

Hobsons Bay is a picturesque seaside municipality. Here you can find a peaceful natural environment, clean beaches, wide streets, heritage buildings and a diverse choice of restaurants, cafés and shops, connected by bike paths and only 15 mins from the hustle and bustle of the City. Hobsons Bay offers breathtaking views of the City skyline; a perfect accompaniment to alfresco dining, leisurely café atmosphere or a family outing.

Hobsons Bay offers a great variety of attractions in a small area, from hands on interactive science, to maritime and rail history. It's family friendly and won't break the budget so you can come back again to discover more of what we have to offer.

[www.visithobsonsbay.com.au](http://www.visithobsonsbay.com.au)

### Altona

Framed by parks and a wide sweeping beach, Altona is a traditional strip shopping centre with a relaxed urban character, personality and charm. Visit the Louis Joel Art and Community Centre, The Altona Homestead and Tuesday Beach market.

### Laverton

Just off the Princes Freeway, Laverton offers a great variety of products; serviced by rail and road. Laverton has affordable accommodation, shops and eateries that won't stretch the budget.

### Newport

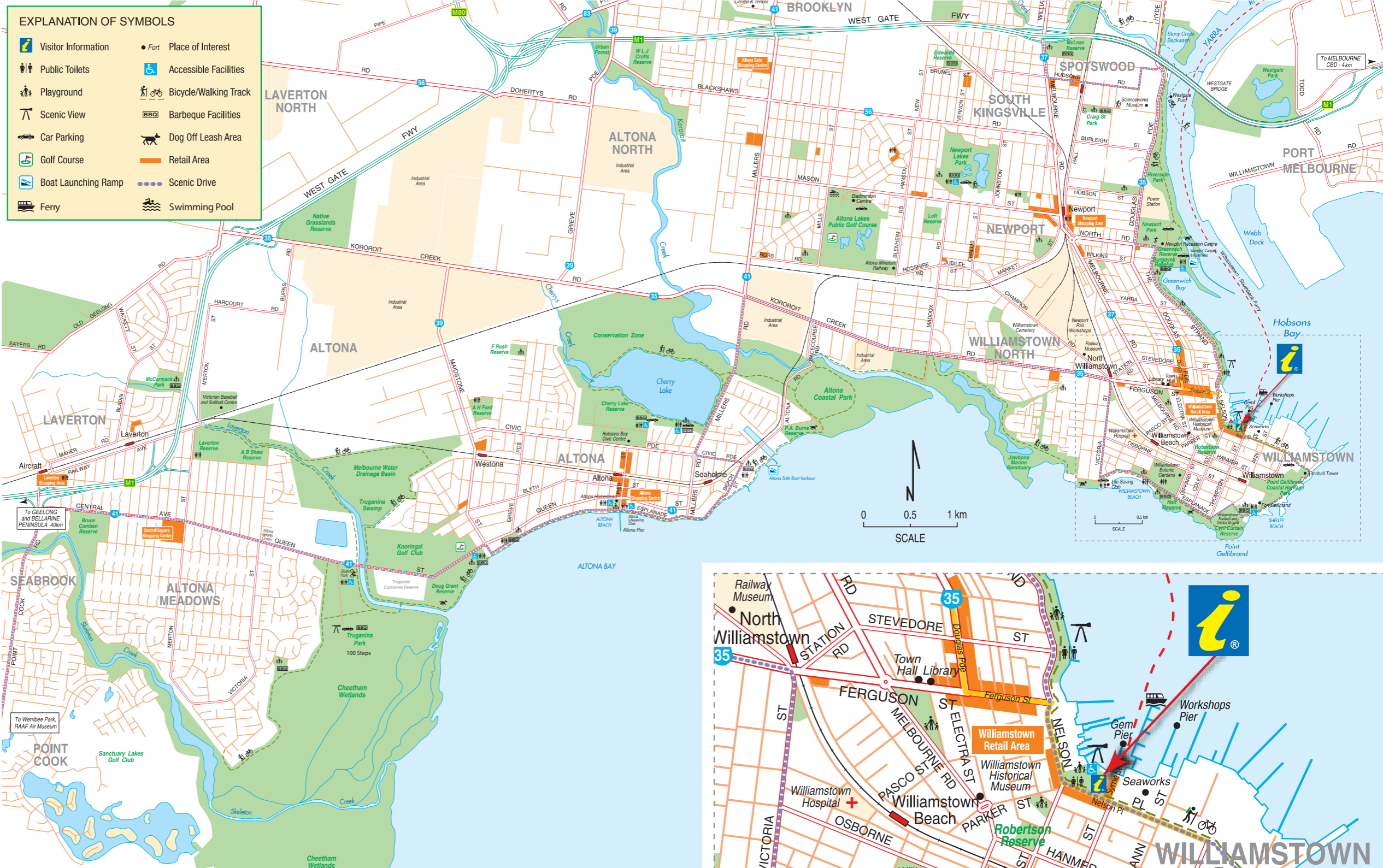
Capturing a multicultural flavour and the artistic talents of the locals, Newport is a great place for coffee, traditional Lebanese breads and treats. Newport makes a great base for a visit to the Newport Lakes Park and the Substation arts precinct.

