Apollo Bay History Trail

For more of Apollo Bay’s history

Visit the

APOLLO BAY MUSEUM

The Old Cable Station
6250 Great Ocean Road.
2.3 km north of the Apollo Bay Information Centre.

Opening Times
2 - 5 pm
Weekends, Public & School Holidays

Entrance fees:
Adults $5.00
Children (8-16) $1.00

Cable Station and early communication
Pioneer Family Histories
Local news stories from 1840
Historical photographs

Early History

The Gadubanud (Katabanut) people occupied the rainforest plateau and rugged coastline of Cape Otway including the site of the current towns of Lorne and Apollo Bay. By the early 1800s this area was also familiar to sealers and whalers.

In 1845 the Bay was named by Captain Loutitt after he sheltered here in his vessel "Apollo" on a voyage from Melbourne to Port Fairy.

In 1849 timber cutters commenced harvesting the trees. The first timber mills were constructed in the early 1850s and the huts built for the workers were the beginnings of a settlement close to the Barham River (Barrum-burrum).

Apollo Bay provided comparatively protected waters for anchorage. The surrounding flat and undulating land was suited for the location of the township. In 1853 it was surveyed by Skene and was named Middleton.

By the 1860s land became available for farming, by mid 1870s the first township blocks were offered for sale.
No. 1. Apollo Bay Tourist and Foremost

No. 2. Apollo Bay Hotel

No. 3. The Special

No. 4. Collingwood Street

No. 5. Long Pier (Jetty)

No. 6. Pier and Goods Shed

No. 7. Ballarat Hotel (General Store and Butchery)

No. 8. Costume - Proprietor

No. 9. The Changing Shore Line

No. 10. Photo on Prom Bunting

No. 11. The Refraction in Apollo Bay, Once the furnace was lit, the town was lit. The town was lit by the light of the fire. The fire was lit by the light of the moon. The moon was lit by the light of the sun. The sun was lit by the light of the stars.

No. 12. Entertainment of the town.

No. 13. The neighbourhood accommodation and houses of the town.


No. 15. The Taxis

No. 16. The Town Planning

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