail of north elevation of Indented Head Yacht Club balcony.



Photo 3.29: Indented Head Yacht Club building, south and east elevations.



Photo 3.30: Rear view of the Indented Head Yacht Club building showing the rear garage wings.

Indented Head Boat Club and Hall Building

To the south of the Yacht Club building is the Indented Head Boat Club and Hall Building erected in 1954-55. The contextually substantial building is dominated by a gable roof form that traverses the shoreline, with three major and two minor skillion dormers projecting from the east roof face, and two large skillion

dormers punctuated by a projecting first floor gabled entry wing on the west (rear) roof face. The roof is clad in original corrugated cement sheet and the rounded quad guttering is also original. The building is constructed of original hand-made vermiculated concrete blocks for the ground floor walls which feature 10 garage door openings and metal tilt doors on both the east and west facades. These door openings represent the boat compartments. The northern gable end has original strapped cement sheet wall cladding and an introduced brick stair and winch house (built in 1980) while the southern gable end is constructed of introduced horizontal cement sheet boards. The projecting timber staircase is original. Access to the upper attic-like hall is by the central first floor entry at the rear of the building. A walkway bridge links the entry from the elevated western portion of the foreshore reserve. Overall, the building appears to be in fair condition and it is substantially intact.

At the rear of the Boat Club building is a single storey skillion outbuilding providing an additional six boat compartments. This building has been introduced in the later 20th century.

Between the Boat Club and Yacht Club buildings is an open concrete forecourt for boat trailer parking. Beyond the forecourt on the foreshore is a boat ramp that appears to have been constructed in 1965.



Photo 3.31: Indented Head Boat Club & Hall Building, east and south elevations.



Photo 3.32: Indented Head Boat Club & Hall Building, north elevation.



Photo 3.33: Indented Head Boat Club & Hall Building, south elevation, showing first floor entrance portico and walkway bridge.



Photo 3.34: Rear skillion Boat Club Outbuilding, north and east elevations.



Photo 3.35: Indented Head Boat Club & Hall Building in foreshore context, looking south from Half Moon Bay foreshore. The slipway is shown to the left of the Boat Club Building.



Photo 3.36: Forecourt to the north of the Indented Boat Club & Hall Building.

3.6 Wrathall Reserve

The southern portion of Batman Park comprises Wrathall Reserve. It takes in the projecting outcrop of Indented Head and extends southwards, terminating opposite the aquaculture farm at 366 The Esplanade.



Aerial image of Wrathall Reserve showing the locations of the jetty and boat ramp, boat sheds, Wrathall Memorial Shelter, tennis courts and Batman-Flinders Memorial.

Car Parking and Landscaping

The central core of this reserve is characterised by a circular car park having a central grassed landscaped area with Norfolk Island Pine trees (possibly planted in 1966) and a temporary amenities block. The central circular landscape is bound by a low tubular steel fence. The car park is accessed by a sealed road from The Esplanade. The northern portion of the reserve is accessed by a gravelled vehicular road, while gravelled pedestrian paths are situated to the north, south and west of the circular car park. Open grassed areas with perimeter native and exotic plantings define the pedestrian paths. Along the southern coastal fringe of the reserve is an introduced timber board walk. The elevated nature of the reserve from the foreshore in this area is especially identified in the Indented Head peninsula when viewed from the south. There is evidence of considerable erosion in the cliff faces of the Indented Head.

Wrathall Reserve is especially identified by a range of mature and less mature exotic trees that define different parts of the area. These different parts are connected by open grassed spaces. There are stands of mature Cypress and younger Norfolk Island Pine Trees to the north and south-west of the car park (the Norfolk Island Pines appear to be the Christmas Trees planted in 1966). A row of mature Cypress trees forms the north-western boundary of the tennis court located adjacent to The Esplanade on the southern side of the vehicular entry into Wrathall Reserve. The tennis court (laid out in 1967) has a sealed bitumen surface and is bound by a high cyclone wire fence.

A distinctive landscape feature of Wrathall Reserve is the Golden Cypress trees laid out in a U plan around the Batman-Flinders Memorial to the south of the tennis court. These trees appear to be those planted in 1965. Some of the trees are now senescent, particularly those in the south-east corner on The Esplanade boundary.

The northern landscape of Wrathall Reserve is defined by two Canary Island Palms as well as mature Monterey Pines that flank both the Wrathall Memorial Shelter and the gravelled road that leads to it. The Monterey Pines may date from the 1920s when several trees were planted by the Committee under the Chairmanship of Stephen Wrathall. The Canary Island Palms would appear to have been planted about the time of the opening of the memorial Wrathall Shelter in 1954.

To the south of the Batman-Flinders Memorial is a narrow grassed reserve identified by Cypresses and Tea Trees. Picnic seats (possibly added in the 1960s) are located throughout this area.



Photo 3.37: Central landscape of circular park adjacent to the boat ramp and jetting, looking from the east.



Photo 3.38: Gravelled pedestrian path near the foreshore in the northern portion of Wrathall Reserve.



Photo 3.39: Timber board walk along the foreshore near the southern portion of Wrathall Reserve.



Photo 3.40: View from the south to the Indented Head peninsula, showing erosion of the cliff face.



Photo 3.41: Open grassed area, Cypress and other trees flanking the circular car park.



Photo 3.42: Row of mature cypresses to the west of the tennis court.



Photo 3.43: Northern row of Golden Cypresses flanking the Batman-Flinders Memorial.



Photo 3.44: Canary Island Palms and other mature trees forming the vehicular entrance to the Wrathall Memorial Shelter.



Photo 3.45: Narrow grassed area with tea trees to the south of the Batman-Flinders Memorial.



Photo 3.46: Picnic table and seats, southern portion of Wrathall Reserve.

Batman-Flinders Memorial

The Batman-Flinders Memorial, erected in 1931, is located within a rectangular reserve enclosed by Golden Cypress trees on three sides, and a tubular steel boundary fence (installed in 1974) as well as low casil brick fencing that flanks a central concrete path that leads to the monument. This fence may also have been built in the 1970s. There is also an early tubular steel sign post, although the hanging sign is missing. The floodlights flanking the Memorial were also introduced in 1974.

The Batman-Flinders Memorial consists of a tall, random rubble obelisk set on a low stepped base. The obelisk and the base have rendered cappings with introduced white overpainting. This overpainting has diminished the integrity of the structure. Embedded in the memorial are two stone tablets added in 1935 (at the time of the centenary of the Batman landing) and 1985.

Adjacent to the Memorial is a random stone seat having a rendered capping and central backing. The render has been overpainted in white paint which has diminished the character of the seat.

To the north-west is an interpretive display sign on William Buckley.



Photo 3.47: Batman-Flinders Memorial from The Esplanade, showing the casil brick and tubular steel fence, tubular steel sign post, and flanking Golden Cypress trees.



Photo 3.48: Batman-Flinders Memorial, front (west) view.



Photo 3.49: Batman-Flinders Memorial and adjacent seat, west view.



Photo 3.50: Detail of base of Batman-Flinders Memorial.



Photo 3.51: Detail of capping of Batman-Flinders Memorial.



Photo 3.52: Stone tablet of 1935 embedded in Memorial.



Photo 3.53: Stone tablet of 1985 embedded in Memorial.



Photo 3.54: Detail of one of the floodlights.



Photo 3.55: Stone seat, west view.



Photo 3.56: Stone seat, north view.

