

Fort Queenscliff

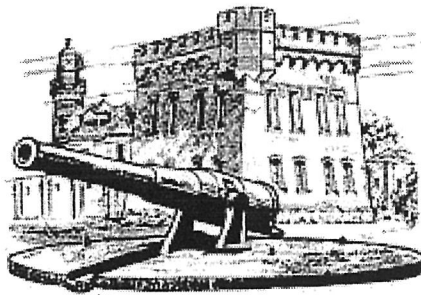
School Tour Education Package

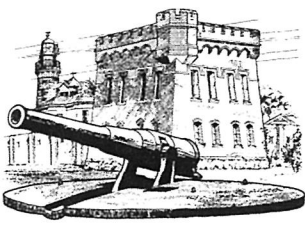
“Guarding Victoria from attack”

Fort History and Resource Book

Originally prepared by Bob Marmion and Amanda Stirrat, 2005.

Most recent update: 2018.





Fort Queenscliff Heritage Association Inc.

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FORT QUEENSCLIFF SCHOOLS TOUR EDUCATION PACKAGE – participation opportunities.

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 - Port Phillip Defences in 1898.

(completion of Contents)

Bob Marmion BA Hons MA PhD Dip Ed

Bob is a secondary Humanities and Maths teacher currently working in the Victorian state system. He has had many years of experience as a teacher and military historian. His PhD was on the Victorian defences during the 19th century including the role of Fort Queenscliff. He has also completed a great deal of research into the defences up until the end of World War Two. He has served as the Fort Historian and is currently a board member of the Fort Queenscliff Heritage Association.

Amanda Stirrat BEd

When this project originally saw the light of day in 2005, Amanda was the Borough of Queenscliffe's Museum Education officer. She is a qualified primary and secondary teacher with a great deal of experience in developing education programs for schools including Maritime Discovery Trails, the Fort Museum hands on experience, Student Heritage Walks and an Outreach Marine Education Program.

Contacts:

For further information regarding the School Tour Education Package

Regarding this Package:

Bob Marmion 0408 326 311 or bmarmion@historysolutions.com.au

The Fort Queenscliff Museum or to book a tour:

Museum Office 52581488 or the Admin Officer at Museum@FortQueenscliff.com.au

Acknowledgements

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Introduction:

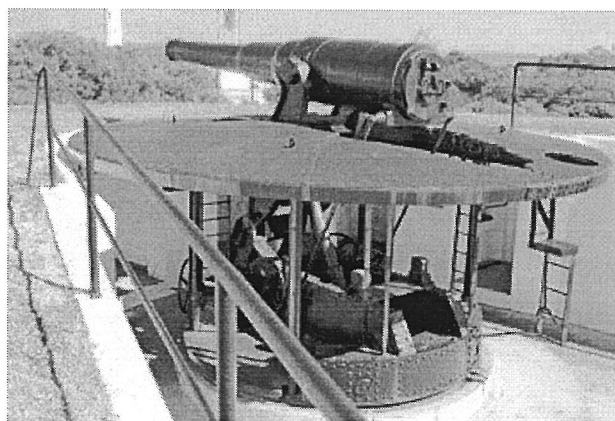
A brief history of Fort Queenscliff

Fort Queenscliff, at the entrance to Port Phillip (the Heads) is one of Victoria's most important heritage sites. It is the largest and best preserved fort in the State. A great deal of time, money and ingenuity was invested in making Port Phillip one of the defended ports in the world. It played a vital role in defending Melbourne and Victoria for almost a century, from the Gold Rush days of the 1850s through the end of World War Two.

Port Phillip was defended by a large number of forts; Fort Queenscliff was the headquarters. During its history, the Fort has been equipped with some of the most advanced military technology including searchlights and disappearing cannon. The Fort's artillery was part of a much larger integrated defence scheme which included mines, torpedo boats, infra red sentry beams, radar operating alongside Victorian Navy ships. Other military units defended the landward side of the Fort from attack.

The Fort allows us to learn a great deal about our past. It provides a series of slices through history from the early days of Victorian settlement through to the dark days of World War Two. The Fort contains a number of buildings dating back to the 1850s.

The Fort is an integral part of Queenscliff, a garrison town. Its men and women were an important part of the local community. Between 1859 and 1882, the Fort was manned mainly by local soldiers who served voluntarily (without pay) on a part time basis. Following major redevelopment in the 1880s, the Fort has been continually manned by the Army.



Links to the Victorian Curriculum

Primary Schools

History - Levels 5 and 6 Description

From Colony to Nation

In Levels 5 and 6, students study colonial Australia in the 1800s and the development of Australia as a nation, particularly after 1900. Students look at the founding of British colonies and the development of a colony. They learn about what life was like for different groups of people in the colonial period. They examine significant events and people, political and economic developments, social structures, and settlement patterns. Students explore the factors that led to Federation and experiences of democracy and citizenship over time. Students understand the significance of Australia's British heritage, the Westminster system, and other models that influenced the development of Australia's system of government. Students learn about the way of life of people who migrated to Australia and their contributions to Australia's economic and social development.

In this band, students will apply the following historical concepts and skills to the historical knowledge: sequencing chronology, using historical sources as evidence, identifying continuity and change, analysing causes and effect and determining historical significance.

Key questions:

- What do we know about the lives of people in Australia's colonial past and how do we know?
- How did an Australian colony develop over time and why?
- How did colonial settlement change the environment?
- What were the significant events and who were the significant people that shaped Australian colonies?
- Why and how did Australia become a nation?
- How did Australian society change throughout the twentieth century?
- Who were the people who came to Australia? Why did they come?
- What contribution have significant individuals and groups made to the development of Australian society?

Visiting the Fort provides a unique window in Victoria's colonial past by allowing them to explore immigration, the growth of Melbourne and the Gold Rush. With the wealth generated by the Gold Rush, Victoria became a prime target for attack – hence the need for Fort Queenscliff.

Links to the Victorian Curriculum cont.

Secondary Schools

History - Levels 7-10 Description

Levels 7-8 are primarily concerned with the ancient world through to the Middle Ages, however by visiting the Fort, students can build on the knowledge of Australian gained in the late primary years. It also sets them up for extended study in Years 9-10 (below).

In Levels 9 and 10, students study the making of the modern world from 1750 to 1918 and the modern world and Australia from 1918–present. It covers the period of industrialisation and rapid change in the ways people lived, worked and thought, the era of nationalism and imperialism, and the colonisation of Australia which was part of the expansion of European power. The period 1750 – 1918 culminated in World War I 1914-1918, the ‘war to end all wars’. The history of the modern world and Australia from 1918 to the present, has an emphasis on Australia in its global context. The twentieth century became a critical period in Australia’s social, cultural, economic and political development. The transformation of the modern world during a time of political turmoil, global conflict and international cooperation provides a necessary context for understanding Australia’s development, its place within the Asia-Pacific region, and its global standing.

