

BELLS BEACH SURFING RECREATION RESERVE



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H02032 bells beach 2



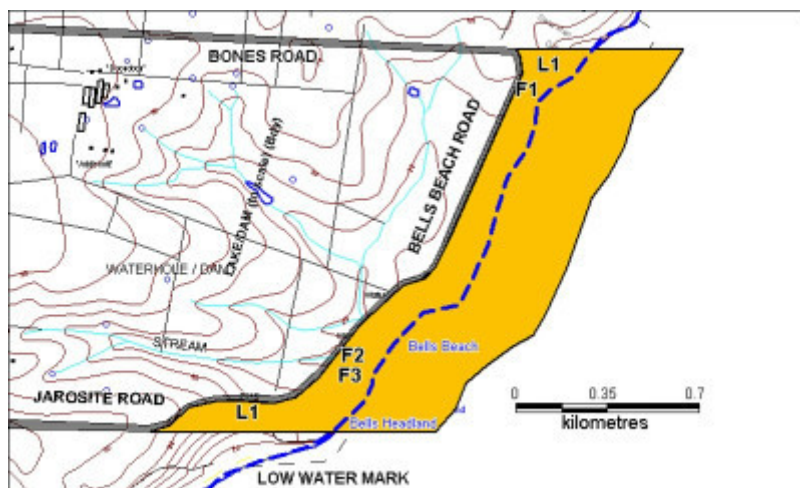
H02032 bells beach 1



H02032 bells beach 3



H02032 bells beach 4 spirit of surfing



H02032 bells beach extent april 2003

Location

COASTAL RESERVE BELLS BEACH, SURF COAST SHIRE

Municipality

SURF COAST SHIRE

Level of significance

Registered

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H2032

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO88

VHR Registration

July 10, 2003

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - July 10, 2003

What is significant?

Bells Beach Surfing Recreation Reserve, located about five kilometres southwest of Torquay, comprises a high concentration of quality surfing spots from Southside to Steps Reef including Centreside, Bells (Rincon, The Bowl) and Winki Pop (Uppers and Lower). Swells from the southern ocean slow and steepen over the reef strewn shallows to form consistent, rideable waves and the surrounding environment provides excellent viewing from a natural amphitheatre. The roots of surfing in Victoria are in the Torquay/Surf Coast area beginning at Lorne in 1920. From as early as 1939 pioneer surfers from the Torquay Surf Lifesaving Club struggled to the inaccessible Bells Beach from the sea and the land until in 1960 Joe Sweeney, ex-Olympic wrestler and Torquay SLSC member, organised the bulldozing of an access track.

In January 1961 the first surfing event was held, and in 1962 the first annual Bells Beach Easter competition took advantage of the consistent autumn conditions and the full moon high tides. Photographs of the six metre waves for the 1965 competition were widely distributed and established Bells Beach's international reputation as a world class big wave venue such that surfers from Australia and around the world flocked to catch 'Bells boomers'. In 1970 Bells Beach was the first Australian venue for the World Surfing Titles. In 1981 surfing professional Simon Anderson won the Bells Beach Easter competition in testing six metre swells on a radical three-finned 'Thruster' performance enhancing board. This type of board has remained accepted internationally as the standard for high performance surfboards. Since 1991 the Bells Beach Easter competition has been recognised as the world's longest running surfing competition.

The physical development of Bells Beach has remained low key with a high value placed on the protection and regeneration of the indigenous landscape. The 'Wave' sculpture, the 'Spirit of Surfing' sandstone sculptures and the Koori mural by local artists are significant cultural markers. The creation of the Bells Beach Surfing Recreation Reserve (a world first) in 1973, the recognition of its environmental excellence, and even the creation of the Surf Coast Shire 1995 bear testimony to the special place of surfing and Bells Beach in Victorian social history.

How is it significant?

Bells Beach Surfing Recreation Reserve is of social and historical significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

Bells Beach Surfing Recreation Reserve is a landscape that is socially significant as an international icon of Australian surfing culture. Bells Beach Surfing Recreation Reserve is socially and historically significant as the location of the world's longest continuous running surf competition. The Bells Beach Easter competition has world-renown and in terms of prestige and aura is often referred to as "the Wimbledon of surfing".

Bells Beach Surfing Recreation Reserve has historic significance to the development of surfboard and wetsuit technology. The Bells Beach conditions led to important developments in the surfing industry which now makes the nearby town of Torquay the home to the multi-million dollar surf manufacturing industry, and the site of the headquarters of major surfing companies.

