

## SUMMARY OF STATE HERITAGE PLACE

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### REGISTER ENTRY

Entry in the South Australian Heritage Register in accordance with the *Heritage Places Act 1993*

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**NAME:** Rosetta Head Well and Whaling Station Site

**PLACE NO.:** 26454

**ADDRESS:** Franklin Parade, Encounter Bay, SA 5211



Uncovered well 23 November 2017  
Source DEW



Site works complete June 2019  
Source DEW

### STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The Rosetta Head Well and Whaling Station Site is on the lands and waters of the Ramindjeri people of the lower Fleurieu Peninsula, who are a part of the Ngarrindjeri Nation. The site represents a once significant early industry that no longer exists in South Australia. Founded by the South Australian Company in 1837 and continually operating until 1851, it was the longest-running whaling station in the State. It played an important role in the establishment of the whaling industry in South Australia as a prototype for other whaling stations and made a notable contribution to the fledgling colony's economic development.

The Rosetta Head Whaling Station is also an important contact site between European colonists and the Ramindjeri people. To Ramindjeri people, the whale is known as Kondli (a spiritual being), and due to their connection and knowledge, a number of Ramindjeri were employed at the station as labourers and boat crews. Therefore,

Rosetta Head is one of the first places in South Australia where European and Aboriginal people worked side by side.

Evidence suggests that some archaeological deposits and artefacts associated with the station may survive at this site. Investigation of these deposits and artefacts may reveal further information about early contact between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal South Australians, or about how the whaling industry operated during the first 14 years of colonial settlement.

Rosetta Head Whaling Station is currently the only whaling site in South Australia that has an associated early whaling ship whose site has been discovered.

### **Statement of Archaeological Designation**

As one of the first examples of a shore-based whaling station operated by the South Australian Company and one of the State's earliest organised industries, the Rosetta Head Whaling Station played a significant role in the State's early economic development. In an industry where such establishments rarely lasted longer than five years, and most for considerably less time, Rosetta Head's continuous operation for 15 years was the longest of South Australia's known whaling stations. During that time, ephemeral structures were erected to process the whale blubber for oil and to house the men that worked the station. Some structures, such as the storeroom, were more substantial and thus more likely to leave subsurface indications of their construction and use.

While above-ground structures are no longer present, the discovery of the well and other subsurface features demonstrates the site's potential to retain archaeological evidence of the station's occupation and management. Similarly, the recent discovery of Aboriginal skeletal material adjacent to the whaling station site, dated to 200 years old, only a decade or two prior to establishment of the station, indicates the potential for the site to retain evidence of post-contact interactions between Aboriginal people and the early whalers, and provide information on Aboriginal use of European materials. The site has archaeological significance as it is likely that it will yield information that will inform a better understanding of bay whaling industrial processes, the lifestyles of the whalers and, potentially, aspects of the interactions and cooperation with the Ramindjeri people, who were employed at the station.

The site of the historic shipwreck *South Australian*, which was employed as an offshore whale processing vessel at the station, also provides potential to archaeologically inform aspects of station life and early whaling practices.

## **RELEVANT CRITERIA (under section 16 of the Heritage Places Act 1993)**

### ***(b) it has rare, uncommon or endangered qualities that are of cultural significance***

The Rosetta Head Whaling Station was operated continuously from 1837 until 1851 and was the longest running and one of the earliest whaling stations in South Australia. The Rosetta Head Well and Whaling Station site was one of sixteen whaling stations established between 1836 and the 1840s along the coast of South Australia. Shore-based whaling stations represent a way of life and industrial process that was an important part of the early establishment of the South Australian economy. As most whaling stations only operated for 1-5 years and whaling stopped altogether in South Australia in the 1870s, it is rare to find any surviving physical evidence of whaling in South Australia.

A variety of primary source materials associated with the Rosetta Head Whaling Station complex survive, including early paintings, sketches and maps that clearly indicate the location of the station along the foreshore at Rosetta Head. Later photos and drawings of the site suggest that most of the buildings were demolished by the 1860s. However, a photo from c.1890 shows a stone store building and pump house located approximately where the well was discovered. Archaeological evidence found in connection with the well, including an iron bolt and charcoal staining, date the well to the whaling era (1830s-1860s). Of the sixteen known South Australian whaling stations, only seven contain similar physical evidence of whaling.

Of the other South Australian whaling stations, only two, Sleaford Bay Former Fishery Bay Whaling Station (c.1837-1841) (SHP 10223), and D'Estrees Bay Fishery Site (c.1943) (SHP 14422) have wells believed to be associated with whaling operations.

The Rosetta Head Well and Whaling Station Site is one of only eight sites in South Australia to retain any physical evidence of whaling activities and one of only three with a well. The place demonstrates rare associations with an important industrial process that is no longer practised in South Australia and which was envisaged by the founders of the colony as a vital means to assist with the industrial development and financial security of the fledgling colony.

### ***(c) it may yield in formation that will contribute to an understanding of the State's history, including its natural history***

Historic maps, sketches and photos indicate that the Rosetta Head Whaling Station operated from 1837–1851 using three main locations. The first was the lookout at the Rosetta Head Bluff, used as a vantage point to observe the whales. The second location was the stretch of land along the top of the bank above what is now known as Franklin Parade – an area used to accommodate the whalers and their families.

The third was used for the processing of whales in the low-lying area between the shore and the bank – now the Franklin Parade carpark.

The first location (#1) – the lookout, used as a vantage point to see whales entering the harbour – is already included in the South Australian Heritage Register.

The second location (#2) mentioned above, namely the area along the top of the bank, was the site of the whaler's huts. This strip of land has undergone extensive excavation for 11 houses, 42 apartments and in 1988, the demolition of the Whaler's Inn and construction of a two-storey restaurant and conference centre. The scale of development and excavation that has taken place means the potential for the discovery of archaeological remains has been significantly reduced. In addition, there have not been any extensive archaeological investigations on the privately owned land adjoining the Franklin Parade carpark. Therefore, there is no strong evidence to suggest that the site is likely to yield archaeological remains on this section of land.

The third location (#3) is the low-lying foreshore area south of Solway Crescent and is the focus of this heritage assessment report. Archaeological surveys have proven that there is potential for the discovery of remains from the former Rosetta Head Whaling Station in the low-lying foreshore area including the carpark, south of Solway Crescent. This area was used for processing the whales and was the location of the blacksmith building and stone store. The discovery of the well directly in front of the Whaler's Inn, in addition to archaeological discoveries including an area of charcoal staining and an iron bolt, demonstrates the high potential for this section of Franklin Parade to contain information that will contribute significantly to our knowledge of the Rosetta Head Whaling Station and the South Australian colonial shore-based whaling industry. In addition, archaeological deposits along the foreshore at Rosetta Head may contribute to a better understanding of cultural contact between Aboriginal people and European colonists during the first decade after European colonisation.

The low-lying foreshore area south of Solway Crescent, on which a stone store, smithy and well were located, contains archaeological remains of the whaling station and therefore is likely to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the State's history.

# SITE PLAN

Rosetta Head Well and Whaling Station Site  
Franklin Parade, Encounter Bay

PLACE NO.: 26454



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## LEGEND

-  Boundary of proposed State Heritage Place (extent of Listing extends along the coast from Solway Crescent and the boundary of SHP10353 'The Bluff Historic Site'. The boundary covers part of the whaling station site and aims to encompass the well area and site of the archaeological discovery and estimated location of the whaling station buildings. This land lies within an existing road reserve and is owned by the Victor Harbor Council.
-  Existing State Heritage Place boundary
-  Land title curtilages
-  Outline of location of the well

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Provisionally entered by the South Australian Heritage Council on 10 December 2020

Confirmed by the South Australian Heritage Council on 5 August 2021

## COMMENTARY ON THE LISTING

### Description and notes with respect to a place entered in the South Australian Heritage Register in accordance with the *Heritage Places Act 1993*

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#### PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Analysis of historical maps, photographs and written accounts indicates that the former Rosetta Head Whaling Station consisted of three sites with a group of structures located at each. The first (#1) is the summit of the Bluff which was used as a lookout and signal station. A wharf was also located close to the base of the Bluff. A second location (#2) was the sandy escarpment adjacent to the low coastal fringe where a group of huts were built (residential area). The third part (#3) of the whaling station site was located on the low flat area of the foreshore, where it is likely a number of structures were built including a stone store, workshops, tryworks, a blacksmith, two huts and a well (industrial area).