In this band, students will apply the following historical concepts and skills to the historical knowledge: sequencing chronology, using historical sources as evidence, identifying continuity and change, analysing causes and effect and determining historical significance.

Key questions:

- What were the changing features of the movements of people from 1750 to 1918?
- How did new ideas and technological developments contribute to change in this period?
- What was the origin, development, significance and long-term impact of imperialism in this period?
- What was the significance of World War I?
- How did the nature of global conflict change during the twentieth century?
- What were the consequences of World War II?
- How did these consequences shape the modern world?
- How was Australian society affected by other significant global events and changes in this period?

Visiting the Fort allows students to gain a unique understanding of aspects of Victorian and Australian society including immigration during and after the Gold Rush, the growth of Melbourne and Victoria during the 19th century and the years leading up to Federation. The Fort is a prime example of technological, political and defence history during the age of Imperialism. It also played a crucial role in Australia’s involvement in the two world wars.

What is in the Box?

Resource Booklet Part A:

“Guarding Victoria from Attack”

Fort Case Studies

- Donovan Joynt VC – Defending the Fort
- Sam Wells – cartoonist
- Lieutenant George Witton and Breaker Morant – Scapegoats of the Empire
- Joseph Hulston – Murder at the Fort
- Alice Mary Leydon – Women at Fort Queenscliff
- Ron Couche – A Gunner’s Wedding
- Little Stinker
- Documents of Alfred James Barber: his World War One service record, enlistment and discharge papers

A Tour of Fort Queenscliff

Glimpses of Fort Queenscliff’s history:

- Geelong – Fort Queenscliff Railway links
- The Port Phillip Defences 1898
- The Italian Prisoners of War at Port Phillip

Other Resources:

- **Printed bits and pieces**
 - How to research Australian military service in the First World War
 - How to research Australian military service in the Second World War
- **Militaria Artefacts**
- **Posters**
- **Photographs**

Resource Yellow Booklet Part B:

The Department of Veteran’s Affairs “Working the Web” (to locate sources of Australian military history).

Military Objects:

Army Jacket

This jacket is part of the Australian battle dress in use from the 1950s through to the 1980s. The insignia shows the wearer was a sergeant in the 4th Calvary Regiment (tanks or armoured cars).

Slouch Hat

The slouch hat has become famous as the mark of the Australian soldier. It was first used in the 1880s by the Victorian Mounted Rifles, and worn overseas for the first time in the Boer War. After Federation and the emergence of a single Australian army, the slouch hat became officially part of the uniform. Today, the khaki felt hat with its side turned up remains a symbol of distinction and pride for the Australian Army.

Helmet

This type of helmet was first issued in 1916, during World War One, as protection against shrapnel and flying debris. They were not bullet proof.

Water Bottle

The availability and quality of water was often an issue for soldiers in wartime. Water was frequently contaminated and had to be treated if possible. These water bottles, holding approximately 1 litre and have a felt covering for insulation. They were carried in a web sling as part of the soldier's equipment. Soldiers fighting on horse back, for example the Artillery and Light Horse carried the same water bottle but in a leather sling.

Webbing

The pieces of webbing are:

- Waist belt
- Ammunition pouches
- Haversack
- Water bottle and carrier

Haversack

Small items for immediate use such as food, socks, shaving gear. Might also contain other personal items such as a letter and photos from home, money, knife, fork, spoon, toothbrush and soap. Look inside for a name and use the Australian War Memorial and the National Archives of Australia websites to find out the service record of this soldier.

Mess Tin

The mess tin was used as a cooking vessel and as a means to eat the food as well. Fitted into a pouch attached to the back of the haversack.

Postcards in Wartime

Postcards were the medium through which the soldiers at the Front and people at home communicated. Young soldiers found themselves in all sorts of exotic places and a tourist card was an easy way to show those at home what a great time they were having and that there was no need to worry. Red Cross and YMCA and Chaplains handed out free postcards to encourage soldiers to keep in touch with anxious families back home. As casualties mounted, the tone of the postcard changed. A censor stopped soldiers writing home and telling their families just how bad the war was. Some cards were printed from official photographs showing soldiers in uniform and places of battle. Postcards often illustrated the range of intense feelings generated by the war: tragedy, humour, the trials of army life, suffering and sacrifice.

POSTERS

- ✓ History of World War One – Tanks
- ✓ History of World War One – SE5A Aeroplane
- ✓ History of World War One - The Big Gun
- ✓ Ranks in the Australian Defence Force

Military Badges and Insignia

Members of the Army, Navy and Air Force have always worn badges and insignia to show other soldiers, sailors or airmen that they came from Australia, what rank they held or what their job was.

Board 1 Rising Sun Badges and Buttons

Since before the First World Wars, Australian soldiers have worn the Rising Sun badge on their slouch hats. They also wore a smaller version on their collars. These badges were black for "active service" and brass for use at home. Why? (hint camouflage)

Those soldiers who served overseas wore a badge saying "Australia". In the First and Second World Wars, these were usually black metal and curved. The buttons were coloured black for the same reason.

Note the crowns on the Rising Sun Badges and buttons are curved upwards compared to the more modern badges on Board 2. The crown curving upwards is the King's crown which was used by Kings George V and VI in World Wars One and Two. When Queen Elizabeth II was crowned in 1953, the crowns changed.

Board 2 Match the badges to a Corps and job

Aviation

Blue Wings
Parachute with wings

Pilot
Qualified parachutist.

Bands

Brass harp
Brass drum
Cloth drum
Bagpipes

Badge on musicians slouch hat
Drummer – worn on sleeve of tunic (coat)
Drummer – worn on shirt
Piper

Ordnance

Crossed hammer and tongs
An artificer is a soldier who can repair weapons and equipment. Originally the badge for a blacksmith, but later came to represent any artificer who was a qualified tradesman, for example a fitter and turner who could work a lathe, or a plumber.

Transport

Transport hat badge
troops)

Worn by soldiers who drive trucks (moving supplies and

Boards 3, 4 and 5

Sleeve Insignia for each Corps

Infantry

Armour

Survey

Intelligence

Signals

Legal

Pay

Catering

Public Relations

Military Police

Psychology

Nursing

Chaplains

Engineers

Electrical and mechanical

Ordnance

Transport

RMC

OCTU

Aviation

Band

Identify the Army jobs

Example of a job in that Corps

Foot soldiers, riflemen,

Tank crew

Making maps

Collecting data on enemy forces

Communications, computers, radios

Lawyers

Paymaster

Cooks

PR

Police – uniform and detectives

Psychologists

Nurses

Religion - Priests, Rabbis, Ministers, Imams

Engineers – civil engineers, construction

Electricians, technicians, mechanics

Maintains equipment, weapons, artillery

Truck drivers

Trainee officer/university student – ADFA

Trainee officer

Pilots

Musicians

Rank Insignia

The military organization is based on units of different sizes. Each unit, from a section of say eight men up to an Army, is commanded by a soldier who holds a special rank.

