



WESTERN PORT  
SEAGRASS PARTNERSHIP

## BASS HILLS TOUR

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Take this tour of the picturesque rolling hills of Bass River catchment, the source of Phillip Island's water and home of the giant Gippsland earthworms

Early settlement saw extensive timber harvesting and conversion to farmlands, notably for beef and dairy production. In the last decade replanting activities by the local Landcare network has made an important contribution to reducing the serious hill erosion problems and resultant sediment and nutrient loads being delivered to Western Port. Look out for the farmers markets on the way!

- 1 Lang Lang Foreshore and jetty and ghost shrimps in adjacent mud flats.
- 2 Giant Earthworm Exhibition
- 3 George Bass Coastal Walk
- 4 Explore the hills taking the smaller and slower roads.
- 5 Candowie Reservoir
- 6 Giant Gippsland Earthworm Habitat
- 7 Early Settler homesteads
- 8 Poowong – Home of the Dairy Expo





## Lang Lang District

Part of the Lang Lang area was first settled in 1839 by two settlers, Jamieson and Rawsort, who established a station which they named Yallock, and their homestead was near the Yallock creek. It is now a major cattle and asparagus producing area.

[More on Lang Lang District](#)

## Lang Lang Foreshore & Jetty

Lang Lang is believed to be derived from aboriginal word meaning “a group of trees”. The foreshore land was originally purchased by James Nelson in 1878.

The foreshore was developed to assist the settlement of French Island with the jetty being built in 1916 to service the Prison Farm Reformatory on French Island. After the second world war a number of boat houses were built by Melbourne holiday makers along with a low tide saltwater swimming pool. At that time the water in the pool was clean and clear, but in later years the huge losses of seagrasses left exposed mud banks and flats that turned the water very turbid and unsuitable for swimming. The foreshore still has a caravan park and boat houses, but the area is no longer the popular holiday destination it was in the 1950s.

Looking out across to French island at low tide, you will see vast areas of mudflats, once thick seagrass meadows and home for the King George whiting. As the tide comes in, see the ghost shrimps busily clearing their tunnels, creating mini explosions of mud everywhere.

## Krowera

Site of some wonderful homesteads and properties from the late 1800's including “Willowbank House” and “Balquhider”. Note the work done by local landcare to fence off streams and replant riparian vegetation.

## Nyora

Stop to look at the historic railway station.

## Loch

Loch was named after Sir Henry Brougham Loch, Governor of Victoria 1884-89 and was first settled as a sheep farming district. The town includes the historic farm house built in the early 1900's at 240 Loch-Kernot Rd, Loch.

## Poowong

Dairy expo – Visit this typical Bass Hills township in September and take in a real farming field day and expo, and see what local farmers and landcare groups are doing to preserve the land and waterways.

[More on Dairy Expo](#)

## Blackwood Forest

Stop at the roadside viewing areas and take in the magnificent terrain.

## Bass

A small, pretty town nestling on the Bass River. It was the third permanent settlement in Victoria and now services the needs of the local farming community and passing tourists. A memorial in the George Bass Park commemorates the visit by naval surgeon and explorer, George Bass, and his party of six who landed near Bass on 4 January, 1798, in search of fresh water after their voyage in an open whale boat which they rowed from Port Jackson in Sydney. Bass named the bay Westernport, the most westerly harbour he reached in the strait which was to later bear his name. Bass was born in Lincolnshire, England, on 30 January 1771, and disappeared in 1803 when sailing in the Venus to South America. Bass market operates every 3rd Saturday and there is a drive to the Bass River mouth. Visit the Giant Earthworm Museum at Wildlife Wonderland, Bass Highway, Bass Victoria 3991.

## George Bass Coastal Walk

This 7 km cliff top walk offers spectacular views of the coastline and follows the route of the explorer George Bass' epic voyage of discovery along the southern edge of the Anderson Peninsula, over 200 years ago.

[More on George Bass Coastal Walk](#)