

1930 Murder in Inverloch Ethel Belshaw aged 12 was murdered 1/1/35. Her body was found in ti-tree scrub near the jetty. Arnold Sodeman was charged with four murders & sentenced to death & hanged at Pentridge Gaol.

1934 Shack Bay got its name from the miners shacks built there during their 5 month long 1934 strike. They were removed in 1977.

1936 Carnival Time. In 1936 the Inverloch Carnival & previously, the Inverloch Regattas, attracted many visitors over summer. A Miss & a Mr Inverloch could win prizes such as 3 pairs of Beau Monde Hosiery & an Austral Bicycle. The Ferris wheel, highland dancing & Illusions show, races & sand castle competitions were favourite activities through until the mid 60's.

1940 Population Buy 1940 there were approximately 150 fulltime families and these numbers would swell to 5000 in summer with holiday makers.

1946 Inverloch Fire Brigade formed

1956 Life saving Club started

1981 Jack Lewis Shell Collection Trust was formed The shell collection, originally displayed in Jack Lewis' home, is housed at the Bunurong Environment Centre

1991 Bunurong Marine Park, named after the earliest inhabitants, was proclaimed on 18/12/91 to protect all flora & fauna in the fragile environments of the marine cliffs & rock platforms. The track was sealed in late 1970's.

1991 Dinosaur Diggings- The Bunurong Coast hides dinosaur bone-yard rich in history. The first bones uncovered in 1991 & have been dated to 115 million years. To date, more than 6000 bones have been uncovered including teeth of small dinosaurs & many mammals, birds, turtles & fish. Each summer for the past 10 years a team of Monash Uni palaeontologists & volunteers return to the site. It is 100 years since the first dinosaur bone, a terminal toe bone from a carnivorous dinosaur, now known as the Cape Paterson Claw was discovered.

1994 Inverloch Jazz festival started and has become a very popular event held annually on Labour Day Weekend in March.

Inverloch. A patchwork of Historical Stories.
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Murder in Inverloch. The Sodeman Murders. B Sartain 1999
Anderson Inlet Inverloch. A short A-Z history.
Inverloch Historical Society 1997
Inverloch & District Identities and Pioneers,
Inverloch Historical Society 2000
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The Bunurong People. Steve Compton.
Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation



For further information

Phillip Island Visitor Information Centre
895 Phillip Island Tourist Road, Newhaven
Phone: 1300 366 422
Email: piinfo@basscoast.vic.gov.au

Cowes Visitor Information Centre
Cnr Thompson Avenue & Church Street
Email: cowesinfo@basscoast.vic.gov.au

Wonthaggi Visitor Information Centre
Watt Street, Wonthaggi
Phone: 1300 854 334
Email: woninfo@basscoast.vic.gov.au

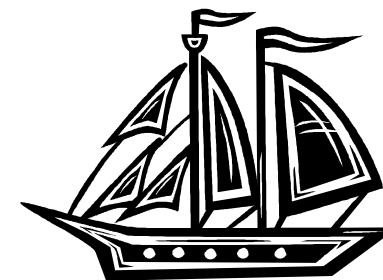
Inverloch Visitor Information Centre
16 A'Beckett Street, Inverloch
Phone: 1300 762 433
Email: invyinfo@basscoast.vic.gov.au



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Inverloch History

Past to Present



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Pre Settlement - The Bunurong People belong to the Koolin language group, in particular the Lowandjeri Bulluk Clan. Their traditional lands took in Anderson Inlet, Tarwin River & Waratah Bay. The Lowandjeri utilised natural resources available including crayfish, shellfish, seal, mutton bird, wattle seed, orchid bulbs, wildlife for meat, furs & leathers. Conflict with early sealers, whalers & settlers, together with European diseases, caused rapid decline in the Bunurong populations by the 1840's. The last surviving families left the area to join other Koolin tribes in the Melbourne area.

1840 Exploration exploring east from Bass, Samuel Anderson, reported a "big river" and a "shallow inlet" In November 1840 Thomas Scott Townsend sailed in the cutter "Prince George" to survey the area. Townsend named the "shallow inlet" Anderson's Inlet & Townsends Bluff. Between 1841- 1846 brothers' Henry and George Smythe carried out a survey of the coast & inland from Cape Paterson to Cape Liptrap. They named Point Smythe, Eagles Nest and Petrel Rock.

