

SEABIRD ISLANDS

No. 99

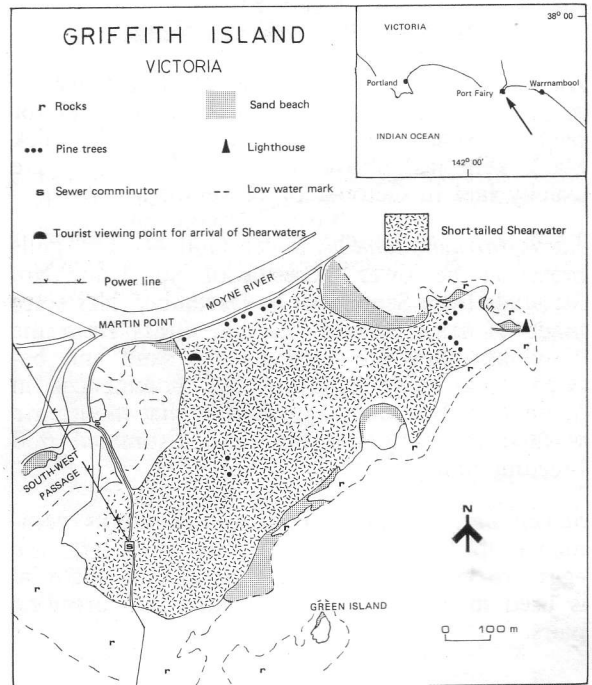
Griffiths Island, Victoria

Location: 38°24'S., 142°15'E.; off the south-west passage at the entrance to the Moyne River at Port Fairy, Vic.

Status: Under the control of the Borough Council.

Description: 33 ha; 1 100 m long by 640 m at the widest, the island was originally divided into two parts — Griffiths I. and Rabbit I. The gap between the two was filled with dredgings from the river in the late part of the last century and early in this one. The island is mostly sand on a limestone base with high dunes on the south-east (ocean) side sloping to lesser dunes on the river and town side. There is a level area where a whaling try-works and boiling down industry operated in 1836.

The main vegetation is Marram Grass *Amophila arenaria* with introduced Norfolk Island Pines *Araucaria hetrophylla* growing mainly along the river bank and at the eastern end. There are patches of *Leucopogon parviflorus*, *Coprosma repens*, *Lycium ferocissimum* and *Clematis microphylla*, with expanses of *Scirpus nodosus* and *Lepidosperma gladiatum* in some parts. Ground cover is mainly *Tetragonia implexicoma*, *Rhagodia baccata*, *Cryptostemma calendula*, *Carpobrotus rossii* and *Senecio lautus*. On the beach *Cakile maritima* and *Apium australe* occur. A lighthouse is situated on the east-



ern end; *Narcissus* (Jonquill) and *Albizia lothantha* have spread from this area. Kikuyu *Penisetum clandestinum* and Buffalo Grass *Stenotaphrum secundatum* have spread extensively from the area of the disused rifle range where they