

ABOUT THE WALK

Port Albert is home to a great walk along the foreshore, the Christopher Robinson walk, named after a prominent Greenpeace activist who lived in the area. The walk runs along the waters edge from Port Albert to old Seabank Caravan Park. An easy track for those that enjoy a bit more distance in their walks. This sheltered trail takes you through a variety of vegetation while being only metres from the beach. Information signs and rest points along the way make this an enjoyable walk for all the family.

HISTORY OF THE AREA

The Christopher Robinson Walk, originally named The Old Port Trail commences/ends (trail can be walked in both directions) is on land that was near where Angus McMillan reached the inlet on the 14th February, 1841. A cairn a short distance down the trail marks the spot. 'Seabank' is also close to where the original settlement of Port Albert was established by the Gippsland Company in May, 1841. On the beach you will see remains of crockery and old bottles dating back to this settlement, please do not remove these items from the beach or park. The settlement struggled due to the diffident terrain and the shallow channels, moving to Stockyard Point at the current site of Port Albert after about two years as it was much more convenient for the loading of cattle.



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CHRISTOPHER ROBINSON WALKING TRAIL



MAP OF CHRISTOPHER ROBINSON WALKING TRAIL



The Christopher Robinson Walking Trail is a gentle 5.37km from Seabank to Port Albert and allows walkers to take a walk through the past.

With very little evidence of European interference with this coastal woodland and heathland it is much as it was when the first white settlers saw it in 1841. Until then it was the domain of the Brataolung clan who fished the inlet in bark canoes, hunted game on the grassy flats and foraged for plant and insect fare.

WHY WALK THE TRAIL?

As well as the historic aspect, there are fine views across the mud flats, and from the lookout above a crumbling cliff you have a wonderful view across the inlet to Gellion's Run and Wilson's Promontory. The vegetation is much as it was in the times of the First People. Small gums, old banksia trees and amazing range of shrubs and bushes will delight those interested in native plants.

One is sure to glimpse evidence of the abundant wildlife. Look carefully and you will find a wombat burrow, or two or three! If you are lucky you will see a kangaroo or wallaby, in the sandy patches you are almost certain to see their tracks. Don't be alarmed if you come across a snake or lizard sunning itself beside the track. If you leave it alone, it will not worry you.

The bush is alive with birds: wrens, robins, thornbills, chats, honeyeaters, ravens, cockatoos and more. The inlet supports a large population of wader birds, which can be seen from the mudflats. The mudflats also support many shellfish and a variety of crabs, and marine life.

NOORAMUNGA MARINE AND COASTAL PARK

The Nooramunga Marine and Coastal Park is a wetland of international importance and is listed under the RAMSAR Convention which provides for protected wetlands across the world to support bird migration. Our wetlands are the fourth most important in Australia and provide shelter and food for a wide range of migratory birds with many coming from the Northern hemisphere. These include a variety of terns, the black tailed and bar tailed godwit's, dotterels and sandpipers. Birds also migrate across Bass Strait and the Tasman.

MANGROVES AND MUDFLATS

The mangroves of the Nooramunga Marine and Coastal Park are the southern-most location of mangroves in Australia. The mangrove plant is specially adapted to grow in the salty conditions.

Their extensive root system with roots coming out above the water allow the plant to take in the nutrition, water and gases necessary for their survival.

The leaves have special salt secreting glands which enable the plant to tolerate its salty environment. The mangrove mudflats are an ideal environment for fish nurseries and support an amazing range of marine life.

A few sweeps of a dip net will reward you with shrimps, small fish and crabs. Yabbies and worms abound. The mudflats also support the growth of seaweeds and sea grasses whose roots the black swans feed on.

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