

Cultural heritage due diligence assessment for St Kilda Marina, St Kilda, Victoria

FINAL REPORT

Prepared for City of Port Phillip

12 April 2018

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Document information

Report to: City of Port Phillip

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Biosis project no.: 26442

File name: 26442 St Kilda Marina.CHDDA.FNL01.20180412

Citation: Biosis 2017. Cultural heritage due diligence assessment for St Kilda Marina, St Kilda, Victoria. Report for City of Port Phillip. Authors: Strickland, J. & Wood, A., Biosis Pty Ltd, Melbourne. Project no. 26442.

Document control

Version	Internal reviewer	Date issued
Draft version 01	ACAW	19/01/2017
Final version 01	IB	12/4/2018

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Summary

This report has been commissioned in response to a request by City of Port Phillip for further information relating to potential cultural heritage requirements for the new lease project for St Kilda Marina, St Kilda Victoria (the study area). At the time of report writing, the new lease project is in the infancy stages with planning for the new lease project currently being undertaken. This assessment is to largely determine significant ground disturbance and potential for harming Aboriginal cultural heritage within the study area.

This report provides formal cultural heritage advice on the proposed development. The report examines the requirements of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* (the Act) and the *Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2007* (the Regulations), to determine whether a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) needs to be undertaken for the study area prior to the proposed works. Additionally, the report explores in depth land use history analysis and review of possibilities for future engagement with the Traditional Owners of the area.

Advice is offered as to measures available to minimise the potential likelihood of infringement of the Act and Regulations.

Assessment is also undertaken of historical heritage liabilities under the Victorian *Heritage Act 1995*.

This review was completed by Jocelyn Strickland of Biosis. Jocelyn is a qualified heritage advisor as specified in the requirements of the Act.

The land use analysis indicates that the study area consists of reclaimed land that was formed in the 1960s, specifically for use as a marina. Review of early 19th century maps and historical documents establishes that prior to this, the coastline was adjacent to present day Marine Parade, with an area of wetlands extending to present day Mitford Street. The wetlands were infilled during the 19th century with land from Elwood foreshore.

As the specific activity proposed for the study area has not yet been confirmed (as it is dependent on the details of any future lease agreement), the assessment has focussed on past land use history, whether significant ground disturbance applies as an exemption to a mandatory CHMP under Regulation 22 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2007*, and the potential for harming Aboriginal cultural heritage under sections 27 and 28 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*.

This report finds that there is no requirement for a mandatory CHMP, unless future activities impact beyond the reclaimed land and into the seabed. This report further identifies that there is no potential for Aboriginal cultural heritage within the reclaimed land stratum, and therefore little benefit to the client in undertaking a voluntary CHMP prior to the proposed works.

There is one historical place listed within the City of Port Phillip Heritage Overlay that is located within the study area: HO187: Beacon, Marine Parade, St Kilda. The beacon is located at the northern tip of the St Kilda Marina and is a visually distinctive structure of significance; a scenic element contributing to the maritime character of the foreshore area. Under the Port Phillip Planning Scheme any demolition, buildings or works within the HO167 will trigger the need for a planning permit.

There are no heritage requirements under the *Heritage Act 1995*, and there is little benefit to the client in undertaking historical heritage investigations.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Location of the study area

The study area is located at St Kilda Marina, St Kilda, Victoria (Crown Land Allotments 90A, 90D & 90E). It is situated eight kilometres to the south of the Melbourne Central Business District. It measures 8.78 hectares (ha) and is a rectangular shaped area of land that is located to the west of Marine Parade and to the north of Elwood Canal (Figure 1).

