
STOCKYARD CREEK LANDING PRECINCT

Location

LANDING ROAD FOSTER, SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

Municipality

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H8120-0022

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Interpretation of Site	The piles of many of these features were greatly eroded at the base, suggesting that they were at least over 50 years old.
Hermes Number	28769
Property Number	

History

George Bass was the first to sail into Corner Inlet in his whaleboat in 1798 and a report indicates that the area remained untouched until 1841. It was not long until the settlement was established and developed into a major port and commercial centre for the area. Soon drovers moved cattle between Port Albert and Westernport and a stock route was established which linked the two settlements. One of these creeks in particular provided a good supply of fresh water and soon a camp was formed and stockyards were built on the west banks of the creek in order to facilitate overnight stops.

The Stockyard Creek area was heavily timbered with large quantities of black-wood ideal for palings.

News of gold spread through the colony and prospectors rushed to the new field. Early settlers lived in tents which did not last long and when families began arriving log huts were constructed. By June 1871, the town is said to have numbered 700 people, with stores, houses and nineteen hotels built or under construction. During the major growth in the area, the Police Magistrate, Henry Foster was sent to the area to officially name the township. Originally he proclaimed the name Stockyard Creek Diggings for the gold fields which has caused some confusion in historical research. Virtually the same day William Foster declared the name Stockyard Creek Diggings, the town's people voted to rename the city Foster.

In the 1880's an exodus occurred as the gold fields were being exhausted. Many of the prospectors left to seek fortunes elsewhere. Stockyard Creek was experiencing a period of desertion and stagnation. Some returned in hopes of finding missed gold veins but many looked towards the farming and dairy industries. Stockyard Creek was turned into a wharfing system and was maintained and rebuilt by the local community. (This summary of the historical background comes from the "Port Albert Archaeological Project, Report of Investigations, October 2006". Maritime Heritage Unit, Heritage Victoria by Brian Williams, Karson Winslow, Agnes Milowka & Jason Raupp).

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/>