

Albany Port.

First Jetty completed 1838.

Town Jetty completed in 1864 at a cost of 800 pounds.

September 11th 1908 16 battleships of The Great White fleet sailed into KGS.

Albany was the mail port of WA. Mail was transported to Perth overland.

First section of land back wharf commissioned 1962.

Albany Port handled 2.85 million tonnes of produce in 2004.

1st World War.

4/08/1914 Britain declares war on Germany.

43 vessels including 5 naval escort vessels (1 Chinese, 1 Japanese, 1 Australian & 2 New Zealand) arrived in Albany between Oct 24th & 28th

30000 men & 7477 horses left KGS Sunday 1st November 1914. 1st vessel sets sail @ 5.45am, last vessel rounds Bald Head 10.00am.

A second convoy was to leave KGS on 31st December 1914 comprising 16 vessels.

2nd World War.

31 US submarines visit KGS.

June 1942 Frenchman Bay used for tests to assess depth settings of American Mark XIV torpedoes. Found to be travelling 3.35 metres too low. August 1943 anti-torpedo nets placed across channel entrance.

1942-43 Sigint monitoring station built on the outskirts of Albany, enabling allied forces to listen in to enemy radio traffic.



Dive the Perth.

The vessel formally known as the HMAS Perth was scuttled in 37 metres of water on November 24th 2001, after arriving in Albany Boxing Day 1999. She was built in America in the early sixties and was sent straight to serve with the 7th fleet off Vietnam. Where she became the only Australian Naval vessel in be hit by enemy fire since the Second World War, when hit by an Russian anti-tank missile. The Perth is the largest prepared dive wreck in the Southern Hemisphere.

Southern Right and Humpback Whales of Albany's Coast.

The last recorded right whale catch was in 1866 and by 1900 it was thought that the southern right whale was virtually extinct. Humpback whales became protected in 1963 after the IWC finally realised that Humpbacks had become practically extinct. In 1955 the first recorded sighting of a southern right whale cow and calf in Western Australian waters in the 20th century, was made near Albany. Fortunately, southern right and humpback whales now visit our shores in ever increasing numbers, between June and October. Humpbacks are just visiting on there way north, and may be in King George Sound for just a day while on their journey. Humpbacks will mate and give birth off the north west coast. On the other hand southern rights whales will spend weeks mating or tending there newly born calves, at times just metres from the shore and swimming under the Silver Star. Both whales are baleen whales and feed almost exclusively on krill, a Norwegian word meaning tiny shrimp. In one day a whale may take in several tonne of krill, while in the feeding grounds close to Antarctica. After only a few months feeding the whales begin the long migration north to warmer waters, living on food reserves stored as blubber. They may not feed for up to 8 months. Both whales have a gestation period presumed to be 11 months and calves are weaned after a further 11 months. Cows will mate every 3 years after becoming sexually active at 10 years of age. Individuals are presumed to live to 50 years of age.



Humpbacks.

Length
Male 14 to 17 metres
Female 15 to 19 metres
Weight adult
30 to 45 tonnes
Speed 8kph



Southern Rights.

Length
Adults 15 to 18 metres
Weight adult
50 to 80 tonnes
Speed 4 kph

"THINK WHALES, THINK ALBANY"

AN IN-SIGHT INTO ALBANY'S HISTORY

The South West Coast of New Holland

Claimed by George Vancouver aboard the vessel "Discovery" on 29th September 1791 (Michaelmas Day) on route to Canada. Vancouver named King George Sound (KGS), which covers an area of about 100 square km. *Sound being a Middle English word – a deep inlet from the sea.* Also naming Princess Royal Harbour after Princess Charlotte Augustus Matilda whose birthday fell on Sept 29th, a further 12 sites were named including Oyster Harbour, Michaelmas and Breaksea Islands in the months Vancouver stayed in the area. Vancouver claimed the west of New Holland for the British Empire at age 34, but died just short of his 41st birthday in 1798 after his return to England. His voyage had taken over 4 years to complete.



Captain George Vancouver.

Vancouver sailed under Captain James Cook as midshipman for seven years. Fought hand-to-hand for his own life in the ship's battle, in shallows off the beach in Hawaii on that fateful Friday, February 13th 1779. Cook was caught ashore the next day by a maddened mob, slaughtered and dismembered.

Commander Mathew Flinders.

Mathew Flinders anchored his 20 gun sloop "Investigator" off Seal Island in KGS at 2330 hours on December 8th 1801 while circumnavigating and mapping New Holland, which he later renamed Australia.

Fredrick's Town Settled. (later to be renamed Albany)

Major Lockyer arrived on 25th December 1826 aboard "Brig Amity" and landed Boxing Day. Major Lockyer commanded 1 army captain, 18 rank and file, 23 convict workers, 1 surgeon and 1 youth, making Albany West Australia's first settlement. *The Swan River Colony (later to be named Perth) was settled on June 8th 1828 (some 18 months after Albany). Captain Sterling ran the vessel "Parmelia" aground after taking command on the morning of June 1st while sailing from Rottneest Island.*

Quarantine Station.

Colonial Secretary in Perth, soon to be Lt Governor of British Honduras, Fredrick P Barlee, was quarantined on Mistaken Island in 1873 for two weeks in bleak weather. After his release funds were made available for quarantine station to be built in Albany. Decommissioned in 1956.

Lighthouse.

Point King and Breaksea Island lighthouses became operational from 1st January 1858. Samuel Mitchell and his wife manned Point King lighthouse for 36 years and raised 9 children in that time, while Breaksea Island light was automated in 1956.

Albany Forts.

Albany Forts commissioned into service in 1893 and decommissioned in 1956, never firing any shots in anger.

Middleton Beach.

Named after Captain Middleton while he was in command of the vessel "James Patterson" which was anchored off the beach for 2 months due to weather conditions in 1834.

Emu Point.

Named in 1815 after the vessel "Emu" called at Emu Point and replenished water supplies while on route from Sydney to UK.



Whaling.

American un-named whaler touched south coast of WA in 1789.

First recording of southern right whales to be taken in King George Sound was by 2 English vessels owned by "Daniel Bennett & Co", London, one of the most important of the British whaling firms, on 14th August 1800. Catching two whales just off Middleton Beach. *Yielding 90 tonnes of oil.*

The "Whaling Company of Albany" (owned by Norwegians) starts operating from Frenchman Bay in 1912. Their license was revoked by the Australian Government with the out-break of the 1st World War. "Cheynes Beach Whaling Co" formed in 1949 & moved west to present location in 1952. Employing up to 100 people "Cheynes Beach Whaling" caught and processed 1136 Humpbacks & 14695 Sperm whales taken in the years between 1952 and 1978. Whale oil was the finest oil known to man and used in products, such as Swiss watches & by NASA. "Cheynes Beach Whaling" the last land based whaling operation in the Southern Hemisphere ceased operation on 21st November 1978. Whale-world opened in 1982 and now has approx 70,000 visitors per year.



"Oh it had to end, there was too much emotion. We had simply come to an end of an age."

(Captain Chess Stubbs, Skipper Cheynes 11)