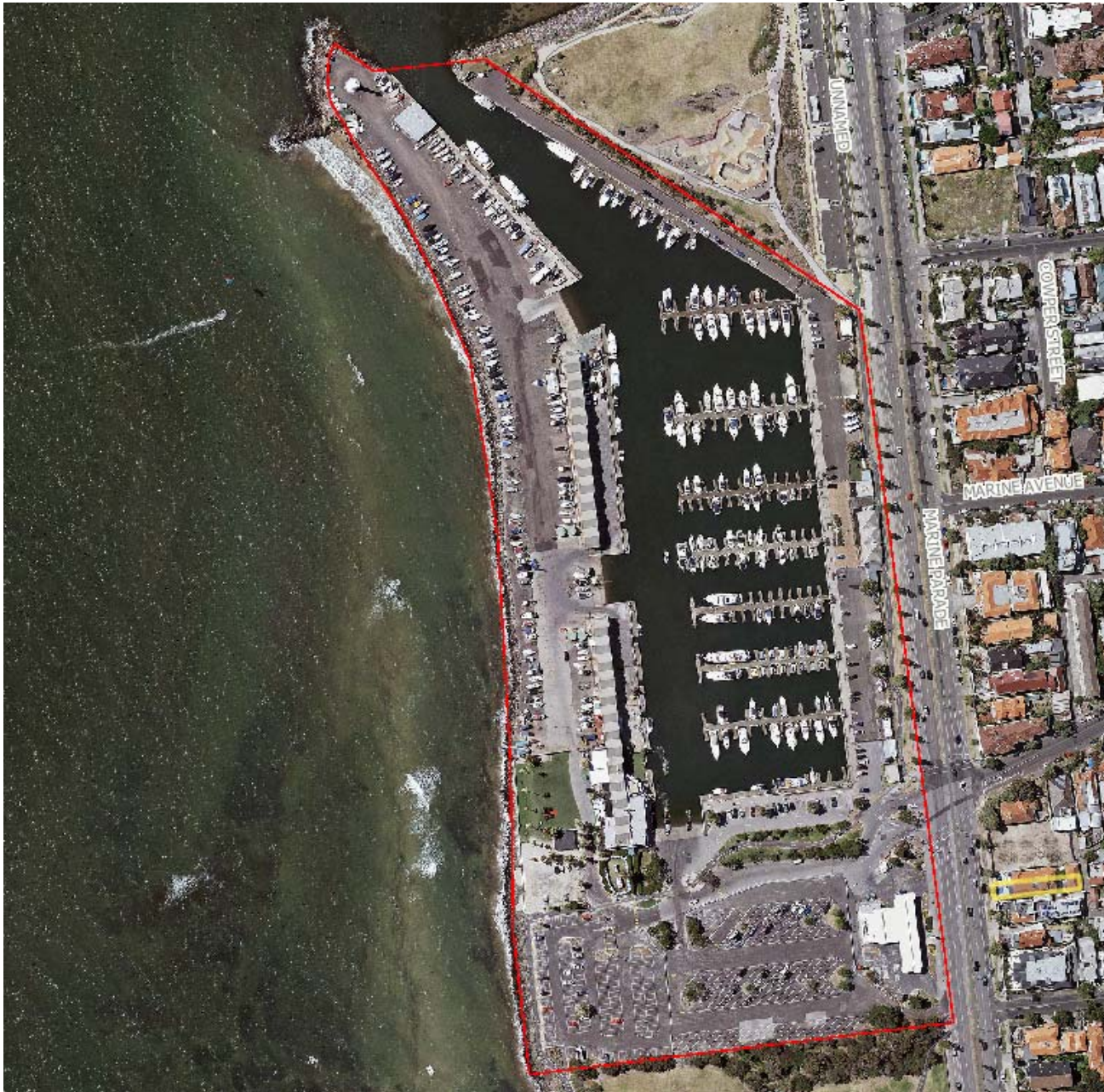


Figure 1

Table 1 Cadastral information for the study area

Address	Marine Parade, Elwood 3184
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Local Government Authority	Port Phillip
Allotment/SPI	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 90A, 90A\PP3084A 2. 90D, 90D\PP3084C 3. 90E, 90E\PP3084C
Planning Zone	Public Park and Recreation Zone
Coordinates*	321765, 5806429 (55) to 321961, 5805969 (55)
Melways\ VicRoads	2N J11 (ed. 39)\ 78 H8 (ed. 8)

* All geographic coordinates in this CHMP are referenced to the Victorian Government Standard GDA94 MGA (Zone 55).

1.2 Description of the study area

The study area is currently located on Crown land; the City of Port Phillip is the managing authority. The study area is currently being used as a marina that was developed in the late 1960s.

1.3 The activity

The study area is proposed for the securement of a new lease arrangement for St Kilda Marina (Figure 2). While no project has yet been nominated, this assessment serves to inform the City of Port Phillip and the future lessor of any cultural heritage considerations.

