



Celebrate SUMMER on the Prom Coast

Venus Bay

Venus Bay is all about classic Aussie summer vibes. The pristine and popular Beach Number 1 is patrolled by lifesavers every weekend between December and April, and if you're hanging out near the flags you can catch a wave, go for a dip-in, play a game of cricket, forage for pipis, cast a line into the surf, or lie on the sand and watch the rollers crash with peace of mind. The Surf Lifesaving Club also hosts the Venus Bay Marketta Festival on 2 January from 5pm till late, featuring a bar, food trucks, and market stalls – the perfect summer evening celebration. Art lovers can visit the blue Art Cube in the Venus Bay Community Centre's front garden and there's also a great op shop at the Community Centre to browse through.

Prom Coast News outlet: Venus Bay General Store, 135-139 Jupiter Blvd, Venus Bay



Tarwin Lower

Lovely little Tarwin Lower blends laid-back country charm with plenty of summer fun. Browse the Tarwin Lower Mechanics Institute Summer Market on Monday 29 December, featuring food, plants, clothing, crafts, books, music and more set around the hall's grassy grounds. The hall also screens films, with Living Is Easy with Eyes Closed (Spanish Drama) showing on 16 January. The Riverview Hotel offers a lovely deck for outdoor meals and hosts cracking gigs, including the legendary Cosmic Psychos on 31 January. Browse the local art at Thirsty Work Studio, pick up farm-fresh produce at Flock Stock and Basil's farmgate, or try your hand at frisbee golf at Shark Park. And if you need to wind down, why not cast a line from one of the peaceful fishing platforms dotting the riverbank, or go for a walk to the marvellous Bald Hills wetlands bird hide, where a plethora of gorgeous waterbirds await discovery.

Prom Coast News outlet: IGA Tarwin Lower, 41-43 River Drive, Tarwin Lower



Koonwarra

Tiny but mighty Koonwarra is a charming Prom Coast outpost. The monthly Farmers Market on Saturday 3 January from 8:30am to 12:30pm showcases the best of local produce, operated by an independent not-for-profit association of farmers, growers, and food makers – perfect for stocking up on fresh, seasonal ingredients. Fuel your day at the local cafe before hitting the rail trail, which offers a gentle cycling, walking and horseriding path through beautiful Gippsland countryside towards Meeniyar or Leongatha.



Waratah Bay

Sleepy Waratah Bay wakes up in summer: the holiday houses are packed and the caravan park is chockers. But you don't have to go far to get away from it all. Walk along the beach towards Walkerville and you'll soon feel like you're on your own in the world, with rugged coastline stretching before you and gorgeous bush on one side and ocean on the other. Head up the hill to immerse yourself in the forest, wandering trails that lead to hidden waterfalls. Back at the beach, take a dip, or try your hand at windsurfing. Don't forget to treat yourself to an ice cream from the caravan park shop!

Walkerville(s)

It's no longer a secret that Walkerville South is home to one of Victoria's most magical beaches, but that doesn't make it any less gorgeous! You can launch your boat from the ramp at Walkerville South, enjoy a swim, explore the rockpools and caves, or snorkel in the crystal-clear waters off Bird Rock. After your adventures, head to the Walky Kiosk for their famous (and delicious) burgers. For bushwalkers, the quick walk to the lighthouse at Cape Liptrap offers stunning coastal panoramas, while the trek up the hill from the back of Walky North Caravan Park leads to a lookout with breathtaking views of Wilsons Promontory. Don't miss Bear Gully for koala spotting – these grumpy marsupials can often be seen dozing in the gum trees around the campground. And if you're around on a Friday evening, drop in on the Walky CFA. They're holding their regular Friday night Summer Open Station dinners, where you can expect to catch up with plenty of locals and holiday makers. Bring a plate!