### Williamstown

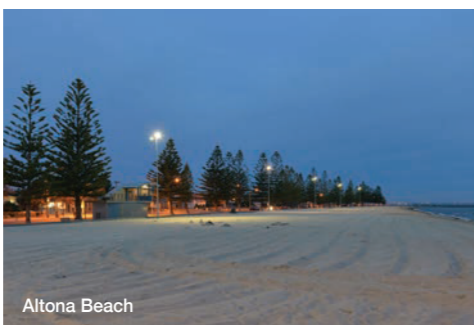
Originally Melbourne's first sea port, Williamstown has developed into a fashionable maritime village, with many historical buildings, cafés, restaurants and a vibrant area that locals and visitors love. It's surrounded by water, with the northern and eastern coastline dotted with piers, gardens and remnants of Williamstown's maritime history.

### Getting there

One of the real charms of getting to Hobsons Bay is just that, getting there! Travel by ferry, get on your bike and ride, take the train or bus, or come in by car. Phone the Hobsons Bay Visitor Information Centre on 9932 4310 for best travel arrangements. Which ever way you come, your adventure starts the moment you leave home.



View from Waterfront Williamstown



Altona Beach

### Hobsons Bay Visitor Information Centre.

The friendly staff and volunteers will spend time with you, inspire you and tell you stories that really matter about Williamstown and other surrounding areas of Hobsons Bay. Drop in or phone us so we can help you get the most out of your visit.

Located in Commonwealth Reserve (on the corner of Nelson Place and Syme Street), the Visitor Information Centre is open daily, except Good Friday and Christmas Day, from 9am to 5pm. The Visitor Information Centre can be contacted by:

Phone: 03 9932 4310 Fax: 03 9399 8650  
Email: [visitorinformation@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au](mailto:visitorinformation@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au) Web: [www.visithobsonsbay.com.au](http://www.visithobsonsbay.com.au)



# What to See

## Get a grasp of science at Scienceworks!

Enjoy one of the many hands-on exhibitions and activities. It's a great day out for curious minds and active bodies. Discover the historic Sewerage Pump and visit the only digital planetarium in the Southern Hemisphere. Facilities include café, BBQ and souvenir shop.



Scienceworks, Spotswood

## Watch the ships go by at Greenwich Bay

Greenwich Bay is home to Williamstown's number one address, The Strand. The area incorporates sporting clubs, playgrounds and a habitat area, and offers breathtaking views of the City. The bay is also famous for its close up glimpses of container ships travelling the Yarra River, a sure winner with young and old.

## Explore Williamstown

Williamstown is famous for its village ambience and rich maritime heritage. Come and enjoy the fine restaurants, shops and cafés or explore the Williamstown Craft Market held on the third Sunday of every month and the Farmers Market held on the second Sunday of the month. Weekends in Williamstown are bustling with people and activity.

## Enjoy a walk or three in and around Williamstown

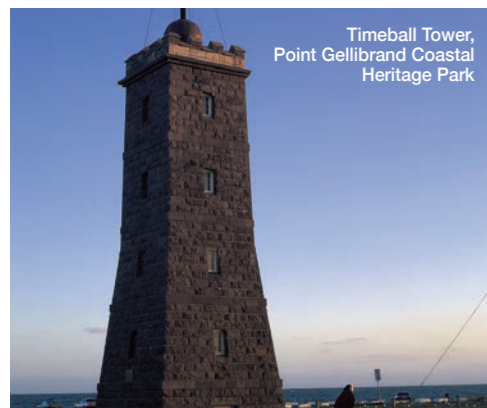
While in Williamstown take one of the self-guided Heritage Walks. The three walks can be taken separately or together and take you through some of the most picturesque corners of this historic seaport. Pick up a brochure at the Hobsons Bay Visitor Information Centre in Commonwealth Reserve in Williamstown.