1.4 Aboriginal stakeholders

At the time of writing, the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation and the Yaluk-Ut Weelam Elders Council Aboriginal Corporation are the RAP applicants for the study area. It is not within the remit of this report to undertake consultation with these or other local Traditional Owner groups.

1.5 Aboriginal and historical heritage

The assessment provides information on the archaeological and cultural heritage values of the study area to provide advice with regards to the Victorian *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*, Victorian *Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2007*, and the Victorian *Heritage Act 1995*, specifically the statutory and non-statutory obligations under these Acts.

It must be emphasised, however, that the report is not intended to meet the requirements of a formal assessment under Aboriginal Victoria's (AV) guidelines.

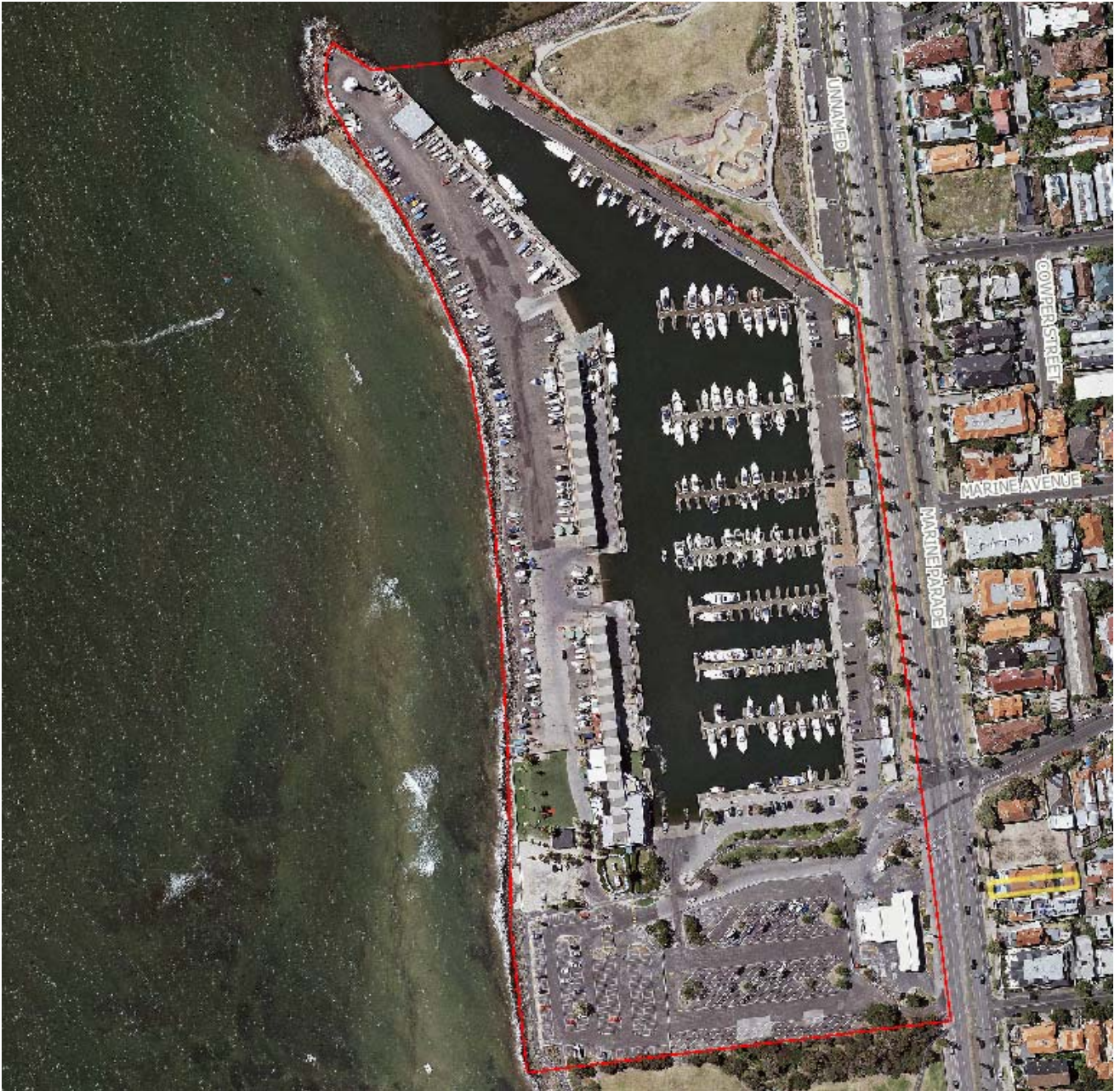


Figure 1 Study area (red) at St Kilda Marina (GeoVic3, 2015)