Wrathall Memorial Shelter

To the north of the road entry into Wrathall Reserve is the Wrathall Memorial Shelter constructed in 1953-54 in memory of the first Committee Chairman, Stephen Wrathall. The structure has a broad hipped roof form clad in introduced colorbond on recycled timber rafters. The roof is supported by brick piers and a central fireplace with a rendered base and tapered Castlemaine stone flue. The fireplace has been blocked up. Brick partition walls project on the diagonal from the fireplace, terminating with expressed brick piers. All the brickwork has been overpainted. On the south face of the fireplace is a bronze plaque that reads “Memorial to Stephen Wrathall Esq., a pioneer of Indented Head, erected 1953”. Another metal plaque is affixed to the west face of the fireplace and it reads “Wrathall Park BBQ Shelter renovated by The Lions Club of Portarlinton/Drysdale and Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee of Management, Re-opened December 2008”. There is a concrete slab floor. The building appears to be in good condition and it is substantially intact.



Photo 3.57: Wrathall Memorial Shelter viewed from the jetty.



Photo 3.58: South elevation, Wrathall Memorial Shelter.



Photo 3.59: Detail of fireplace and flue.



Photo 3.60: Detail of memorial plaque to Stephen Wrathall embedded in the south face of the fireplace.



Photo 3.61: Roof structure detail showing recycled timbers.



Photo 3.62: Detail of metal plaque attached to west face of fireplace.

Boat Ramp & Jetty

Projecting from the shoreline to the east of the circular car park is a concrete boat ramp and a narrow jetty constructed of timber piles and a timber deck. There is also a timber post and rail balustrade on the south side of the jetty. The boat ramp represents the slipway built in 1971 and the jetty is that constructed in 1972 (with repairs carried out in 1986). Both appear to be in good condition and reflective of their original designs.



Photo 3.63: Boat Ramp and Jetty, Wrathall Reserve.

3.7 Boat Sheds

Dotted along the foreshore of Batman Park are 24 gabled boat sheds which contribute to the marine coastline of this part of Indented Head. These sheds are indelibly associated with the development and progress of the Foreshore Committee and especially with the growth in residential development at Indented Head between 1926 and 1950. Each of the sheds has introduced cream overpainting and green-painted corrugated sheet metal, cement sheet or Colorbond roof cladding. A number of sheds have exposed timber rafter ends in the eaves, indicating that the roof structures are of timber construction.

They all have large door openings to the foreshore with doors of varying types and construction. Most sheds also appear to have concrete floors although there are some (such as boat sheds 2 and 7) facing Half Moon Bay that have timber floors. Most of the earliest sheds built between c.1926 and 1941 were constructed of either reinforced concrete or hand-made vermiculated concrete block construction. One of the earliest surviving boat sheds (number 15) is of reinforced concrete construction. It is also unusual for its projecting buttresses along the sides. Other reinforced concrete constructed boat sheds (where horizontal or vertical timber formwork boards or corrugated sheet metal formwork boards have been used) include shed numbers 12, 18-22, 24, 26-27. Examples of hand-made vermiculated concrete block boat sheds include shed 23 (built 1947), 25 (built 1941) and shed 1 (built 1950). This latter shed is large for a single shed building and is one of the last to have been constructed. The remaining sheds are of lightweight construction, being either strapped cement sheet, corrugated sheet metal, or a combination of both. One of the earliest-built sheds (number 5) has corrugated sheet metal wall cladding. Other examples of lightweight sheds including shed number 2 (built 1941), 4 (built 1953), 8 (built 1935), 9 (built 1937), 11 (built before 1945) and 13 (built 1943).

Access to the interiors of each shed has not been possible. However, of the 3-4 sheds where the interiors have been inspected,⁵²⁵ ‘Dalhousie’ (shed no. 22) is of moderate-high integrity, with the original iron winch and iron winch rails remaining insitu. At ‘Te Whare’ (shed no.20), the winch and boat rollers also remain.



Photo 3.64: Boat Shed 15, ‘Wykarra House’.



Photo 3.65: Boat Shed 26.



Photo 3.66: Boat Shed 23.



Photo 3.67: Boat Shed 1.



Photo 3.68: Boat Shed 3.



Photo 3.69: Boat Shed 9.



Photo 3.70: Interior, Boat Shed 22 ('Dalhousie'), showing early winch and iron railings. Source: Chris Idle.



Photo 3.71: Detail of early winch in the interior of Boat Shed 22 ('Dalhousie'). Source: Chris Idle.

The boat sheds are located on the foreshore, from the projecting peninsula of Half Moon Bay to the north, to the foreshore of Hood Bight to the south. The locations of the sheds are partly associated with the locations of the original owner's properties along The Esplanade (some early boat shed owners had property elsewhere in Indented Head). This is especially prevalent with some of the southern-most sheds including 'Dalhousie' (shed 22), 'Trevallyn' (shed 25) and shed 27 where the dwellings of the original owners survive nearby. Other examples include 'Lydford' (shed 19) and 'Te Whare' (shed 20.) While the sheds appear to be structurally sound, there is notable deterioration in roof and especially wall fabric. Overall, as a grouping and individually, the boat sheds are substantially intact. The condition of some of the sheds has led to patching in a range of materials which has diminished the integrity of specific sheds to some degree.

More specific details on each of the sheds are provided as Appendix 8.04.



Photo 3.72: Boat Sheds 24-27.



Photo 3.73: Boat Sheds 16-19.



Photo 3.74: Boat Sheds 20-23.



Photo 3.75: Boat Sheds 2 - 13.

4.0 Comparative Analysis

4.1 Introduction

The following comparative analysis establishes an architectural, aesthetic, historical, scientific and social context for the landscapes, buildings, structures and other features that characterised Batman Park, Indented Head. This analysis therefore compares Batman Park with:

- Other Foreshore Camping Reserves in the Bellarine Peninsula & Surf Coast Regions.
- Other Early 20th Century Boat Sheds.
- Other Mid 20th Century Boat Club Buildings.

4.2 Other Foreshore Camping Reserves on the Bellarine Peninsula & Surf Coast Regions

4.2.1 Brief Background

Organised sea bathing in Australia has its origins in the 19th century when segregated and often fenced-off sea baths were constructed at the end of piers or as promenades to 'keep out large fish.'⁵²⁶ From the 1840s and 1850s, sea bathing offered an opportunity to practise personal hygiene, with the submerging into sea water and the inhaling of fresh sea air being promoted as therapies for a range of ills.⁵²⁷ Separate baths for males and females were commonly erected, or single baths were used at separate times for men and women, reflecting contemporary Victorian attitudes.⁵²⁸ In Victoria, sea baths were predominantly erected on Port Phillip Bay.⁵²⁹ In 1854, the first Eastern Beach baths were built (Figure 4.1) which were soon followed by those in St. Kilda in 1856.⁵³⁰

While no sea baths were constructed at Indented Head, they were erected nearby. The earliest were constructed at Queenscliff in 1862⁵³¹ (Figure 4.2). They were followed by 'fittings under the jetty being adapted for bathers of both sexes at all states of the tide' at St. Leonards by 1865.⁵³² At Portarlington, a bathing house had been built as early as 1868 (it was replaced in 1878).⁵³³ Along other parts of the Bellarine Peninsula, bathing boxes and associated structures for organised bathing according to Victorian etiquette were built at Clifton Springs, Ocean Grove, and Barwon Heads.⁵³⁴ Further afield, there were also baths established at Lorne in 1881 by Thomas Anderson and the Mountjoy Brothers.⁵³⁵

Less structured along much of the Bellarine Peninsula foreshore in the 19th century was camping. Picnic parties and longer term campers took to Portarlington, Indented Head, St. Leonards, Queenscliff, Point Lonsdale, Ocean Grove and Barwon Heads (Figure 4.3) for beach recreation. The 'Ocean Park Reserve' from Point Lonsdale to Point Roadknight was gazetted in 1876 as a foreshore area permanently reserved from private sale.⁵³⁶ However, it was not until the late 19th century and especially into the 20th century when formal regulations were gazetted for most foreshore areas within the Bellarine Peninsula – a consequence of the appointment of Committees of Management – which governed how and when camping could be permitted in these areas.



