Welcome to Churchill Island Heritage Farm

We hope you enjoy the tranquillity and history of this special island. First used by Indigenous people, the island later became the first farmed site in Victoria.

Daily activities
• 1.00pm – 1.45pm
  Wagon rides* (school & public holidays only)
• 2.10pm
  Cow milking
• 2.30pm
  Sheep Shearing
• 2.45pm
  Whip cracking
• 3.05pm
  Working dogs
• 3.20pm
  Sheep Shearing

All day activities
• Animal nursery
• Wallaby viewing
• Gift shopping
• Café open from 10.00am – 4.30pm

Please call (03) 5956 7214 for more details or check out www.penguins.org.au

Help the environment – Please return map to front desk if you don’t want to keep it.
Old Moonahs
The gnarled trees with trunks that look like twisted rope are Moonahs. Many of the trees are ancient - the oldest Moonahs could be at least 500 years old.

Making amends
A lot of woodland on Churchill Island has been cleared for farming. We are now trying to bring it back to how it was before settlement.

In an amazing effort, rangers have removed nearly all rabbits from this end of the island! Extensive replanting of Moonahs, she-oaks and boobialla has also been completed.

Grant's monument
In 1801, Lt. James Grant landed on Churchill Island and planted the first crops in Victoria. He also raised a blockhouse measuring 24 x 12 ft. Lt. Grant wrote in his journal “I scarcely know a place I would rather call mine than this little island.” Today the exact site of Grant’s blockhouse garden remains a mystery.

Before the bridge
Imagine driving cattle across the mudflats at low tide or waiting until high tide to float your luggage over on a barge. That’s how it was up until 1959 when Dr Harry Jenkins built the first timber bridge. The current bridge was completed in 2000.

North Point
The northern most point of Churchill Island is a good place to see bird life, especially at low tide when the mudflats are revealed. Look out for the royal spoonbills, pied oyster catchers, ibis, gulls, herons and cormorants moving over shallow waters and mudflats. Looking north on a clear day you can make out Tortoise Head, French Island and the refineries at Hastings.

Observation Point
From the observation deck you can see a range of waders and seabirds, either on the mudflats, floating offshore or overhead. That strange whistle above you could be a pair of whistling kites gliding with the aid of the breeze. These agile birds of prey nest high in the trees in the spring.

Basalt bedrock
Take a moment to look at the 50 million year old basalt rocks which are the foundation stones of Churchill Island. Churchill Island was originally part of Phillip Island before a sea level rise some 10–15,000 years ago severed the land link.

Mangroves and mudflats
The extensive mudflats of Western Port are an important breeding and feeding ground for fish and birds. These mangroves are the smallest and southern-most variety in Australia. There is little oxygen in the dense mud, so the roots stick up to help the tree ‘breathe air’ - like a snorkel!

Before Bass
Before European settlement, Indigenous people visited Phillip Island. These mudflats provided great tucker (food) like flounder, shark and oysters.