

The Centre

The centre is run by volunteers in conjunction with Barwon Coast committee of management. It is open each afternoon during summer holidays, and weekends up to Easter. It can be opened by special arrangement by contacting Barwon Coast during office hours on 03 5254 1118, or email office@barwoncoast.com.au

The building that houses the centre is known as the Lobster Pot. Constructed in 1934 as a dance hall, this heritage building has had a varied and colourful history.

Everyone is welcome

The centre is accessible to all especially visitors, schools and community groups.

Group visits can be accommodated outside normal opening by special arrangement through Barwon Coast office.

Entry is free

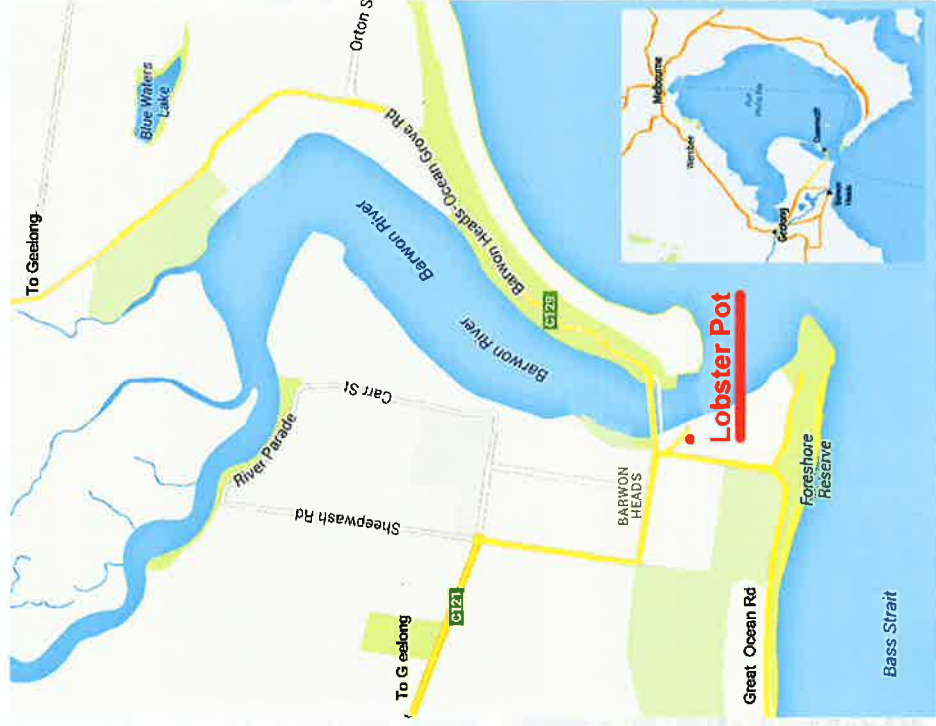
Entry is free, but a gold coin donation will assist the centre to expand activities.

The centre invites you to become a 'Friend of the Lobster Pot Inc.'

Remember, while in the area;

- > Walk to the Bluff
- > Visit the shops and restaurants in Ocean Grove and Barwon Heads
- > Enjoy the magnificent beaches, golf courses and the life of the Barwon River Estuary
- > For further information about the estuary and surrounding areas check www.barwonheads.net or www.barwonbluff.com.au

Where are we?



barwon estuary heritage centre



The Barwon Estuary heritage centre, located in the historic 'Lobster Pot' on the Barwon Estuary, is home to a wide variety of local geological, botanical, historical, marine and cultural information. Aboriginal cultural heritage of the region is well covered.

The centre's role is to provide interpretation of the life and environment to a wide spectrum audience including locals, tourists, visiting groups from near and far, with schools especially catered for.

The uniqueness of the estuary and surrounding area is introduced and highlighted.

The geographical area covered by the centre is loosely defined but generally encompass the estuary towns of Barwon Heads and Ocean Grove, together with the southern area of lake Connewarre.



At the Lobster Pot, experience...

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

- Various clans were known to have seasonal camps in the plentiful estuary and coastal areas.
- The Centre illustrates attributes of the spiritual and living experience through story panels.



Marine Life

- The Barwon river rises in the Otway ranges and meanders through Geelong and Lake Connearre until it meets the sea near the Barwon Bluff Marine Sanctuary.
- A diverse abundance of marine life exists, both in the estuary and in Bass strait.
- The sea water tanks contain a selection of marine creatures that can be found in the estuary.



Flora and Fauna

- Appreciate the wide range of significant habitats found on the bluff, the estuary and the beaches
- Learn about the many birds and animals found there.



Mangroves

- Find out more about these amazing trees that form a protective fringe in the upper reaches of the estuary.
- Get an insight into the range of features that allow mangroves to grow in a harsh and constantly changing environment and provide a fish for many local species.



Shipwrecks

- The chance of being lost at sea was very high in the 1800s.
- In 1880, one in ten British ships was lost at sea.
- Poor navigation and dependence on daylight made our rocky coastline hazardous to ships sailing from the west.
- The centre tells the story of some of these wrecks and displays artefacts recovered from the deep.



Geology

- The Bluff is an ever changing landscape weathered by wind, rain and tide over time.
- At the Lobster Pot see how and when these changes happened.



Local History

- Fishing, farming, swimming, boating, and Sunday promenading were the mainstays of early holidaying in the townships.
- The collection of historical artefacts and photographs contributed by residents is well worth a visit.