## A 'gem' of a pier

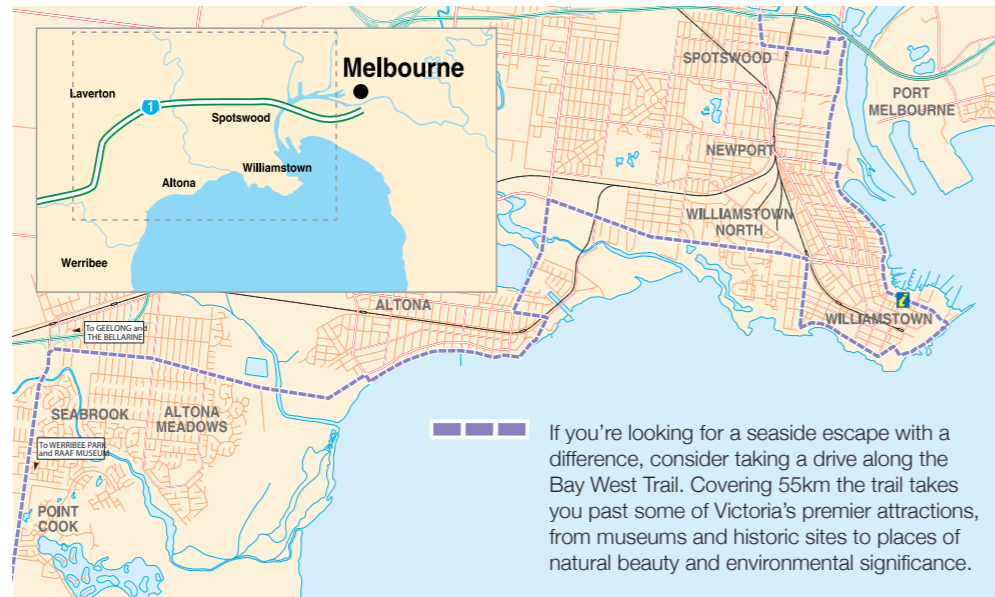
Gem Pier is the gateway to Williamstown from the bay; you can catch a ferry to Southgate, go for a sail on the Enterprize or take a scenic cruise around the bay. The adjacent Commonwealth Reserve also offers a great venue for picnics. Gem Pier is also home to the HMAS Castlemaine, a historic warship (1942) museum. Visitors can inspect a fascinating collection of nautical exhibits and memorabilia.

## Watch 'time fly' at the Timeball Tower

Built in the 1840s by convict labourers, the Timeball Tower at Point Gellibrand originally operated as a lighthouse and then as a timeball, watch the ball come down at 1pm daily. Restored as an Australian Bicentennial project in 1988, the tower is part of the Point Gellibrand Coastal Heritage Park.



Timeball Tower, Point Gellibrand Coastal Heritage Park



If you're looking for a seaside escape with a difference, consider taking a drive along the Bay West Trail. Covering 55km the trail takes you past some of Victoria's premier attractions, from museums and historic sites to places of natural beauty and environmental significance.



Pelican, Cherry Lake

## 'Cherry-ripe' all year round!

Cherry Lake is a popular destination for families, cyclists, walkers, windsurfers and rollerbladers. A multi purpose track around the lake suits land-based recreational pursuits while windsurfers, model boat owners and anglers enjoy the inland waters. Cherry Lake includes picnic areas, gardens, a children's playground, electric BBQs, public toilets, bird sanctuary and observation hut.

## Flock to Jawbone Reserve

Jawbone Reserve is one of the few saltmarsh mangrove habitats remaining in Melbourne. A boardwalk enables you to explore this richly textured area without disturbing the natural vegetation. This is a rare opportunity to observe pelicans and migratory wading birds in abundance.

## Altona Beach, the perfect place to soak up the sun

Swim at Altona Beach, with sandy beaches and wonderful bay views. Conveniently located near public transport, the Altona foreshore offers a vibrant local shopping strip in Pier Street and a weekly street market every Tuesday. Adjacent to the foreshore is Logan Reserve with playgrounds, shelter, BBQ, and the Altona Homestead.

