

GEEVESTON

The Forest and Heritage Centre in the timber town of Geeveston is a must for all travellers. Purchase your Airwalk tickets here and receive expert advice on the many local attractions. Ask about the Platypus Walk, the Kermandie Falls Walk, the Big Tree, the many picnic spots and admire the intriguing wooden sculptures in the main street. Receive detailed maps and brochures on all that the Huon Valley has to offer. Walk upstairs and inspect the priceless Vin Smith collection of wood working machines.

Be sure to check out the eclectic collection of shops in the main street, including a well stocked supermarket.

SHIPWRIGHTS POINT REGATTA GROUND

The popular annual Huon Regatta was held here almost continuously from the 1850's until the 1970's. Held on New Years day it was the highlight of the year, with up to 6,000 visitors arriving by steamers from Hobart, family schooners, horse drawn vehicles and many on foot. Refreshment stalls were set up as spectators cheered on their favourites in the rowing, sailing, and swimming races plus diving, and chopping events.

In later years a large fairground was also an added attraction. The river was the main highway for years and the original Shipwrights Point boasted two large jetties, a jam factory, a hotel, a Post Office, church and cemetery, a large store and butchery, a ladies hostel, and a busy shipbuilding industry. Sadly there is not much to see nowadays of this once thriving community.

ELEVATED RIVER VIEWS

Look for dolphins and seals



- Expansive grassed area
- Choose your own spot
- Historic Huon Regatta Ground at the junction of the mighty Huon and Kermandie Rivers.



SHIPWRIGHTS POINT REGATTA GROUND

*Camping at its most enjoyable
Ideal place to relax*

- Incredible river views
- Great fishing spots
- Elevated camp sites
- Wonderful fenced kiddies playground
- Boat launching ramp
- Public jetty
- BBQ and picnic shelters
- Toilets
- Potable water
- Dump point
- Camping fees of \$10.00 per night collected in the evening

Location:

PORT HUON

56 km south of Hobart
16.9 km south of Huonville
9.8 km south of historic Franklin

GPS Location:

43 09 29 S
146 58 47 E

ATTRactions

Shipwrights Point is the ideal base to pitch your tent or park your caravan and go off on exciting day trips to explore the Huon Valley.

Take your time to visit the famous Tahune Airwalk, Hartz Mountain National Park, the Hastings Caves and Thermal Springs, the Ida Bay Railway, the Lunaris Gemstone Shop and gem fields at Lune River and Coal Hill, then travel on to Cockle Creek via the southern most road in Australia.

At Shipwrights Point you can catch your own supper while the children play in the magnificent playground. Local fish caught are flathead, cod, bream and for those lucky anglers, Atlantic salmon. No licence required.

As you explore the boat ramp and public jetty take a look north up the Huon River and you will see Sleeping Beauty in all her majesty in the distance. She has been guarding the Huon valley for millions of years, sometimes with a touch of snow on her nose. Looking south down the river the large hill in the distance was named Tongatabu, by the early French explorers who rowed their ships boats past this point on the morning of the 12 February 1793.

In the centre of the roundabout are two memorials. One is to the outstanding pioneering orchardist Hedley Calvert and the other to three pioneering shipbuilders who set up their shipyards 500 metres north of this site in 1842.



Close yacht racing on the Huon River

To the west it is possible on a clear day to sight Mount Snowy and Hartz Mountain. These two peaks are often covered in snow during the colder winter months.

Take time to explore the area and walk over past the Huon Yacht Club Slipway. The fish factory does not sell any fish and there are no apples in the large cool store anymore, but over thirty years ago the Port Huon wharf was a hive of industry every apple picking season. Large ships would berth each side of the wharf and dozens of trucks would be lined up far down the road as they delivered the famous Huon Valley apples for export direct to London.

Walk on past the wharf and discover Hospital Bay. Hospital Bay was supposedly named when an immigrant ship mistakenly sailed up the Huon River thinking it was the Derwent. Because many of the female passengers were ill, a tented hospital was set up on the shore for a

few weeks while the ladies recovered after their long passage from the home country. It is rumoured that local timber gatherers and wood splitters enticed some of the ladies to stay behind when the ship finally left for Hobart Town

The red roofed Hartz View house was built by Osborne Geeves in 1890. Opposite the house are two interpretive signs which give some of the local history of the area. In 1882 Osborne Geeves built his own wharf here so his brigantine Rachel Cohen could trade to the mainland and New Zealand ports.

On the south side of Hospital Bay is Whale Point, the site of previous timber mills, a Pulp Mill and export wharf and the site of an experimental paper mill between 1928 and 1932, where paper was first manufactured from hardwood eucalyptus trees.

Be sure to visit the Trading Post which doubles as a Cafe, Post Office, and Convenience Store. The coffee and food served here is famous throughout the Huon Valley and visitors marvel at the home made cooking, particularly the Scallop pies.

Further down the road is the Kermandie Hotel and Marina. This expanding marina and rejuvenated hotel is a favourite with locals and visitors alike. The hotels top chef continuously changes the excellent menu to suit all tastes. The big blue shed opposite the hotel is the Port Huon Sports and Aquatic Centre boasting showers, a weight room and an indoor heated swimming pool and sauna.