Figure 4.1: Ladies Baths, Eastern Beach, Geelong, n.d. Source: Geelong Heritage Centre collection.



Figure 4.2: Queenscliff Baths, n.d. Source: La Trobe Picture collection, State Library of Victoria, image rg000505.



Figure 4.3: Tents at Barwon Heads, c.1920. Source: Martin Klabbers collection, photo claren 33.

Impetus for Committees of Management and regulations upon which these foreshore areas were to be managed came from a number of influences. The new-found recreational pursuits at the seaside had become highly popular from the 1880s when sea baths, bathing boxes, guesthouses and other facilities placed pressures on these Crown reserves. The Land Act of 1915 ensured their permanent reservation from sale. Equally and possibly most importantly, changing social conditions played a substantial role in the transformation of seaside recreation both during and after the First World War. In 1917, mixed beach bathing was no longer prohibited in Victoria and prohibitions on bathing during daylight hours were gradually relaxed.⁵³⁷ Organised management committees, amenities and other infrastructure were needed to cater for the growing population of beach goers at the scenic beach resorts throughout the Bellarine Peninsula and Surf Coast regions, then within easy access as a consequence of the motor car.

4.2.2 Foreshore Camping Reserves on the Bellarine Peninsula & Surf Coast Regions

Other foreshore camping reserves established on the Bellarine Peninsula include the following:

Barwon Heads Park⁵³⁸

The Barwon Heads Park first came under the management of the Barwon Heads Park Trust in 1889 (Figures 4.4-4.5). Like Batman Park, the Barwon Heads Park benefited from the patronage of neighbouring landholders, including the influential Trustee, George Hitchcock and his wife, who transformed the reserve into a pleasure ground through the planting of numerous exotic trees. Today, only one of the exotic trees survives. Barwon Heads Park is a substantial foreshore area overlooking the mouth of the Barwon River. Bluestone retaining walls define the Park boundary, as does The Bluff. It is a well-treed landscape of gum and tea trees punctuated by a principal central sealed road and numerous gravelled thoroughfares that provide access to hundreds of camp sites, a notable number of amenities blocks and the Barwon Coast Committee of Management Administration building. Within Barwon Heads Park is the former Lobster Pot Dance Hall (built 1934), jetty (first built in 1889), former Boot Room (built 1889), as well as a number of memorials such as the Earl of Charlemont Monument and anchor and the Ss Orungal Secondary anchor. There is also a restored and converted former boat house overlooking the Barwon River that now provides beach front accommodation. It is the only surviving boat house from the Barwon Heads foreshore in the Park.

Breamlea Caravan Park⁵³⁹

Earliest known as Picnic Point, the treed sand hills of Breamlea was popular for beach recreation, camping and fishing from the 19th century. Before the mid 1930s, the area was under the control of the Crown Lands Department. In 1959, the Breamlea Foreshore and Reserve Committee was appointed and it carried on the work of managing the camping sites and the establishment of the Caravan Park at Breamlea today. In 1985, there were 150 camp sites at the Caravan Park. The Park is defined by curved sealed drives with open grassed camp sites bordered by native



Figure 4.4: Barwon Heads Park, c.1895. Source: Martin Klabbers collection, photo quint 103.



Figure 4.5: Kiosk at the entrance to the Barwon Heads Park, c.1930. Source: Martin Klabbers collection, photo quint 021.

trees.

Ocean Grove Caravan & Camping Parks⁵⁴⁰

From as early as the 1890s, the Ocean Grove Improvement Association had maintained the foreshore at Ocean Grove for visitors. However, the construction of the bridge across the Barwon River in 1926-27 brought with it increased visitation to the foreshore areas. The first Committee of Management was established in 1928 to manage the strip of foreshore land stretching along the main Ocean Grove Surf Beach. In 1929, a more permanent Committee was elected and in 1934 it also commenced management of the Spit Reserve (the narrow coastal reserve that separates Bass Strait and the Barwon River). Today, the Riverview Caravan Park at the northern end of the Spit reserve accommodates caravans all year round. The natural landscape of tea tree and grassed areas comprising the southern reserve of the Spit on the west side of the Barwon Heads-Ocean Grove Road is available for camping over the summer school holiday period. Within this portion of the reserve are early amenities blocks (built 1941) (Figures 4.6-4.7) of the same construction and design as the public toilets in the Batman Park Foreshore Reserve. No bathing boxes or boat houses survive along the beach fronts or in the foreshore reserves.

Point Lonsdale Caravan Park⁵⁴¹

A seven acre triangular parcel of foreshore land immediately south of the recreation ground on Point Lonsdale Road was permanently reserved for public purposes at Point Lonsdale on 30 December 1926. Named Royal Park, the Borough of Queenscliffe was appointed the Committee of Management and regulations were gazetted in the following year, 1927. Today, the caravan park is an elevated foreshore landscape characterised by open grassed areas and native trees. There are a number of sealed and gravelled drives providing access to camp sites. There are at least two amenities blocks. Along the east boundary of the park is a bluestone seawall that traverses much of the Point Lonsdale foreshore (Figure 4.8).

Portarlington Caravan Park⁵⁴²

Camping at Portarlington began on the central foreshore area adjacent to the jetty, possibly as early as the 1870s and 1880s when the land was permanently reserved. Flanking Harding Street, the eastern reserve was named Eastern Park and the western parcel of land, Western Park. Regulations for the management of Eastern Park (including camping) were gazetted in 1908 but it was not until 1928 when similar regulations came into force at Western Park. Today, Western Park is known as Henderson Reserve (with the south-eastern corner named S.S. Nash Reserve), while the north-west corner of Eastern Park is known as the W.G. Little Reserve. During the summer holiday season, these reserves 'became a sea of canvas' following the hardship of World War One. With the growing popularity of Portarlington for camping and the increasing use of caravans, the Portarlington Seaside Resort Caravan Park was established on the former Racecourse Reserve (gazetted in 1886), possibly in the 1950s (Figure 4.9). Located on the west side of Sproat Street on the foreshore, and now known as the Bellarine Holiday Park, the camping reserve consists of a long lineal arrangement of drives and



Figure 4.6: Ocean Grove Beach Coastal Area showing amenities block, 1948, similar to the existing early amenities blocks in the Spit foreshore area. Source: Susie Zada collection, photo 737.



Figure 4.7: Ocean Grove beach and foreshore reserve, 1948. Source: John Wynn collection.



Figure 4.8: The beach, sea wall and portion of camping ground (right), Point Lonsdale, 28 January 1949. Source: La Trobe Picture collection, State Library of Victoria, image a27359.



Figure 4.9: Camping ground and beach, Portarlington, c.1954. Source: Rose series, La Trobe Picture collection, State Library of Victoria, image H32492/9056.

avenues providing access to a large number of camp sites. The reserve is especially characterised by long rows of cypress trees. No early boat sheds and bathing boxes are situated on the adjoining foreshore of the Caravan Park.

