

Tooradin History

At the time of European arrival, Tooradin was inhabited by the Yallock Bulluk clan of the Bunurong people, part of the Kulin Nation. The area was rich in game and plant resources, carefully managed through regular burning to promote a sustainable "living larder," with plants like orchids, lilies, and myrrnong thriving.

In 1840, Frederick and Charles Manton took over the 16,000-acre Toorodan Run, which had previously been of interest to merchant Edwin Sawtell, who gave his name to Sawtell's Inlet. The town of Tooradin took its name from Manton's run, and the word means "swamp monster" or "Bunyip" in the Aboriginal language.

In the 1850s, Mickle, Bakewell, and Lyall expanded European settlement by acquiring additional land, creating the Western Port runs. William Lyall, a politician and member of the Acclimatisation Society, introduced exotic species like sambar deer and Scottish gorse to the area, some of which later became pests.

The village of Tooradin had its beginnings in the late 1860s as a depot for road construction material for the South Gippsland Highway. Early land sales took place in 1869 and in the 1870s the township took off after John Steer obtained a Beer Licence for his Bridge Inn.

A fleet of fishing boats were also based at the Tooradin and some of the earliest settlers were fishermen. Local Historian, David Mickle, lists George Casey as the first fisherman and settler, followed by Jimmy Miles and then in 1876 Henry and Elizabeth Kernot came over from Hastings, as well as Isabella Poole.

Isabella owned the Fishermans Cottage from 1910 to 1949. This building is now the home of the Cranbourne Shire Historical Society and is a museum. The Cottage is one of the few remaining examples of the fishermen's houses that originally dotted Sawtell's Inlet in the nineteenth century and early twentieth century. The last of the professional fishermen, Henry Kernot and Arthur Johnstone (whose mother was a Kernot), surrendered their licence in 1999.

Tooradin attracted not only the professional fisherman but the sports fisherman as well and Tooradin is still a home to recreational boating. The fishing, plus quail shooting on Quail Island, deer shooting, cycling club and other typical pursuits of the time gave Tooradin a reputation as a 'Sportsman's Paradise'.



Tooradin Foreshore Committee

PO Box 246 Tooradin VIC 3980

tooradinforeshorecommittee@gmail.com

tooradinforeshore.com.au



Tooradin Foreshore & Boat ramp Newsboard

Cranbourne Shire Historical Society



Cranbourne Shire Historical Society

The museum is located in a Fishermen's Cottage which is a rare surviving example built in the 1870's. There is also one teacher school and a machinery shed on its grounds.

PO Box 114 Tooradin VIC 3980



Lions Club of Tooradin and District

PO Box 239 Tooradin VIC 3980

0448 220 019



Tooradin Foreshore Committee proudly acknowledges the Bunurong people of the Kulin nation the traditional owners of this land, and their rich culture and pays respect to their Elders past, present and future.

Tooradin Historical Walk



Cranbourne Shire Historical Society



The Lions Club of Tooradin & District





Signs

1. Fishermen and their boats
2. Low Tide jetty
3. Beacon Light and Camping ground
4. Gartside's Ramp
5. Jetty and Shed
6. Tooradin Garage
7. Tooradin Bridge and Floodgates
8. Sawtell's Inlet
9. Tooradin Hotel
10. Original Post Office and General Store
11. Tooradin Mechanics Institute and Library
12. Tooradin State Primary School No 1503
13. Tooradin Swimming Baths
14. How Tooradin got its name
15. Milk Bar, Petrol and Store
16. Tooradin Waterhole
- A. Fishermen's Cottage Museum
- B. Casey Wetland walk



- Road
- Bridge
- Path
- Water
- Land