There are officers, warrant officers, non commissioned officers and enlisted soldiers or privates. Officers wear their rank insignia on their shoulders, whilst others wear it on the sleeves.

From the highest down:

Officers

Rank Troops	Commands	Number of
Lieutenant General	Corps of varied number of Divisions	
Major General	Division of 3 Brigades	20,000 men
Brigadier	Brigade of 4 Battalions	4,000 men
Colonel	Battalion of 4 Companies	800-1,000 men
Lieutenant Colonel	Battalion	
Major	Company Commander	200-250 men
Captain	Assists Major	
Lieutenant	Platoon Commander	40-50 men
Second Lieutenant	Assists Lieutenant	
Sergeant	Section leaders	
Corporal	Section leader	10-14 men

Warrant Officers

Warrant Officer Class 1

Warrant Officer Class 2

Non Commissioned Officers

Staff Sergeant

Sergeant

Corporal

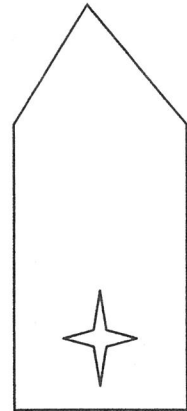
Lance Corporal

Privates

Activity with the rank insignia

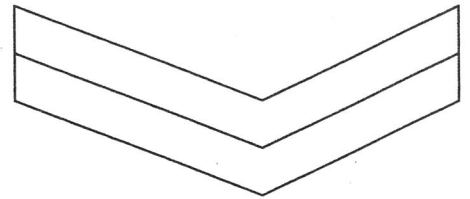
Officers wear their rank insignia, such as these epaulettes on their shoulders. There are nine green shoulder epaulettes showing Officers' ranks. Use the rank insignia poster to lay out the epaulettes from the highest officer rank down to the lowest.

- Lieutenant General
- Major General
- Brigadier
- Colonel
- Lieutenant Colonel
- Major
- Captain
- Lieutenant
- Second Lieutenant



Warrant Officers and Non Commissioned Officers wear their rank insignia on their sleeves. Using the rank insignia poster lay out the insignia in their proper order.

- Regimental Sergeant Major
(Warrant Officer Class 1)
- Company, Squadron or Battery Sergeant Major
(Warrant Officer Class 2)
- Staff Sergeant
- Sergeant
- Corporal
- Lance Corporal



Is there a rank insignia for a Private?

A guide to historic

Fort Queenscliff

The key to the defence of Melbourne and Port Phillip Bay from the 1850s until 1946.

By Bob Marmion



Published by the Fort Queenscliff Museum Foundation 2005
Fort Queenscliff, King Street, Queenscliff, VIC 3225 Phone: 5258 1488

The Tour

The Guard House

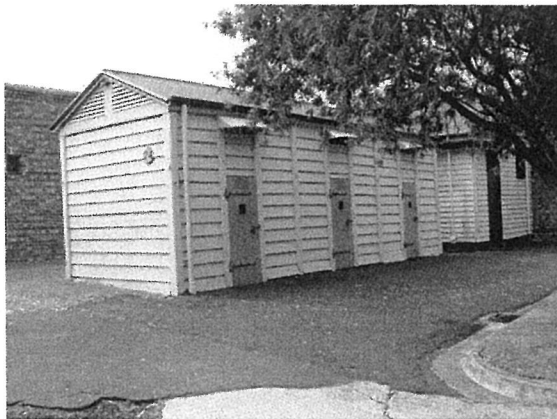
The first point on the tour is the Fort Guardhouse near the main gate. Dating from 1884, the Guardhouse is the only building in the fort still performing its original function.

The alarm bell was loud enough to be heard underground in the magazines.



The Cells

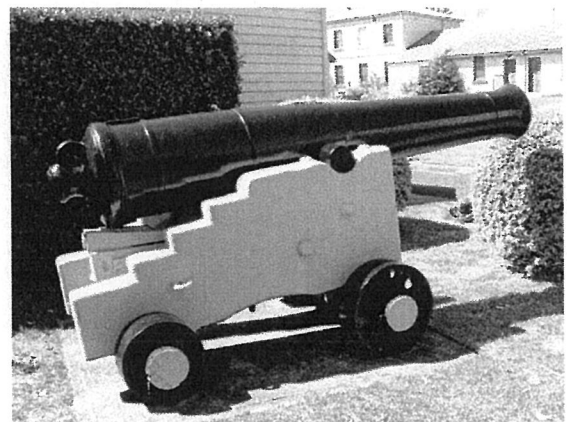
The cellblock was built in 1886 with steel bars between the inner and outer wooden layers. Originally used to house soldiers who had committed breaches of discipline, in 1912 the cells were also used to hold 15 year old boys who refused to do their compulsory military training.



The VC Garden and the 32 Pounder

This is the Fort's Victoria Cross garden. The VC is Australia's highest decoration for bravery.

The cannon is a 32 pounder smoothbore naval gun. Cast in 1810, the cannon originally served on board the Victorian colonial navy's steam sloop, the HMVS Victoria. In 1870 it was mounted at the Fort for training purposes.



The Drill Hall

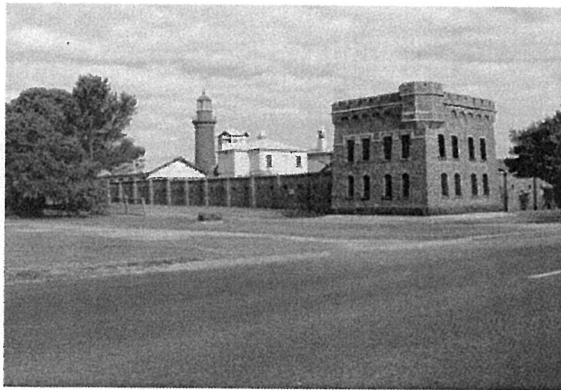
The large timber building was originally built in 1882-1883 to enable Queenscliff's citizen soldiers (the militia) to train indoors

during inclement weather. Nowadays it serves as a canteen and meeting area.

During the 19th and early 20th centuries, timber militia drill halls were once common in the suburbs and Victorian towns. Examples such as this one have become increasingly rare.

