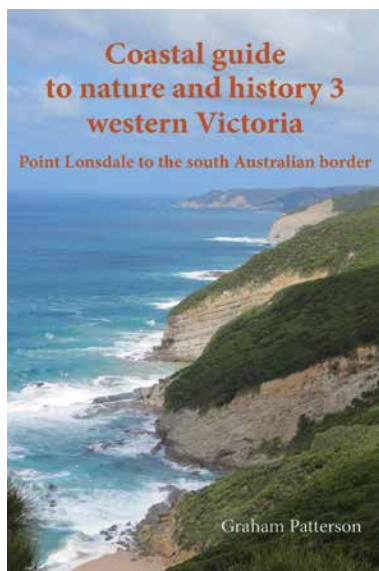


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## Coastal Guide to Nature and History 3: Western Victoria, Point Lonsdale to the South Australian Border

**By Graham Patterson**

Coastal Guide Books

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Paperback, 186 pages

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*Reviewed by Jack T. Norris, University of Melbourne*

This third volume of Graham Patterson's coastal guides of Victoria, carrying on from his previous guides of Port Phillip Bay and Western Port, focuses on western Victoria, from Point Lonsdale to the South Australian border. This colourful, informative and concise book explores some of the most iconic locations along Australia's coastline, covering all aspects of its natural and human history. Within this scope, the book covers a wide range of topics, from the history of coastal towns to fossils and rocky apostles, ancient rock shelters, sites of frontier violence, shipwrecks and 40,000-year-old lava flows.

The book is broken into several sections. The first two introductory chapters explore the coastline from the point of view of walkers, as well as a neat overview of the history of this coastline from its First Nations history to European settlement. The next four chapters explore the coastline as geographical sections, such as the Otways Coast (Lorne to Princetown) and the Shipwreck Coast (Princetown to Port Fairy). The next section consists of a detailed visual dictionary of coastal animals and plants of the region, a chapter on coastal landforms and one on estuaries and coastal management.

This book would be valuable to teachers who want to bring landscape and environmental histories into their teaching of Australian history. It would also be a great asset to teachers at schools along this coastline, enabling them to draw on local history in their teachings. The incorporation

of localised history can also be applied to Patterson's other two books on Port Phillip and Western Port for teachers within those areas. The guidebook style also helps teachers who want to use any locations along this coastline for excursions. The book would also be a valuable resource for teaching other disciplines such as Geography, Environmental Science and Biology.

I found the chapter on coastal landforms a highly beneficial guide and summary for geological terms and time frames. This would serve as a useful aid when covering Australian ancient and deep time histories, as it provides accessible definitions and summaries on geological chronological terms. For example, the terms 'Pleistocene' and 'Holocene' epochs are chronological terms often seen in use for Australian archaeology and ancient history, but are not necessarily understood by non-specialists.

The book also has some great maps and illustrations, such as the reproduced map of Point Lonsdale's coastline during the mid-Holocene (p.9) or, more appropriately for this period, 'Lonsdale Island' and 'Lagoon'! Some First Nations maps would have been a useful aid for teachers and students looking into the Indigenous histories of the region.

This qualm aside, I would enthusiastically recommend this book to any teacher or student who is interested in exploring the history and nature of Victoria's western coastlines.