1863 The Amazon – a 387 tonne wooden barque was stranded at Wreck Beach & remains are buried deep in the sand away from the waters edge past surf beach

1870 Early Selection, Inverloch region was opened for selection by the Land Act of 1869. Settlers cleared land largely by axe and built wattle and daub huts. A large part of the current town is built on subdivisions of selections taken up by 1874 and 1883

1880 Maher's Landing is named after the original settler William Maher and from 1887 to 1892 a large public jetty was used to land goods & materials for the construction of the Great Southern railway.

1879 Martin Wyberg, was found guilty of receiving sovereigns struck by the Royal Mint in Sydney for the Government of Ceylon. Wyberg was involved in exchanging the sovereigns for lead, en route aboard the Steamer "Avoca". Arrested in 1878, he escaped, moving around Anderson's Inlet until again captured in 1879. On release from jail 5 years later he disappeared. As only 1,700 of 3,500 sovereigns were recovered, it is an ongoing mystery

1886 Anderson's Inlet was proclaimed the town of Inverloch by Governor Loch. The town began as a port, which serviced farms around Anderson's Inlet. Inverloch comes from the Gaelic "Inver" meaning "at the Entrance" & "Loch" meaning "Lake"

1886 State School 2776 was established on a shared basis with Pound Creek School. Anderson's Inlet School ran full time till 1899 & in 1898 changed its name to Inverloch. The new state school 2776 was built in 1914, & the original building is still in use. Swimming classes were held every week (tide in or out). There were two bathing boxes near the swimming enclosure for girls & boys (1920's). Swimming lessons & sports days were later held at Pine Lodge Pool, where girls used the change rooms whilst boys headed for the bushes & held up towels.

1888 Anderson's Inlet Cemetery was established. The first interment was Isabella Mc Leod. in 1891. After WWI burials became infrequent & the cemetery derelict. It closed in 1961 but reopened in 1980 with effort made to search for original graves & recreate the original cemetery register.

1890's Coal mines. opening in Korumburra, Outrim & Jumbunna saw the beginning of Inverloch developing as a seaside holiday resort. Many visitors were attracted over the summer period. Some miners cottages were moved from the mining towns & can still be seen in Inverloch.

1892 South Gippsland Railway line opened. Building supplies arrived via Inverloch in ships, resulting in substantial jetties being constructed at Inverloch & Maher's Landing.

1893 Owen Longstaff Ullathorne came to Inverloch where he had the coach run to Outrim & Jumbunna carrying mail, groceries & passengers. Horse & cart was used, later a T –Model Ford & then an International Bus. He died in 1942.

1896 The Esplanade Hotel was first licensed in 1896. The current building replaced a wooden structure destroyed by fire in 1934.

1900 Inverloch Rocket Brigade formed as part of a Victoria wide system to assist ships wrecked on the coast.

First Race meeting held on 21/2/1900 at the eastern corner of Cuttriss Street.

The first lighting was provided by five gaslights. Electricity arrived in 1934 in the form of a SEC single-phase power line from Kongwak.

1900's The Ripple a 17-meter sailing ketch built in 1872 called at Inverloch, Maher's Landing & Tarwin Lower. It provided a monthly service from Melbourne carrying supplies & passengers from Melbourne. With the draining of the Koo-Wee-Rup swamp & the opening of a road from Melbourne, the Ripples visits declined

1910 Seaport 1900 onwards saw Inverloch grow as a seaport with ships transporting black coal from Powlett River coalfields to Melbourne, until the railway opened to Wonthaggi in 1910. Bullock teams & a steam traction engine brought the coal from Wonthaggi mines to steam traders at Inverloch Jetty, there shipped to Melbourne.

1909 Inverloch Jetty was situated where the current jetty is, however it ended where the new one starts" A Ports & Harbours storage shed stood at the head of the jetty. A trolley running on iron rails carried the goods between the ships & shed. The area filled with sand after WW 2. In 1956 a new jetty was built & extended in 1977 to add an L shaped piece. The "Pier" was also the venue for the annual Regattas with stalls, demonstrations & competitions including the crowning of Miss Inverloch in the early 1920's & 30's.

1920 Steamship Moonah ran aground on the bar but was refloated successfully C1920

1930 Pine Lodge Private Hotel opened in 1930 with luxury accommodation, entertainment & sporting activities including a nine hole golf course, two tennis courts & horse riding. Designed as a country club it continued to run until 1981 attracting the social elite from Melbourne. Pine Lodge had the first telephone in Inverloch & a 33 yard sea water swimming pool (when built, the largest private swimming pool in Australia). For five years during W.W. 2 it was used as a naval Hospital. It was demolished in 1985