Figure 2 Plan of the existing activities in the study area (supplied by client)

2. Background Research

2.1 Historical Registers

A search was undertaken on 9 January 2018 of recorded historical (non-Aboriginal) cultural heritage records in the vicinity of the study area. The search was undertaken via the Heritage Victoria HERMES online database (HERMES, 2015) which includes the following sources

- Victorian Heritage Register and Inventory
- National Heritage List and Commonwealth Heritage List (Australian Government Department of Environment and Water Resources)
- Local Council Heritage Overlays and/or Planning Schemes
- Register of the National Estate (Australian Heritage Council)
- National Trust Register (National Trust Victoria)

There is one historical place listed within the City of Port Phillip Heritage Overlay that is located within the study area: HO187: Beacon, Marine Parade, St Kilda. The beacon is located at the northern tip of the St Kilda Marina and is a visually distinctive structure of significance; a scenic element contributing to the maritime character of the Foreshore area.

2.2 Land Use History

Ethno-historical evidence of Traditional Owners

Below we have listed several references or accounts linking Traditional Owners with the foreshore of the region.

During the 1840s, George Augustus Robinson, Aboriginal Chief Protector, stated that the *Yalukit willan* clan of the *Boon wurrung* occupied the area of land between the head of Port Phillip Bay that included present day Elwood.

A diary entry from Frederick Revan Champman, a New Zealand Supreme Court Justice, documented his arrival in Melbourne in 1854 within his diary. In this he accounts an encounter with Aboriginal people from Gippsland:

I remember our excitement when one day, probably in 1857, two hundred blacks from Gippsland arrived suddenly in Hotham Street, trooping towards Elsterwick. An hour or two later, a solitary gin [female] appeared, and we gave her something to eat. She followed the tracks of the tribe in the dusty road, and when we asked her if she could see her husband's tracks, she pointed them out to us amid hundreds of others, and started away to follow them at a run, pursuing an irregular course such as he had taken when carelessly strolling with the mob. In the evening we followed the blacks, hearing that they were going to hold a corroboree, and found the whole tribe camped at a place where the trees were fairly thick. There were no residences near, save for a house or two along Brighton-road, some distance away. I think the spot must have been somewhere not far from where, in later years, Sir Frederick Sargood built his fine house (Rippon Lea). Here we stayed until midnight, mixing with the blacks, listening to their chants, and watching the strange and grave dances of the corroboree circle (The Prahran Telegraph, 1918).

Further historical documents from European settlers describe a strip of coastline between St Kilda and Brighton where a steep headland of Red Sandstone, later referred to as Red Bluff (present day Point Ormond, approximately 400 metres south of the study area), was occupied by Aboriginal people. Mrs (Dougherty) Huon (1858-1929), resident of Elwood House, Vautier Street, recalled that Aboriginal people were frequent visitors to Red Bluff, where a large bed of cockles was located (Cooper, 1931). This was further corroborated in 1974 when a shell midden was discovered during redevelopment of the road junctions of Barkly, Glenhuntly and Ormond Esplanade (Eidelson, 2006).

Joseph Gellibrand, a member of the Port Phillip Association, surveyed the east coast of Port Phillip Bay in 1836. Here it was noted that huts and a well were utilised by Aboriginal people. Gellibrand also followed an Aboriginal track that extended along the coastline (Gellibrand as cited in (Bride, 1969)). Several rock wells have been located in the vicinity of Black Rock/Red Bluff. Six native wells called *Mullum mullum* were located within the Red Bluff area that was also known to be a location where Aboriginal people fished and camped (Gunson N. , 1968, p. 10). Assistant Protector William Thomas, stated that:

There are four blocks of land already disposed of...three of the four are a serious loss to the Aborigines viz that block by the Coast by the Red Bluff, that block by Mt Martha and the splendid swamp by the Yarra; all favourable fishing places, the latter (Bolin) supported the Yarra blacks from its abounding in eels one month in the year (Thomas PRO, Petition to the Governor, 22 June 1841) (Gaughwin, 1981, p. 52).