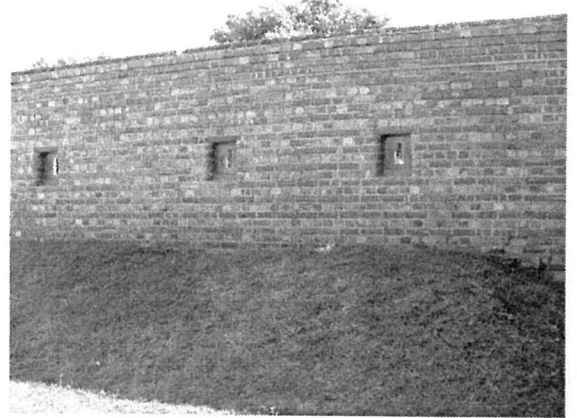
The Keep, Wall and Banquette

These features (along with the moat) form the main landward defences of the Fort. The wall was built in late 1882/83. Inside the wall was a firing mound or banquette allowing soldiers to kneel or stand to fire through the iron loopholes.



The Keep was built between 1883 – 1885 and was designed as the Fort's last line of defence. The walls are approximately 1 metre thick and the windows are protected by armour plates – again with loop holes for rifles.

When under attack, a number of soldiers could barricade themselves inside. A number of British forts of the same period also had cannon mounted on the roof, but there is no evidence to show that the practice occurred at Fort Queenscliff.



The Telegraph Station



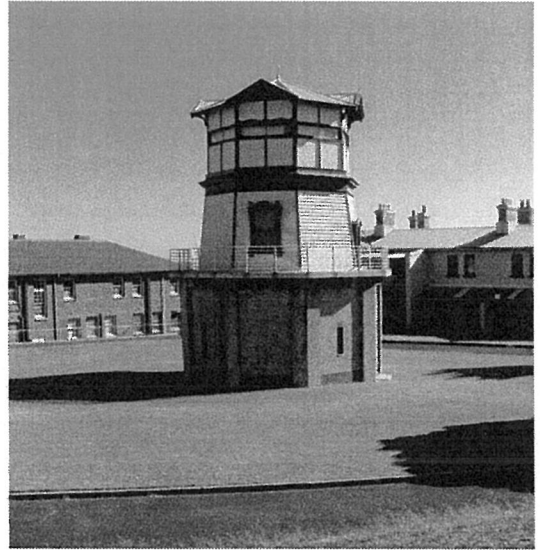
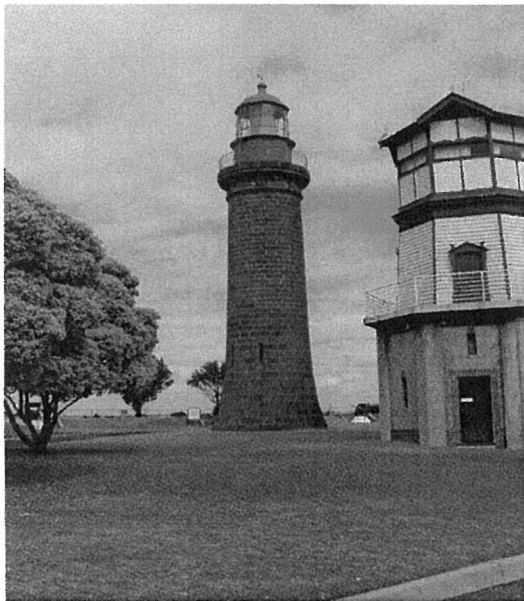
Dating from 1854, the Telegraph Station predates the Fort and was the first substantial building on Shortland's Bluff. Originally built to relay news of shipping arrivals to Geelong and Melbourne, it is the second oldest Telegraph Station in Victoria (after Geelong).

The two story building to the left was built in 1863 as accommodation for lighthouse keepers. It later became the Fort hospital

The Black Lighthouse and Signal Station

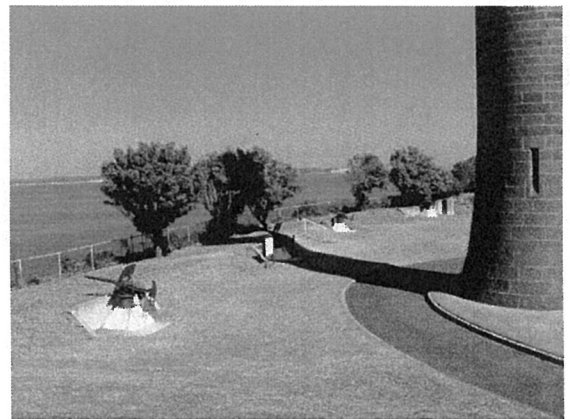
The two lighthouses (one black and one white) were built in 1863 of solid basalt. Built to the "Standard Scottish" design, the black one is 26 metres high and still has the original 1861 lenses. However the original oil lamps have given way to an electric light. It is the only black lighthouse in Australia.

Alongside the Black Lighthouse is the 1888 signal station. It was in use up until 1951 when ships were signaled by radio installed at the Point Lonsdale Lighthouse.



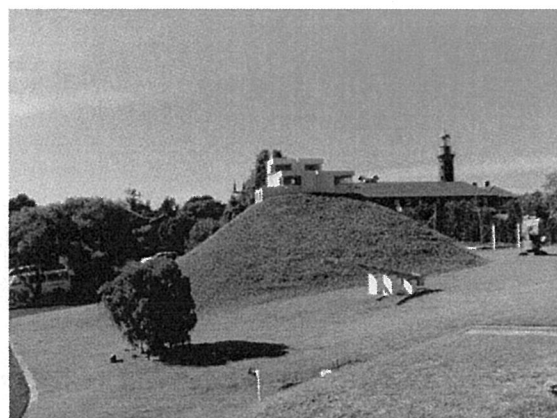
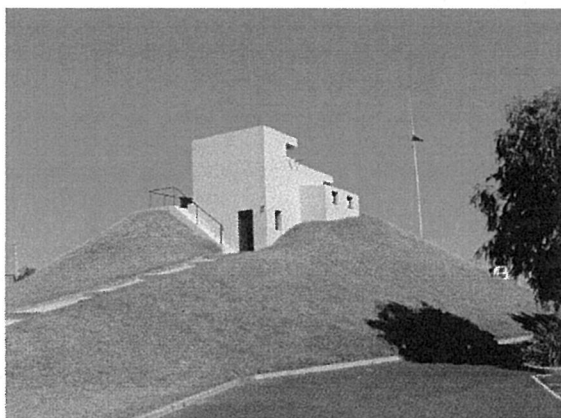
The Saluting Battery

Built on the site of the original 68 pounder battery from the 1860s, the saluting battery has four Hotchkiss 3 pounder guns; they are used for firing ceremonial salutes.



