

BEACHPORT'S BOWMAN SCENIC DRIVE

The Scenic Drive was constructed by the District Council of Beachport, (now amalgamated into Wattle Range Council), over a period of 6 years, with the first stage commencing in 1967. It was named after Councillor Albert Bowman who served a term of 20 years as councillor for Beachport Ward.

The starting point of the Scenic Drive is at the Round About at the junction of Railway Terrace and Beach Road. Turn right at the round about and drive along Beach Road to Glenn's Point. Up until 1870 this was known as Whaler's Point, as it was near the site of the Rivoli Bay Whaling Station, set up sometime in the 183's by the Henty Brothers from Portland. The cairn making this site was erected in 1970 by the late Tom McCourt. The point was renamed after George Glenn, an earlier pioneer of the district.

Opposite Glenn's Point is the Boatyard (3). This area now occupies the site where Rivoli House, the offices and depot of South Eastern Drainage Board once stood. The house was demolished when the area was levelled for the slipway facilities and boatyard for the Department of Marine & Harbours in 1971. Rivoli house was the home of the various superintendents of the South Eastern Drainage Board prior to the Office being moved to Millicent.

Turn right into South Terrace and then turn left into Foster Street. At the end of the street is a car park from which you can walk to the Cape Martin Light House built in 1960. Look towards Penguin Island and you will see the ruins of the first lighthouse which was constructed in 1877-1878 and was lit for the first time on 13th August 1878. The light was fuelled by kerosene and revolved every 10 seconds. There were two cottages on the island, built to house the two lighthouse keepers and their families. A school was also built to cater for children's educational needs. If you have a good pair of binoculars, then the lookout offers an excellent view of Penguin Island. The island, a wildlife sanctuary and breeding ground for silver gulls, little penguins and crested terns, is characterised by 10-15 metre cliffs and access is not readily available. There are also Australian fur seals on the island.

Return to your car and turn into McArthur Place which leads to Bowman Scenic Drive. Along the drive there are car parks providing a place to stop and



take in the view of the many moods of the spectacular Southern Ocean. Backler's Lookout and Downs Lookout are named for past residents of Beachport. There is another carpark available for access to the Salmon Hole, a very popular spot to fish for the Australian Salmon which come through here every year.

Another car park at Post Office Rock gives access to the rock, Pleasant Cove and Cowrie Island. There is a large car park at Bartlett Rocks where there are at least three blowholes which can be seen in action when the sea is

particularly rough. The end of the drive is the car park above Woolley Rock which gives an excellent view along the coastline. If you have a 4 wheel drive you may continue from here if you wish, but please stay on the track and do not try to drive out onto the beach below.

On the return trip, turn left below Post Office Rock car park and this will give you access to the Pool of Siloam, a salt lake almost seven times saltier than the ocean. The lake is very buoyant and there are change rooms and summer shower available if you wish to take a swim.

Continuing on from the Pool of Siloam you will come to the road to Durants Lookout on your right. The Rivoli Bay and Beachport Lions Club members have built a raised platform on this site which overlooks the Scenic Drive and the town. This was named for the late Mr Doug Durant a long time resident of Beachport.

FURTHER INTEREST

Also of interest is the Lookout on the edge of Beachport adjacent to the Surf Beach car park. The late Mr Tom McCourt, a member of the Beachport and District Branch of the National Trust of SA Inc., erected this lookout overlooking the site of an explosion that killed two sea men. It was erected to honor the two men who were the first victims of enemy action on Australian soil during World War 2. In 1941 Lieut-Commander Greening, Able seaman TW Todd and WLE Danswan were sent to Beachport to dismantle a mine that had been found out at sea. Mr M Stehbens, (local fisherman) towed the mine back to Beachport to the foreshore near the foot of the jetty and it was decided that the mine should be taken a mile across the bay to be dismantled. A demolition charge was attached and connected by half a mile of cable to ensure everyone was a safe distance away sheltered by the sand dune. The charge did not go off as expected and the three seamen had returned to the beach and two of them were only a few feet away when the unexpected explosion occurred. The Lieut-Commander escaped injury, but the two able-seamen were beyond the need of medical aid when an ambulance from Millicent was on its way, 20 minute after the explosion. The mine was the third mine found along the South East Coast within six weeks. The explosion was heard at Rendelsham and the shock wave smashed windows in many of the buildings in Beachport. The 14th July 2011 was the 70th Anniversary of this incident. There is also a small display dedicated to this event in the Old Wool & Grain Store Museum on Railway Terrace.

MONUMENT TO FISHERMEN LOST AT SEA

The large granite monument in the car park was provided and put on site by Mr Ben Sutherland in memory of his father Leonard Bruce Sutherland, who was drowned in Rivoli Bay in 1937 when Ben was only 3 years of age. A fishing boat had broken away from its mooring and Mr Sutherland, who was an excellent swimmer, decided to swim out to the boat. He did not arrive at the boat and his body was never found.

This monument is also in memory of others from the Rivoli Bay area, who lost their lives at sea