The area considered for listing is #3, the industrial area that is now a bitumen carpark and boat ramp. The area is bounded by Solway Crescent to the north, Rosetta Harbor to the north/east, Whaler's Inn restaurant to the south/west, Jagger Road and the carpark entrance to the west, and Franklin Parade and the Bluff to the east including the road and coastal reserve.



Carpark looking west.

Note low-lying foreshore dedicated to a carpark (#3) and the bank above on which the whaler's Inn and residential houses have been built (#2).

Source DEW January 2020

In 2017, when site-works were undertaken to the carpark on Franklin Parade (in front of the Whaler's Inn), a brick-lined well was uncovered. The top of the well is 1200mm in diameter and lined with handmade red bricks.

The carpark works have subsequently been completed and the well has been protected with the installation of a new white concrete cylindrical top. There is a metal grill over it and glazed brown-brick paving around the base.



Well with white concrete cylindrical top and surrounding paving

Source DEW 17 September 2019

### **Elements of Significance:**

Elements of heritage significance include (but are not necessarily limited to):

- Original redbrick fabric of well
- Sites with archaeological potential including location of the whaling station processing works (now covered by the Whaler's Inn carpark) and the beachfront.



Elements of Significance include the original redbrick fabric

Source DEW 21 November 2017

Elements not considered to contribute to significance of place include (but are not necessarily limited to):

- Residential houses and Whaler's Inn and conference centre
- Modern white concrete surround to well and modern grille

## History of the Place

### Whaling in Victor Harbour

On 8 April 1802, English explorer Captain Matthew Flinders met French explorer Captain Nicholas Baudin by chance on the south coast of South Australia.<sup>1</sup> The crews on the ships of the Flinders and Baudin expeditions then spent time in the winter of 1802 in Sydney Harbour and word soon spread about their sightings of seal colonies along the South Australian coast. Further, on his voyage home in 1803, Baudin met American Captain Pendleton off the Western Australian coast and told him of big seal numbers around Kangaroo Island with the result that the sealing ships spent the winter in what is now known as American River.

Therefore, from the early 1800s, whaling and sealing vessels frequented the mainland coastline of South Australia and adjacent islands such as Kangaroo Island, making the most of the abundant native sea and land creatures. Although early whalers and sealers left behind little evidence to mark their presence, their activities were significant to South Australia as the colony's earliest trades, predating official proclamation in 1836.

In 1835, the South Australian Company was formed by Scottish financier George Fife Angas in order to build a new colony by meeting the obligation of the *South Australia Act 1834*. In order to reduce the financial burden the settlement of other Australian colonies imposed on the United Kingdom, South Australia was settled through the sale of land for colonisation. In relation to whaling, the most important clause in the South Australian Company prospectus was the proposition for new settlers to pursue whale, seal and other fisheries, and the culling of fish for exportation.<sup>2</sup> At the time whaling was a hugely important international industry because oil sourced from the head of the whale or from rendered blubber was used for lamp oil or to make candles, the primary source of lighting. In addition, burnt whale bone was used in the production of porcelain and steel, and other parts of the animal was used for umbrellas, corsets and industrial brushes.<sup>3</sup>

In late 1836, the South Australian Company, led by Colonial Manager, Samuel Stephens, a relation of Angas, chose Rosetta Head – named after the wife of George Fife Angas – as its first official site for a whaling station. Records from the time show that a brick lined well was dug 'close to the present position of the Whaler's Inn' to provide water for the anticipated whaling settlement.<sup>4</sup>

In September 1836, the Company acquired HMS *Swallow* re-rigging the vessel as a barque and renaming it *South Australian*. The Company's intention was to transport settlers to the new colony and then use the vessel in whaling activities.<sup>5</sup>

In February 1837, the brig *John Pirie*, under Master John Martin of the South Australian Company, sailed into Encounter Bay to establish the whaling station at Rosetta Head.<sup>6</sup> After *South Australian's* arrival in the colony the vessel's master, Captain Allen, had difficulty finding enough experienced whaling crew, so the ship was used to transport crew, livestock and provisions from Kangaroo Island to Rosetta Head in readiness for shore-based whaling operations to commence. In May 1837, Captain Allen was ordered to refit the barque as an offshore whale processing platform, or 'cutting-in' vessel.<sup>7</sup>

On 26 April 1837, Captain Richard Crozier, anchored in the lee of Granite Island, on his way back to Sydney and India. He named the place 'Victor Harbour' after his ship HMS Victor, and the Bluff 'Cape Victor.' He also noted the names given by the whalers to the islands - Granite, Wright's and Seal Rock.<sup>8</sup>

In its first year, more than two hundred tons of whale oil was exported from the Rosetta Head Whaling Station that was run by a series of managers who were hired and fired by Samuel Stephens. During these early days, as was intended, the barque *South Australian* was anchored in Rosetta Cove for 'cutting-in' duties by the whalers.<sup>9</sup> The process required the newly slaughtered whale to be towed alongside the ship where the blubber was cut from the animal and then cut into smaller portions ready for processing (rendering) in the trypots.<sup>10</sup>

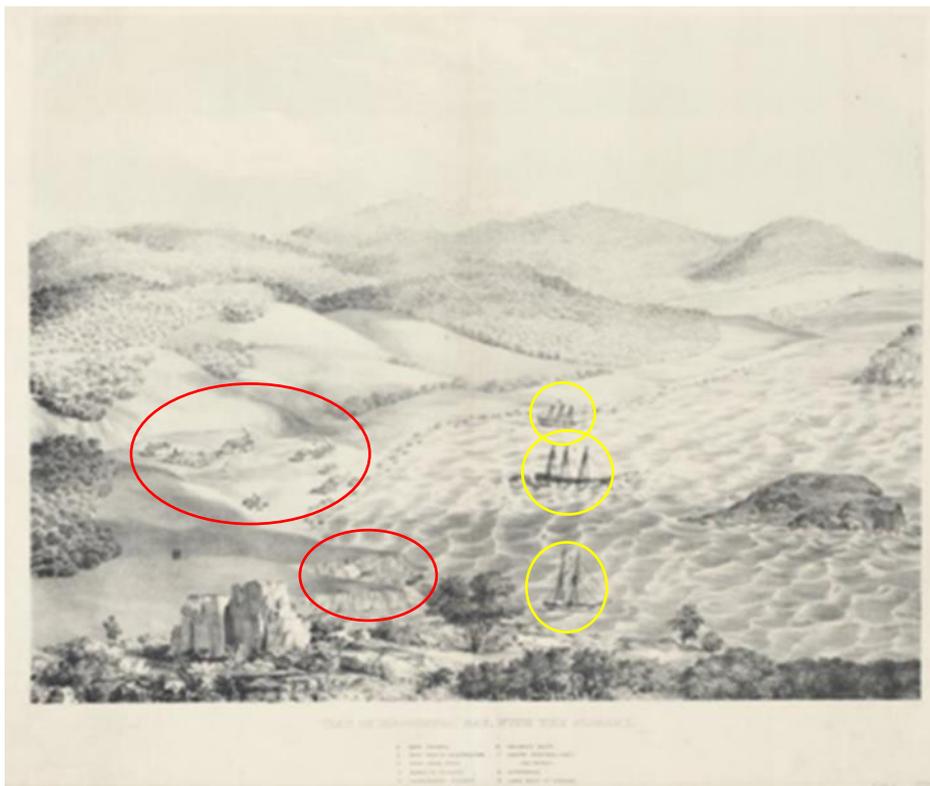
After its last round-trip voyage to Kangaroo Island in November 1837, now under the command of Captain J.B.T. MacFarlane, *South Australian* arrived back at Encounter Bay, the crew prepared the whaling station's produce (200 barrels of whale oil and 10 tons of whale bone) for shipment aboard the ship *Solway*, another of the Company's vessels. On 8 December 1837, while awaiting *Solway's* arrival, a strong south-easterly gale arose causing *South Australian* to part its mooring cables and run aground in the shallows about 300 metres out from the Fountain Inn, thus putting an end to the facilities provided by *South Australian* to the whaling station.<sup>11</sup>

After *South Australian* was wrecked, a range of new water-based facilities were constructed including a floating barge used for cutting-in and shears, which is a tripod of wooden poles driven into the sea bed to which boats were attached for the cutting-in process.<sup>12</sup> In addition, structures were built along the shore of Rosetta Head to provide protection from the elements.<sup>13</sup> Some of the early buildings included timber equipment stores, slab and thatched huts, and a tryworks for rendering whale blubber and converting it to oil. Many of these structures were replaced with more permanent structures in the following years.