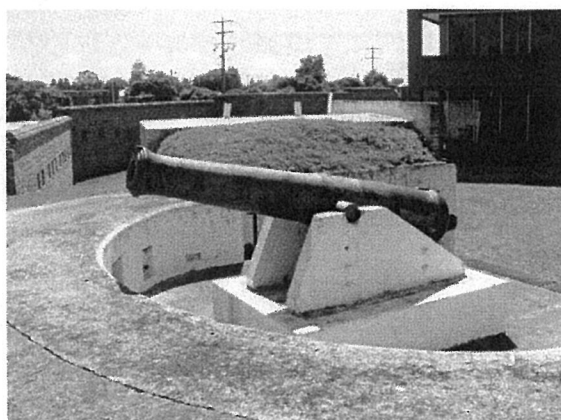
Fire Directing Station

Built in 1915, this building was used to direct the fire of the Fort's guns against shipping. The Mound is all that remains of the original shrapnel mound which ran behind the guns of the 1879 upper battery.



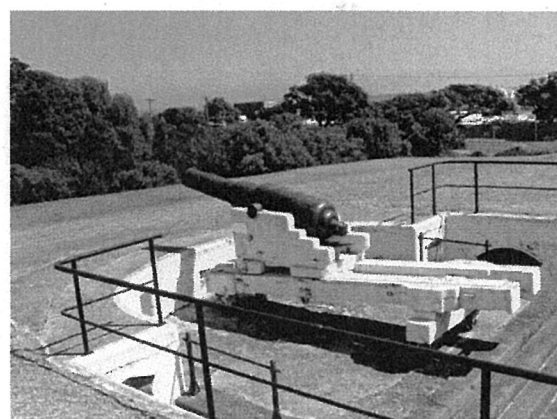
The Fort's Armament

A number of artillery pieces demonstrate the different types of artillery in use at the Fort from 1860 until World War 2.



68 pounder smooth bore cannon c.1860, — originally fired a round cannon ball weighing 68 pounds (30.2kg) to a range of approximately 3,100 yards (2,900m)

During the late 1850s a number of manufacturers experimented

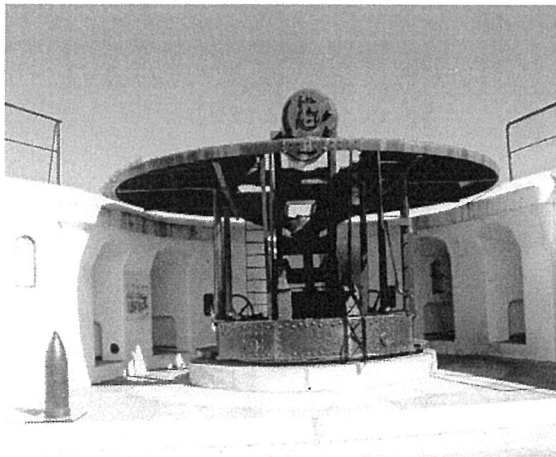


with rifling the interior of the cannon barrel in order to improve accuracy and range. Sir William Armstrong was one such British gunfounder. Below right is an Armstrong 80 pounder rifled muzzle loading cannon (RML) c.1880

The exposed nature of the gun positions meant that the gun crews were exposed to fire from attacking ships. To try and overcome this, Captain Colin Moncrieff designed a gun which “disappeared”, i.e. it recoiled downwards after firing, so that gun could be loaded under cover. Using hydraulics it could then be raised to fire.



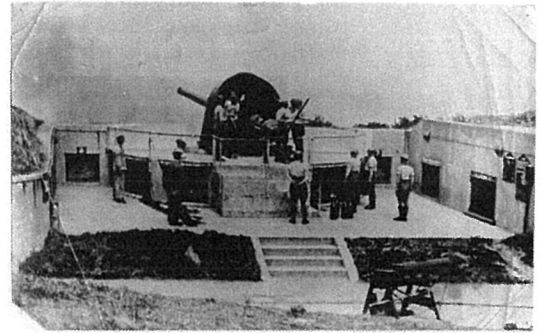
Above: 8 inch "disappearing" gun



The 8 inch "disappearing" gun on display, above, was originally mounted at the Swan Island Fort. Between 1885 and 1912 a similar, but smaller, 6 inch gun was mounted at the Fort.

The main armament at the Fort during both World Wars was the 6 inch Mark VII ; they are easily recognized at the Fort by the curved ERA shield.

6 inch Mark VII gun at the Fort, 1939-40. These were the standard coastal guns during the two World Wars.



The Fort originally mounted three of these guns from 1909 until 1942. Two of the guns were removed from the Fort and emplaced further around the coast at Point Lonsdale. In their stead, a wooden dummy gun barrel was fitted inside one of the shields to deceive any Japanese pilots.



One of the dummy guns.

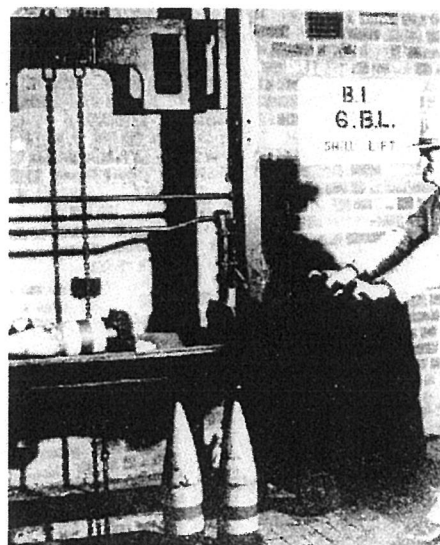
The Ammunition Magazines

The Fort has a number of underground magazines which were designed to safely store ammunition for the guns. When the gun was to be loaded orders were sent down the brass voice tube. A cartridge (powder bag) and shell were separately winched up to the gun position.

Every possible precaution was taken to prevent an explosion. Soldiers had to wear protective clothing to reduce static electricity and of course matches, lighters and tobacco were banned. Even the lamps inside

The magazine had protective barriers between them and the

Below, the 6 inch magazine, left, and the shell hoist from the magazine up to the gun position. The shells weigh about 100 pounds or 44kgs



The Collection

The Fort Queenscliff Museum has an extensive collection of militaria including , photographs, maps, documents, uniforms, weapons and personal items used by soldiers at the Fort.

The Museum is housed in the bomb proof engine house built in 1887. Its two galleries originally housed two Gardner No 9 Kerosene engines which generated the Fort's electricity between 1897 and 1947. The engines were especially important as they powered the Fort's searchlight.

Question and answer sheet on the tour pages

Fort Queenscliff – guarding Victoria from attack.

