

STEAD STREET RESERVE



Stead Street Reserve is an enduring reminder of Invercargill's maritime and railroad history. From here you can look over large areas of water, with excellent views of Bluff, Sandy Point and Mt Anglem (Stewart Island).

Location:

On the west of Bond Street and the south side of Stead Street.

History

It was 1860 when the Otago Provincial Government built the first jetty at the end of Tweed Street to serve the newly established township. The subsequent discovery of gold in the Wakatipu district saw Invercargill's population climb from 3,455 to 9,545 between 1862 and 1863.

The gold was short-lived. That, combined with constantly changing estuary conditions, dictated a gradual change in focus. Emphasis shifted from the estuary's potential as a shipping harbor to its recreational opportunity.

The jetty heralded the introduction of New Zealand's first steam-powered locomotive, the Lady Barkly. To demonstrate how this 8 tonne curiosity ran on a wooden tramway, the locomotive was successfully trialled in 1863 on more than 300 meters of track along the jetty.

Fishing cutters were used at the Invercargill Estuary and surrounding coastline from about the 1890s to the 1940s. They were versatile sailing vessels, used for fishing, oystering and carrying cargo and farm produce.

Replicas of the Lady Barkly Train and Southern Light Fishing Cutter are located at the Stead Street Wharf Area.

General use

The reserve continues its tradition of providing a variety of opportunities for outdoor pursuits. It is used as a recreational and amenity linkage between adjoining roads and walkway/cycleways. Stead Street Reserve links Waihopai Walkway/Cycleway north of Stead Street and Estuary Walkway/Cycleway to the south for further walking and cycling.

A slipway for boat launching is also available, subject to the tide.

Interpretive panels with captivating photos of the wharf's history offer a glimpse of the original entry to Invercargill.

Jellicoe Sea Scouts occupy the building at the wharf.

Facilities

For more information on the walking track please see the Short Walks brochure for a plan and description.

Council appreciates that you take your rubbish with you.



Parking



Interpretation



Dog on lead



Remove any dog waste



Fishing



Boat Ramp



No Camping



Stead Street Reserve is managed by Invercargill City Council Parks Division

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E: parks@icc.govt.nz

W: www.icc.govt.nz (for more information, including Management Plan)