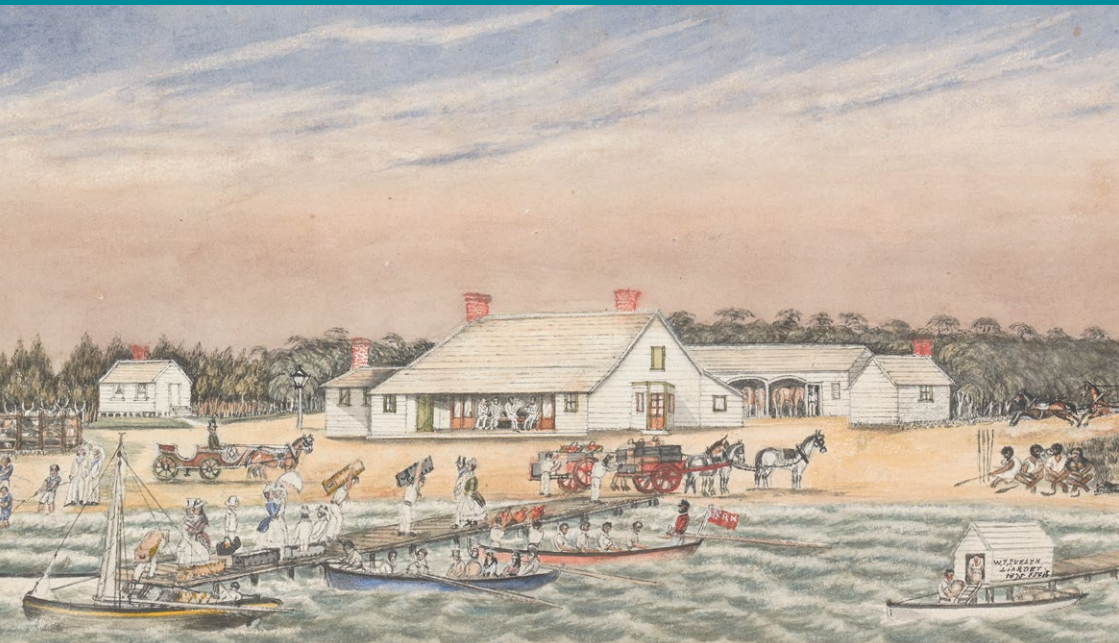


Walks in Port Phillip

IMMIGRANTS TRAIL



A guide to the cultural landscapes of a city

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TRAIL KEY

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|---|
| 1 STATION PIER | 6 LIARDET MEMORIAL | 12 LAW AND ORDER COMPLEX |
| 2 COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE | 7 SEAMEN'S INSTITUTE | 13 MARKET RESERVE SHOPS |
| 3 PORT MELBOURNE RAILWAY STATION | 8 YALUKUT WEELAM SIGN | 14 LIARDET COMMUNITY CENTRE |
| 4 VICTORIAN CENTENARY BRIDGE PYLON | 9 PIER HOTEL | 15 NOTT STREET TERRACES |
| 5 THE ROTUNDA | 10 MORLEY'S COAL DEPOT | 16 SWALLOW AND ARIELL STEAM BISCUIT MANUFACTORY |
| | 11 EXCHANGE HOTEL | |

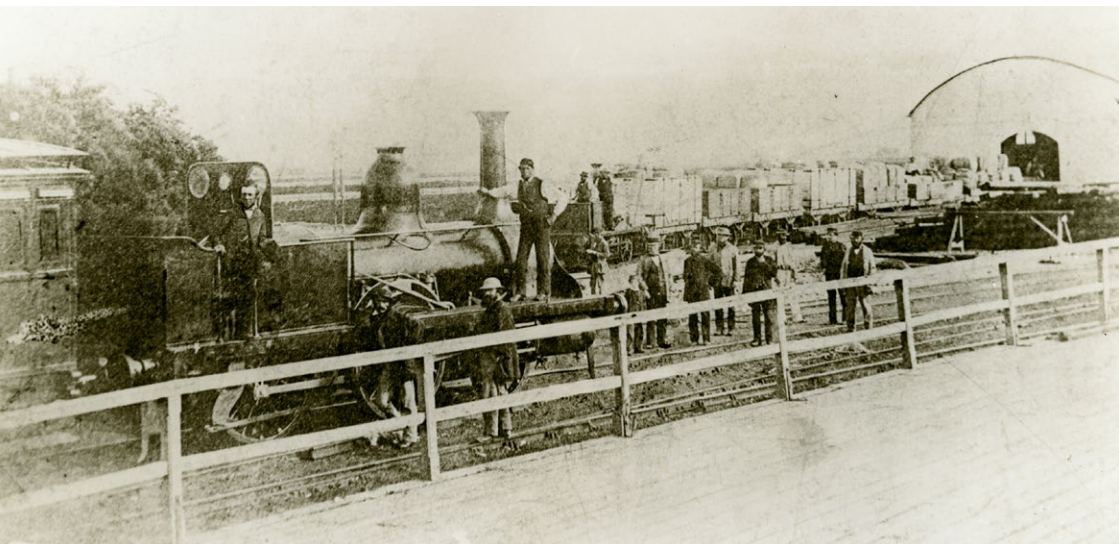
This Trail celebrates the contribution to the City of Port Phillip by immigrants and settlers. For many of these new arrivals, Station Pier was their first landfall in Australia after long and hazardous journeys by sea. This shipping trade has left its historic imprint on Port Melbourne, which retains many public buildings from settlement days.