Queenscliff Caravan Park⁵⁴³

In 1880, a four acre site for public gardens and general recreation was reserved on the south side of King Street, between Hesse Street and Mercer Street, at Queenscliff. Known as Victoria Park, the reserved area soon became the location for camping, with the adjoining sports ground providing additional open grassed space as well as additional camp sites around it (Figure 4.10). Gravelled drives and a combination of native and exotic trees defined the landscape. These trees continue to characterise the caravan park today.

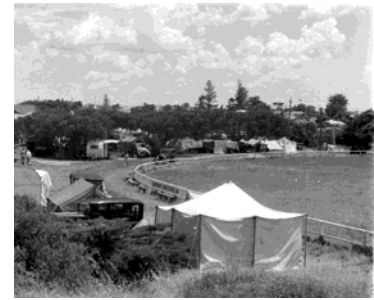


Figure 4.10: Camping & Recreation Grounds, Queenscliff, c.1954. Source: Rose series, La Trobe Picture collection, State Library of Victoria, image H32492/6675.

St. Leonards Caravan Park⁵⁴⁴

The open foreshore reserve to the south of St. Leonards pier became a favourite picnic site for residents and visitors in the 19th century. In 1920, with talk that the reserve was to be leased to private individuals, the St. Leonards Progress Association was formed and an application was made for the area to be reserved for public purposes. With permission granted, the Progress Association took responsibility for erecting fencing and seats (Figure 4.11). These seats featured gabled shelters. Swings were erected and amenities provided, screened by rudimentary fencing. Influential in gaining permission for the reservation of the reserve was Cr. Edward Harvey. It was officially opened on 9 June 1921 when it was named Harvey Park, in honour of Cr. Harvey's mother, Kate. A Committee of Management was formed and from this time a significant tree planting program of Cypresses and Pines commenced. Foreshore land to the north of the St. Leonards pier was later added to the camping reserve (Figure 4.12). Today, Harvey Park and the reserved land to the north of the pier continue to be used as public recreation areas, but no longer for camping. A number of the exotic trees planted in the early 20th century survive. A large sealed car park has also been constructed in the northern reserve area.



Figure 4.11: Pratt, aerial view of Harvey Park, c.1925. Source: Rose series, La Trobe Picture collection, State Library of Victoria, image H91.160/1652.



Figure 4.12: St. Leonards Camping Ground, c.1954. Source: Rose series, La Trobe Picture collection, State Library of Victoria, image H32492/9521.

Torquay Caravan Park:⁵⁴⁵

The Torquay Caravan Park (Figure 4.13) has been the location of public coastal recreation in Torquay since the 1880s. Situated on Bell Street at the southern end of the town, the park has been transformed – both in the 19th century and then again in the 20th century. It is characterised by curvilinear drives and paths and open grassed areas forming camp sites, while many gum trees, tea trees and senescent pine trees dominate the landscape. Like Batman Park and Barwon Heads Park, the early establishment of the Torquay Park relied on the influence of local landholders. In particular, the Spring Creek Progress Association, and especially Colonel J.L. Price, who successfully agitated against the development of the reserve for private residential subdivision. Until recently, the only known surviving bathing box from 'cosy corner' beach had been and stored in the Park. It met its demise during relocation in c.2010.



Figure 4.13: Torquay Caravan Park, 2008.

4.3 Other Private Foreshore Boat Sheds

4.3.1 Contextual Background: Bathing Boxes and Boat Sheds

Around Port Phillip Bay, the earliest private structures on the bayside beaches appear to have been bathing boxes. They were the most common form of structure to be erected on the foreshores. At Brighton, they seemed to have existed from as early as 1862.⁵⁴⁶ By the interwar period, upwards of 200 boxes were in use in the Brighton area⁵⁴⁷ (Figure 4.14). Other 19th and early 20th century boxes soon followed at other suburban bayside beach fronts, including Hampton, Sandringham, Black Rock, Mentone and Mordialloc. In the early 1900s, there was a surge of requests to the Moorabbin Shire for permission to erect these boxes.⁵⁴⁸



Figure 4.14: Bathing Boxes, Brighton, 1951. Source: R. Banda, La Trobe Picture collection, State Library of Victoria, image H2002.129/8.

By far the majority of bathing boxes were on the Mornington Peninsula. Built in the later 19th and more particularly in the early 20th centuries, these bathing boxes lined the foreshores at Frankston, Mornington, Dromana, Rosebud, Rye, Blairgowrie and Sorrento. Today, the Shire manages approximately 664 bathing boxes or boat sheds on its foreshores.⁵⁴⁹

In the regions of the Bellarine Peninsula and Surf Coast, bathing boxes and boat sheds had first been erected on the river foreshore at Barwon Heads in the 1880s.⁵⁵⁰ In 1905, the Geelong Harbor Trust commissioned the Geelong architects, Seeley and King to provide a standard design for new boat houses⁵⁵¹ (Figure 4.15). These structures measured 30 feet by 12 feet and these long gabled timber structures featured front porches.⁵⁵² They lined the Barwon River foreshore (Figure 4.16) until their forced removal in 1936. At Ocean Grove, bathing boxes had been erected on the elevated slopes from the main beach foreshore in the late 19th or early 20th centuries. Further boxes were constructed in 1929.⁵⁵³ Similarly, bathing boxes lined the foreshore at Pt Lonsdale from the late 19th or early 20th centuries.⁵⁵⁴ At Torquay, bathing boxes were first in existence from the late 1880s, with Mr Rudd’s box built on the foreshore south of Anderson Street.⁵⁵⁵ By 1910, there were 98 bathing boxes on the beach front of the ‘cosy corner’ foreshore.⁵⁵⁶ Today, a small number of the boat houses that lined the foreshore at Barwon Heads survive as dwellings within Barwon Heads and Ocean Grove. There are no surviving bathing boxes or boat houses on the foreshores at Pt Lonsdale, Barwon Heads, Ocean Grove and Torquay.

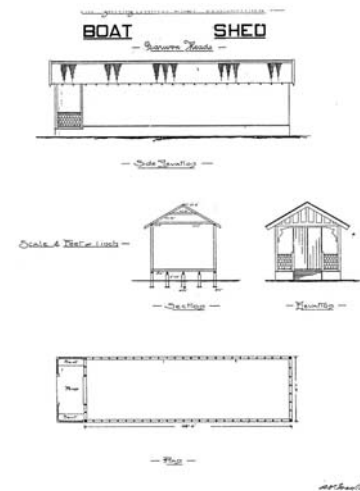


Figure 4.15: Seeley & King, Boat Shed Design, Barwon Heads, 10 January 1913. Source: Geelong Heritage Centre collection.

4.3.2 Comparable Surviving Boat Sheds

Mornington Peninsula

Most comparable with the boat sheds at Indented Head are structures on the Mornington Peninsula (and particularly the gabled boat shed buildings). Their heritage significance has been identified in the ‘Heritage Report bathing boxes and boat sheds, Mornington Peninsula beach reserves Stage 2’ prepared by Graeme Butler and Associates in 2004. Butler’s report gives the following outline of specific individual shed types:

Of the boat sheds, the most identifiably original sub-type is the inter-war vermiculated cement block type and of this, the unpainted examples have the most integrity to their generally inter-



Figure 4.16: Boat Sheds, Barwon Heads, c.1930. Source: Susie Zada collection.

war construction date. The weatherboard clad inter-war boat shed type is a more common but often more changed sub-type: the best of these groups should be conserved.⁵⁵⁷

Readily comparable with the Indented Head sheds due to their gabled forms, similar proportions and wall and roof construction (particularly the vermiculated concrete block and lightweight cement sheet wall construction) are the groupings of boat sheds on the Capel Sound foreshore (Figure 4.17), Rosebud foreshore, Shelley Beach (Portsea) foreshore (Figure 4.18) and Tyrone (Rye) foreshore Figure 4.19). Unlike the Indented Head sheds, some groupings of sheds are multi-coloured, such as those on the Tyrone foreshore.