Prom Coast News outlet: Walkerville Kiosk, 3 Loop Road, Walkerville North

Meeniyar

Meeniyar is brimming with art, music, and exceptional food. The Summer Makers Market on 4 January at the hall showcases local artisans, while Lyrebird Arts brings quality gigs to the historic venue throughout summer. (lyrebirdartscouncil.com.au) Browse the renowned Meeniyar Art Gallery, then feast on wood-fired pizza at Trulli or Cambodian cuisine at award-winning Mahob at Moos. Or poke around the many lovely shops (books, jewels, treasures and clothes!), before grabbing provisions from the bakery and hiring an e-bike to explore the Great Southern Rail Trail – don't forget to stop at the bird hide on the way to Stony Creek and see if you can spot a rarity!

Prom Coast News outlet: IGA Meeniyar, 100-102 Whitelaw St, Meeniyar



Fish Creek

Fish Creek is the Prom Coast's arty heart. Check out Alison Lester Gallery, Ride the Wild Goat, Fishy Image Photography, and The Handmakers' Store in town, then venture up the hills to discover Stefani Hilltop Gallery and Celia Rosser's stunning botanical art. Sharpen your art history skills with a special presentation on 12 Jan by John Toss from the NGV's 'Know Your Art' Tours (full details p16). And don't miss the famous January op shop sale at the hall, supporting local groups including the school and kindergarten. The Fish Creek Summer Produce Market runs every Saturday at 9am at the tennis courts and you can also feast at the fabulous new French cafe Pain Perdu or beloved favourites Long John Pickle's and Little Oberon. Fishy pub's beer garden is another great place for a drink, especially if you're freshly returned from climbing up to Fish Creek's Mount Nicoll lookout for spectacular Prom views. And pencil in 17 January for the fab Goorumbroo Music Festival – full details p23.

Prom Coast News outlets: Fish Creek General Store, 21 Falls Road / Evans Petroleum, 2 Falls Rd.



Stony Creek

It's a racy place, Stony Creek! Get your adrenaline pumping at the famous Stony Creek horse races on 30 December and 18 January, which bring the community together for thrilling racing action, and genuine country hospitality. (More details on p17). You can also get your heart racing at the go-kart track, where speed enthusiasts of all ages can test their skills on the circuit. For those who prefer a slower, if no less tense pace, enjoy a round at the scenic Meeniyar Golf Club.

Yanakie

Don't sleep on little Yanakie – there are a bunch of great things to do, including a performance from master whip-cracker Nathan 'Whippy' Griggs, who is appearing live at the Yanakie Hall on 25 January at 5pm, alongside a BBQ and live music. Go boating, fishing, kayaking or all three from the boat ramp, or if that's not your scene, the scenic Duck Point walk also sets out from the boat ramp, with the Prom looming large on the horizon while shorebirds dance across the mudflats. And after all that hard work, head to Yanakie General Store for delicious fish and chips.

Prom Coast News outlet: Yanakie General Store, 3640 Meeniyar-Promontory Rd, Yanakie

Sandy Point

If you want to be at the centre of the action, Sandy Point is the place to be this summer. The season kicks off with the Sandcastle Competition on 28 December, continues with the Current Cruiser Swim on 1 January, and the Foodies and Artisans Market on 3 January (full details p37). Conservation meets fun with the Koala event on 10 January (more details p22). Spend a peaceful afternoon checking out the beautiful landscapes at the Sandy Point Art Gallery then ramp it up on 17 January, when Sandy Point Music presents the Foxy Junes' high energy funk pop tunes for your dancing and listening pleasure. Or simply go for a swim, surf or fish on the gorgeous beaches.

