



FOUNDATION EXPO '88

Progressing the World Expo '88 Vision

– A non-government not-for-profit entity celebrating Brisbane's World Expo '88 –

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Exposé!

*The people, personalities, and stars behind
Brisbane's World Expo '88
Edition 2007*

**Interview with
the Loch Ard Peacock,
of the Pavilion of Victoria,
Australia, at World Expo '88**
*with Assistance of Ms Elizabeth O'Callaghan, Chief
Researcher, Flagstaff Hill Maritime Village,
Warrnambool, Victoria, Australia*

John McGregor, Executive Director, speaks with Ms Elizabeth O'Callaghan, regarding the mysterious and serendipitous history of the famous Loch Ard Peacock, now at Flagstaff Hill Maritime Village, Warrnambool, Victoria, Australia.

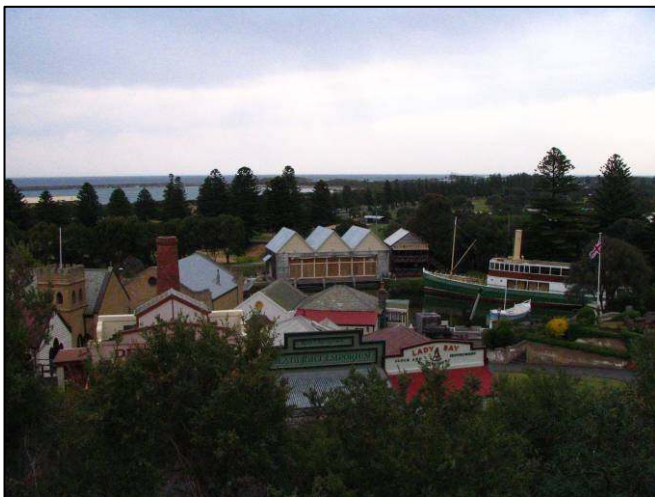


Image Top Right – The stunning entrance to the Flagstaff Hill Maritime Village at Warrnambool, Victoria, Australia.
Image Left – An overview of the Maritime Village – over 19 buildings feature – a re-creation of 19th Century Maritime Victoria.
Image Right – Attendants in period costume at the Village help create its wonderful 19th Century atmosphere.
Here Queen Victoria overlooks Executive Director John McGregor and attendants Jan, Monica, Judy.



The stunning Loch Ard Peacock in its new home at the Flagstaff Hill Maritime Village, part of a special corner on the Loch Ard disaster, possibly Victoria's greatest shipwreck.

Listen to the Interview
[35m:15s]

<http://www.foundationexpo88.org/expose/interviewwiththelochardpeacock.mp3>



Interview Conducted In Person
at Flagstaff Hill Maritime Village
Warrnambool

Tuesday 21 November 2006

Interviewer: John R McGregor
Executive Director
Foundation Expo '88

Interviewee: Ms Elizabeth O'Callaghan
Chief Researcher
Flagstaff Hill Maritime Village

Assisted by: Mr Les O'Callaghan
and
Ms Marcia McCarthy,
Deputy Manager
Flagstaff Hill Maritime Village
Warrnambool

With Special Thanks to

Village Staff Attendants Jan, Monica, Judy, and Bob, for their kind hospitality at the Village Church and Tea Rooms

Flagstaff Hill Maritime Village and the Warrnambool City Tourist Information Centre

V-Line Transport Victoria

Warrnambool City Council

flagstaffhill maritime village

Flagstaff Hill Maritime Village is a mere 3 ½ hours by train from Melbourne City's Southern Cross Railway Station, and lies at the end of the world famous Great Ocean Road, with the majestic Twelve Apostles land forms and cliffs.

Take a train for a day trip to and from Warrnambool; include the Great Ocean Road and Warrnambool in a group Day Tour from Melbourne; or spend a few days at leisure exploring the region, including visiting the famous Loch Ard Gorge where the Loch Ard floundered, staying at any of the many Backpacker to B & B (Bed & Breakfast Homestyle Accommodation), 3, 4, or 5-star Accommodation.

Make a visit to the Flagstaff Hill Maritime Village the start of your visit to the region, and don't also forget the spectacular Gravesend Multimedia Theatre, and the evening laser and projection waterwall show special 'Shipwrecked' – where the story of the Loch Ard takes centre stage.

The Flagstaff Hill Maritime Village also features an extensive gift shop, café/restaurant, and the Warrnambool City Tourist Information Centre, with every piece of information needed to plan your stay.

For further information, visit the Flagstaff Hill Maritime Village website at:

<http://www.flagstaffhill.com/>

Continue Viewing the Loch Ard Peacock Exposé Interview

NOTES ON THE LOCH ARD PEACOCK

... ..penned by the Executive Director whilst at Flagstaff Hill

‘Shipwrecks...Property of Owners, Insurers, Salvage Contractors.’