The sketches pictured below show the ships anchored in Encounter Bay and structures both on the shore and hill above the beach.



The Shears at Rosetta Harbor c1841  
 Source Coroneos, Cosmos (1997), p13



Lithograph of Rosetta Head attributed to Robert Peterson, master of Solway, and drawn in Dec 1837. (c1836-40). The sketch shows a number of ships, including *South Australian* at the top, *Solway* in the middle and *John Pirie* in the foreground. Evidence of two production structures on the shore and four domestic structures including a fenced garden area. A second cluster of buildings can be seen towards the base of the drawing.

Source- National Library  
<https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-135767300/view>



Sketch by Colonel Light of Rosetta Head showing in the background #1 the bluff can be seen, used as a lookout. #2 four structures for domestic use on the hill and #3, a single structure for the Whaler's production area on the shore. c1837.  
Source- National Library

Trove <http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-135294347/view>

In April 1837, Captain Blenkinsopp from Sydney defied earlier warnings by Stephens' to stay clear of Encounter Bay, and established a second whaling station at nearby Police Point. Blenkinsopp's suggestion to work co-operatively, as frequently occurred in Tasmanian whaling stations, was rebuffed by Stephens, and despite claims by the *South Australian Gazette and Register* that there should be enough whales for two whaling stations to operate alongside, Stephens was determined that the South Australian Company station was there first and Blenkinsopp's operation should be shut down.<sup>14</sup>

Stephens was ruthless in his attempt to put a stop to the rival station. He lured Blenkinsopp's men to join his team by offering better wages and appealed to Governor Hindmarsh to have Blenkinsopp and his men expelled on the grounds that they were squatting. The competition between the two stations meant that when a whale was sighted, boats from both stations set out in pursuit and raced to intercept the animal.<sup>15</sup>

To resolve the conflict, Parliament passed an Act for the Regulation and Protection of the Whale Fisheries. Ownership was defined in the Act and stated that the whale belonged to the party whose harpoon first struck the animal. However, if the line broke and a second harpoon was struck, the whale became joint property.<sup>16</sup>

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In December 1837, Blenkinstopp drowned while trying to navigate the coast at the Murray Mouth and while this put an end to some of the conflict between the rival whaling stations, arguments continued for a number of years.<sup>17</sup>

In 1838 the Police Point Fishery was purchased by Brothers John and Stephen Hack at auction after Blenkinstopp's drowning. The Hacks employed Captain Wright to manage Police Point and in 1839, the Rosetta Head and Police Point stations combined under the name of the United Fishing Company. Despite improvements in the management of the stations, the United Fishing Company had limited success.

In January 1840, Governor Hindmarsh, the owner of Whaling Station No. 1, Rosetta Head with 134 acres comprising 61 acres of dry land and 53 acres water, advertised the land 'To Let' and from that time The South Australian Company ceased whaling at Encounter Bay.<sup>18</sup> The land, originally granted Section 1, including the Bluff was purchased by John Hindmarsh, Governor Hindmarsh's son.

At that time a newspaper account described the fishery:

*There is an extensive whale fishery establishment at Encounter Bay, which during the season, gives employment to a number of hands. It comprises try-works, Coopers and Smiths shops etc. There is also an Inn and Hotel in connection with which is a boat-building yard.<sup>19</sup>*

The Hack Brothers found themselves in financial difficulties during the depression of the early 1840s and in 1842 they sold the Rosetta Head Fishery to prominent South Australian mariner, merchant and parliamentarian, Captain Hart and Johan Hagen. Due to his extensive political commitments, Hart was a silent partner, however, despite this, his previous experience in the whaling industry, resulted in improved profits.

Indeed, in June 1843 it was reported that about seventy tons of oil and several tons of whalebone had been secured that season. At the time, high prices for whale oil and bones provided an excellent opportunity for the whaler's to secure a good income.<sup>20</sup> This spurred the opening of many other whaling stations along the South Australian coast in the 1840s, including a vantage point and boat launching facility opened up by Hagen and Hart at Freeman's Nob in Port Elliot.<sup>21</sup> It is unclear if any whaling took place at this location and there is little evidence of any station there.

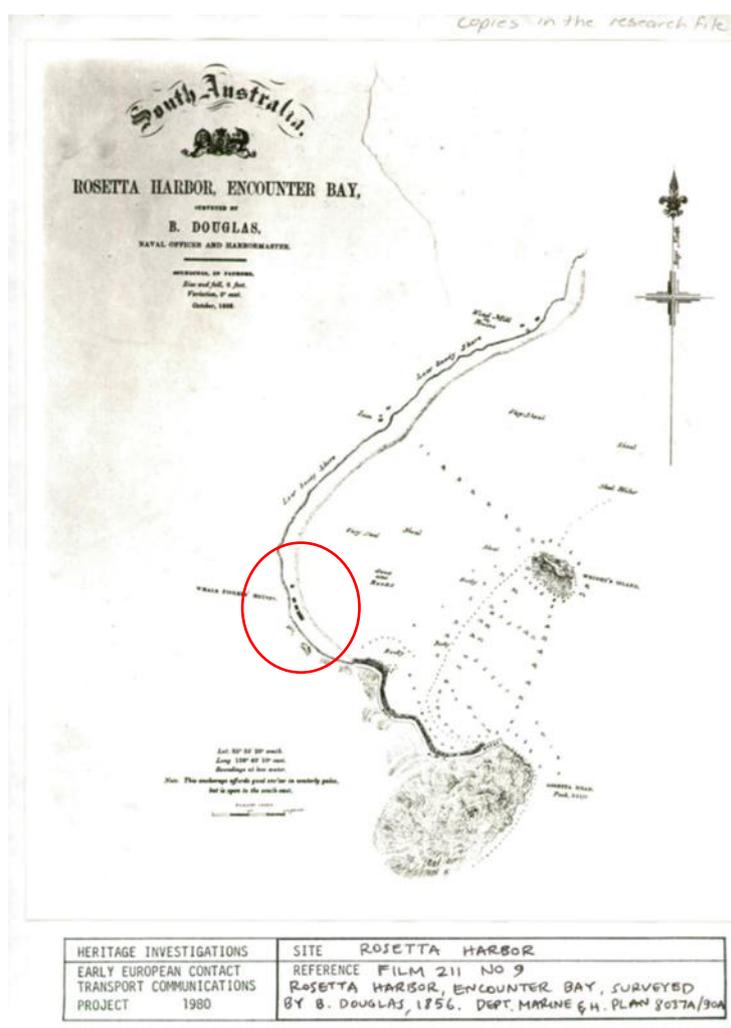
In 1843 a new station named the Encounter Bay New Fishery was opened, thus re-establishing rivalries within the industry. Hart and Hagen continued in partnership until 1846 when they dissolved their partnership.<sup>22</sup> Over the next five years changing and evolving partnerships meant the ownership of the Rosetta Head station changed on a yearly basis.

Captain Hart's participation in whaling at Rosetta Head ended in 1850 and the continuous operation of the station ended the following year in 1851 at which time

the station was sold to Messrs Boord, Bennett, and Johnson who also owned a shore-based bay whaling station at Fishery Beach, Cape Jervis.<sup>23</sup> In 1853 and 1854 a resurrection of the station was attempted by Fox and Johnson. However, in 1855 the station was officially closed.<sup>24</sup>

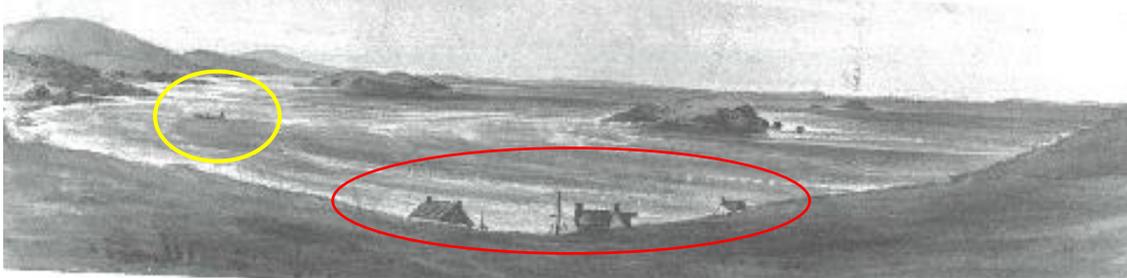
The following images below and description of the area in 1851 suggests that many of the buildings related to the whaling station were still in existence.

