

Site: Portsea Pier/Front Beach

About Portsea Pier/ Front Beach

The Portsea Front Beach is a well known sheltered beach in the heart of Portsea. However, since 2009-10 changing wave conditions have impacted this site. Some argue that the change in wave conditions is a natural phenomenon, whilst others put the changes down to the dredging that took place in Port Phillip Bay in 2008.

This site provides the chance to:

- examine the resultant changes that have occurred to the surrounding physical and built environment and;
- evaluate the strategies that have been implemented in an attempt to restore this beach.

This site is located on the Point Nepean Road in Portsea. Limited parking is available near the W.E Newton Reserve. There are more parks, especially for buses, on the opposite side of the Point Nepean Road. Toilet facilities are available in the reserve. There is only a short walk to the pier. This site is wheel chair accessible.

There are a number of articles and images about the cause of the damage at this site and the methods used to restore the beach. It may be useful to read these before your fieldwork trip.

Some of the articles are:

- [Analysis of Port Phillip Bay Tides Jan 2000 – Dec 2009](#)
- [Vanishing Portsea beach to be restored - The Age](#)
- [Seawall to 'save' Portsea beach | MPNEWS](#)
- [Beach loss linked to dredging - The Age](#)

Fieldwork Activities.

Please note that not all of these activities need to be undertaken. Select those that suit your needs.

It is possible to organise a guest speaker from Polperro Dolphin Tours or Baykeeper to discuss the changes to the environment at this site.

1. With reference to your base map describe the relative location of the Portsea Front Beach.

OR

Using either the GPS Test or GPS Data apps describe the absolute location of the Portsea Front Beach.

2. Record information about the wave conditions near the following two sites.

Characteristics	Portsea Pier	Sorrento Pier
Wave frequency (waves/minute)		
Estimated wave height		
Types of waves (constructive/destructive)		
Wind strength and direction		

Portsea Pier and Front beach



Source : Google Maps (<https://goo.gl/maps/rRWMDXYgd8K2>)

6. Complete the following table regarding the strategies used to restore this beach.

Description and purpose of strategy implemented	Effectiveness of strategy implemented (consider factors such as the sustainability of the strategy and whether the strategy achieves the goals set)
Replacement of loss sand (initial strategy which is no longer visible)	
Sand Bags	
Rock Wall (in front of sandbags)	
Rock Wall (in front of path/ entrance to pier)	
Raising height of pier	
New pathway (side of pier)	
Other	

8. Observe the facilities provided at the W.E. Newton Reserve and the streets adjacent to the beach access. Complete the following table.

Facility or management technique	Y/N Count	Comments about the quality/effectiveness of the Facility/management technique
Lighting		
Bins		
Barbecues		
Seating and tables		
Bicycle facilities		
Traffic Controls -parking bays -pedestrian crossings -speed humps -speed signs -signage -pedestrian barricades		
Informative signage		
Shade/shelter areas		
Disabled facilities(specify)		
Access to fresh water		
Emergency facilities (phone, signs, etc)		
Toilets/change rooms		
Paths/boardwalk		
Restricted areas		
Kiosk/shop		
Fencing		