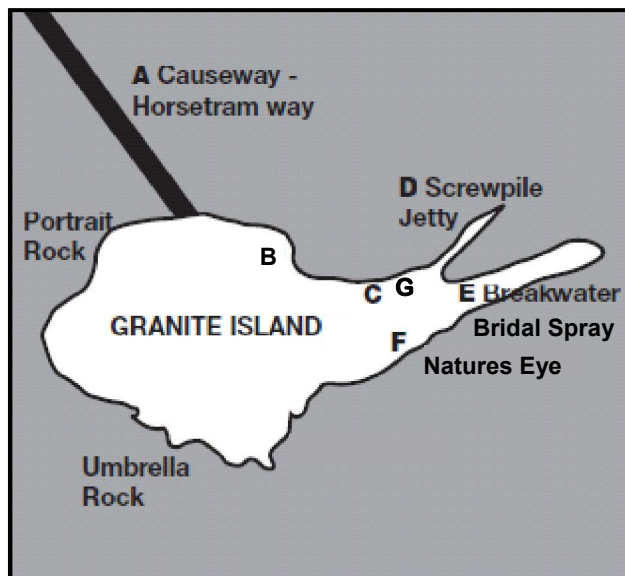


AREA HIGHLIGHTED ON THE MAP

- A)** The Causeway from the mainland is around 630 metres in length. Construction commenced in 1862 and the Victoria Pier was completed in 1864. The Causeway did not extend all the way to the island until 1875. It was built to provide a port and safe anchorage for trading ships. In 1899 swimming baths were located off the Victoria Pier, they were both demolished in 1955 after being damaged by a storm.
- B)** Site of the Harbour Masters Cottage which was established in 1867 and demolished in 1959.
- C)** Sculptured granite Seal, completed by sculptor Sylvio Apponyi in 1992 who also constructed the famous Warland Reserve Whale Tail fountain.
- D)** Screwpile Jetty was first used in 1881 by the coastal steamer Penola. 260 bales of wool were loaded.
- E)** Breakwater which was started in 1878 and completed in 1882. It is 1,000 ft long, 30 ft wide at the top and 200 ft wide on seabed. It was created from 250,000 tons of granite taken from the northern side of Granite Island, no granite block used weighed less than 20 tons.
- F)** Lighthouse erected in 1892 run on kerosene, this was replaced by a continuous gas operated light in November 1951.
- G)** Site of the Penguin Interpretive Centre which was opened in 1996.



Extracts of information taken from editorials by Anthony Laube.

FACTS ON GRANITE ISLAND



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*Brochure created by the Victor Harbor Visitor Centre 2022.
Contents is correct to the best of our knowledge, but may be subject to change without notice.*

VICTOR HARBOR

FEEL IT CALLING

GRANITE ISLAND FACTS

- 1862** Construction of Jetty (Causeway) commenced and reached 640 ft from the shore in 1862.
In 1863 a further 60 ft was added, it was finally extended to the Island in 1875 the final length being 2,073 ft (632m).
- 1870** Cottage built on the Island.
- 1878** Building of the Screw pile Jetty and Breakwater commenced - completed in 1882.
- 1884** Cottage on Granite island was obtained for the use by the resident Harbor master.
Breakwater light altered to burn gasoline.
- 1888** Permit granted to District Council of Encounter Bay to plant trees on Island.
- 1892** Miss Dutton was swept off the rocks on the Island to her death.
First lighthouse (wooden structure) operated on Granite Island.
- 1894** Horse Tram commenced running to Island, Tim Mahoney was the first to drive the tram.
- 1900** A patriotic concert was held on the Island during the Boer War.
- 1906** The Field Artillery held a training camp on Granite Island practising firing at Seal Rock.
- 1910** Kiosk on Granite Island built for the sum of £650.
- 1921** A plane landed on Granite Island.
- 1924** Electric light first used on the Causeway to Granite Island during Christmas week.
- 1954** Horse Tram ceased running and was replaced by a tractor train.
- 1955** Public baths off Victoria Pier demolished.
- 1959** Harbor Masters cottage demolished.
- 1964** Chairlift on Island commenced, it was removed in 1996.

- 1969** Granite Island declared a Fauna Reserve
- 1986** Horse Tram re-instated. The Council was given the exclusive right to run the service in 1995.
- 1992** Sculptor Sylvio Apponyi carved a seal on top of a rock on the North Shore of the Island.
- 1996** Present Kiosk, Restaurant and Penguin Interpretive Centre opened.
- 1999** The Park was proclaimed under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972 and classified as a IUCN protected area.
- 2002** Boardwalk and man made burrows constructed on Island to assist with penguin breeding a protection.
- 2013** A campaign has been launched to raise awareness and funds for the protection of Little Penguins
The Friends of Granite Island planted native species to commence the long-term plan to revegetate the Granite Island Recreation Park in collaboration with the local National Parks and Wildlife Service
- 2014** Gardens were established around the bistro to demonstrate the diversity of native plant species that are well-adapted to coastal environments



Granite Island is around 62 acres and is one of the most recognised ecological attractions in Victor Harbor due to its unusual granite formations with crashing white waves, elevated views, flora and fauna, and walking trails that provide outstanding panoramic coastal views.
The Island was declared a reserve in 1856 by order of the Surveyor General.

The Indigenous people of the area call the Island Nulcoowarra.

It was formed when the warrior Ngurendjeri, chasing his runaway wives along the coast from the Coorong to Victor Harbor, threw spears into the sea as he ran. The spears formed all of the islands and Longkuwar (The Bluff) as well.

Captain John Blenkinsopp set up a whaling station on Granite Island in 1837 in opposition to the South Australian Company station at the Bluff.
In April 1837 Captain Blenkinsopp guided Captain Richard Crozier into the harbor, Captain Crozier named the harbor after his ship the "Victor".

After the demise of whaling Granite Island was used by local farmers to graze their sheep.

John Robb was contracted to build the Breakwater for 107,000 pounds and work commenced in January 1879. The Government withdrew funding for the project when the Breakwater reached 1,000 feet which was a third of the length originally intended. The Breakwater and Screwpile Jetty were completed in 1882.

In 1884 a cottage built on the Island was obtained and used by the resident harbor master. The railway tracks had now been extended across the Causeway so that wool could be taken to waiting ships.

Wallabies lived on the island for a time but were removed in the 1970's to allow the vegetation on the island to recover. Occasionally visitors to the island report on seeing a Wallaby like animal while walking around the island.