*The whale fishery is now the property of Messrs Boord, Bennett, and Johnson. There are ten or twelve buildings forming the establishment, comprising stables, sleeping berths, boatsheds, and workshops. The whole place was strewn with the gigantic bones of the huge animals caught and slaughtered, and thousands of gulls, perched on the scattered rocks at the foot of the cliff, rose, when disturbed, in clouds, screeching and wheeling about in enormous flocks; till they settled again.<sup>25</sup>*



1856 map of Rosetta Head, clearly showing the row of whale fishers houses along the shore. This suggests some of the domestic structures may have been demolished and more structures built on the shore.

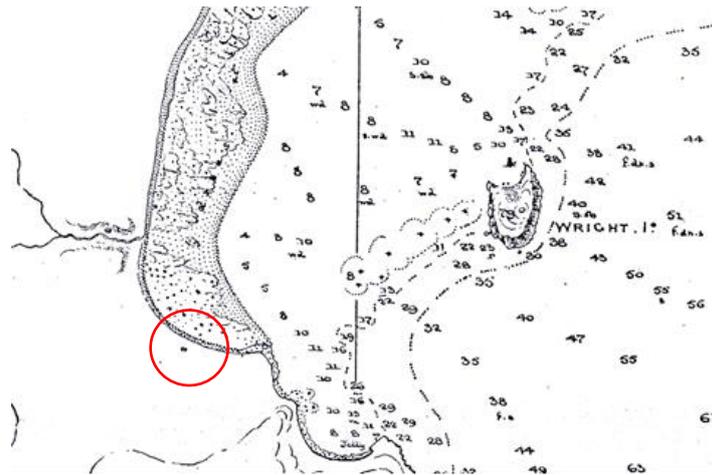
Source- DEW



Rosetta Head looking east showing a number of structures along the beach and *South Australian* just offshore

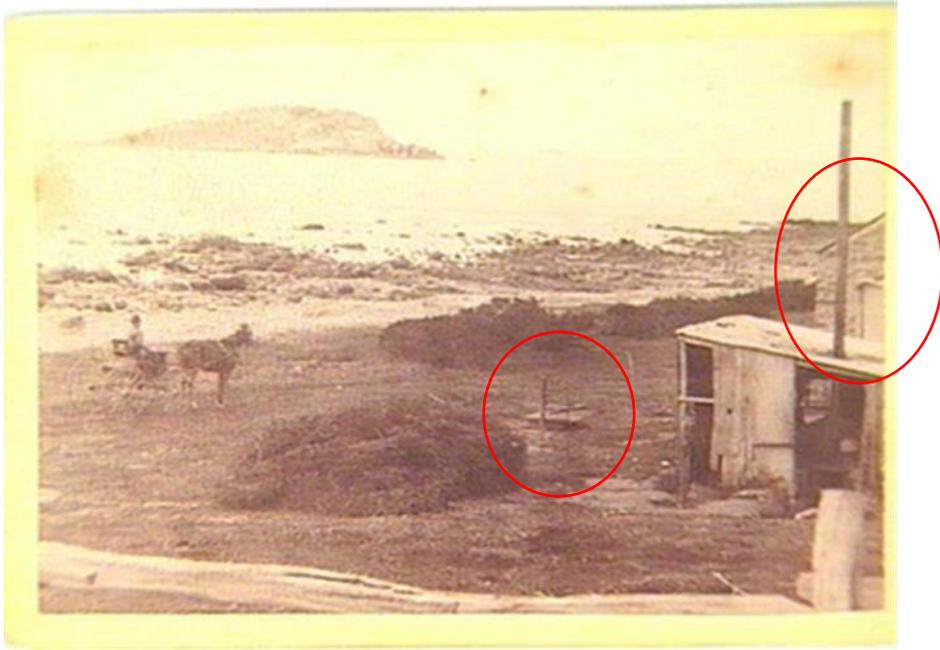
Sketch by E.C Frome c1841

Source Coroneos, *Cosmos* (1997), p44



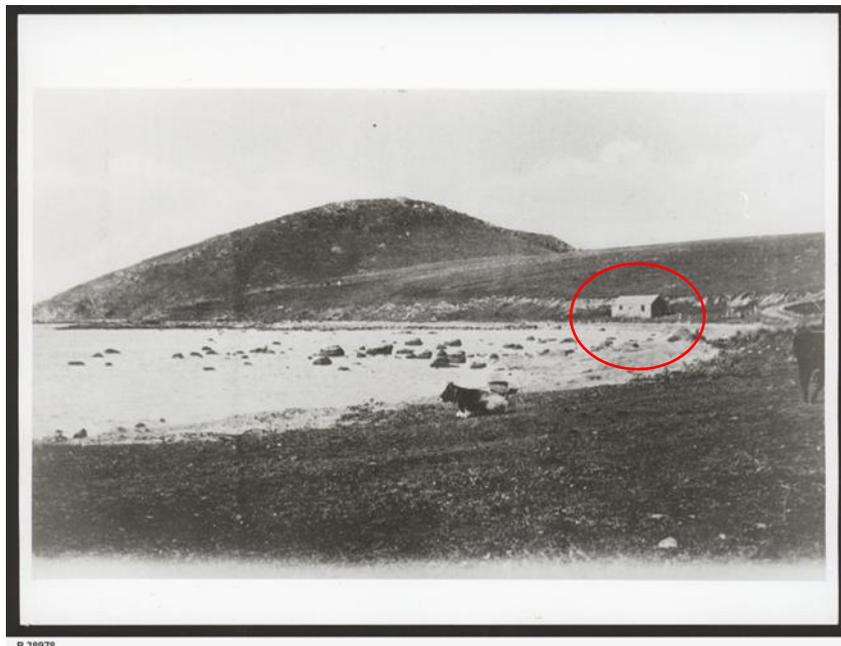
Portion of 1869 chart indicating a single building on foreshore, probably the stone store house pictured below.

Source Adam Patterson



View east of shed and stone store taken from Jagger Street, the horse and cart are in the approximate location of Franklin Parade c1890. The photo shows a pump which is possibly the location of a well. Very few other structures are apparent.

Source: Pat Uppill.



B 28978

View looking south showing remaining stone building c1900

Source: State Library of South Australia (B 28978)



Portion of 1914 plan of Victor Harbor with a single structure in the general area of the former stone building. All other structures have been removed.

Source: Patterson

As the images and maps above demonstrate, from 1837 the whaling village consisted of the Bluff, used as a lookout and signal station and at the base, the wharf and the jetty which were constructed in 1852; the domestic buildings located along the foreshore of the existing location of Franklin Parade and buildings associated with whaling works located directly along the shore.<sup>26</sup>

## Settlement of Victor Harbor

### Traditional owners

**Aboriginal people are warned that this section may contain images of deceased persons or culturally sensitive material.**

The land from Cape Jervis, Victor Harbor and all the way to Kingston is the traditional lands and home of the Ngarrindjeri people. There are around eighteen territorial clans or lakalinyeri that constitute the Ngarrindjeri 'confederacy' or 'nation'. The clan of Encounter Bay are named the Ramindjeri.

Although official European colonisation on the Ngarrindjeri lands did not begin until 1836, it is thought that the Aboriginal people were affected by contact with Europeans prior to this. This included Kangaroo Island sealers stealing Ngarrindjeri women as slaves, infection with contagious disease such as Smallpox - which killed many Aboriginal people, and experience of the effectiveness of fire arms.<sup>27</sup>

Ramindjeri responded in many different ways as colonisation of their area took place. Some avoided the Europeans and were resistant to changing their customs. Others observed the newcomers and actively accepted new ways of life. Some became employed to assist with farm work, while others worked at the whaling station, earning money, tobacco and rum.

In 1838, the office of the *Protector of Aborigines [sic]* was established. This position was created as a result of a recommendation contained in the United Kingdom Report of the Parliamentary Select Committee on Aboriginal Tribes, (British settlements) (1837) of the House of Commons. The role of the *Protector of Aborigines [sic]* was to protect Aboriginal people from acts of cruelty, oppression and injustice.<sup>28</sup> Despite this, in a lot of cases the *Protector of Aborigines [sic]* were heavily involved in controlling and dictating the lives of First Nations peoples.

