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## West Coast Anchorages

This document aims to catalogue a number of anchorages along the West Coast of Tasmania where shelter may be sought. In addition the degree of protection from the wind, and holding ground is described for some of these. For some anchorages, latitude and longitude positions are given. These are for your guidance only.

This is not a final list, nor is the information contained to be a full representation of each anchorage. The intent is to provide skippers competing in the Melbourne – Hobart yacht race, and those yacht's cruising home with information as to where they may seek shelter in an event of an emergency.

This is a working document, the contribution of your knowledge about these, and other anchorages along the West Coast of Tasmania is encouraged.

A summary of anchorages and ports is listed;

1. King Is, Grassy Harbour
2. Hunter Island Group
3. Anne Bay
4. Mawson Bay
5. Temma Harbour
6. Sandy Cape
7. Macquarie Harbour; Strahan
8. Hells Gates
9. Pilot Bay
10. Hibbs Bay
11. Christmas Cove
12. Elliott Bay
13. Port Davey
14. Cox Bight
15. Louisa Bay
16. Recherche Bay

1. **King Island**

Grassy Harbour, the main shipping port of King Island offers great protection and shelter from all weather. There is a pier, and a number of moorings. Look out for the surge that is present in the harbour. Make sure you follow the correct leads into the harbour, in particular the turning point, as there is a relatively shallow short channel between the Omagh Reef and shallow ground at the end of the breakwater. Refer to figure 1.

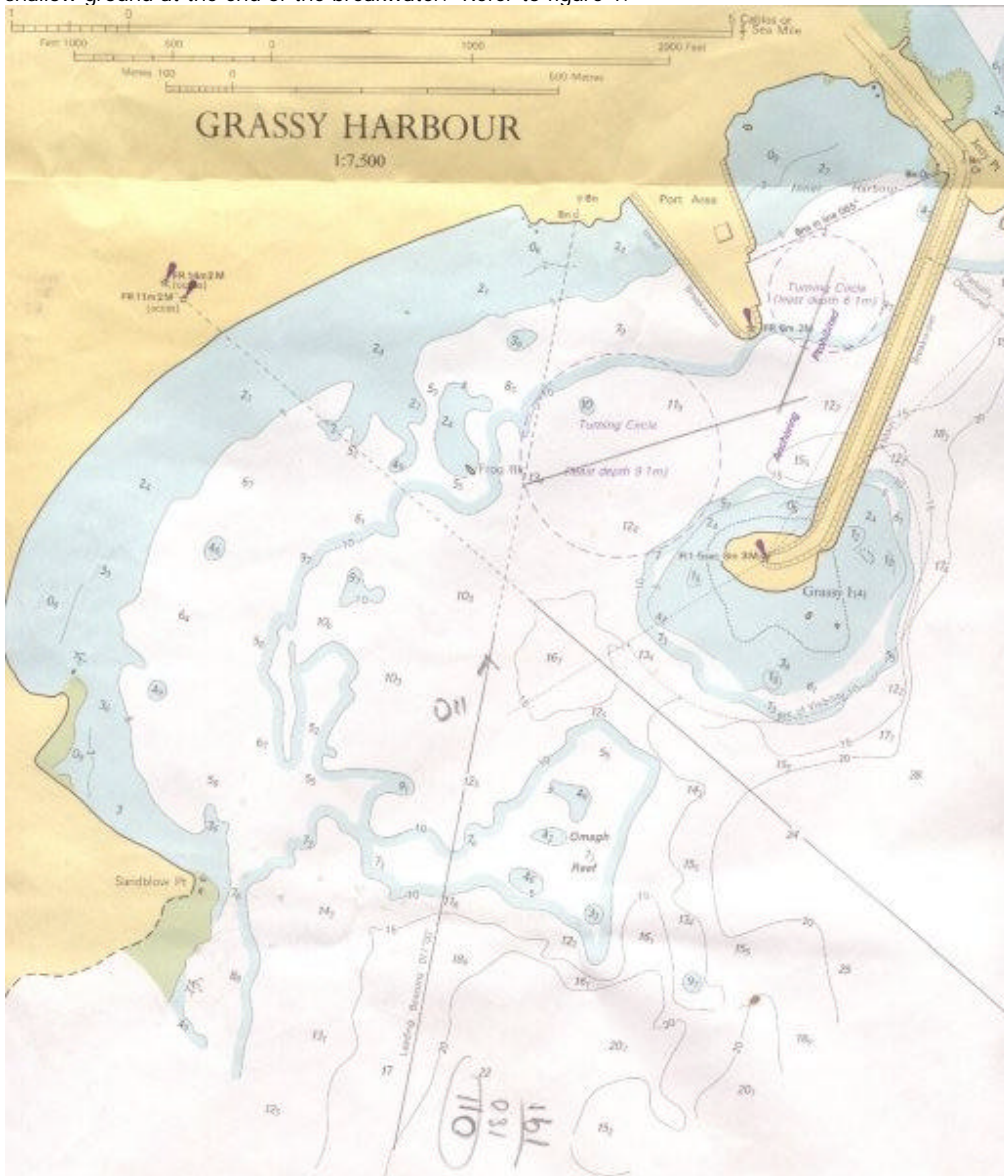


Figure 1, depths in metres

2. **Hunter Group**

Anchorage can be approached from the North and South, however the best approach is from North. There is some good sandy holding ground, and protection can be found from all quadrants of breeze. See following and Hunter Is Chart excerpt figure 2 for more information;

2.1. Hunter Island group on the NW tip, Protection can be sought from all wind in the Western Quadrant, there is a great anchorage in behind Hunter Island on the eastern side.

