

# Grantville Today

Certain towns have an importance not necessarily reflected in their size, and during its 19th and early 20th century zenith, Grantville was such a place. Timber was the first driver of growth (see elsewhere on this site for further information) but location was critical in its survival. A nearby creek provided fresh water and the town lay on an important crossroad: the future Bass Highway to Bass and Kilcunda and, in the opposite direction, to Lang Lang and Cranbourne, and road south-east to Almurta and Glen Alvie. Being on the water's edge, a pier connected it to other places in Western Port Bay, especially Hastings and its railway to Melbourne. Except for a short-lived extension to Bass, Grantville was also the terminus for the coach service. Unlike its smaller rival, Queensferry, which disappeared from history, Grantville withered in the 1920s but refused to die and today its population is close to 1,000 permanent residents. True, it has lost its service station and drive-in; however, it has gained a bakery, cafe, a bank (for the first time in a century) and, alas, three sets of traffic lights.



An aerial view of central Grantville. Pier, boat ramp and caravan park on the left, the town hall at the top with the historic cemetery a little further along but not visible, and commerce (hairdresser, cafe, bank, hardware store and other businesses) either side of the Bass Highway.



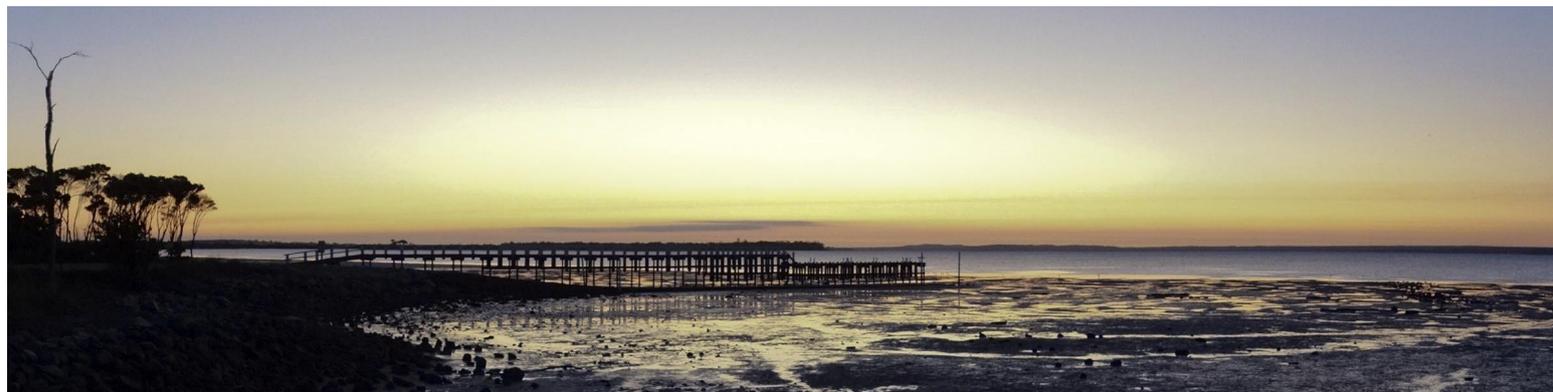
The remnants of a jetty on the beach at the Deep Creek section of Grantville. In the 19th and early 20th century, coastal shipping provided a vital service in moving goods and material about the bay and further afield. The Nyora to Wonthaggi rail line dealt this bay trade a mortal blow and the increasing introduction of the automobile and improved roads killed what remained. The bay trade was over by the 1920s.



The Maru Koala and Animal Park is an award-winning family-owned and operated tourist attraction on five acres on the outskirts of Grantville and features an animal park, mini-golf course and a bistro. For more details: <https://www.marukoalapark.com.au/>



Old and new. The remnant of the 19th century pier in the foreground with the boat ramp and current jetty in the background.



The current pier and boat launching ramp at low tide at sunset with Tenby Point in the background.



Above, two views of the west side of central Grantville looking towards Wonthaggi taken, respectively, in 1985 and 2015. In the 1985 (top) photograph the old combination bottle shop/general store/post office is visible in addition to the owner's residence. Beyond that is the small service station. Thirty years on and all three structures (shop, house and service station) are gone, replaced by an extended hours convenience store.



Above, two views of the eastside of central Grantville looking towards Wonthaggi taken, respectively, in 1985 and 2015. In the 1985 (top) photograph the Wheatley's general store/post office is visible. To the left, unseen, is the Grantville Drive-in Theatre. Thirty years on and the store has been replaced by a row of businesses; the Drive-in is now a housing estate; the Bass Highway has been duplicated, and there is now a set of traffic lights to control the increase in both road and pedestrian traffic.



One of the few remaining houses in and around in Grantville over 75 years old.



A remnant of an entertainment idea that lost popularity with the 1974 introduction of colour television and was killed by the VCR tape.



An old toilet block in the middle of the field – but what a view.



Founded in 1894, the Grantville Rifle Range has operated on-and-off for over a century. Target shooting is held on most Saturdays.



The Gurdies  
Nature Conservation Reserve

**Deep  
Creek**

Grantville  
Cemetery

Grantville Bushland Reserve

**Grantville**

Tennis Courts

**Queensferry**

**Adams  
Estate**

Grantville  
Transfer Station

Grantville  
Nature Conservation Reserve

