



HMAS Castlemaine

silt from dredging of the Coode Canal (see page 69).

The name of Gem Pier comes from a long-serving steam ferry which plied the route to Port Melbourne after 1868. The original pier here was completed in 1847. It is now the home of the World War 2 corvette HMAS *Castlemaine*, which has been restored and is open as a museum at weekends.

Some historic relics are displayed along the foreshore – guns and anchors from the colony of Victoria’s first battleship HMVS *Nelson* (see page 85), and the housing of the tide gauge which was once located on Breakwater Pier. The elegant former Customs House, on the corner of Syme Street was built in 1872–73 and is on the Victorian Heritage Register.



Tide gauge housing

The Strand

One of the oldest houses on The Strand, Mandalay at Number 24, was probably built before the street itself, because it originally faced south towards the town. Mandalay is on the Victorian Heritage Register. Dorothy Blanchard, the daughter of a Port Phillip ship pilot, lived at Mandalay in her youth. She left for America in 1923 where she performed on the stage and later married Oscar Hammerstein II, the lyricist for shows like *Oklahoma!* and *The Sound of Music*. The Strand was constructed right on the shoreline, and the present foreshore reserve is on reclaimed land.

Opposite Clark Street there are remnants of a swimming pool from the 1930s in the form of basalt boulder embankments.



Former Customs House

Greenwich Bay and Newport Power Station

The land behind Greenwich Bay has been created from dredged spoil and coal dust and ash from the former Newport Power Station. The Friends of Greenwich Bay work to establish indigenous vegetation here.

The first Newport Power Station, completed in 1918, was initially fuelled by coal from Wonthaggi and later by ‘briquettes’ made from Latrobe Valley brown coal. It produced electricity for the Melbourne railway system. A reminder of the old power



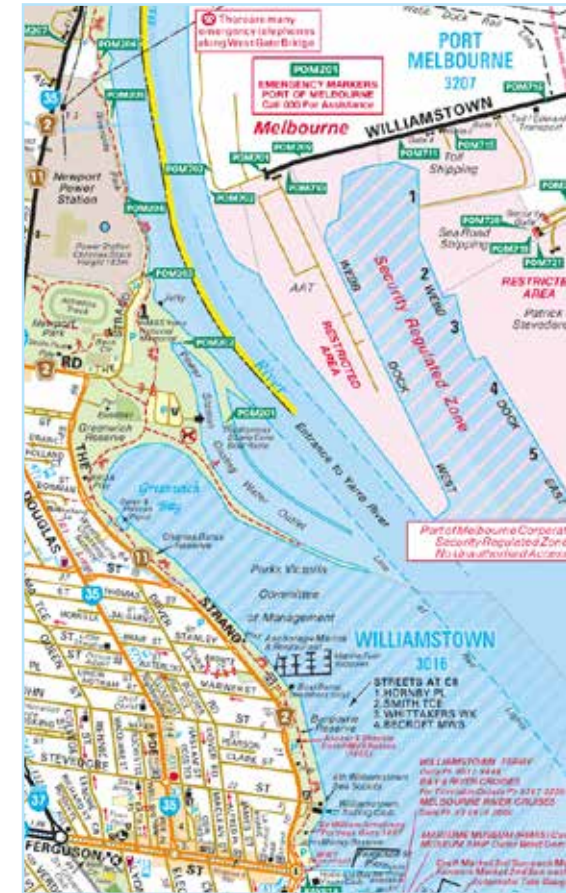
Mandalay

station is the gatehouse at the northern end of The Strand.

The proposal for a new gas-fired power station created an environmental controversy in the 1970s, and eventually the planned size of the power station was halved. The plant has a licence to discharge cooling water which may contain pollutants including chlorine, ammonia and iron into the sea. Good catches lure amateur fishers to the warm water outlet from the power station, called ‘The Warmies’.



Gatehouse of former Newport Power Station



Former swimming pool, Williamstown