## Further Afield

### A top spot to view birdlife

The Cheetham Wetlands at Point Cook Coastal Park rank amongst the top three places in the world to see birdlife. With birds arriving from as far afield as Siberia, Alaska and Japan, you won't be the only visitors dropping in to sample the delights of this protected habitat! The Park offers 360 degree views of the surrounding wetlands and the City skyline in the distance.

## Military aviation - now boarding

The RAAF Museum offers you an insight into the history of military aviation in Australia. The museum tells the history of the Australian Airforce and the most exciting machines ever built and the fascinating stories of the daring men who flew them. Entry is free. Weekday tours are available by arrangement.

## A place of peace and beauty

The Victoria State Rose Garden is located at Werribee Park. Set in the shape of a Tudor rose, the garden features over 4,000 rose bushes in a spectacular display that changes throughout the year. The impressive Heritage Border features unusual and historic roses from around the world. The blooms are in their glory from November to May.

## The sounds of Africa in the middle of Werribee

Get up close and personal to magnificent grassland animals from Africa, Asia and Australia at the Werribee Open Range Zoo. Rhinos range free with giraffe, zebra and antelopes, while the hippos wallow in a nearby waterhole and the vervet monkeys chatter. Facilities include a 50 minute safari tour, walking trails, Savannah Discovery Centre, Safari Shop and Meerkat Bistro and Function Centre.

## Australia's National Equestrian Centre, Werribee Park

The grounds and facilities cater for the full range of equestrian activities, including the three Olympic disciplines of show jumping, dressage and eventing. Home of polo in Australia, Werribee Park offers a wide range of equestrian activities. Discover the thrill of a polo game during summer or the excitement of carriage driving and quarter horse events in the purpose built indoor arena at the Equestrian Centre.

## Go back in time at The Mansion, Werribee Park

One of Australia's most majestic stately homes. Built in 1874 and 1877, the rambling Italianate mansion was once home to the wealthy Chirnside family. See how the Chirnsides lived, and listen to their ghostly chatter through the self-guided headset tour. Take a stroll to the Shadowfax Winery and Vineyard for a gourmet food and wine experience.

# Hobsons Bay Coastal Trail

This 23km cycling and walking trail links many of the natural and cultural features of Hobsons Bay. Most of the trail is through parkland. Along the trail you'll find a series of markers, designed like channel markers, which provide directions and information.

## Stony Creek Backwash

At the northern end of the trail, the estuary of Stony Creek includes an extensive boardwalk, mangrove revegetation and a memorial park to the workers who lost their lives in the West Gate Bridge disaster.

## Timeball Tower

At Point Gellibrand Coastal Heritage Park, the copper ball atop the tower was dropped at a set time each day to allow ships to adjust their chronometers.



Cycling along The Strand, Williamstown



## Williamstown Botanic Gardens

Officially opened in 1860 and listed on the Register of the National Estate, the gardens provide a green and tranquil respite.

## Jawbone Reserve and Altona Coastal Park

The trail provides access to important salt marsh-mangrove habitat; Altona Coastal Park includes the remnants of the former Williamstown racecourse.

## Altona Pier

Adjacent to historic Logan Reserve, and with a series of bronze sculptures of marine creatures in its forecourt, the pier is a great place to set out for a walk and is an easy-to-identify point for meeting up with friends.

## 100 Steps to Federation

Take in the view of Port Phillip Bay and Cheetham Wetlands, a migratory bird habitat, from the top of the grand basalt staircase and enjoy the picnic facilities in Truganina Park.

