



Friends of Greenwich Bay

The Friends of Greenwich Bay is a group of volunteers who have been working since 1996 to protect and enhance the Newport foreshore, near the mouth of the Yarra River and its surrounding open space.

We hold regular activity days and participate in:

- Planting and maintenance
- Bird Surveys
- Benthos Identification
- Litter Surveys

We always welcome new members to our family-friendly events. For further information please contact Hobsons Bay City Council's Conservation Ranger on:

Phone: **1300 179 944**

Email: ranger@hobsonsabay.vic.gov.au

For more information visit the website of Friends of Greenwich Bay www.friendsofgreenwichbay.org.au or email: greenwichbayfriends@gmail.com

Photography:

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November 2022

Location

The conservation area is located 8km south-west of Melbourne, adjacent to the Yarra River at Newport.

Melways reference: Map 56, C4

Google map reference: Williamstown Boat Ramp, Newport

The closest railway station is at Newport, a 20-minute walk.

The Westgate Punt runs from Fisherman's Bend to Scienceworks, a 10-minute walk from Sandy Point Nature Reserve. The punt runs on weekends from 9am to 5pm and on weekdays from 6:30 to 9:30 am and 4 to 7pm.

Enquiries

Hobsons Bay City Council

115 Civic Pde, Altona

PO Box 21, Altona, 3018

Phone: 1300 179 944

National Relay Service: 133 677

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Website: www.hobsonsabay.vic.gov.au

Acknowledgement of Country

We wish to acknowledge the Bunurong Peoples of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners of the lands, rivers and coastal areas in Hobsons Bay. We recognise the First Peoples' relationship to this land and offer our respect to their Elders, past and present.



Welcome to Sandy Point Nature Reserve



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Sandy Point Nature Reserve is a place for plants, birds and marine life between Greenwich Bay and the Yarra River.













Sandy Point Nature Reserve

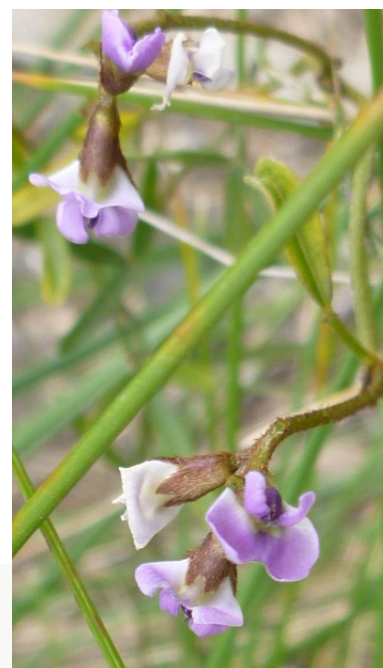
Sandy Point Nature Reserve and surrounding areas are important spaces for conservation and recreation. When you visit you can:

- Walk around and become familiar with indigenous local plants
- Observe and hear different bird species, including rare and endangered shore birds feeding on the mudflats
- Enjoy uninterrupted views of the city
- Take in the container ships, boats and yachts on the Yarra River
- Cycle the Bay West Share Trail adjacent to Greenwich Bay

History

- Sandy Point spit was created between 1910 and 1916 when the Yarra River was dredged to create a deeper shipping channel. Prior to settlement, these areas were largely mud flats and saltmarsh. Later it was covered with bricks, cobbles and pitch.
- The adjacent former Newport Power Station dumped whole ash waste into the area from the 1950s.
- The Warmies, adjacent to Sandy Point, is a cooling water outlet for the existing power station, built in the 1970s. The discharged warm water attracts fish.
- A car ferry, which docked near the Newport Power Station, operated between Port Melbourne and Newport between 1873 and 1974.
- In the 1990s local residents fought plans to develop the Newport foreshore. Subsequently Sandy Point Nature Reserve was created and later expanded to take in the Riverside Spit Reserve, on the other side of the Warmies outlet. Friends of Greenwich Bay have been working since then to protect and enhance the Newport foreshore and surrounding open public space.

-  Conservation area; no dogs
-  Recreation area; dogs allowed off lead
-  Dog on lead at all times
-  Pedestrian access
-  Shared paths
-  Picnic and BBQ area
-  Toilets
-  Playground
-  Historic Gatehouse
-  HMAS Yarra Memorial
-  Interpretive signage
-  Community noticeboard



Flora and Fauna at Sandy Point Nature Reserve

Plants

The reserve, which was once neglected and used as a dumping ground, now has a range of thriving plant life, from woodland species such as Coastal Wirilda and River Red Gums to Mangrove shrubland.

Birds

Sandy Point supports birds like Superb Fairy-wrens and various honey eaters. It also attracts migratory waders, such as Sharp-tailed Sandpipers and Red-necked Stints. Other waders like Oyster Catchers and Red-capped Plovers visit or make their home here.

Marine Life

The beach and mudflats at Sandy Point support a wide variety of benthos (intertidal life), which includes barnacles, anemones, shrimps, crabs and molluscs.

The benthos are essential food for all the wader birds, but especially for the migratory wader birds visiting Sandy Point from as far away as Siberia.

Fishing at Sandy Point Nature Reserve

Activities like fishing and bait collecting can harm birds, intertidal life and sensitive plants like mangroves and saltmarsh. Please do not trample on plants or pump for bait, and take all fishing rubbish home.

Litter

Apart from being unsightly, litter can cause great damage to the marine environment. Enjoy the foreshore but please dispose of your rubbish appropriately.

Dogs on Newport foreshore

There is plenty of space on the Newport foreshore for exercising dogs on leash. There are three dog off leash areas: at Ferry Park, Newport Park and further north along the shared path at Riverside Park.

Areas off limits to dogs

Sandy Point Nature Reserve is off limits to dogs. Dogs can cause excessive stress to wildlife by chasing, barking and attacking, so do not bring your dog here.