- Note from Flagstaff Hill Maritime Museum Display, Shipwrecks and the Law.

The Wreck of the Loch Ard, 1st June 1878

Gorge, with small sandy beach, with sharply indented precipitous cliffs

Several large island rocks stand out to sea

Loch Ard, clipper of 1623 tons burden

Built in Glasgow in 1873

Loch Line of Glasgow

Third Voyage to Australian waters, left London 1st March 1878

17 passengers, 8 of which from Irish Doctors family, the Carmichaels

Ship's company of 35

Friday May 31st, off Cape Otway, some haze, Otway Light was not visible

5am, haze lifted, cliffs were revealed.

Captain ordered sails set in, anchors at 50 fathoms, anchors dragged, ship crashed on rock near the Gorge.

Two survivors, Tom Pearce, and Eva Carmichael.

Three weeks after the disaster an enquiry was held, Tom Pearce gave evidence.

The ship's compasses were noted as part of the enquiry, however, did not receive a conclusive outcome.

Tom Pearce was awarded by His Excellency the Governor of Victoria, Sir Redmond Barry.

Loch Ard carried cargo at value of £ 53, 700, insured for £ 30,000.

Salvage work handled by Messrs. Howarth, Miller, and Matthews, of Geelong.

Salvage work was difficult and dangerous.

June 1, 1935, exhibition of the Minton Peacock, at the National Museum of Victoria.

Illustrated Australian News, 2nd July 1878.'

- *From 'Shipwrecks', by Margaret E. Mackenzie
Being the historical account of Shipwrecks Along the Victorian Coast from Cape
Otway to Port Fairy 1836-1914 (Third Edition), 1964,
The National Press Pty. Ltd., Melbourne.*

'100 pounds weight, 59 inches tall'

- The Loch Ard Peacock
(Pamphlet)

'June 3rd 1878 retrieved

"This Minton china peacock, is on loan from Miss Florence Miller, whose father, Mr James Miller, salvaged it from the wreck of the S.S. Loch Ard, in 1878."

Was in personal care of the Ship Master, Captain George Gibbs, hence not mentioned in the ship manifest.

Property of china manufacturing firm, Minton, Stoke-on-Trent.

Made for display by Minton at the First Great International Exhibition of Melbourne 1880.

Directors of Minton declared the work so valuable that it should not be part of the general cargo.

Came up for sale in 1937, after Miss Miller (of the salvage company) passed away.

Minton Potteries, Staffordshire, England.

Italian artist Paul Comolera

For the First Great International Exhibition of Melbourne 1880.

Minton has stated only two were made.

Comolera, Sculptor of Limoges.

Decoration is in Majolica style being hand painted in soft coloured glazes.

Comolera employed for three years. Five made.

Mr Miller purchased the wreck for salvage, and remained in his daughter's property until she passed away in 1937.

Village opened on 13 Sept, 1975, by Federal Member for Wannon, Mr Malcolm Fraser, and his wife.'

- *The Peacock from the Sea, by J.M. MacKenzie.
Published by Collett, Bain, and Gaspers.*

'Furness Withy and Company Limited (successors to the Loch Line).'

- *The Wreck of the Loch Ard, D.E. Charlwood.
End of a ship, End of an era
Angus & Robertson (1971)*

'In this area from Cape Otway to Cape Wickham, lies over 50 shipwrecks – sealers, convict transports, immigrant clippers, coastal traders.

Beset by competing ships to complete the London to Melbourne record to 60 days

Last passenger ship lost was the Loch Ard in 1878, coincidentally closing the passenger-carrying sailing ships on the Australian run, in face of competition from steam.

Lighthouse could not be established at Otway.

Discovery of Bass Strait considerably shortened sailing time to Sydney.

In 1975 the Minton Peacock was purchased for the Warrnambool Maritime Village for display. For seventy-seven years it was the property of the Miller Family.

June '35 (57th Ann) was displayed at the Melbourne Museum.

Five peacocks were made.

Another is displayed at the Peacock Hotel in Rowsley, Derbyshire.

- *'Wrecks and Reputations', by Don Charlwood.
The Loss of the Schömberg and the Loch Ard
Angus & Robertson Publishers (1977)*





The Loch Ard Peacock was a central feature of the Victoria Pavilion at Brisbane's World Expo '88 – standing in pride of place at the Pavilion's Exterior, in the midst of the Pavilion's blue-rail queue guide – and was viewed and enjoyed by millions of Expo '88 visitors for the six month duration of the Expo - over a century after its planned display at the Melbourne International Exhibition of 1880. It stands today as a symbol across time of beauty, resolve, and determination – and survivor of a great tragedy. May it continue to inspire! Copyright Foundation Expo '88 (1988-2006).

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