In 1835 colonial settlers from Tasmania arrived by ship seeking new pastures for the British wool trade. Other immigrants followed, particularly English, Scottish and Irish, travelling in wind-powered ships on extraordinary journeys round the Cape of Good Hope and through the Rip.

The Gold Rush in 1851 brought a huge influx of eager immigrants, including Chinese, from all over the world. Post-war migration saw hundreds of thousands of new arrivals, many from southern and eastern Europe, first setting foot on Australian shores at Station Pier, seeking refuge from persecution, war and economic hardship. Later arrivals from Asia, Africa and other continents have added to the diverse multicultural community that enlivens the City of Port Phillip today.

This walk starts at Beach Street, Waterfront Place at the entrance to Station Pier (1) opposite the former Port Melbourne Railway Station. The Federation bench, made from Station Pier timbers, celebrates the contribution to the City of Port Phillip by those who made landfall after courageous and difficult journeys.

Nearby rises the slanting metallic spire of *Destinations*, a sculpture by Mark Weichard and Anthony Russo, commemorating immigration. It bears the names and dates of ships which have arrived over the past 170 years.



Steam train to Sandridge, c1860s. pm0514.1-4

The pier, originally built in 1854 as Railway Pier, became the 'passenger gateway' to Melbourne and the arrival point for countless hopeful 'new' Australians after the Second World War. Many who passed down the gangplanks and through the customs terminal recall this structure as their first memory of their new home.

Station Pier is still a busy working pier. Large numbers of international cruise liners dock here each year and the *Spirit of Tasmania* ferries its passengers to and from Australia's island state. Today's shipping schedules are a faint echo of the frenetic activity of the past when ocean transport for people and freight was more common. Gone are the enthusiastic crowds that came to throw streamers at the glamorous liners or board the paddle steamers for picnic cruises down the Bay to Sorrento and Queenscliff.

Take a walk along the pier to the Gatehouse entrance or, if you wish, to the very far end. To the west of the Gatehouse, visit the giant and rare portal crane that loaded ocean going vessels from 1949 and was restored in 2013. Station Pier is open to pedestrians throughout the year during daylight hours except on cruise ship visiting days (see Port of Melbourne website). You are now exploring the largest wooden structure in the Southern Hemisphere. Enjoy great views from the upstairs balcony of the first terminal, formerly the customs shed, where crowds of immigrants with their families were once assessed on arrival and where today's passengers embark to Tasmania.

Visit the commemorative plaque (2) initiated by the Hungarian community in 2016 and designed by Louis Zagon, which gratefully recognises Australia as a welcoming home to migrants and refugees.



View of Princes Pier, 1920s. pm1077.1-2

FROM SEAPORT TO ESTATE

Leave the pier and cross Beach Street to the historic Port Melbourne Railway Station (3). It is now a station for the light rail tram route 109 (stop 129 – Beacon Cove). The area on and around the piers was once a vast industrial site. Between 1996 and 2006 it was radically transformed into the modern suburb of Beacon Cove.

Stand on the former railway platform and appreciate the interaction of the old and the new. This was the first passenger line in Australia, built in 1854 to connect the port to the city. At one time, the port and railways created employment for most of the men in Port Melbourne and many of its factories were built nearby for easy access to the piers.