The Butler Report also identifies at least one boat shed (number 168) on the Dromana Beach (Figure 4.20) that was built in 1903 of 'unusual concrete construction'.⁵⁵⁸ It is considered to be unique among the Mornington Peninsula's beach structures due to its concrete walls.⁵⁵⁹ This boat shed seems directly comparable with the reinforced concrete boat sheds at Indented Head built 20-30 years later. Experimental reinforced concrete construction techniques had been practiced in Victoria and elsewhere in Australia by the turn of the century, with a range of innovative systems employed.⁵⁶⁰ As early as 1908, a 'complete house was cast in one piece in a period of six hours, using iron formwork'.⁵⁶¹ These types of inventions appear to have formed the basis of the rudimentary and vernacular boat shed examples at Dromana Beach and Indented Head.

Extensive use was also made of vermiculated cement blocks for the boat sheds at Mornington, as well as for some at Indented Head. Machines and moulds for making the blocks had commonly been imported from the U.S.A., including the American Hollow Concrete Wall Company of Port Melbourne, managed by Richard Taylor in 1905.⁵⁶² Tyree Building Block Machines were also available for 'any country builder [who] can make his own blocks on the spot', the machines being 'the cheapest line on the market'.⁵⁶³ Interwar era boat sheds on the Mornington Peninsula of vermiculated concrete block construction include 'Halcyon' at Rosebud (Figure 4.21) and others at Capel Sound.⁵⁶⁴

Like Indented Head, some other sheds on the Mornington Peninsula were also constructed of lightweight fibre cement sheet. In 1916-17, James Hardie and Company commenced production of flat asbestos cement sheets and tiles registered as 'Fibrolite'.⁵⁶⁵

Werribee⁵⁶⁶

At Campells Cove and Baileys Beach (earlier known as Elliot's Beach) on the Werribee South foreshore are 144 boat sheds constructed from the late 1920s (Figure 4.22). Regulations were gazetted for the management of the foreshore (including the control of boat sheds) on 25 March 1931. After World War Two, there was an increase in boat shed construction using recycled materials (due to a shortage of materials). These sheds were also used as summer holiday houses with milk and paper deliveries being made.



Figure 4.17: Boat Sheds on Capel Sound Foreshore, 2004. Source: Butler, *Bathing Boxes & Boat Sheds*, p.22.



Figure 4.18: Boat Sheds on Shelley Beach, 2004. Source: Butler, *Bathing Boxes & Boat Sheds*, p.34.



Figure 4.19: Boat Sheds on Tyrone Beach, 2004. Source: Butler, *Bathing Boxes & Boat Sheds*, p.39.



Figure 4.20: Boat Shed 168, Dromana Beach, constructed of concrete, 2004. Source: Butler, *Bathing Boxes & Boat Sheds*, p.90.



Figure 4.21: Boat shed constructed of vermiculated concrete blocks, Rosebud foreshore, 2004. Source: Butler, *Bathing Boxes & Boat Sheds*, p.32.

The boat sheds at Werribee are similar in form and scale to those at Indented Head, most have gabled roofs clad in corrugated sheet metal. It appears that a large number of these boat sheds are of lightweight wall cladding.

Anglesea⁵⁶⁷

Three gabled timber weatherboard boat sheds survive on the west bank of the Anglesea River at Anglesea (Figure 4.23). The central shed appears to have been built in 1916-17 to a design by the Geelong architects, Laird and Buchan, for the Bingley family of “Loma Larnee”. The sheds are associated with the evolution and development of the locally-important annual Anglesea Regatta which formally commenced in 1910-11 and involved several events and particularly rowing.

4.4 Other Mid 20th Century Boat & Yacht Club Compartment Buildings

The opening of the Indented Head Boat Club and Hall building in November 1954 was claimed to have been a model for the construction of boat houses around Port Phillip Bay. Other Boat and Yacht Clubs had formed in the early 20th century and by the mid 20th century, they also had constructed clubhouses with boat compartments – both before and after the building of the Indented Head Boat Club building. A selection of comparable buildings follows.

4.4.1 Frankston Yacht Club Building⁵⁶⁸

In 1937, the Frankston Yacht Club was established by a group of yachting enthusiasts. A two storey brick and cement shed Clubhouse was built in 1945, having a central open viewing deck flanked by gabled turrets, with a main gabled roof behind (Figure 4.24). In 1960, the existing broad, shallow-pitched boatshed (known as the J.E. Grice Boat Shed) was built. It was followed by the existing two storey Alex Hawkins Clubhouse in 1973 that replaced the original Clubhouse of 1945 (Figure 4.25). In 2012, the Yacht Club buildings were proposed to be demolished and replaced with a new Yacht Clubhouse.

4.4.2 Chelsea Yacht Club Building⁵⁶⁹

The Chelsea Yacht Club was founded in 1927 and a portion of the Life Saving and Boating Club building at the end of the Esplanade, Edithvale, became the Club’s first home. The first purpose-built Clubhouse was constructed in 1939 and it was extended in 1947 with the purchase of an army mess hut that was relocated to the site. In 1953, the first portion of a new Clubhouse was built that included a tower with a ladies change room on the ground floor and a committee room above it. It was completed in 1954. Further progress was made on completing the Clubhouse in the 1960s, with inspiration taken from the Glenelg Yacht Clubhouse. The works ‘consisted of a steel deck portal frame continued on the existing steel work to form a second storey with three brick walls and a window wall to face the sea.’ The completed works were opened on 18 December 1966 (Figure 4.26). Further alterations and additions were made in 1975, 1978 and 1985.



Figure 4.22: Boat sheds, Werribee. Source: Wyndham Boatshed Association Inc. website.



Figure 4.23: Boat sheds, Anglesea, 2008.



Figure 4.24: Original Frankston Yacht Clubhouse, c.1940-54. Source: Rose Series, La Trobe Library collection, State Library of Victoria, image H32492/9310.



Figure 4.25: Frankston Yacht Clubhouse, n.d. Source: Frankston Yacht Club website.



Figure 4.26: Chelsea Yacht Clubhouse, n.d. Source: Chelsea Yacht Club website.

4.4.3 Blairgowrie Yacht Squadron Club Building⁵⁷⁰

In 1952, thirteen sailors led by Sorrento builder Clifford Douglas established a yacht club on the southern shore of Port Phillip Bay at Blairgowrie. However it was not until 1957 when the two storey clubhouse was built beneath the roadside cliff and set on a slight rise back from the high water mark. The skillion-roofed building features regular bays of large window openings on the upper storey, with boat compartments at ground level. A centrally-located series of steps provided access from the ground level to the upper storey. A number of changes occurred from 1980. At this time, a room was built at the western end of the building and in 1987 a new foyer was erected on the ground floor. In 1996 the upper deck was widened on the north and west sides of the east wing (Figure 4.27). The old Clubhouse was proposed to be removed and replaced with a new Club building that was to open in December 2012.



Figure 4.27: Blairgowrie Yacht Squadron Clubhouse, n.d. Source: Access Dinghy website.