Background information on the tour.

Fort Queenscliff student project sheet – Questions only.

(Also refer to the accompanying answer sheet)

1. What made Victoria develop so rapidly after 1850, and have the largest population of the Australian colonies?
2. What happened to Victoria's wealth?
3. Why have a coastal artillery Battery; and later a Fort? Why was Melbourne so heavily defended?
4. What is the difference between an Artillery Battery and a Fort?
5. The Guardhouse 1884 – one of the earliest buildings still in its original use. The guard's job was to check the credentials of anybody who wished to enter the Fort. If they did not have a genuine reason then they would be refused entry for security reasons. What was the reason for the bell still found on the wall of the Guardhouse?
6. The Cellblock. Why were young cadets locked in here?
7. The Fort Wall (& bricks). What is different about these bricks from those used for civilian buildings?
8. The Keep. What was the purpose of the Keep, and what did soldiers do in there?
9. Drinks for soldiers. In the 1890's there was a Fort aerated water factory. What drink did it make and why? Was it a successful venture? What was the preferred drink of the soldiers?

10. The Telegraph Station 1854 was the first substantial building at Shortland's Bluff and predates the Fort Queenscliff walls. Why was it established here and not Melbourne?
11. The Barracks. Most of the soldiers in the 1800's were single and were living in barracks within the Fort, similar to those in a boarding school. A barrack would be a long rectangular building with inside many bunks lined up along the walls on both sides. When the barracks were first built the building had no lighting except for one small lamp, no heating in winter or toilets inside. Food in the canteen was very poor and plain.
12. The Fort Queenscliff Hospital. The other end of the double storey telegraph building was the first hospital in Queenscliff, but used only for sick soldiers.
Student activity. Use the internet and your imagination to identify illnesses suffered by soldiers in the 1880's.
13. The view from the Battery parapet. Write a paragraph to describe the view and what can be seen looking outwards. Refer to a map if necessary.
14. Development of the guns in the last half of the 1800s. Explain why 'smooth bore muzzle loading guns', 'rifled barrel muzzle loading guns' and 'rifled barrel breech loading guns' were employed at the Fort.
15. The first shot fired by the Allied Forces in World War 1 was from a cannon at Fort Nepean directed from the Fire Control building in Fort Queenscliff! How could this occur?
16. The Fort ceased to be a defensive structure in 1946. Why was the Fort no longer considered as a strong defensive establishment?
17. Does the Australian Government recognise Fort Queenscliff as an important Australian heritage site? Note the plaque on the wall at the entrance..

Fort Queenscliff – guarding Victoria from attack.

Background information on the tour

Fort Queenscliff student project sheet – Questions and answers.

- 1. What made Victoria develop so rapidly after 1850, and have the largest population of the Australian colonies?**

Answer. The Colonial Government advertised rewards for any gold discovery, leading to the Bendigo, Ballarat and other very rich goldfields. By law, all minerals belonged to the government and so the government controlled buying and selling of gold. Gold fever news spread wildly overseas and attracted foreign immigrants in huge numbers. Tens of thousands of hopeful miners immigrated by ship to Victoria. It was gold which paid for much development of Victoria after 1850.

- 2. What happened to Victoria's wealth?**

Answer. The Victorian Colonial Government sent the gold by commercial shipping from Melbourne to England. The gold paid for much of the government expenses to construct and operate ports, railways, bridges and civic structures and buildings throughout the colony. The ships had to sail through Port Phillip heads and overseas to England, running the gauntlet of foreign ship raiders.

- 3. Why have a coastal artillery Battery; later a Fort? Why was Melbourne so heavily defended?**

Answer. In the second half of the 19th century Melbourne was one of the wealthiest Ports in the world, especially with gold bullion brought to its bank vaults from the Ballarat and Bendigo goldfields. At various times throughout that period the British Empire feared war with Russia, France, the United States and Germany. Before 1883 Victoria had only a very small professional defence force, namely the Victorian Artillery. The colony relied on Volunteer (or unpaid) citizen soldiers to defend it. So Melbourne was greatly at risk of attack by enemy naval forces to seize our gold. Without any defence in place an enemy warship could simply sail up to Melbourne and under the threat of artillery attack on the city demand delivery of gold from the banks.

4. What is the difference between an Artillery Battery and a Fort?

Answer. An artillery battery is a built up earth or sandbag barrier to protect soldiers from a frontal artillery attack from an enemy warship. It could be more quickly built than a Fort, and was much cheaper when government funds were short. A Fort was an all-round high solid structure which would provide much safer protection from either land or sea attack. The Shortland Bluff Battery was built in 1863, and Fort Queenscliff was funded much later between 1883 – 1885.

5. The Guardhouse 1884 – one of the earliest buildings still in its original use. The guard's job was to check the credentials of anybody who wished to enter the Fort. If they did not have a genuine reason then they would be refused entry for security reasons.

What was the reason for the bell still found on the wall of the Guardhouse?

Answer. In the event of attack, or any emergency, the bell was loud enough to be heard throughout the Fort; even in the underground bunkers. Ringing the bell would summon the soldiers to immediate defence duty at any time of the day or night.

6. The Cellblock. Why were young cadets locked in here?

Answer. In 1911 Australia had compulsory military service for 12 – 18 year olds. In 1912 some locals did not attend compulsory training, and were convicted and imprisoned in the cellblock. Due to public concern the sentences were commuted after a short time, but attendance at training increased dramatically.

7. The Fort Wall (& bricks). What is different about these bricks from those used for civilian buildings?

Answer. The Fort walls and Keep were built between 1882 and 1885 from locally made bricks. The bricks were specially made so that if hit by enemy fire they would disintegrate into powder rather than chunks; thereby greatly reducing the likelihood of significant injury to nearby soldiers.

8. The Keep. What was the purpose of the Keep, and what did soldiers do in there?

Answer. The Keep is three stories high, and walls are about a metre thick. It was designed to be the last line of defence in case of overwhelming attack. Soldiers within could fire down on attackers, keeping them at bay until a rescue force from Geelong

could arrive. Supplies were kept inside the Keep so soldiers could lock themselves in for several days without the need for outside support.

9. **Drinks for soldiers. In the 1890s there was a Fort aerated water factory. What drink did it make and why? Was it a successful venture? What was the preferred drink of the soldiers?**

Answer. The Fort factory made lemonade and other soft drink. This was intended to stop excessive alcohol consumption and maintain after hours orderly conduct by the soldiers under the view of senior officers and the town public. The factory was not a success because the soldiers much preferred beer.