The Ramindjeri are reportedly the first South Australian Aboriginal people to work with Europeans. An 1839 newspaper report stated that:

*We are informed that at the fishing station at Encounter Bay, a whaling boat is manned entirely with aborigines [sic], whose dexterity in using the oar is unsurpassed by any white person.*<sup>29</sup>

Similarly, an 1858 article reported that Aboriginal people were working at the whaling station at Encounter Bay, and that some boats were worked by Aboriginal crews.

*The whaling season has again commenced, two boats partly manned by aborigines [sic], with T Clark and J. Jones for headsmen, being stationed at Encounter Bay.*<sup>30</sup>

Therefore, it is evident that some of the Ramindjeri people were employed in the processing of whale oil for around 20 years in exchange for meat, gin and tobacco. Some of the reports suggest they were treated as equals to their European colleagues.<sup>31</sup>

The Ramindjeri peoples' initial thoughts and feelings about the process of capturing whales must have been mixed, as whales were considered to be an extremely powerful Ngatji or totem. The Ngarrindjeri value the area where the Rosetta Head Whaling Station is situated as it is known as Kondilindjerung, the home of the whales, or Kondoli. The Bluff or Kongkengguwarr or Longkewar was also a highly valued whale site.<sup>32</sup> Prior to whaling taking place at Encounter Bay, the Aboriginal people performed a ceremony to call the Kondoli to the shore. They would celebrate when on occasion whales were beached on the shore as the beaching process was seen as the whales returning home. They would eat the meat, use the fat to bind pigment and for warmth and use the bones for shelter and utensils. Whale oil was also used as a base for native poisons used on 'neiljari' bones, and was mixed with red ochre as a

body paint.<sup>33</sup> This practice continued with the whale carcasses discarded by the whaling station.

The Ramindjeri people's relationship, appreciation and knowledge of whales may have played a role in the working relation between the Aboriginal people and the whalers. Reports from the time suggest one Ngarrindjeri person, known as Charlie Warner, had a gift of being able to interpret the seasonal patterns and movements of the whales. Charlie was employed by the whalers as a watcher or lookout and was well known for his abilities reading the whale's behaviour and movements.<sup>34</sup>

Whale song is an example of Ramindjeri/Ngarrindjeri connection. The 'kondoli tugar', or whale song, belongs to the Ramindjeri and is sung in the Ramindjeri language.

*Around the bay mother and son 'Galing 'nen 'jowar 'dur:'ein'gol hei! ei! 'galing 'nen 'jowar 'pulu'rein'go! 'galing 'nen 'jowar he! ei! ei!'*

The song tells a story of a female whale and its calf swimming in the shallow water near the beach at Encounter Bay. The young whale is nearly ashore. Some natives are anxious that it should strand so that they may collect the oil or 'kraipunuk'.

A 'kondoli' or totem man would sing the song, with the wish, or 'miwurun' that the whale and its young should go around the bay and escape, lest it be interfered with by 'evil- minded' people.<sup>35</sup>

One newspaper report during the 1850s, paints a picture of the status of the relations between the Ramindjeri people and Europeans during the gold rush when labour was scarce:

*In consequence of the scarcity of European labor [sic], numbers have found employment with the farmers and stockowners. At the whaling station, Encounter Bay, a party of nine is employed in whaling, and has been very successful; Mr. Clark, the chief headsman, speaks very highly of their behaviour.*<sup>36</sup>

These relations could have potentially initiated a peaceful and functional relationship between both the Ramindjeri people and European colonists, while helping fill gaps in the whaling station work force.

While primary source material on whaling during this period is rare, the diary of the missionary Reverend Taplin provides valuable evidence. Taplin was a Congregationalist minister who was appointed by the *Aborigines [sic] Friends Association*, in 1859, as their first missionary teacher to work in the lower Murray districts. The site he chose for a settlement on the shores of Lake Alexandrina was a traditional

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<sup>1</sup> The miwurun is expressed in the vehement 'hei! ei! ei!' described as "setting your mind on wishing." The word 'dur:'ein'gol' is a combination of 'duri' (mother), and 'ol:l' (male child).  
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camping ground called Raukkan (The Ancient Way), known to Europeans as Point McLeay.<sup>37</sup> Many of the Ngarrindjeri people went to Raukkan and Taplin had a good understanding of their culture, language and social structure. He wrote a number of books and kept the letter books of the *Protectors of Aborigines* [sic] and minutes of the Legislative Council Select Committee upon Aborigines [sic].<sup>38</sup>

In his diary in 1859, Taplin makes reference to the impressive fishing abilities of the Ramindjeri people and a letter dated 1860 mentions that there were about 22 Ramindjeri people employed at the whale Fishery at Encounter Bay.<sup>39</sup>

In 1860 Taplin told the Legislative Council Select Committee, that he had distributed rations to young Ngarrindjeri men who had returned to Raukkan from the Fishery without receiving payment. Lack of payment may reflect exploitation, however, in the case of whaling, it is possible that the men were unpaid because no whales were caught.

A year later Taplin recorded in his diary:

*23 July 1861 - heard today that Tom the brother of Pongge and Nangowane has died at Encounter Bay. He was engaged in the whale fishery. Poor fellow, he was one of the first who attended my Sunday services and was always very diligent and attentive while he stopped here. I feel much affected at his death and many enquiries arise in my mind concerning him.*<sup>40</sup>

Despite it appearing that Ramindjeri worked alongside the whalers, relations were volatile with newspaper reports of murder trials, robberies and mistreatment.<sup>41</sup>

In 1839, a whaler named John Driscoll was murdered by a Ramindjeri man due to Driscoll's treatment of two Aboriginal women.<sup>42</sup> The Aboriginal man was incarcerated for three months on the barque *South Australian* anchored in Encounter Bay.<sup>43</sup> He was never tried and two years after his incarceration the *Southern Australian* newspaper reported that the Aboriginal man was brought to Adelaide and "he was so carelessly watched or rather opportunities of escape were so directly afforded him, that he escaped his bonds".<sup>44</sup>

In 1840 there were graphic reports of an Aboriginal man murdering both an Aboriginal woman and also a European sailor at Encounter Bay. The man was pursued by police however, he escaped into the bush and was not seen again.<sup>45</sup>

In 1841, a complaint was made by the Society for the *Protection of the Aborigines* [sic] about the execution of two Ramindjeri people, charged on murder. It was claimed that they did not receive a fair trial and that an investigation should be carried out to ensure better treatment of the Aboriginal people when accused of a crime.<sup>46</sup>

Newspaper reports of the unfair trial of Aboriginal people raised questions about the effectiveness and purpose of the *Protector of Aborigines* [sic] position and the justice

the Colonial Court could provide the Aboriginal people.<sup>47</sup> This was largely due to the fact that testimony of Aboriginal people under colonial law could not be used as evidence, because, not believing in a Christian God, they couldn't swear a binding oath.

Despite evidence suggesting Aboriginal camps remained in the area up until the early twentieth century (see photo below), by the 1840s, the majority of the Ngarrindjeri people were forced to leave their traditional lands due to the spread of European settlement.<sup>48</sup> A population estimated to have been about 5,000-6,000 prior to colonisation had been reduced to around 1,000 in 1860. The death of the senior Ngarrindjeri elder Karloan Ponggi (Albert Karloan) on 3 February 1943 marked the end the Ngarrindjeri people being recognised as owners of the Fleurieu Peninsula.<sup>49</sup> More recently in 2002, custodianship of traditional Ngarrindjeri lands has been discussed through an agreement with the Ngarrindjeri Nation called the Kungun Ngarrindjeri Yunnan (KNY) Agreement.