Roadworks undertaken in the 1970s at Robinson Reserve near the junction of Glenhuntly Road and Barkly Street revealed an Aboriginal midden that contained two stone axes and other stone tools. St Kilda was known as *Euro Yroke* or grinding stone area as the red sandstone in the St Kilda area was used to sharpen stone axe blades (Eidelson, 2006).

A Dreamtime story tells of how *Bunjil* placed sacred rocks in the St Kilda area in order to stop the approach of the sea during the great flood. Eidelson speculated that the sacred rocks could include the bluff at Point Ormond (Eidelson, 2006).

Several ethno historic references indicate that the Point Ormond area was occupied by Aboriginal people. The nearby wetlands, such as those of Elwood Swamp would have been utilised by Aboriginal people as a rich abundance of flora and fauna resources.

The wider relevance of the Bay and Point Ormond to the Aboriginal people

As the site is a key part of the Port Phillip Bay foreshore, we were asked to consider the wider relevance of the bay to the Aboriginal peoples who lived in the area.

In the creation stories of the Wathaurong, Wurundjeri and Bunurong people who lived around the coast of Port Phillip Bay, the creation ancestor *Bunjil* was responsible for its formation. In the stories of the Bunurong people, one of their creation ancestors, *Lohan*, departed from a group of rocks near present-day Port Melbourne on a journey which created all of the country between the mouth of the Yarra River and Wilson's Promontory (Rhodes, 2003, p. iv).

Archaeological evidence from Tasmania and the Bass Strait islands confirms stories transmitted by Aboriginal people from generation to generation for thousands of years of a time when Aboriginal people lived on the now-submerged floor of Port Phillip, before the rise of sea levels during the terminal Pleistocene to mid-Holocene (c. 15,000 – 5,000 years ago). Two early European settlers, Georgiana McCrae and William Hull, recorded oral history in the 1840s in which Bunurong people described crossing the bay before it was flooded, and the flooding of the bay itself. They described Hobson's Bay as a kangaroo hunting ground, and the flowing of the Yarra River through the Heads before the sea broke through (Gunson N. , 1983, p. 2).

The importance of Port Phillip Bay to the Aboriginal peoples who lived along its shores was first recognised by archaeologist Aldo Massola, who embarked upon a series of investigations around the bay in the 1950s. The territory of the Bunurong people extended from the Werribee River in the east as far as Cape Liptrap in the west, and incorporated Williamstown, St Kilda, the eastern environs of Port Phillip Bay and all of Westernport Bay. It also extended inland as far as the Dandenong Ranges and the Upper Latrobe Valley, but Massola describes them as being essentially a coastal people (Massola 1959, p. 180). He based this conclusion on the almost continuous line of middens he found along the cliffs and sand dunes of Port Phillip Bay, Westernport Bay and Bass Strait containing the fragmentary remains of meals eaten in the same place over an extended period of time.

When they were initially identified many of these middens contained implements, including bone points possibly used for extracting seafood from their shells, as barbs on fish spears, and gorge hooks for fishing (Massola, 1959, p. 180). These bone points were also used as awls to make possum skin cloaks which were laced together with sinews. Massola notes that several very fine bone awls were recovered at Point Ormond, indicating that this singular and prominent geographic feature of the Elwood area was well-used by Aboriginal people. It is a natural lookout encompassing all of Hobson's Bay, and the discovery of an extensive shell midden by archaeologists in 1974 revealed that Point Ormond was utilised as a site for communal, social gatherings by the Bunurong people (Phillip, n.d.).

The bay environment provided them with a wealth of resources. At least 29 plants are known to have been native to the coastal area of Port Phillip in 1803, many of which were of economic value to the Bunurong people (Presland, 1983, p. 10). Shellfish was gathered from the rock platform and the sandy shore, shallow water fish and rays were speared; waterfowl were trapped or caught in nets.