5.0 Cultural Significance

5.1 Statement of Significance

The following Statement of Significance has been prepared in accordance with the VPP Practice Note 01: *Applying the Heritage Overlay* (revised September 2012). The Practice Note states:

“The heritage process leading to the identification of the place needs to clearly justify the significance of the place as a basis for its inclusion in the Heritage Overlay. The documentation for each place shall include a statement of significance that clearly establishes the importance of the place and addresses the heritage criteria.”

The Practice Note – with the heritage criteria adopted for this significance assessment – is provided as Appendix 8.05.

What is Significant

Batman Park, The Esplanade, has significance as the centre of public coastal recreation at Indented Head for picnicking, camping and fishing since at least the early 20th century. While the foreshore of Port Phillip Bay was reserved for public purposes in 1873, it was not until 1925 when a Committee of Management was appointed to manage the narrow coastal foreshore between White Woman’s Rock and the Indented Head. The reserve was named Batman Park in honour of the explorer, John Batman, who, with other members of the Port Phillip Association, was the first European to establish a temporary encampment in 1835 in Victoria at St. Leonards, south of the salt lagoon. The significance of Batman Park includes its evolution throughout the 20th century, the natural landscape being transformed by the ideas and attitudes of respective Foreshore Committees and Government Departments. Batman Park consists of five reserves (from north to south): Anderson, Aylmer, Taylor Batman Park and Wrathall Reserves. Each provides varying aesthetic characteristics that contribute to the overall appearance of the Park. Remnant indigenous plantings (including Moonahs and Tea Trees) are combined with mature (and less mature) exotics, including Monterey and Golden Cypresses, Canary Island Palms, Norfolk Island Pines and Monterey Pines. Some of these trees are showing signs of senescence. Of particular prominence are the rows of Monterey Cypresses in the central portion of the Batman Park camping area that extend into an avenue at the southern end. The south of Batman Park is defined by Wrathall Reserve which has a number of landscape and built features. Golden Cypresses enclose the Batman-Flinders Memorial, a stone obelisk constructed in 1931 (together with a stone seat) to commemorate the landings of the explorers, Batman and Flinders. Other landscape features of Wrathall Reserve include the circular car park, the row of Monterey Cypresses forming a border to the tennis court and the Canary Island Palms that form an entry to the Wrathall Memorial Shelter built in 1954 in memory of the inaugural Chairman of the Foreshore Committee, Stephen Wrathall. Nearby the shelter are a concrete boat ramp and timber jetty built in 1971 and 1973 respectively, the culmination of years of lobbying and preparation by the Committee and locals. Lining the beach frontages of Batman Park are 24 gabled boat sheds. Built between c.1924-25 and 1953 and variously constructed of reinforced concrete, vermiculated concrete block, cement sheet and corrugated sheet metal, these sheds provide a picturesque outline to the foreshores of Hood Bight and Half Moon Bay. Inside Boat Shed no. 22, ‘Dalhousie’, is an early winch and iron guide rails embedded in the concrete floor. Similarly, the winch and boat rollers survive in Boat Shed no. 20, ‘Te Whare’. Another beachfront landmark is the gabled Indented Head Boat Club and Hall building constructed in 1954 of hand-made vermiculated concrete blocks. An alternative to the further construction of private individual boat sheds, the contextually prominent Boat Club and Hall building accommodates 20 boat compartments on the ground floor, with a community hall within an attic-like space above having projecting skillion dormers that provide uninterrupted views to Port Phillip Bay. Other buildings and structures that contribute to an understanding of the significance of Batman Park include the amenities block (public toilets) and former Foreshore Committee Administration building in the central area of the Batman Park reserve (built in c.1949 and 1965 respectively), and the timber sea wall at Anderson Reserve (built from 1968). The scenic qualities of Batman Park are further enhanced by the remnants of the P.S. Ozone Wreck that was hulked in Half Moon

Bay in 1925, the anchor of this former steamer is now a memorial located on The Esplanade roadside adjacent to Taylor Reserve.

How is it Significant

Batman Park, The Esplanade, Indented Head, is historically, aesthetically, architecturally and socially significant at a LOCAL level.

Why is it Significant

Batman Park has historical significance for its associations with coastal recreation including picnicking, camping and fishing since at least the 20th century, and with successive Foreshore Committees, committee members and other figures that have shaped its development (Criteria A & H). It is one of a number of Crown Land foreshore reserves in the Bellarine Peninsula and Surf Coast regions that have played host to beach recreation under a Committee of Management. The control and establishment of regulations for the management, protection and care of Batman Park were established in 1926, a year after the formation of the Batman Park Foreshore Committee. A number of its members were critical to the transformation of this coastal outcrop into a popular tourist resort. They were local land owners from diverse socio-economic backgrounds, bringing their own skills and abilities to establish what has become a highly regarded coastal recreation area. Of particular importance was the Committee's inaugural Chairman, Stephen Wrathall (1859-1940), who was responsible for directing much of the initial tree planting in the reserve. Wrathall Reserve was named in his honour and the Wrathall Shelter was built in his memory in 1954. W.R. Anderson Junior was the Committee's longest-serving Honorary Secretary between 1925 and 1952. Part of Batman Park was named Anderson Reserve in his honour in 1954. The local farmer, Herbert Lewis, was instrumental in the construction of many of the early boat houses from the 1930s and in operating the successful boat hire business from his own Boat Shed in the Park. Other Committee members who made substantial contributions to the development of the Park included T.H. Warden, A. Woodward and E.J. Taylor, the latter having a reserve in the Park named in his honour. Batman Park also has historic value for its associations with the erection of the Batman-Flinders Memorial in 1931, and as the location of successive anniversary celebrations of the explorers, Batman and Flinders, and the former Bellarine Shire Council throughout the 20th century. The Indented Head Boat Shed and Hall building, constructed in 1954 to a design by L.H. Vernon and Associates of Ballarat, has historical value as the location of Boat Club and local community gatherings for 60 years.

Batman Park is aesthetically significant for its important coastal scenic qualities, combining the natural beach frontages of Port Phillip Bay with the developed landscape of native and exotic plantings (Criteria D & E). It is one of very few foreshore camping reserves distinguished by a combination of both native and exotic trees, including the Monterey and Golden Cypress, Norfolk Island Pines and the Canary Island Palms. Batman Park is therefore a physical manifestation of the patronage of neighbouring local land holders who served on the Foreshore Committees. These landscape qualities continue to be valued by the local and wider community today. The developed aesthetic values are further defined by the row of 24 boat sheds along the foreshore and the P.S. Ozone wreck in Half Moon Bay. Batman Park is the only Crown Land foreshore reserve in the Bellarine Peninsula and Surf Coast regions that still accommodates early and mid 20th century private boat sheds in their original locations and serving their original purpose on the beach foreshore. The aesthetic values are also enhanced by the varying landscape qualities of the different reserves in the Park. At the southern end at Wrathall Reserve, the Batman-Flinders Memorial, Wrathall Memorial Shelter, jetty, boat ramp and tennis court combine to form a distinctive cultural landscape reflective of the aspirations of respective Foreshore Committees and the local community. A further boat ramp outside the Boat Club also contributes to the developed foreshore qualities of the Park.

The Indented Head Boat Club and Hall building in Batman Park is architecturally significant as a substantially intact and prominent mid-20th century boat compartment building combined with a community hall on the foreshore (Criteria D & E). It is a rare surviving intact example of its type, with similar mid 20th century structures built for the Frankston Yacht Club, Chelsea Yacht Club and Blairgowrie Yacht Squadron either

noticeably altered or replaced. The early amenities block (public toilets) (built c.1949) has some architectural value as a representative and surviving example of this building type. Similarly-designed amenities of identical vermiculated concrete block construction were built on other nearby foreshore reserves in the Bellarine Peninsula, including Ocean Grove. Other surviving examples appear to have been altered.

