

# Arriving

## Surveying Port Phillip

In the early 1800s, Phillip Gidley King, the Governor of the Colony of New South Wales, sent surveyors to report on the Port Phillip district (later renamed Victoria).

Their task was to find land with a permanent water supply and good soil for growing crops and pastures. This was essential as shipments of goods between colonies took weeks by ship and even longer by land. People had to establish self-sufficient farms in order to survive.

In 1803, Charles Grimes surveyed the coast of Port Phillip. After sailing through the heads aboard the *Cumberland*, he dropped anchor and set off on foot with his men to survey the land between Sorrento and the future site of Melbourne.

In his report, Grimes described the land as unsuitable for settlement. Additional surveys of Port Phillip and Western Port, carried out during the early 1800s, also reported finding no suitable sites for settlement.



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In 1827, William Hovell conducted a more extensive survey of the land between Port Phillip and Western Port. He reported the discovery of good soil in the Carrum Swamp area between Dandenong Creek and the mouth of Mordialloc Creek.

Land north-east of Carrum Swamp, which would later be called Dingley Village, was at that time considered unsuitable for settlement.

Surveyors described this area as 'sandy, scrubby, heathland' because of the poor but well-drained sandy soil, and dense covering of ti-tree and pink heath.



Pink Heath © Sharlene Harvey 2011