The Bunurong people used coastal tracks to travel seasonally through their country, moving gradually around the bay in small groups during the summer months, travelling towards Nine Mile Beach in Mordialloc, Mount Eliza (*Berringwallin*), Mount Martha *Nungallin*), Arthur's Seat (*Wongho*), Point Nepean (*Mon Mare*), Cape Schanck (*Tunnahan*) and Sandy Point (*Yellodunwho*). They then visited the inlets before turning inland in the winter months, returning via Mahoon (the Western Port plains) to Dandenong (Sullivan 1981, p. 29). Many of their tracks led to fresh water wells at Beaumaris (Ellender, 1994, p. 30) and there are contemporary descriptions of the bark hut villages they erected at camps located on creeks and rivers within five kilometres of the bay, giving them access to both coastal and inland resources (Sullivan, 1981, p. 30). Periodically they gathered in larger groups for ceremonial purposes; one such gathering was observed in the coastal area near Carrum Swamp (Gunson N. , 1983, p. 2).

The bay was both a provider of sustenance and a spiritual home to the Aboriginal peoples who lived along its shores, expressed after death through burials situated on the high ridges of coastal dunes, facing towards the bay.

Post-European Settlement

Following post-European settlement to Victoria, the rich pasture land within and around St Kilda was used from grazing imported livestock (Eidelson, 2006). In 1836, Archibald McLaurin and his brother had a lease to graze sheep from Caulfield to Point Ormond that, at the time, was known as Red Bluff. In 1839, Captain Benjamin Baxter was granted a lease of land to graze cattle from Point Ormond to Port Melbourne. The first building known within the historical record was Baxter's stockman's hut that is commemorated by a plaque in Alfred Street (ibid).

Elwood and the Point Ormond area was one of the first quarantine stations, St Kilda's first cemetery, and the etymological origin of Glen Huntley Road (originally known as Typhus Road) and suburb (Eidelson, 2006).

Upon arrival to Australia in 1840, the immigrant carrying ship, *Glen Huntley*, was found to be a plague ship. Governor La Trobe instructed that the ship be sent to Point Ormond, then considered to be remote from Melbourne (ibid). Two camps were set up: one for the sick emigrants, and one for those free of fever. The dead were buried at the crown of the bluff and repatriated in 1898 within the St Kilda cemetery. The healthy emigrants were released from quarantine on 1 June 1840 and the remainder on 13 June of the same year. The quarantine station was closed in the 1850s (ibid).

Roads and tracks from St Kilda to Elwood were largely determined by the topography of the area. The most direct route from St Kilda to Elwood was via a track up High Street. However, the steep climb was not favoured by many travellers. Many used the lower track that diverted at St Kilda Junction to the west side of the hill. Early maps show that there was a track present at modern day Fitzroy Street, with a swamp (present day Albert Park Lake) to the north and a hill to the south near the corner of Esplanade and Fitzroy. The track then forked into two roads, one leading to Upper Road (present day Esplanade) and the Lower Road (present day Jacka Boulevard) (ibid).

The Crimea War heightened a sense of invasions in Victoria during the 1850s. As a result, three rifle butts were established between Elwood and St Kilda in 1859. A voluntary military regiment was established in Point Ormond in the 1860s. Fortifications were built to the north of Point Ormond that used earthworks, gabions and sandbags in which a battery was established (Eidelson, 2006). A map of the military exercise in St Kilda (1862) shows the location of the fortifications as well as the present study area (Figure 3). This figure importantly shows that the wetlands and adjacent shore line extended as far east as Milford Street (present day Mitford Street). In 1862 the military manoeuvre at Point Ormond consisted of 1800 militia and troops as well as 20,000 onlookers (Figure 4).