Batman Park, including the 24 boat sheds and the Boat Club and Hall building are socially significant as they are recognised and valued by the local and wider community for the long-serving roles they play in boating and fishing recreation (Criterion G). In particular, the boat sheds are indelibly linked to generations of families who have occupied them for boat storage and beach recreation since the 1920s and 1930s. The Boat Club and Hall building is especially valued as a centre of community activities in addition to its Boat Club function.

The reinforced concrete and to a lesser degree, the vermiculated concrete block boat sheds in Batman Park, and the vermiculated concrete block construction of the Indented Head Boat Shed and Hall building are scientifically significant for their contextually unusual rudimentary and vernacular construction types (Criterion F). The reinforced concrete boat sheds represent the largest grouping of this type of boat shed construction in Victoria, the only other known boat shed of similar construction being Boat Shed 168 on Dromana Beach built in 1903. The vermiculated concrete block boat sheds are representative of this type of construction for interwar boat sheds in Victoria, with many similar examples surviving on the Mornington Peninsula. The interiors of Boat Shed 22 'Dalhousie' and Boat Shed 20 'Te Whare' in Batman Park also have scientific significance as examples of early 20th century infrastructure in the surviving winches and iron rails in the floors that were used to guide the boats into the sheds.

5.2 Significance of Components

Batman Park has a range of heritage values and the significant and non-significant components of the Park are listed as follows. This list should be read in conjunction with the aerial maps in Section 3:

Primary Significance

This fabric constitutes the principal significance of the Park in contributing to its key landscape and other aesthetic values, as well as the primary coastal recreation function of the reserve throughout the 20th century. This fabric is also considered to be individually significant as well as playing an important contributory heritage role.

- Rows of Monterey Cypress trees in Batman Park Reserve.
- Monterey Cypress, Golden Cypress, Canary Island Palm and Norfolk Island trees in Wrathall Reserve.
- 24 boat sheds on foreshore fronting onto Half Moon Bay and Hood Bight.
- Interiors of Boat Sheds 20 and 22 (particularly the early winches and guide rails).
- Indented Head Boat Club and Hall building, Batman Park Reserve.
- Batman-Flinders Memorial, Wrathall Reserve.
- Wrathall Memorial Shelter, Wrathall Reserve.
- Ozone Anchor Memorial, Taylor Reserve.

Contributory Significance

This fabric contributes to the aesthetic, architectural, historic and social heritage values of Batman Park, but it is not considered to be individually significant. It is the collective contribution made by this fabric that enhances the heritage values of the Park.

- Timber sea wall, Anderson Reserve.
- Monterey Cypress trees, Anderson Reserve.

- Cypress trees, Aylmer Reserve.
- Cypress trees, Taylor Reserve.
- Amenities block (public toilets) west of former Administration Building, Batman Park Reserve.
- Former Administration Building, Batman Park Reserve.
- Boat Club Boat Ramp, Batman Park Reserve.
- Circular layout of car park, Wrathall Reserve.
- Boat Ramp, Wrathall Reserve.
- Jetty, Wrathall Reserve.
- Tennis Court, Wrathall Reserve.

Historical Interest

Throughout Batman Park is fabric that relates to the development of the site throughout the 20th century. This fabric has been much altered or has been introduced much later, but it does provide some additional appreciation of the evolution of the Park. This fabric is not considered to have heritage value (and therefore it is not considered to have individual or contributory significance).

- Indented Head Yacht Club Building, Batman Park Reserve.
- Amenities Block east of former Administration Building, Batman Park Reserve.
- Ramp and Steps, Aylmer Reserve.
- Timber sea wall, Aylmer Reserve.

No Significance

This fabric is not considered to have any heritage value to Batman Park.

- Amenities Blocks and Barbeque Shelter, Anderson Reserve.
- Car Park, Anderson Reserve.
- Children's Playground and Picnic Tables and Seats, Aylmer Reserve.
- Amenities Block, Taylor Reserve.
- Children's Playgrounds and Barbeque Shelter, Taylor Reserve.
- Car Park, Batman Park Reserve.
- Amenities Block north-west of Indented Head Yacht Club Building, Batman Park Reserve.
- Rock revetment, Batman Park Reserve.
- Children's Playground, Picnic Tables and Seats, and Barbeque Shelters, Batman Park Reserve.

6.0 Recommendations

Heritage Overlay

It is recommended that a heritage overlay apply to the full extent of Batman Park, from White Woman's Rock to Indented Head. It is recommended that the east foreshore boundary be to the high water mark and including the boat sheds, and that the west boundary be to The Esplanade.

Controls to the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay

External Paint Controls

Yes, to the Boat Sheds and Indented Head Boat Club and Hall building only.

Internal Alteration Controls

Yes, to the interiors of Boat Sheds 20 'Te Whare' and 22 'Dalhousie' only.

Tree Controls

Yes. Tree controls should apply to:

- Rows of Monterey Cypress trees in Batman Park Reserve.
- Monterey Cypress, Golden Cypress, Canary Island Palm and Norfolk Island trees in Wrathall Reserve.
- Monterey Cypress trees, Anderson Reserve.
- Cypress trees, Aylmer Reserve.
- Cypress trees, Taylor Reserve.

Outbuildings or fences which are not exempt under Clause 43.01-3

Yes, the boat sheds, Indented Head Boat House and Hall building, former Administration Building and the amenities block (public toilets) immediately west of the former Administration Building.

Included on the Victorian Heritage Register

No. Batman Park is not recommended for addition to the Victorian Heritage Register.

Prohibited Uses May be Permitted

No.

Name of Incorporated Plan

It is recommended that consideration is given to the preparation of an Incorporated Plan that might assist with the ongoing management of Batman Park through planning permit exemptions where no heritage impacts will arise. Discussions with the Bellarine Bayside Foreshore Committee may assist in determining the potential for an Incorporated Plan which may include permit exemptions for:

- Tree pruning (if carried out in accordance with an Arborist's Report and supervised by an Arborist).
- Alterations and additions to existing buildings of historical interest and no significance, where the changes to do not represent any increase in height, involve up to 30% of additional footprint, and are constructive in non-reflective materials.
- Painting of previously unpainted surfaces to buildings of historic interest and no significance in standard colours (the colours matching other painted buildings in Batman Park).
- Upgrades to the graveled surfaces of existing thoroughfares.
- Boundary fencing constructed of timber post and wire, to match existing boundary fences in most parts of the Park.
- Addition of Park furniture, children's playground equipment and signs and other minor works forming part of a Masterplan approved by Council (and Council's Heritage Advisor).

Aboriginal Heritage Place

No.

Other Recommendations

It is recommended the existing individual heritage overlays applying to a portion of Batman Park (HO1600), Anderson Reserve (HO1601), Ozone Monument (HO1602) and Batman Memorial (HO262) be removed as part of an amendment to apply one heritage overlay over the entire Batman Park area.