10. **The Telegraph Station 1854 was the first substantial building at Shortland's Bluff and predates the Fort Queenscliff walls. Why was it established here and not Melbourne?**

Answer. It was built to rapidly relay commercial news regarding shipping traffic through the heads to Melbourne via Geelong and Williamstown. By the time the ship arrived off Melbourne the Customs and commercial agents would be eagerly awaiting appraisal of the goods being imported. In the 1800s much of government revenue was derived from customs duties imposed on imported goods. At that time the government taxes we are familiar with today were not in place.

11. **The Barracks.** Most of the soldiers in the 1800s were single and were living in barracks within the Fort, similar to those in a boarding school. A barrack would be a long rectangular building with inside many bunks lined up along the walls on both sides. When the barracks were first built the building had no lighting except for one small lamp, no heating in winter or toilets inside. Food in the canteen was very poor and plain.

Student activity. Write a brief description of how you would live in appalling conditions in winter without any modern inside conveniences, and what would you dislike or miss the most.

12. **The Fort Queenscliff Hospital.** The other end of the double storey telegraph building was the first hospital in Queenscliff, but used only for sick soldiers.

Student activity. Use the internet and your imagination to identify illnesses suffered by soldiers in the 1880s.

Answer. Records show that Fort Queenscliff soldiers died from pneumonia, tumours, meningitis, phthisis, jaundice, tuberculosis, apoplexy, angina, drowned and even self-inflicted gunshot.

- 13. The view from the Battery parapet. Write a paragraph to describe the view and what can be seen looking outwards. Refer to a map if necessary.**

Answer. The view includes both sides of the Rip and out to sea; including Fort Nepean, Fort Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale. The student could describe the advantage of having artillery above on Shortland Bluff looking down on any attacking enemy warship coming through the narrow Rip entry to Port Phillip.

- 14. Development of the guns in last half 1800s.** Explain why 'smooth bore muzzle loading guns', 'rifled barrel muzzle loading guns' and 'rifled barrel breech loading guns' were employed at the Fort. Your Guide will explain these on your tour. Internet research will be interesting on these guns, and show where they were used around the world.

Answer. These guns are old fashioned today but in the 1800s they were most important defensive cannons. They represent rapid development of war machinery during the 1800s. Muzzle loading was done from the front of the cannon. The smooth bore muzzle loading weapons were slow to load and inaccurate at long distance. The rifle barrel muzzle loaders were next developed but were still slow to load but more accurate. The rifled breech loaders were loaded from the back of the cannon. The rifled breech loaders were much quicker to load, were more accurate and had greater effective firing distance. All three were obsolete by 1900 when artillery had much improved in every regard as military research provided more deadly ammunition, cannon were much quicker and had greater range.

- 15. The first shot fired by the Allied Forces in World War 1** was from a cannon at Fort Nepean directed from the Fire Control building in Fort Queenscliff! How could this occur? Your tour guide will explain.

Answer. At the end of Point Nepean (on the opposite shore from Fort Queenscliff) stood Fort Nepean which also had artillery covering the Port Phillip heads (or Rip). When war was declared on 4th August 1914, the news was simultaneously received around the world. A German freighter called the Pfalz tried to sail out of Port Phillip for the high seas before it could be impounded. Unfortunately the news had reached Fort Queenscliff and orders were given to stop the Pfalz. A shot was fired across the bows and the ship was stopped. It is recorded as the first shot of the war due to the peculiarity of time difference in the longitude of Australia compared to England. Students could use the internet to understand the way world times are determined.

16. The Fort ceased to be a defensive structure in 1946. Why was the Fort no longer considered as a strong defensive establishment?

Answer. Consider old-fashioned and modern warfare. By the end of World War 11 the armament industry had advanced so significantly with aeroplanes and missile technology that a Fort structure was no longer logical because it was so open to attack from above; so all coastal defence fortifications became obsolete.

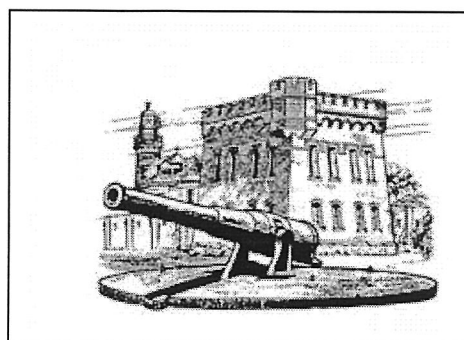
17. Does the Australian Government recognise Fort Queenscliff as an important Australian heritage site? Note the plaque on the wall at the entrance.

Answer. Yes. The fort is classified by the National Trust and is on the register of the National Estate. Students could use the internet to identify some other National Trust properties closer to your school.

Fort Queenscliff

Treasure Hunt –

Primary Schools



On the Tour:

A battery or fort has been on this site since the

Why was the fort or battery located here on Shortland's Bluff? What was the main reason?

What do the letters VC stand for?.....

What is a VC and why was it awarded?.....

How many cells are there and when were they built?.....

A 32 pounder smooth bore cannon fired a cannon ball weighing?.....

At the corner of the outer wall is a large, squarish brick building. What is it called and when was it built?

.....Why was it important?

There is a round building with a brick bottom and a timber upper. What is it called and what was it used for?

There are two light houses. What colours are they?

What is the nickname of the large green "gun" and why is it now made of wood?

Which flag flies from the mast?

What is an underground ammunition storage area called?

Why was the big black gun with a shield overhead called a disappearing gun?

What do soldiers wear to make them stand out from other people? A.....

A steel hat worn by soldiers is called a h.....

In the Museum:

What sort of drink factory operated inside the Fort during the 1800s? Le.....

What instrument was used to measure the size of cannon balls? A cal.....

What is the name of the brown leather ammunition pouch on a belt? A ba.....

What was the name of the VC winner from Geelong? Captain J.E. N.....

What was the name of the horse?

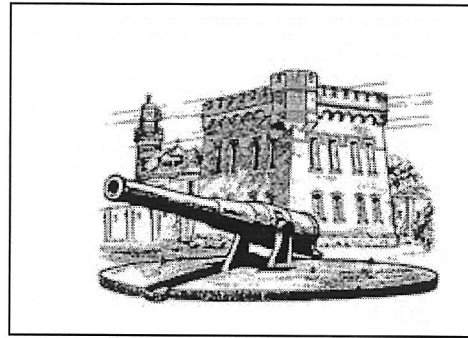
What was the name of the Japanese "sneak" boot?

What is crossed above the doorway?

Fort Queenscliff

Treasure Hunt –

Primary Schools



Answers

On the Tour:

A battery or fort has been on this site since the 1860s.

Why was the fort or battery located here on Shortland's Bluff? What was the main reason? To protect Melbourne and the gold collected during the Gold Rush.

