

1 The Band Rotunda was considered for construction in 1886/87 and has since been repaired and restored. It has a 'B' heritage listing. Tenders were called for the adjacent weighbridge in 1877.

2 Across Newcombe St and slightly to the right is the Portarlington Bakehouse which has been operating since 1880. The driveway on the left was where the horse and cart returned to the stables after the bread deliveries.

3 Also opposite the Rotunda was Brown's General Store, which was also a drapery and millinery, and Sinclair's Produce Store which was at 62 Newcombe St.

4 The Grand Hotel was built in 1887. This was booked solidly during the summer months by wealthy holiday makers, often accompanied by their servants, who arrived from Melbourne on one of the steamships that regularly crossed the bay.

5 The site currently occupied by the Senior Citizens' building previously housed the Free Library which once had 1500 items in its collection. Built in the late 1880s, it boasted a reading room, book room and front verandah, with a later addition to include accommodation.

6 In the park, north of Parks Hall, stood the Palais, a weatherboard building built in 1906, which at that time was a pavilion used as a shelter on picnic occasions. After additions and improvements in 1928, the building was used frequently for dances. It was demolished after 1962 and in 1971 was replaced by Parks Hall using money raised predominantly by the campers and local community. Nearby were the town's first tennis courts, constructed in 1896.

7 The W.G. Little Reserve was named after the owner of the general store next to the Grand Hotel. 'Bill' Little was actively involved in projects to benefit the town. He managed the Portarlington Theatre in Harding St, without payment, for many years and was known for his generosity towards those who fell on hard times.

8 Portarlington's first state school opened in the Wesleyan Church in Harding St in 1873 with 73 pupils. It was then housed in the Temperance Hall before moving into its current building in Newcombe St in 1882.

22 Between the Rotunda and the old Post Office, merchants, traders and farmers bought and sold produce from 1877. Goods being transported to Geelong and Melbourne were weighed on the weighbridge located next to the Rotunda. In 1906, the market was transformed into the Post Office Gardens which were the pride of the town until the 1950s when the kindergarten was built.

21 The Butcher Shop, established over 120 years ago, sold meat killed the previous night at the slaughter house then situated behind the current golf course. From 1894 - 1957 it was known as Day's Butcher Shop. Unsold meat was disposed of daily prior to the ice works being established in the 1940s.

20 48 Fenwick St (Private residence) Built as the Vicarage for the church of St John in 1888, and was sold as a private home in 1950.

19 On the opposite side of Harding St is the RSL which was formally the Colonial Bank of National Australasia, built in 1888.

18 To the left of Theatre Plaza was once the Ice Works established around 1940 to provide ice for the local fishermen. On the right was the Bellarine Herald Newspaper Office where the paper was published during its first four years from 1896 to 1900.

17 Theatre Plaza is the name given to the area on which Forrester's Hall was once located. Built in 1876, it was used for live theatre and later, films. Its name changed to the Memorial Hall and, in 1949, to the Portarlington Theatre. With the growing popularity of television after 1956, the hall fell into disrepair and was eventually demolished in the 1980s.

16 Diagonally across the road from the old PO stands what was formally The Family Hotel, built in 1855 by John Calhoun. It was also known as R.U. Miller's Hotel, the Portarlington Hotel, Trezise's Hotel and, until recently, The Ol' Duke.

15 The building on the lower corner of Newcombe St and Harding St was built in 1888 as Portarlington Post Office offering a telegraph service, money orders and a savings bank.

14 Portarlington's War Memorial stands about five metres high on a Harcourt Grey Granite base. It bears the names of those who enlisted and those who died during war times.

13 The Mill was built in 1857 from stone quarried on site. It used newly developed steam power for its operation as a flour mill for fourteen years before T H Widdicombe eventually turned it into a brickworks after the growth of sheep farming reduced the amount of locally grown wheat. From 1907, the Mill was used for many purposes: producing 'Alpinité' an insulation material made from seaweed, tea importation, a holiday retreat for the Gordon Boys' Homes and eventually longer term accommodation. The building was purchased for the National Trust in 1970.

12 The original pier was built in 1859 and was once considered to be the life support of the town, the steamers bringing holiday makers and transporting farm produce to be sold at the Melbourne markets. It has, and continues to be upgraded to accommodate the changing needs of the area including a safe anchorage for mussel and fishing boats and an increasing number of pleasure craft.

9 6 Drysdale St. (Private residence) Mansell Lodge was built as the Presbyterian Manse in 1889. It is an eight roomed weatherboard dwelling with original late Victorian features.

10 15/17 Drysdale St. (Private residence) It is believed that this home was built for the Pywell family during the 1880s and was later named Claremont House and served as a guest house.

11 From this point (cnr Gellibrand St /Clarke St /The Esplanade) one can see Melbourne across Port Phillip Bay to the north. Along the coast line to the east lie many areas of historical Aboriginal significance including middens, a birthing cave and an area where young men were initiated. Towards the west lies the pier. The coastline beyond curves around towards Pt Richards.