Prom Coast News outlet: Sandy Point General Store, 107 Beach Parade, Sandy Point



Welshpool and Port Welshpool

Sitting at the edge of the Prom Coast, historic Welshpool and Port Welshpool are our secret treasures, brimming with character and energy. Grab a coffee, browse second hand treasures and art and say hello at the friendly Welshpool Hotel Motel, then head down the road to Port Welshpool. Here, you can cast a line from the famously long jetty, and explore the village's rich maritime history at Port Welshpool Maritime Museum. The Rusty Gunard pub delivers live music and excellent food (apprentice chef Jesse Payne has just been accepted into a prestigious mentoring program), and the Port Welshpool General Store has outstanding fish and chips and inventive and delicious hot dogs and burgers. Don't miss the Sea Days Festival on 3-4 January at The Old Ferry Terminal on Lewis Street. Now in its 22nd year, this family-focused celebration features activities and displays for all ages, showcasing the best of this historic fishing village's maritime heritage and community spirit.

Prom Coast News outlets: Port Welshpool General Store, 93 Lewis Street / Welshpool Supermarket, 18 Main Street, Welshpool.



The Prom

Our beloved Wilsons Promontory offers something for every nature lover, from pristine beaches to scenic mountain walks – but these are *Prom Coast News's* fave (and often less crowded) spots. Explore the northern reaches of the park with a climb up Mt Vereker for glorious views, or head to Darby River where kids can play in the sand dunes, kayak the tranquil waters or catch waves. As the sun sets, grab a cold drink from the Tidal River store and settle in to watch the rays paint the sky over Norman Bay, then end your day the perfect way: with a movie and a homemade choctop at the Prom Open Air Cinema. And if you've ever wanted to know why Whale Rock is the way it is, get along to one of the Prom Coast Ecolink's Tidal River Geology Walks on 8 and 15 January (more details p24).

Toora

Tarry a while in Toora, and you'll uncover a wealth of hidden treasures and natural wonders. Wander through the historic Pear Orchard, dig through The Pantom Store for beautiful homewares, check out the art at Red Earth Gallery, visit the Art Cube at Sagasser Park and grab a roll at the deli or cafe to fuel your wanderings. The public swimming pool near the school often hosts special days with giant pool length inflatables set up for kids – don't forget to bring a snag for the BBQ and keep an eye on the Toora pool Facebook for dates. And while the pub remains closed for now, cool drinks can be discovered at the RSL and Bowling Club. Up in the hills, nature lovers will be enchanted by Agnes Falls' cool green rainforest and enormous waterfall, while down at the water, the bird hide is a peaceful place to spot migratory waders. Towering over the Toora, the wind farm offers spectacular views over the Prom as the turbines spin against the sky.

Prom Coast News outlet: Toora Foodworks, 66 Stanley Street, Toora



Foster

Foster is the Prom Coast's bustling heart, where country charm meets community spirit – and there's heaps happening in town over summer. Art lovers shouldn't miss Stockyard Gallery's January exhibition, featuring Jacqueline Christians' coastal landscapes and Dina Goebel's marine resin sculptures. Find a great book (or 50) at the fabulous Foster Library Book Sale on 9-10 January. The Prom Country Farmers Market on 17 January (8am-12pm at FWMAC Hall) is celebrating almost 20 years of connecting customers directly with local growers and makers. The Prom Produce and Craft Market on 28 December and 25 January brings over 200 stalls to the Foster Showground oval, and is run by Foster Rotary and Toora Lions. Outside of markets, you can explore the fascinating Foster Historical Museum (on weekends), cool off at the lovely swimming pool nestled by the golf club, browse the shops or take a drink at the many cafes or the pub. Get your blood pumping by mountain biking on Foster's great bushland paths, enjoy a round of golf with a delicious meal at Ram's to follow, or take a Pilates class at Prom Health's new gym.

Prom Coast News outlet: Foster IGA, 58 Main Street / Foodworks Foster, 27 Main Street / Evans Petroleum, 94 Main Street, Foster



Port Franklin

Peaceful Port Franklin is still a busy fishing village – and you can get a taste of the action at the wharf on Friday morning, when whole fish fresh off the boat is available. While you're there, admire the boats bobbing gently in their moorings, then wander through the nearby wetlands where tracks and boardwalks wind through the samphire studded mudflats.

- PUB
- ART GALLERY
- OP SHOP
- MARKET