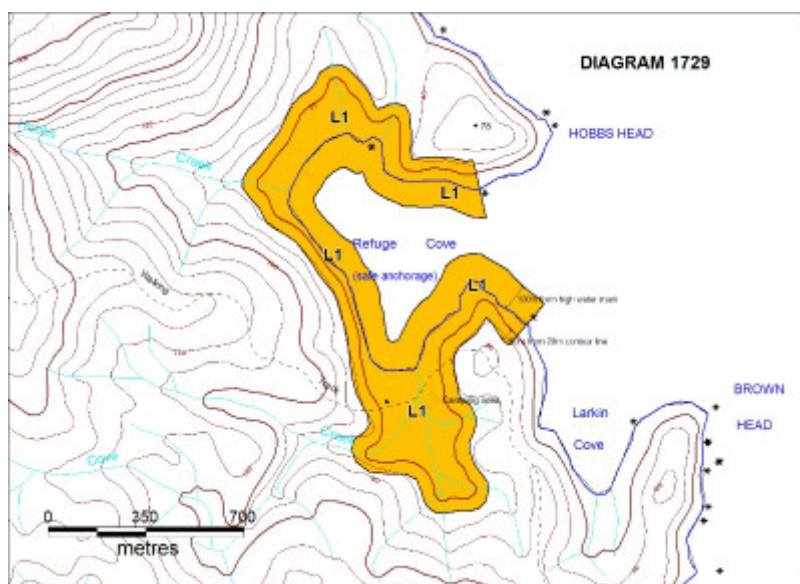


# Wilsons Promontory Refuge Cove



Refuge Cove



H1729 refuge cove

## Location

WILSONS PROMONTORY, SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

## Municipality

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

## Level of significance

-

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1729

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO139

## Heritage Listing

Vic. War Heritage Inventory

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - August 13, 2007

### What is significant?

Refuge Cove, located on the eastern side of Wilsons Promontory, south of Sealers Cove, was discovered by Captain Thomas Wishart in 1837 and originally named Lady Bay. Bay whaling operated at Refuge Cove in the late 1830s and a shore whaling station was established in 1841, continuing as a boiling down works until 1845. From 1859 to 1863 granite quarrying took place on the eastern side of the bay and a temporary wharf and worker's residences were established. Natural resource exploitation also included timber getting (1828-1858) and commercial fishing in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Between 1941 and 1946, during the Second World War, the site was used by the military as a commando training centre and outstation.

The landscape of the cove has featured in paintings by artists including Nicholas Chevalier (1865) and Samuel Calvert (1872). The area around the bay was gazetted in 1905 as part of Wilsons Promontory National Park and the site is currently used for recreational purposes as part of the National Park.

Archaeological remains include the deposits relating to the whaling, granite quarry and remnants of a wharf and a jetty.

### Why is it significant?

Refuge Cove is of aesthetic, archaeological and historical significance to the State of Victoria.

### How is it significant?

Refuge Cove is of aesthetic significance, being an inspirational landscape for nineteenth century artists.

Refuge cove is archaeologically significant for its potential to contain evidence relating to the whaling industry and other nineteenth century activities including quarrying and timber getting.

Refuge Cove is historically important for its association with the exploitation of natural resources and their contribution to the early settlement and development of Victoria. Refuge Cove has important historical associations with the military for its use as an infantry training centre during the Second World War.

Heritage Act Categories    Registered place,    Registered archaeological place,

Hermes Number                125429

Property Number

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## Physical Description 1

Refuge Cove is located on the eastern side of Wilsons Promontory, south-east of Sealers Cove, sited between Smith Cove to the northeast and Larkin Cove to the southeast. A walking track winds south from the camping ground at Sealers Cove to the Refuge Cove camping ground at the southern end of the bay. A ranger's hut and amenities block are also based to the south of the cove, north of Cove Creek.

Several archaeological features were recorded during survey work undertaken in February 2000. The archaeological evidence is thought to date from the period when quarrying was taking place and relate to the worker's settlement, 1859 - 1863. Remains include a square granite hearth structure, scattered granite slabs, a rectangular earthwork, a number of granite rocks in the sand dunes and artefact scatters of glass, metal, charcoal and ceramic. The remains of a jetty were also discovered during the archaeological investigation. Whale bones, scattered in the dunes, on the sea floor of both Refuge and Sealers Coves and positioned outside the gates of boaties' camp, are evidence of the whaling period. It is possible that archaeological evidence of the whaling activity underlies the later quarry related deposits.

## **Physical Conditions**

State of the Historic Environment survey - Good condition see events

## **Veterans Description for Public**

Refuge Cove located on the eastern side of Wilsons Promontory, south of Sealers Cove, has important historical associations with the military during the Second World War. Between 1941 and 1946, the site was used by the military as a commando training centre and outstation.

## **Extent of Registration**

/n

1. All of the land marked L1 on Diagram 1729 held by the Executive Director being all of the land and sea bed bounded by a line commencing at a point with the coordinates longitude 146.46863 degrees East and latitude 39.03743 degrees South thence directly inland to a point with the coordinates longitude 146.46810 degrees East and latitude 39.03554 degrees South thence following parallel to the 20 metre contour line but 50 metres inland from it in a generally westerly then southerly then easterly then northerly direction until it comes to a point with the coordinates longitude 146.46953 degrees East and latitude 39.04152 degrees South thence directly seaward to a point with the coordinates longitude 146.47102 degrees East and latitude 39.04020 degrees South thence following parallel to the highwater mark but 100 metres seaward from it in a generally westerly then northerly then easterly direction until it meets the start point.

*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/>*