B 15276/16 Reproduction rights: State Library of South Australia

Road approach to the wharf (c1844)

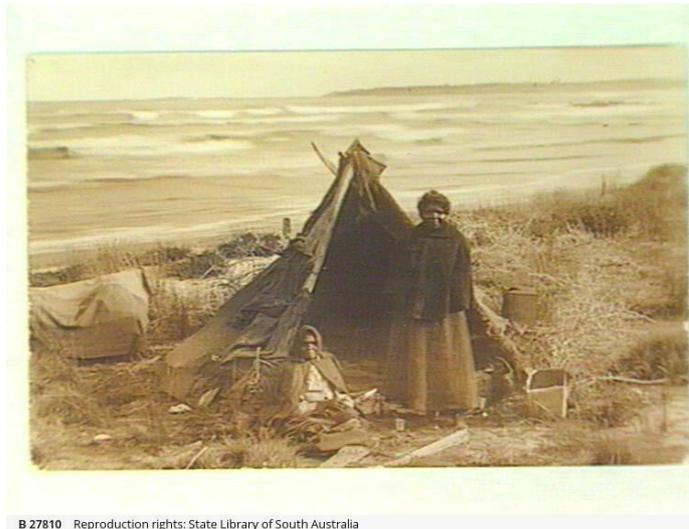
The view shows a horseman accompanied by an Aboriginal man, on foot and carrying a spear, walking along as track through lush scrub. The harbour and bluff are prominent in the background.

Source State Library South Australia B15276/16



Natives of Encounter Bay making cord fishing nets in a hut formed by the ribs of a whale  
c1846

Source State Library South Australia B  
15276/56



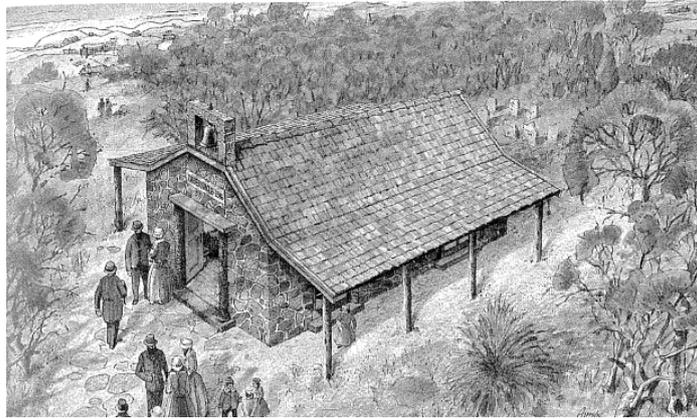
B 27810 Reproduction rights: State Library of South Australia

The Aboriginal person sitting is Jenny Holmes the last surviving Aborigine in Encounter Bay. C1911  
Source State Library South Australia B 27810

## European settlement

The earliest European inhabitants of the Fleurieu Peninsula were connected to the whaling industry in Encounter Bay. However, once South Australia was formally settled in 1836, settlers soon recognised the agricultural potential of such a picturesque and fertile land region. Settlement was promoted by the South Australian Company, with their vision to make the most of South Australia's land and primary resources. Land surveys were quickly undertaken to open up farming land, and by 1838, areas around Adelaide, Kangaroo Island, Rapid Bay, the Onkaparinga River and Victor Harbor had been surveyed.<sup>50</sup> The first farming settlement in Victor Harbor area was in Encounter Bay at a place called Yilki – the Aboriginal word for 'a place by the sea'. Yilki was located along the coast that stretches from the Rosetta Head Bluff and is now commonly known as Encounter Bay.<sup>51</sup>

Yilki was established by the Rev. Ridgway Newland, a Congregationalist minister who came to South Australia with a party of 200 people in 1839. The party, which included many members of his family and friends, came from Liverpool in the ship *Sir Charles Forbes*. Among the passengers were a blacksmith and wheelwright, a stone mason, ploughmen and farm labourers. Newland selected the members of his party with the view of establishing a fully functioning settlement. By 1849, the new settlers had established the Tabernacle church.



Sketch of The Tabernacle c1849 now demolished. The church was replaced by the First Newland Memorial Congregational Church in 1919.  
Source Michael Page, (1987), p.39

The new colonists were well educated and motivated to create a new life. This contrasted starkly with the existing whalers who were known to be among the roughest settlers to the state. Despite this, the two groups formed a strong relationship, the Newland's party provided butter, eggs and services to the whalers and the whalers re-paid them with protection and information about other parts of the state.<sup>52</sup>

In addition to the whaling and farming operations, Encounter Bay was also a base for the local fishing industry. One of the early fishing families were the Rumbelows. The Rumbelows were based at Yilki and were responsible for building a number of houses and buildings linked to their fishing business.<sup>53</sup>

Together the whalers, fishermen and Newland's party gradually changed the landscape of Encounter Bay. Prior to European settlement, bushland and forests grew almost to the water's edge. The whalers used large amounts of timber to fuel the tryworks and build boats, and the farmers cleared the land to grow crops and graze animals for sale and personal use. Indeed, the first settlement of Rosetta Head changed the landscape forever.<sup>54</sup>

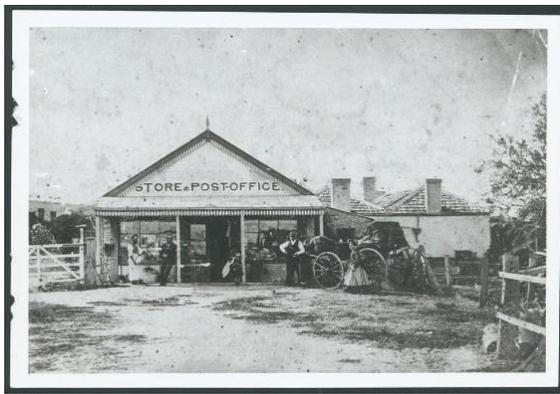
By the mid-1800s, Yilki had become a well-established settlement. The town included a pub, the Fountain Inn in 1847 (SHP 10357) which was a popular place for the whalers to spend their time off; a post office in 1855 (Local Heritage Place), a mill in 1850 (SHP 10352); a dairy, malting house, a school, customs house and a number of dwellings (now demolished)(see photos below).<sup>55</sup>



Fountain Inn c1933. First built in 1847. (SHP 10357)  
Source State Library South Australia B8729



Rumbelow fishing shack at Yilki c1900  
Source Coroneos, Cosmos (1997), p17



Yilki Post Office c1870. First built in 1855.  
Source State Library South Australia B25703



The Rumbelow family residence in Franklin Parade, Yilki, c 1880. The original home on the right was a wooden structure referred to by the family as the 'Crystal Palace'; the stone house on the left is 'Yeltanna'.  
Source State Library South Australia B-27477

After the Rosetta Head Whaling Station was shut down in the 1850s amid a background of controversy over the future use and development of Encounter Bay, the Government planned to upgrade port facilities in general and in 1854 notified its intention to construct a wharf at The Bluff in the *Gazette*. In addition, the District Council of Encounter Bay, formed in August 1853, was asked to provide a road approach to the wharf, which it completed in July 1854.

In 1864, the railway linking the River Murray Port of Goolwa with the seaport of Port Elliot was extended to Port Victor where the first jetty in the protection of Granite Island was constructed. The poorly protected harbour at Pt. Elliot had experienced several shipwrecks, forcing the Government to find a safe port which could also take the ocean going giant chipper ships.

By the late 1800s, Encounter Bay was populated with a number of farming properties. In addition to the Rumbelow farm, a 1914 map of the area shows buildings owned by families named Shannon, Jefferis, Francis and Battye.

Extensive reconfiguration of the Encounter Bay foreshore was undertaken in the 1880s as part of further harbour development, which transformed Victor Harbor into a major seaside resort.<sup>56</sup> This included modification of the Police Point Whaling Station within the Victor Harbor Township, while the Rosetta Head station remained relatively undisturbed. Further expansions of the town were made with the arrival of passenger railway services from Adelaide in 1884. Ten years later, the horse-drawn tram was introduced between Granite Island and the mainland.<sup>57</sup>

In 1917, the Victor Harbor Foreshore Act was passed to enable the Victor Harbor Council to improve the town for tourism. The Act gave the government control of the land along the coast at Victor Harbor, between the high water mark and the road. Camping was subsequently prevented along this stretch of land and it was left largely untouched, with the Victor Harbor Soldiers' Memorial Gardens (SHP 12746) being a notable exception.<sup>58</sup>

In 1927, the bluff area was declared a Recreation and Pleasure Reserve, thus preventing further development on the bluff site.<sup>59</sup> As outlined above, a small number of the original Yilki buildings remained. However, the area on which the whaling station village was located, at the time owned by Hope Jager, has undergone gradual but substantial change and development.