## Skeleton Creek

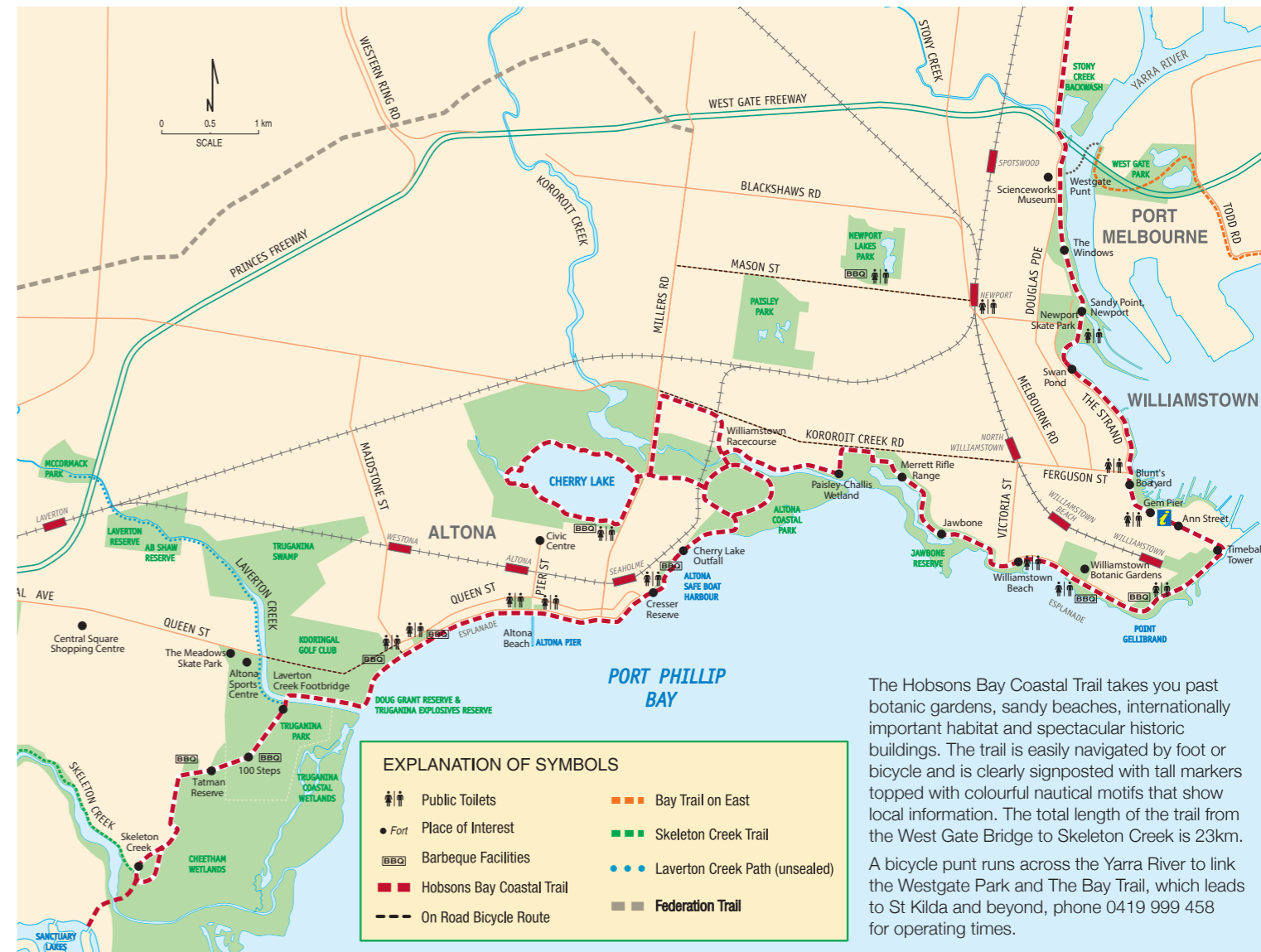
At the western-most point of the trail, the lagoon on Skeleton Creek is a great place to see swans and pelicans.



Bronze sculptures, Altona

## Public Art

As you move along the Coastal trail stop to enjoy the public art along the way. Many of these works have been created by some of Australia's leading artists.



EXPLANATION OF SYMBOLS	
	Public Toilets
	Place of Interest
	Barbeque Facilities
	Hobsons Bay Coastal Trail
	On Road Bicycle Route
	Bay Trail on East
	Skeleton Creek Trail
	Laverton Creek Path (unsealed)
	Federation Trail

The Hobsons Bay Coastal Trail takes you past botanic gardens, sandy beaches, internationally important habitat and spectacular historic buildings. The trail is easily navigated by foot or bicycle and is clearly signposted with tall markers topped with colourful nautical motifs that show local information. The total length of the trail from the West Gate Bridge to Skeleton Creek is 23km.

A bicycle punt runs across the Yarra River to link the Westgate Park and The Bay Trail, which leads to St Kilda and beyond, phone 0419 999 458 for operating times.