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- 168 Information from: Batman Park and Indented Head Foreshore Committee Minutes 1925-1987, Bellarine Shire Rate Books 1941-1965, Geelong Heritage Centre, Crown Land Reserve files Rs 5154, op.cit. & information from community consultation, 20 November 2012.
- 169 *Ibid.*
- 170 Chris Idle, personal comment, February 2013 & Indented Head Foreshore Committee Minutes 4 January 1953, op.cit.
- 171 *Ibid.*
- 172 Ingrid Novosel, personal comment, October 2012.
- 173 Indented Head Foreshore Committee Minutes 27 January 1952, op.cit.
- 174 *Ibid.*, 28 September 1947. Permission was sought from Bretland and Rectarick for a boat house in front of their premises.
- 175 *Ibid.*, 20 June & 26 December 1971.
- 176 *Ibid.*, 20 August 1972, 20 April 1973, 29 May 1973 & 29 July 1973.
- 177 Bellarine Shire Rate Books 1941-42, op.cit.
- 178 Chambers, op.cit., N. Chambers to P. Jennings, 23 November 2012 & M. Vessey, personal comments at the community consultation, 30 November 2012.
- 179 B. Morwood (nee Backwell), current licensee, to Chris Idle, 21 December 2012.
- 180 Chris Idle, op.cit.
- 181 Mrs Chambers, 23 November 2012, indicated that the boat sheds were 'not painted', although B. Morwood has stated that the roof to boat shed no. 24, 'has always been green.'
- 182 Report by E. Giblett in A.J. Payne, Licence application form for boat Shed, 30 Sept 1925, Crown Land Reserve file Rs5154, op.cit.
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- 184 *Ibid.*, 30 April 1934.
- 185 *Ibid.*, 19 January 1935.

- 186 See D. Rowe, *The Pleasure Grounds of the Barwon Coast: A History*, Barwon Coast Committee of Management Inc., Barwon Heads, 2002, p.31, N. Houghton, 'From the Archives' in *The Investigator: Magazine of the Geelong Historical Society*, September 1983, pp.101-105, *The Sun* newspaper 11 June 1936 & *Geelong Advertiser* 11 June 1936.
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- 191 A.E. Johnson to Mr Lind, Lands Department, 16 November 1926, *op.cit.*
- 192 Leah, *op.cit.*
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- 194 *Ibid.*
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- 196 Chambers, 'Indented Head: 1920s', *op.cit.*
- 197 Indented Head Foreshore Committee Minutes, 30 December 1944 & 1 April 1945, *op.cit.*
- 198 *Ibid.*, 8 January 1950.
- 199 *Ibid.*, 8 January 1950 & 27 January 1952.
- 200 I.C. Morris, Hon. Secretary, Indented Head Foreshore Committee to the Secretary, Port Phillip Authority, 20 March 1982, Crown Land Reserve file, Rs 5154, *op.cit.*
- 201 Indented Head Foreshore Committee Minutes, 15 July 1982, *op.cit.*
- 202 *Ibid.* 29 August 1983 & M. Goods, Land Management Officer, to Mrs V. Gomm, 1983, Crown Land Reserve file, Rs 5154, *op.cit.*
- 203 Indented Head Foreshore Committee Minutes, 20 February 1985, *op.cit.*
- 204 *Geelong Advertiser*, 13 April 1985.
- 205 Indented Head Foreshore Committee Minutes, 16 April 1986, *op.cit.*
- 206 Information kindly provided by Bill Dix to Pam Jennings, 23 January 2012.
- 207 *Ibid.*
- 208 *Ibid.*
- 209 Indented Head Foreshore Committee Minutes, *op.cit.*, 27 January 1952 & *Geelong Advertiser*, 8 December 1952.
- 210 Indented Head Foreshore Committee Minutes, 14 December 1952, *op.cit.*
- 211 At the community consultation, 20 November 2012, it was indicated that some boat shed roofs were painted red.
- 212 Indented Head Foreshore Committee Minutes 5 April 1953, *op.cit.*
- 213 *Ibid.*, 3 August 1953.
- 214 *Ibid.*, 11 October 1964 & dates throughout the 1970s.
- 215 *Ibid.*, 19 July 1972.
- 216 Information from community consultation, 20 November 2012 & Bill Dix, *op.cit.*
- 217 Land Officer to Mr Carey, Lands Department, 4 December 1936, Crown Land Reserve file Rs 5154, *op.cit.*
- 218 A. E. Johnson, 'Ailsa-craig' to Lands Department, 9 March 1934 & 4 April 1934, Crown Land Reserve file Rs5154, *op.cit.*
- 219 B. Morwood (nee Backwell), current licensee of 'Glenfyne' boat shed, to Chris Idle, February 2013.
- 220 *Ibid.*
- 221 Indented Head Foreshore Committee Minutes 1 May 1966, *op.cit.*
- 222 Vessey, *op.cit.*
- 223 Batman Park Committee Minutes 3 January 1937, *op.cit.*
- 224 Indented Head Foreshore Committee Minutes, 20 May 1973, *op.cit.*
- 225 *Ibid.*, 24 September 1986.
- 226 *Ibid.*, 12 April 1968.
- 227 *Ibid.*, 18 February 1979.
- 228 *Ibid.*, 16 August 1981.
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- 231 G.F.A. Jones to The Secretary, Lands Department, 20 December 1928, Crown Land Reserve file Rs 5154, *op.cit.*
- 232 *Ibid.*, W.R. Anderson Jnr., Secretary Batman Park Committee, to Lands Department, 1 November 1928.
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- 273 Ibid., 21 November 1984 and 6 & 20 February, 20 March, 17 April, 15 May and 12 June 1985.
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- 275 Indented Head Foreshore Committee Minutes, 2 January 1944, op.cit.
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438 Ibid., 20 October 1946.
439 Ibid., 6 April 1947.
440 'Man's Leg on Beach: Discovery at Indented Head', *The Argus*, 12 May 1930, p.11.
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442 A.J. Bennett, *Holiday and Business Guide to Geelong and District*, n.d. [c.1950], Bellarine Historical Society Inc. collection.
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445 Ibid., 25 September 1960.
446 Ibid., 5 April 1953. It would appear that the term 'cabin' referred to prefabricated units that could be readily dismantled.
447 Ibid., 11 January 1970.
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462 Ibid., 12 January 1957. This is the first record of a Campers' Association in the Committee Minutes.
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467 Ibid., 25 September 1960.
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- 476 *The Argus*, 26 January 1954 and Indented Head Foreshore Committee Minutes, 14 April 1963, *op.cit.*
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- 478 *Ibid.*, 10 December 1961.
- 479 *Ibid.*
- 480 *Ibid.*, 24 May 1947.
- 481 *Ibid.*
- 482 'Camping Where Batman Landed', *The Argus*, 10 December 1947, p.4.
- 483 Bellarine Shire Building Permit Register, 1949, City of Greater Geelong Building Department.
- 484 *R.A.C.V. Caravan and Camping Guide*, 1956-57, *op.cit.*
- 485 Munster, *op.cit.*, p.77, sourcing Mrs Ruth Brennan.
- 486 *R.A.C.V. Caravan and Camping Guide*, 1956-57, *op.cit.*
- 487 Munster, *op.cit.*
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- 489 Indented Head Foreshore Committee Minutes, 1 April 1945.
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- 491 Paradise Park Estate Sale Notice, n.d. [c.1950s], Maps collection, P33, Geelong Heritage Centre.
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- 568 See Frankston Yacht Club website at <http://www.fyc.yachting.org.au/> and 'Frankston Council floats yacht club design ideas' in the *Frankston Leader* newspaper, 17 May 2012.
- 569 See Chelsea Yacht Club website at <http://www.chelseayachtclub.com.au/>
- 570 E.L. French, 'Reflections 1952-2002: An Overview of the Growth and Development of the Blairgowrie Yacht Squadron on the occasion of its Golden Jubilee', booklet, 2002.