### **Recent development**

In 1955 during a visit to Victor Harbor, Rex and Dorothy Tilbrook, motor bike manufacturers from Adelaide, bought four acres of land at Rosetta Head from Hope Jager. Shortly after his purchase, Tilbrook heard of the death of Alice Rumbelow, who lived in Rumbelow cottage (also known as 'Crystal Palace'), one of the original Yilki dwellings (see images above). After purchasing the cottage, over the next three years, Tilbrook dismantled Crystal Palace and re-built it on his land.<sup>60</sup> The building was opened in 1962 as a whaling and pioneers museum.<sup>61</sup> Tilbrook's passion and affinity with the whaling history of the site motivated him to create an entire complex dedicated to the site's whaling history. Known as the Whaler's Haven Complex, it included the colonial museum and a new restaurant known as the Whaler's Inn.<sup>62</sup>



Rosetta Head Whaler's Haven Complex c1977  
Source State Library South Australia B 64310/88

During this time, Tilbrook's knowledge of the site and its whaling past was a great source of information. He provided information to the National Trust in relation to the whaling history at Encounter Bay, and in 1962 helped salvage the anchor of the *Solway* that had been wrecked at the Bluff in 1837.<sup>63</sup> In 1981 and based on Tilbrook's recollections, John Dallwitz of the South Australian Heritage Unit recorded the whaler's village in a sketch that identified the location of most of the structures. See below.



The location of the well recently unearthed during excavations to the foreshore car parking is in the same location as indicated on the Tilbrook/Dallwitz map, suggesting that the accuracy of the location of the other whaling structures is high.

Not long after the establishment of the Whaler's Haven Complex, Rosetta Head became a source of dispute among the State Government, the local council and the residents. The Government planned to extend the Bluff Recreation Reserve to include Rosetta Head, and Tilbrook was issued with an Acquisition Order. Tilbrook took out a Writ of Memorandum against the government to prevent the compulsory acquisition in addition to a claim for damages for \$1m. The claim and Memorandum was won, and Tilbrook remained in possession of the Whaler's Haven Complex until 1986.<sup>64</sup>

It was around this time that Rosetta Head's significance as a shore-based whaling station was recognised. In 1983, 'The Bluff (Rosetta Head) Historic Site, including the Jetty & Whaling Station Site' (including the area designated as a Recreation and Pleasure Reserve in 1927), was confirmed on the South Australian Heritage Register. While the listing does cover some parts of the whaling station, including the site of the tryworks used by *South Australian* (when it was a whale-processing platform in 1837); an underground stone water tank; hut site of Alexander Ewin who was the last headsmen, and the 'calcining' pits indicated in the Tilbrook sketch, it did not include the area along Franklin Parade which was the site of the blacksmith, the stone store, the well and the whaler's huts.

In 1986 the Whaler's Haven Complex was purchased by Thompson and Associates, and in 1988 the site was subdivided to make four smaller titles. At this time, approval was given for the original Whaler's Inn to be demolished and construction of a new two-storey restaurant and conference complex.<sup>65</sup> The 1988 development included the addition of villas for accommodation on the newly subdivided land to the south and west of the Whaler's Inn.<sup>66</sup>

In 1994, the Whale Visitor's Centre was established in the 1864 goods railway shed at Victor Harbor situated on the low-lying foreshore about 5kms to the north of Rosetta Head.<sup>67</sup> This development took the whale museum away from the Franklin Parade and resulted in the demolition of the 'Crystal Palace'.

The Bluff Resort Apartments were constructed to the west of the restaurant site in 2015, incorporating 42 apartments within the setting of the already established restaurant.<sup>68</sup> The land located to the south of the Whaler's Inn was subdivided to make six titles. Construction of houses on these blocks is in various stages of completion.<sup>69</sup>

### **Discovery of the well**

As the above history demonstrates, Rosetta Head has undergone an ongoing process of change. This has included the levelling and infilling of the carpark fronting the Whaler's Inn, replacement of the first Whaler's Inn, subdivision of the land and

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construction of domestic residences, and the demolition of all the historic structures, including the previously relocated Crystal Palace.

In 2017, the Victor Harbor Council proposed a further re-design of the carpark area fronting the Whaler's Inn. Due to the perceived archaeological potential of the site, Heritage South Australia requested archaeological monitoring of the works. Therefore, the Victor Harbor Council commissioned Austral Archaeology to undertake an archaeological monitoring brief during construction of the carpark extension. The Victor Harbor Council also commissioned the Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority to supply a representative to monitor the works.

On Thursday 16 March 2017, a large stone was uncovered along with a small area of poor quality reinforced concrete slab that was cracked and broken. These items covered a circular brick well measuring approximately 800mm in diameter and constructed of stretcher bond dry laid bricks. The Council workers immediately stopped work and archaeologist Justin McCarthy conducted extensive archaeological investigations at the area.<sup>70</sup>

It was found that the bricks appeared to be handmade, however, detailed inspection was not possible due to site constraints. The well was filled with rubbish, rubble and soil to within a metre of the surface. The contents of the well were removed and analysed. The material removed from the well included a lot of soil and/or decomposed organic material; broken fence posts and tangled fencing wire; and a number of smaller artefacts including bottles, ceramics, metal objects such as parts of a gas lamp and a bedstead, some rubber strips or seals and bricks. The artefacts ranged in date from the 1870s to the 1950s. The finding from the well excavation suggest it was used as a rubbish dump from the time whaling stopped until the well was covered during development of the site in the 1950s.<sup>71</sup>

Four trenches were dug in the area around the well in order to observe the various layers and to expose the archaeological remains underneath. The surface layers comprised recent building material such as loose blue metal gravel with patches of grass. Below this was a clay deposit and an area of black charcoal staining and a single artefact, an iron bolt. It was thought that this may be remnants from a blacksmith's building located on the site behind the well. The eastern side of the trench exposed the edge of a crushed limestone deposit that extended beyond the trench towards the east. A number of bottle remains were discovered with production dates ranging from 1880 until 1955. No archaeological survey has been undertaken on the bank above the carpark area.

The discovery of the well, black charcoal staining and an iron bolt dispels the notion that development activities at Rosetta Head has eradicated all evidence of the whaling station and its activities.

The Historical Archaeological Excavation and Monitoring Report was prepared in April 2019 as a result of the archaeological survey by Austral Archaeology Pty Ltd. The report identifies three stages of development at the site. These include the whaling era 1830s to 1860s, the farming era 1920s to late 1930s, and then the Tillbrook era at which time demolition of the buildings on the site except for a small pump house took place. The report stated that:

*It is considered that other remains of the 1830s whaling station are likely to exist along Franklin Parade as documented by Dallwitz in 1981.<sup>72</sup>*

Further to the suggestion that remains may exist along Franklin Parade, on 15 May 2019, SA Power Network were digging holes for power cables and uncovered bones 'a few hundred metres from the Encounter Bay boat ramp'.<sup>73</sup> The bones were confirmed to be Aboriginal and were around 200 years old.

Once the Archaeological survey was complete, the carpark re-development was re-commenced. This included landscaping around the well and interpretative signage.

### **Discovery of the South Australian shipwreck site**

The Solway shipwreck site was discovered by divers in the 1960s, prior to the introduction of any protective historic shipwreck legislation. Its location roughly midway between Black Reef and the Bluff Boat Ramp, in relatively clear open water, meant that it was relatively accessible to early recreational divers.

In contrast, the site of the South Australian was not discovered for over 180 years after it was wrecked. Although the general location was known, because the wreck-site was in a location that was hazardous for boating (in shallow waters close to the edge of the inshore reef (Yilki Platform), it was not officially discovered until March 2018. . In addition, the majority of the hull disintegrated in the 180 years since it wrecked, leaving only the lower hull which covered with marine sediment hiding it from discovery.

The shipwreck site was discovered during an archaeological survey undertaken by a collaboration of maritime institutions who were specifically looking for the site. Since then, several field inspections of the site have revealed the extent of the remains, which comprises a largely intact section of the lower hull on the port side, with a range of in situ artefacts that have the potential to inform how the crew of an early whaling vessel lived and worked the vessel.

A conservation management plan has been prepared for the site to inform future management and archaeological research, and includes a significance assessment showing the site is of State, national and international significance. It is one of only three archaeological sites of former packet ships, whose location is known, anywhere in the world. The site is registered as an historic shipwreck under the *Historic Shipwrecks*

Act 1981, and in July 2018 a protected zone of 30 metre-radius was declared over the site. Entry into the protected zone is illegal without a permit, and no underwater activity such as diving is permitted.

