Our treasures on display include something for all ages and interests...

Commercial Fishing Industry
Whaling in the 1830s
Relics from the shipwreck coast
Penguin Island Lighthouse
Shipping Agents and
Coastal Traders
Colonial Naval Service in the
Boxer Rebellion to World War
Two coastal protection.

Local bird collection, coastal environment and habitat exhibits.

Displays on wool, farming equipment, bulldozing and transport vehicles.

Upstairs rooms have all been furnished in the manner of the period of the building. See our collection of household items, and clothing.

Recall your school days in our classroom.
Old Wool & Grain Store Museum

In the 1830s the first industry in the South East of South Australia was a whaling station at Rivoli Bay named by French navigator Captain Baudin. Trade and cargo handling developed despite a lack of facilities. Storms along this wild coastline saw the wreck of many ships including the SS Geltwood in 1876. A lighthouse and two keepers cottages were built on Penguin Island the same year that Parliament proclaimed a port for Rivoli Bay, 21 November 1878. The port was named after Sir Michael Edward Hicks-Beach, MP, Earl of Aldwyn, Secretary of State for the Colonies. Soon the Port had a rail link to Mount Gambier to service the booming trade and wool export industry. Coastal shipping played an important part in the region's development and rivalry and competition was fierce. A Customs House in the railway yards was opened to collect import and export taxes on items such as beer, whisky, tea and biscuits.

The Museum is housed in the former wool and grain store built by shipping agent FMH Bevilaqua in 1879. The railway ran through the building where the wool and grain was loaded by hand and then reloaded onto sailing ships moored along the jetty. The Beachport Jetty, at 772 metres, is the second longest in the state. Beachport's professional fishermen only made a meagre living until 1945 when they formed a co-operative living which became the international company, SAFCOL. Today local industries include agriculture, viticulture, tourism, aquaculture, fishing, surfboard manufacturing and kelp fertiliser manufacturing.