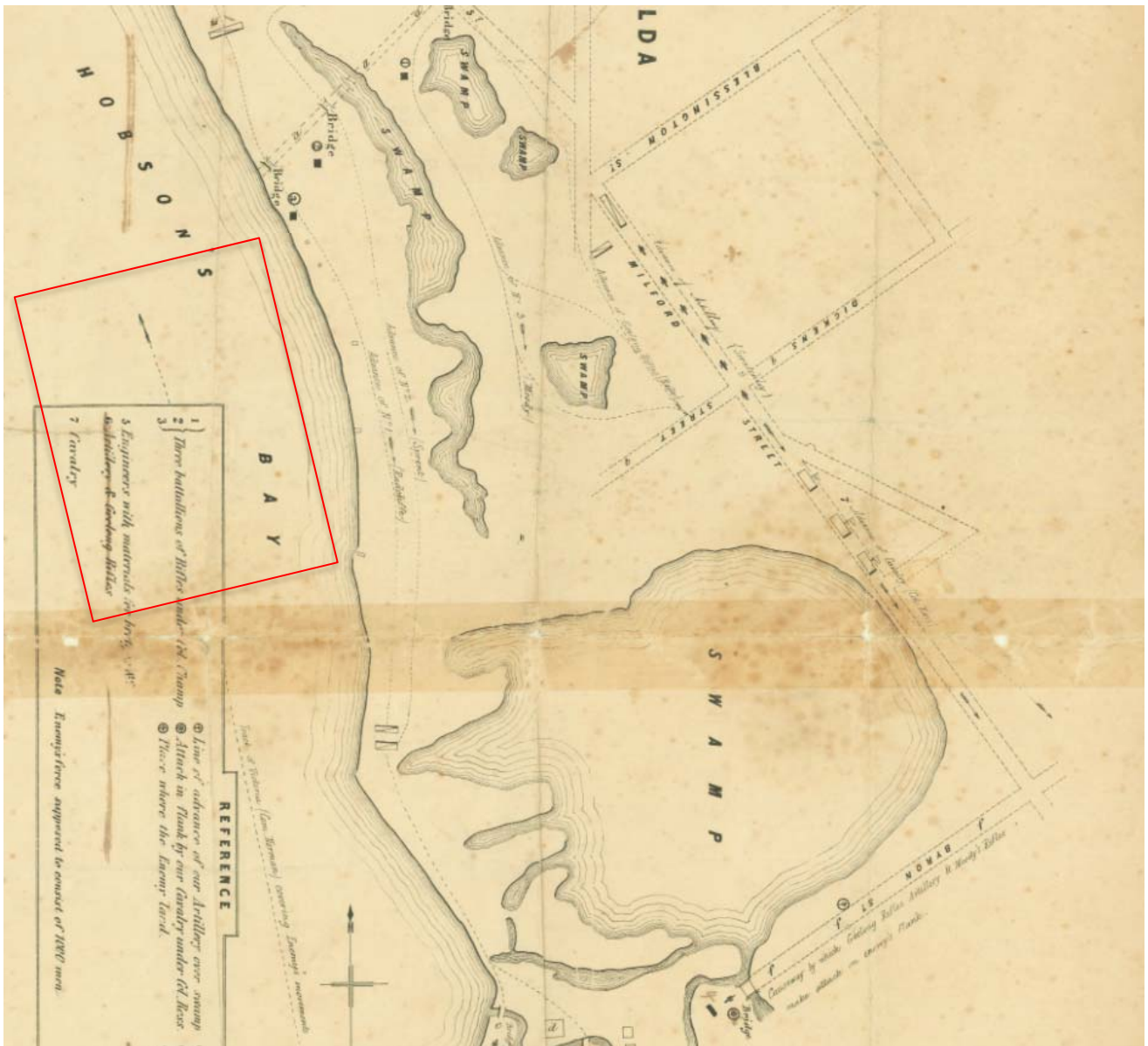


Figure 3 Map of a military exercise in the St Kilda area (Army Victoria, 1862)