What do the letters VC stand for? Victoria Cross. It is a medal given to soldiers for displaying the highest bravery in wartime.

How many cells are there and when were they built? Three, in 1886

A 32 pounder smooth bore cannon fired a cannon ball weighing? 32 pounds or 14.2 kilograms

At the corner of the outer wall is a large, squarish brick building. What is it called and when was it built?

It is the Keep, built in 1883-85. Why was it important? It was the place of last defence in case the fort was being attacked from the land side.

There is a round building with a brick bottom and a timber upper. What is it called and what was it used for? It is the original signal station and was used for sending telegraph messages from the Heads to Melbourne via Geelong.

There are two light houses. What colours are they? ... Black and white

What is the nickname of the large green "gun" and why is it now made of wood? It is called the Pinocchio gun. In February 1942 a Japanese plane flew over the Fort and located the original guns. They were moved to Point Lonsdale soon afterwards and in their place a number of wooden "dummy" guns were built to trick any future enemy observers.

Which flag flies from the mast? ... The Australian flag

What is an underground ammunition storage area called? A magazine

Why was the big black gun with a shield overhead called a disappearing gun? The gun was loaded in the down position and then using a hydro/pneumatic system (using air and oil) , it was elevated up to the firing position. After firing, it descended below the parapet to be reloaded. It “disappeared” from the enemy’s view.

What do soldiers wear to make them stand out from other people? A uniform

A steel hat worn by soldiers is called a helmet.

In the Museum:

What sort of drink factory operated inside the Fort during the 1800s? Lemonade or aerated water

What instrument was used to measure the size of cannon balls? A caliper

What is the name of the brown leather ammunition pouch on a belt? A bandolier

What was the name of the VC winner from Geelong? Captain J.E. Newland

What was the name of the horse? Artie which was a nickname for artillery. Exlcuding the heavy fixed guns located at the fort, the artillery was originally moved around by horses

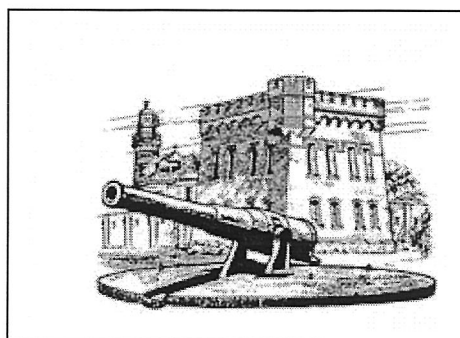
What was the name of the Japanese “sneak” boot? Tabi Boots

What is crossed above the doorway? Two crossed lances or spears

Fort Queenscliff

Treasure Hunt –

Secondary Schools



On the Tour:

A battery or fort has been on this site since the

Why was the fort or battery located here on Shortland's Bluff? What was the primary reason?

.....

Fort Queenscliff played an important part in the defences at the Heads during the two World Wars.

Why? It was the...for the surrounding forts

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At the corner of the outer wall is a large, squarish brick building. What is it called and when was it built?

.....Why was it important?

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There is a round building with a brick bottom and a timber upper. What is it called and what was its purpose?

.....

There are two light houses. What colours are they?

The one inside the fort had its original doorway metres off the ground. Why was that?.....

.....

What is the nickname of the large green "gun" and why is it now made of wood?

.....
Which flag flies from the mast?

Fort Queenscliff faces east across which body of water? The R.....or The H.....

What is an underground ammunition storage area called?

Why was the big black gun with a shield overhead called a disappearing gun?

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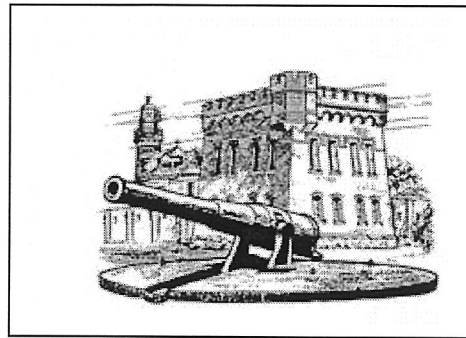
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.....

Fort Queenscliff

Treasure Hunt –

Secondary Schools



Answer Sheet

On the Tour:

A battery or fort has been on this site since the 1860s

Why was the fort or battery located here on Shortland's Bluff? What was the primary reason?

It was to protect Melbourne from attack. At the time of the Gold Rush and throughout the rest of the 1800s, Melbourne and Victoria were some of the richest places in the British Empire.

Fort Queenscliff played an important part in the defences at the Heads during the two World Wars.

Why? It was the Headquarters for the surrounding forts

What do the letters VC stand for? Victoria Cross

What is a VC and why was it awarded? It is a medal and was awarded for highest example of bravery in wartime

How many cells are there and when were they built? There are three cells and they were built in 1886.

A 32 pounder smooth bore cannon fired a cannon ball weighing? 32 pounds or 14.2 kilograms

At the corner of the outer wall is a large, squarish brick building. What is it called and when was it built? It is the Keep, built in 1883-85. Why was it important? It was the place of last defence in case the fort was being attacked from the land side.

There is a round building with a brick bottom and a timber upper. What is it called and what was its purpose? It is the original signal station and was used for sending telegraph messages from the Heads to Melbourne via Geelong.

There are two light houses. What colours are they? Black and white

The one inside the fort had its original doorway metres off the ground. Why was that? The lighthouse was built to the original Scottish design. There were two reasons for the original high doorway. Firstly to

stop waves pounding the door if the light house was built on rocks at sea level and secondly to stop pirates or smugglers gaining access; the ladder would have been hauled up and the door locked from the inside.

What is the nickname of the large green “gun” and why is it now made of wood? It is called the Pinocchio gun. In February 1942 a Japanese plane flew over the Fort and located the original guns. They were moved to Point Lonsdale soon afterwards and in their place a number of wooden “dummy” guns were built to trick any future enemy observers.

Which flag flies from the mast? The Australian flag.

Fort Queenscliff faces east across which body of water? The Rip or The Heads.

What is an underground ammunition storage area called? A magazine.

Why was the big black gun with a shield overhead called a disappearing gun? The gun was loaded in the down position and then using a hydro/pneumatic system, it was elevated up to the firing position. After firing, it descended below the parapet to be reloaded. It “disappeared” from the enemy’s view.

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Research:

What was the name of the 17 year old soldier who was murdered whilst on guard duty at the Fort in September 1942? Some say the Japanese came ashore wearing tabi boots and killed him. His name was:

Gunner John J Hulston. In May 1942 another soldier connected with the Fort, Private Roy Willis, was also murdered. Both crimes remain officially unsolved. To hear the full story about the murders, read the book *Murder at the Fort*, by Bob Marmion.