## Chronology

Year	Event
1802	8 April – Captain Matthew Flinders met French explorer Captain Nicholas Baudin at 'Encounter Bay'.
c1830s	Unofficial whaling activities take place at Encounter Bay.
1835	The South Australian Company was formed by Scottish financier George Fife Angas in order to sell land in South Australia for colonisation.
1836	Colony of South Australia was officially settled and proclaimed.
late 1836	Colonial Manager, Samuel Stephens, chooses Rosetta Head as its first official site for a whaler's station.
Sept 1836	The Company acquired <i>HMS Swallow</i> , re-rigg the vessel as a barque and rename it <i>South Australian</i> .
<b>1837</b>	<b>February – Construction commences on Rosetta Head Fishery.</b>
1837	March – Blenkinsopp arrives from Sydney – his joint venture proposal is refused by Stephens.
1837	April – Blenkinsopp establishes Police Point fishery.
1837	May – <i>South Australian</i> converted for use as whale processing platform ('cutting in' vessel).
1837	December – Blenkinsopp drowns, and <i>Solway</i> and <i>South Australian</i> are wrecked.
1838	Areas around Adelaide, Kangaroo Island, Rapid Bay, the Onkaparinga River and Victor Harbor surveyed.
1838	Hack brothers buy Blenkinsopp's fishery.
<b>1838</b>	<b>The office of the Protector of Aborigines (sic) was established.</b>
<b>1839</b>	<b>Ridgway Newland a Congregationalists minister and party of 200 arrive in South Australia.</b>
<b>1839</b>	<b>Newspaper report suggested one boat had at least six Ngarrindjeri Whaler's</b>
1839	Both stations combine.
1840	Granite Island abandoned as an independent fishery.
1841	South Australian Company abandons Black Whale fishing – Hart buys Encounter Bay stations.

- 1841 Stephen Hack sold his share and John Hack continued the Rosetta Head Fishery.
- 1842 Hagen and Hart buy out Hack holdings.
- 1843 Encounter Bay New Fishery established.
- 1846 Hagen and Hart dissolve partnership and join Wilde and Howard.
- 1847 Johnson joins the 1846 partnership.
- 1847 Fountain Inn built at Yilki.
- 1848 Hagen, Barrett, Baker and Hart own fishery.
- 1849 The Tabernacle is the first church built at Yilki.
- 1850 Mill built at Yilki.
- 1850 Bennett, Boord Johnson and Clarke own fishery.
- 1851 Bennett, Boord and Johnson own fishery. Last year of continuous whaling at Rosetta Head.**
- 1853-54 Fox and Johnson own Fishery.
- 1853 District Council of Encounter Bay formed.
- 1854 Road approach to the wharf completed.
- 1855 Post Office built at Yilki.
- 1858 Newspaper article reported that Aboriginal crews were working at the whaling station at Encounter Bay, and that some boats were worked by Aboriginal crews.**
- 1860 Aboriginal population dropped from 5,000-6,000 (pre-settlement) to 1,000.**
- 1864 The railway line from Goolwa is opened along with a jetty at Port Victor in the lee of Granite Island. (the township was proclaimed in 1914 as Victor Harbor)
- 1871-1872 Ranford unsuccessfully attempts to re-establish fishery – whaling ceases after 1872.
- 1880s Victor Harbor transformed into a major seaside resort.
- 1885 Passenger railway services from Adelaide open in Victor Harbor.
- 1895 Horse-drawn tram was introduced between Granite Island and the mainland.
- 1917 Victor Harbor Foreshore Act was passed giving control of beach to the government.
- 1927 The bluff area was declared a Recreation and Pleasure Reserve.
- 1956 Rex Tillbrook bought four acres of land at Rosetta Head.

- 1962 Discovery of the barque *Solway*, which was wrecked at the Bluff in 1837, and recovery of its anchor (now on display outside the Whale Discovery Centre).
- 1980 A nomination for heritage listing for Rosetta Head was received by the South Australian Heritage Unit.
- 1981 John Dallwitz of the Heritage Unit recorded Tilbrook's recollection of the whaler's village.
- 1983 Kitchen fire at the Whaler's Inn forces its closure.
- 1983 Rosetta Head (SHP 10353) was provisionally entered in the then Register of State Heritage Items (now known as the South Australian Heritage Register).**
- 1988 Construction of Villas behind the Whaler's Inn.
- 1994 Whale Visitor's Centre was established in the old railway goods shed at Victor Harbor.
- 1995 As a result of the discovery of some European artefacts in the gully at the base of the hill above the whaler's village site, an archaeological assessment was carried out at Rosetta Head by Simon Coote and Cosmos Coroneos.
- 1997 A Heritage Survey was undertaken that included the Victor Harbor area. The report found that the bluff area should remain on the State Heritage Register.
- 2006 Whaler's Inn site was purchased for \$11 Million by Jagger Developments.
- 2009 Whaler's Inn site sold to a consortium of Adelaide investors, including the previous owner Roger Thompson, for \$5 million.
- 2009 A mapping correction project was undertaken at the Bluff area and identified that there was some confusion around what was heritage listed and that further work needed to be done to clarify what should be listed.
- 2015 The Bluff Resort Apartments at the Whaler's Inn were constructed.
- 2015 As a result of the mapping correction project, an external consultant (archaeologist Adam Paterson) was engaged to undertake a heritage assessment of the whaling station site.
- 2017 Victor Harbor Council commissioned Austral Archaeology to undertake archaeological monitoring of the Franklin Parade site while carpark improvements took place.
- 2017 16 March, Brick-lined well discovered in front of Whaler's Inn site.**
- 2017 *South Australian* shipwreck discovered.
- 2017 A number of bottle remains were discovered with production dates ranging from 1880 until 1955.

2019 Austral Archaeology Pty Ltd released a Historical Archaeological Excavation and Monitoring Report.

**2019 SA Power uncovered Aboriginal bones on the corner of Franklin Parade and Solway Court, Rosetta Head.**

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## SITE DETAILS

Rosetta Head Well and Whaling Station Site

PLACE NO.: 26454

Franklin Parade, Encounter Bay

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**DESCRIPTION OF PLACE:** Redbrick-lined well structure and site of whaling operations adjacent Franklin Parade

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:** c1837

**REGISTER STATUS:** Place not nominated. Assessment undertaken as part of Register Correction project and enhanced by discovery of well during archaeological excavations.  
Provisionally entered 10 December 2020  
Confirmed and designated 5 August 2021

**CURRENT USE:** Carpark and interpretative site for whaling history

**PREVIOUS USE(S):** Whaling Station processing works  
1837-1851

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:** Victor Harbor Council

**LOCATION:**

**Street Name:** Franklin Parade

**Town/Suburb:** Encounter Bay

**Post Code:** 5211

**LAND DESCRIPTION:** **Title** No title number for this council-owned land.  
**Reference:**

## PHOTOS

Rosetta Head Well and Whaling Station Site

PLACE NO.: 25454

Franklin Parade, Encounter Bay

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Well site during its discovery and archaeological survey.  
Note well location directly in front of the Whaler's Whaler's Restaurant  
17 March 2017 Source DEW



Franklin Parade prior to completion of the carpark  
Note location of the fenced well area towards the end of the carparking area.  
17 March 2017 Source DEW

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## PHOTOS

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**NAME:** Rosetta Head Whaling Station Site

**PLACE NO.:** 26454

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Close-up of the well shortly after its discovery  
17 March 2017 Source DEW



Close-up of brick lining of the well  
17 March 2017 Source DEW

## PHOTOS

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**NAME:** Rosetta Head Whaling Station Site

**PLACE NO.:** 26454

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Close-up of the metal bolt discovered during the archaeological survey  
17 March 2017 Source DEW



Trenches used for archaeological survey  
17 March 2017 Source DEW

## PHOTOS

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**NAME:** Rosetta Head Whaling Station Site

**PLACE NO.:** 26454

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Well and carpark area after well covered over by modern surrounds  
17 September 2019 Source DEW



Inside the well  
17 September 2019 Source DEW



Maritime archaeologists surveying the remains of *South Australian*, July 2019  
Source DEW

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<sup>4</sup> Michael Page, (1987), p 18

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<sup>23</sup> Kostoglou, P, McCarthy, J, (1991) p 39–40

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