A PIONEERS' MEMORIAL DESTROYED

Return to the beach promenade and walk south along Beach Street. The magnificent Victorian Centenary Bridge (designed to pass over the pier's rail line) with its art deco detailing was needlessly demolished in 1991. Pause at the lone **art deco pylon (4)** which remains as a souvenir of its splendour. This bridge, built during the depression by 'susso' or depression labour, celebrated 100 years of settlement.

The art deco motifs of Centenary Bridge echoed those of the new and glamorous ocean liners and were intended by the Harbour Trust to create a fitting gateway to the State. The destruction of the bridge was part of a grand design by government and developers to create a luxury housing enclave that never eventuated. The Port Melbourne foreshore has been the subject of fierce debate as the local community struggled to preserve heritage in the face of intensive development.

LEST WE FORGET

The Women's Welcome Home Committee built the picturesque Rotunda (5) in 1918. Large crowds gathered at the Port Melbourne piers to see troop ships of young soldiers depart for both world wars. For families of the many that never returned, the view from these piers was often their last memory of their sons and brothers. Stand in the rotunda and imagine the music of the brass bands that performed here to welcome Anzac troops disembarking at Station Pier; home at last after one of the bloodiest conflicts in history.

AN OVERACTIVE IMMIGRANT

A memorial (6) to Port Melbourne's first permanent settler Wilbraham Frederick Evelyn Liardet (1779-1878) is located on the foreshore opposite Nott Street. Liardet arrived with his wife Caroline and nine children in 1839 and erected a tent on the beach opposite what is now Bay Street. They had the extraordinary energy typical of many new immigrants. Within a year they had built a hut, a jetty, a watch tower and a rough road to Melbourne for a daily mail run, dug a well, created a ferry service to Williamstown, and established the Pier Hotel.

Liardet's small tea-tree jetty was the forerunner of the busy but now removed Town Pier at the end of Bay Street (1849-1950s). The Port Melbourne Yacht Club is now built on the site. Wilbraham's visionary ideas often seemed to attract economic misfortune. In later life, however, he painted vibrant early portraits of Melbourne that are now national treasures.

The building on the corner of Nott and Beach Streets housed the **Seamen's Institute (7)**, once a refuge for the crews of ships that brought immigrants from all over the world. During World War Two it was a hive of activity as it accommodated refugees from south-east Asia fleeing from the Japanese invasion. By the beach, the two tiny ablution blocks have historic multilingual signs *LADIES – DONNE – RYNAIKIA*.

The World War One Memorial Fountain is evidence of the historic importance of this area in Australia's war effort. Over a third of Australia's troops departed from Port Melbourne's piers for the two world wars. It has been a regular site for Anzac Day services.

INDIGENOUS LANDMARKS

This land has been home to the Yalukut Weelam clan of the Boon Wurrung for millennia. Some of the stories of place and people are told in a series of ten signs which form a self-guided tour of Port Phillip, created with the Boon Wurrung Foundation. Stop at the **Yalukut Weelam sign (8)** on Beach Street to learn about land management and local foods. For more information about significant Indigenous landmarks and historical figures, visit the City of Port Phillip's website which also lists the locations of all the signs.



Entrance to Station Pier, 1950s. pm1434

THE OLD SETTLEMENT

Turning left (east) down Bay Street takes us past many public and private buildings of the original 'Sandridge Borough' settlement. The area now known as Port Melbourne had been named 'Sandridge' by the settlers in the 1800s, inspired by the local swamp lands and sand dunes.

The building on the corner of Bay and Beach Streets is the **Pier Hotel (9)** on the site of the original timber hotel established by founding settler Wilbraham F E Liardet in 1840. It was described as a magnificent house – 'Brighton on the Beach' – and was an instant success in the young colony as a fashionable resort.

Opposite on the south side of Bay Street is **Morley's Coal Depot (10)** which stored coal for fuelling the ships in port and the nearby Gasworks. The rugged 1872 bluestone building named after the first Sandridge mayor, William Morley, is classified by the National Trust.



*Anna Maria with her son Nick in 1961 at Station Pier
Courtesy Rosa and Vince Coluccio*

Next to Morley's is **The Local**, originally the Royal Mail Hotel, one of the few surviving pubs that clustered around the Town Pier at the bottom of Bay Street. In 1876 there were an astounding 48 hotels in this small Borough. The pubs evoke the port town where sailors and workers slaked their thirst, where unions were essential, where common hardship formed an ethos of community support and mateship, and where allegiance to the Port Melbourne Football Club was supreme.