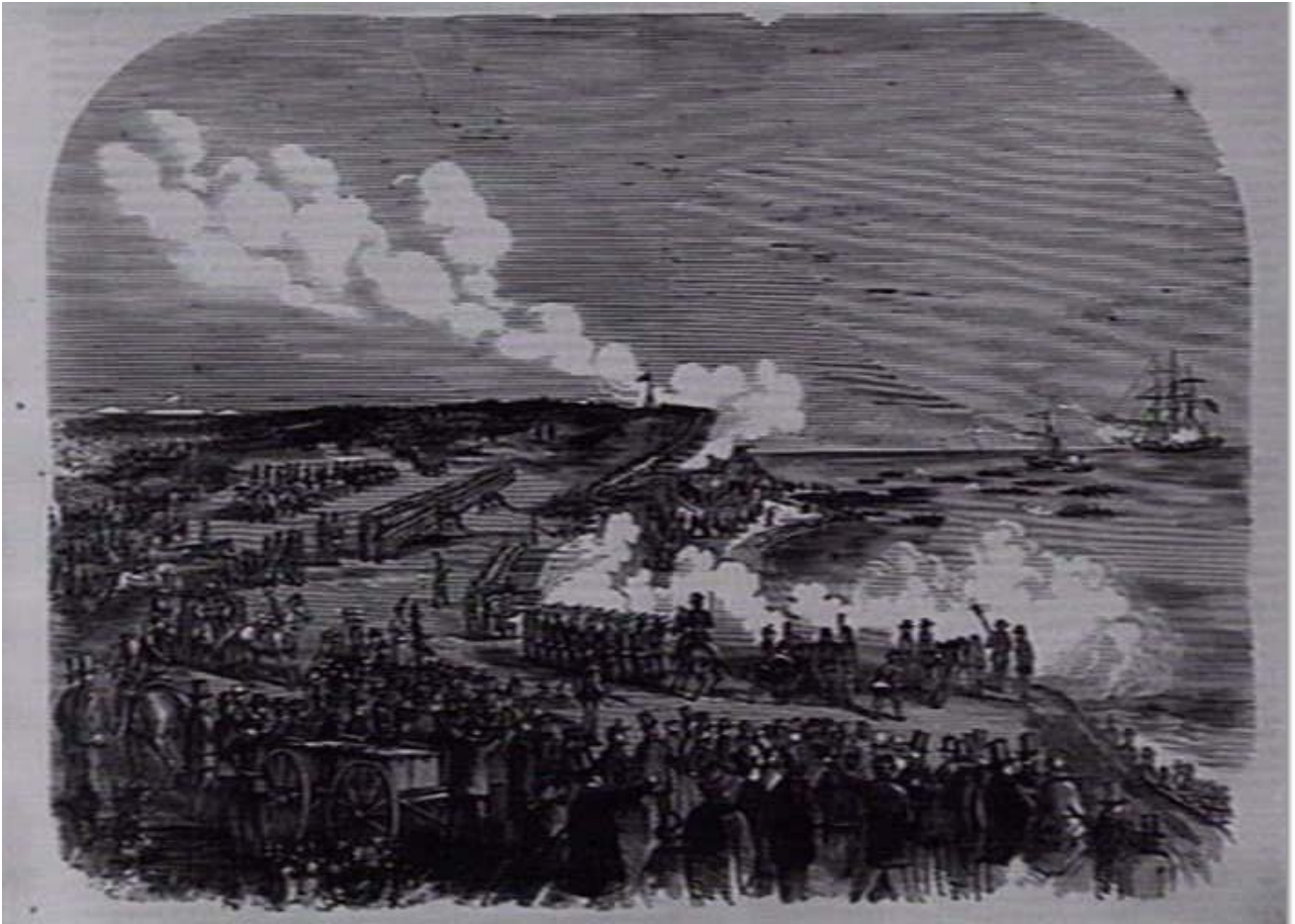


Figure 4 Volunteer land and sea fight at Point Ormond (Somerton, 1862)

Figure 3 also shows the location of Elwood's Southern Swamp. Elwood Canal originated as Elster Creek, a natural watercourse that terminated in a 108-160 acre wetland, depending on rainfall, located near the beach and between Dickens Street, Mitford Street, Glenhuntly Road and the beach (refer to Figure 3) (Eidelson, 2006; Heritage Alliance, 2004). Further wetlands were located around the present day Elsternwick Golf Course to the Gardenvale railway Station and the Western Swamp was located at the southern end of Albert Park Lake (Reeves & Wixted, 2005).

Following post European settlement to the area, the wetland was looked on as an impediment to development (Eidelson, 2006). The Southern Swamp was withheld from sale, leasing and licensing with the exception of mining. However, no mining activity is known to have occurred within the area (Reeves & Wixted, 2005).

Europeans used the swamp as waste disposal (Eidelson, 2006). By 1860 the foul conditions of the swamp became a matter of local debate, with St Kilda Council removing the nearby abattoir and night soil depot. In 1870, neighbouring Brighton cut a drain through the swamp. In order to prevent flooding in Elwood, the drain had to be continued to the Bay that entered the sea approximately 150 metres to the north of the canal's present mouth. By 1888 the odour from the swamp was described as an *intolerable nuisance* (ibid). Following this, 60 men were employed to construct a 1.2 kilometre concrete canal from Glenhuntly Road to Elwood beach. Mooring rings were provided on the canal for tying up boats and bridges were constructed over the newly formed roads made possible by draining the land, Marine Parade, Barkly, Addison and Ruskins Streets as well as Broadway (Illustrated Australian News and Musical Times, 1889).