Permit Exemptions

General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

Places of worship: In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must **notify** the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

Subdivision/consolidation: Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

Specific Exemptions:

General Conditions: 1. All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object. General Conditions: 2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of alterations that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such alteration shall cease and the Executive Director shall be notified as soon as possible. General Conditions: 3. If there is a conservation policy and plan approved by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it. General Conditions: 4. Nothing in this declaration prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions. General Conditions: 5. Nothing in this declaration exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authority where applicable. · Management and works in accordance with *Environmental Management Plan for the Rip Curl Pro*

· removal of plants listed as noxious weeds in the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*

· repairs, conservation and maintenance to hard landscape elements, buildings, structures, monuments, roads and paths

Construction dates	1961,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Other Names	Centreside, Bell's Beach, The Bowl, Winki Pop, Steps Reef, Southside, Rincon,
Hermes Number	12711
Property Number	

History

DRAFT SUMMARY HISTORY BY COLIN MCINTYRE BELLS BEACH EUROPEAN HISTORY

1870's Approximately 2100 acres of land surrounding Bells Beach down to Point Addis was acquired by Mr. John Calvert Bell and Mr. William Bell. Mr. John Bell built the homestead known as Addiscott. William Bell was the proprietor of the Geelong Times and Mayor of Geelong on 3 occasions (Wynd).

1920 Surfing was first introduced to Victoria by Mr. Louis Whyte at Lorne.

1940's Dick Gerrard and friends often paddled around from Jan Juc to surf Bells Beach and Winki Pop.

1953 Peter Troy, Owen Yateman and George Smith rode motor bikethrough the scrub to Bells Beach along the old Cobb and Co. stagecoach road.

1958 Joe Sweeny gained permission from the Barrabool Shire Engineer to widen the existing Cobb and Co. track. Mr. Lance Altman was commissioned for a fee of 30 pounds to bulldoze the two kilometre track into Bells Beach. Joe recouped the money by getting the 30 members of the newly formed Bells Beach Boardriders to donate a pound each.(Waves Mag.)

1961The first boardriding contest held at Bells Beach over the Australia Day weekend in January.

1962 Womens, mens and junior events were held. The contest was organised by Peter Troy and Vic Tantau who together had a surfboard making business. The contest was won by Terry Wall. As a result of poor surf it was decided to hold future contests at Easter during the season when better surf generally occurs.

1963 The Bells surfing contest was held at Easter for the first time. The contest was organised by Peter Troy and Vic Tantau again and surfers from NSW and Queensland were invited to attend.

1964The first world surfing championship was held at Manly, New South Wales.(History of Surfing – Nat Young) The Bells contest was organised by Victorian branch of the Australian Surfing Association for the first time.

1965 The swell was a huge 6 metres. Barry Sutherland took photos of the huge waves which were published in the magazine Surfing World. This attracted the attention of surfers all over Australia and the reputation of Bells Beach began to spread.

1966 The Bells contest became separate to the State Titles.

1967 Barrabool Council set up a Committee of Management for Bells and acquired 42 acres from the Addiscott

Pastoral Company, to allow construction of a through road from Bones Road to Jarosite Road. (Wynd)The Victorian Surfing Championships were held at Bells Beach and attracted an estimated 10,000 spectators. (Wynd)

1970 Bells Beach was the venue for the World Surfing Titles for the first time in Australia. In those days the world title was decided at the one event and this event was the fifth World Surfing Titles.Council was able to obtain a \$35,000 grant for the sealing of Bones and Jarosite Roads (Wynd). Negotiations for the acquisition of land from Addiscott Pastoral Company were completed and \$22,500 was paid for the land.(Wynd)

1971 Bells Beach was set aside for recreation purposes.The area became the Bells Beach Surfing Recreation Reserve, the first of its kind in the world.

1972 The Bells Beach Surfing Recreation Reserve was officially opened in March by the Minister for State Development, Mr. Murray Byrne. (Wynd)

1973 The Bells Beach surfing contest became a professional event. The first professional surfing event held in Australia at Bells Beach. Rip Curl Pty. Ltd. Sponsored the event with \$2,500 total prize pool and \$1,000 first prize. The winner was Michael Peterson who also won in 1974 and 1975.

1981 A memorable year with the Bells Easter Contest swell getting up to 6 metres. This had not been seen since 1965. Simon Anderson won the contest on a board that had three fins. This was the first event won on a three finned board and the board revolutionised the surfing industry with the overwhelming majority of boards nowadays having three fins.

1984 Cheyne Horan won the Bells Contest on a surfboard which had a winged fin based on a Ben Lexcen design similar to the Australia II yacht winged keel.

1991The Bells Beach surfing contest was recognised as the longest running annual surfing competition. It has been held every year since 1962.(Geelong Advertiser March '91)

Extent of Registration

1. All the land marked L1 being Crown land included in the Bells Beach Surf Beach Reserve RS09484, and a coastal strip from the low water mark 400m seaward, as shown on diagram 2032 held by the Executive Director.
2. All the features marked as follows on diagram 2032 held by the Executive Director: F1 Wave Sculpture; F2 mural; F3 three Spirit of Surfing sandstone markers.

This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>