Walk down Bay Street to the corner of Rouse Street. Here is the **Exchange Hotel (11)** once named 'Molly Bloom'. Early immigrants included those from Ireland seeking refuge from poverty and conflict. In 1838, 191 orphaned Irish girls arrived in Hobsons Bay on the *Lady Kennaway*.

On the south side of the road is the **Sandridge Post Office and Mail Exchange 1862**, one of the colony's busiest in the era when mail arrived after long sea voyages. In fact, Bay Street had its beginning in the mail track to the city created by the Liardet family.

The heritage 1912 **Naval Drill Hall** is the first ever built by the early Australian Navy. Its high ceilings allowed for rigging to train sailing ship crews and, more recently, Circus Oz acrobats. From 2015 it has housed Albert Park College students.

Continue to 111 Bay Street, corner Graham Street, to view the historic law and order complex (12). The former police station, now a law firm, has a tiny and grim bluestone lock up in the rear. Next door is the 1860 Court House, a café bar in 2018. If you can, check out the beautiful courthouse roof inside.

Cross Graham Street to the Rex Hotel, also the social club home for the popular Port Melbourne Football Club. The historic **Market Shops 191 to 219 Bay Street (13)**, are built on the Borough Council's market reserve from the 1880s. The corner building at **222 Bay Street** is the former Port Theatre (cinema) from 1913 to the 1950s. Restoration began after a conflagration in 2015.

At Liardet Street, turn left to the **Liardet Community Centre (14)** on the corner of Nott Street, named after Port Melbourne's community-minded founder. The building was once the Temperance Hall in the days of intense campaigning against the 'demon drink'. The Centre is a meeting place of multicultural seniors' groups and English classes. The City of Port Phillip has a mixed population from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Opposite at **147 Liardet Street** is the former Port Melbourne fire station.

A ROOF OVER THEIR HEADS

Turn left at Nott Street and proceed to Rouse Street. Note the Victorian workers' cottages **(15)** on the left at **Queens Terrace** (144-132) and **Jubilee Terrace** (130-118). The 1851 gold rush caused a spectacular increase in the population of Melbourne and it was not uncommon for large families to occupy such tiny homes in the late 1800s. In more recent times, walk-up and high rise public estates, such as those opposite the cottages, has provided accommodation for many new arrivals to Australia.

Turn right at Rouse Street and walk to Stokes Street. On the north corner, **274 Rouse Street** is the bluestone Romanesque St Joseph's Church 1881. The rare 1873 Fincham organ has played at many weddings of the local Catholic community.

THE SMELL OF BISCUITS

On the west corner at 53 Stokes Street is the original building of the **Swallow and Ariell Steam Biscuit Manufactory (16)**, founded in 1854 to make ships' biscuits. On the south corner is the 'counting house' at 60 Stokes Street, which housed the administration offices of 'Swallows'. At one time, most Port Melbourne families had a member working for 'Swallows'. Older residents can recall the smell of fresh biscuits, once considered an essential characteristic of Port Melbourne. *Swallows Juniors*, which commenced in 1957, was an iconic TV show for many baby boomers.

Walk up Stokes Street towards the beach past the decorative entrance of 'Swallows' with its historic facade and emblem. The 'Swallows' complex occupied almost the entire block but is now converted to residential apartments. It is the oldest, largest and most intact food processing complex in Victoria. The factory did not miss a single day in biscuit production for 137 years, until it closed in 1991, earning a listing in the Guinness World Records.

At Beach Street turn right and return to Station Pier, the starting point of the walk.



Swallow and Ariell's delivery van, 1940s. pm 1290

START TO FINISH	Station Pier, Port Melbourne
LENGTH	Four kilometres
TIME	70 - 90 minutes
BIKE STATION	103 Beach Street, Station Pier, Port Melbourne
REFRESHMENTS	There are numerous cafés, pubs and bistros at Station Pier and in Beach and Bay Streets.

Visit heritage.portphillip.vic.gov.au for more information about cultural heritage programs and activities in the City of Port Phillip.

You can also contact us by phone via our ASSIST centre on **03 9209 6777**.

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Council respectfully acknowledges the Yalukut Weelam Clan of the Boon Wurrung. We pay our respect to their Elders, both past and present. We acknowledge and uphold their continuing relationship to this land.

*Cover image: Liardet's Beach and Hotel in their heyday
Artist: W F E Liardet, 1875.
Watercolour with pen and ink, gouache and pencil. Courtesy: State Library of Victoria*

Images are from the Port Phillip City Collection unless otherwise indicated.