2.2. Three Hummock Is. Protection can be sought from the South East at Coulomb Bay.

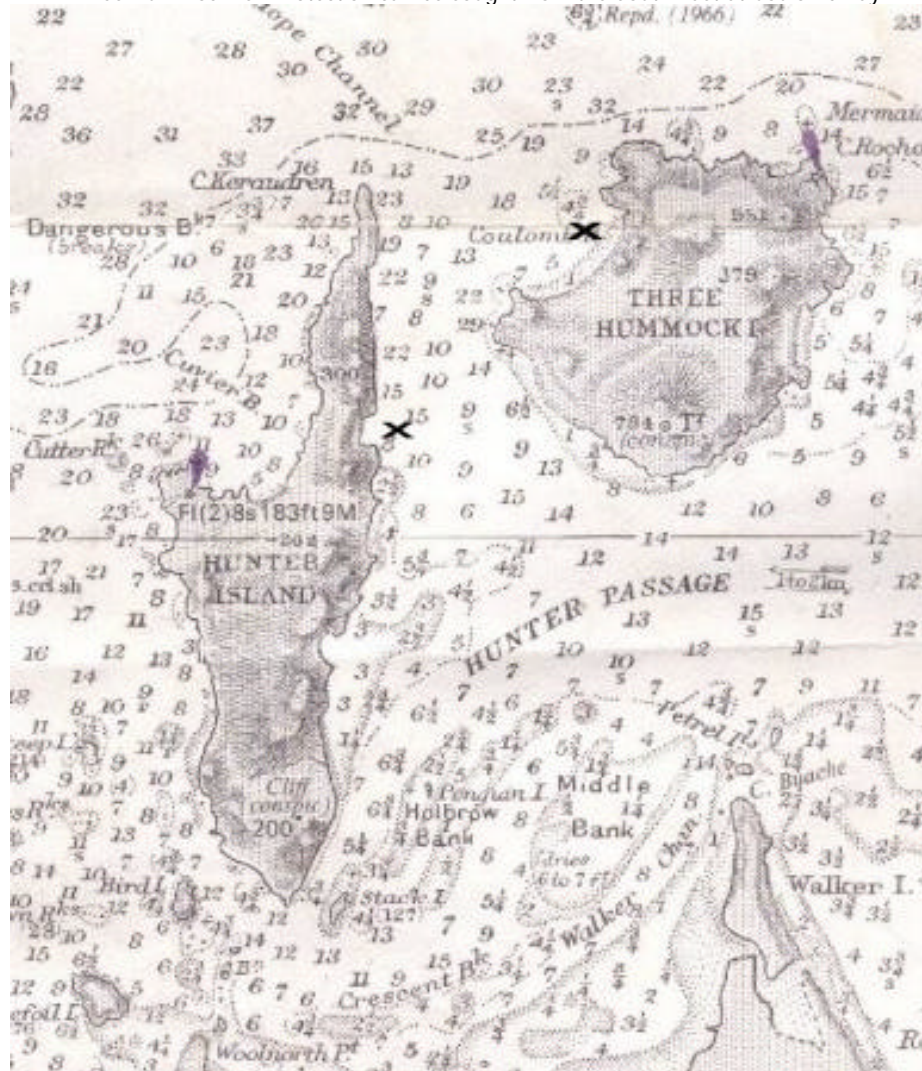


Figure 2, depths in fathoms

### 3. West Point to Sandy Cape

There are a number of locations where shelter can be sought from West point to Sandy Cape. See figure 3.

#### 3.1. Ann Bay

Situated to the north of Green Point, anchorage can be sought close to the shore and may offer protection from South to South West winds. This anchorage is unsuitable for North to North West Wind directions. There is a reef to the West of Green Point, and care should be taken with the approach.

#### 3.2. Mawson Bay

Situated North of Bluff Hill Point may offer protection from South to South West winds. Anchorage can be sought close to the shore. This anchorage is unsuitable for North to Westerly Wind. Church rock, and a shipwreck are found South West of Bluff Hill point, and care should be taken with the approach.

#### 3.3. Temma Harbour,

Entered south of Gaffney Point, with Temma Village at the head of the harbour. Rock above and below the water extend for about ½ a mile South West of Richardson Point. Shelter may be sought from the North and South to SS West directions. Not suitable for wind from the Western Quadrant.

#### 3.4. Sandy Cape

**Kenneth Bay, Lat 41° 25' S Long 144° 45' E** situated just North of Sandy Cape may afford protection from winds South South West to points East. Care must be taken with the entrance, as there is foul ground extending to the North of Sandy Cape, and in the middle of Kenneth Bay. The anchorage should be approached from a North West direction to clear the foul ground.

#### 3.5. Ahrberg Bay

**Lat 41° 43' S Long 144° 57' E** In bay, 3-4 miles south of Pieman Heads. Suitable for winds NW-N-E.

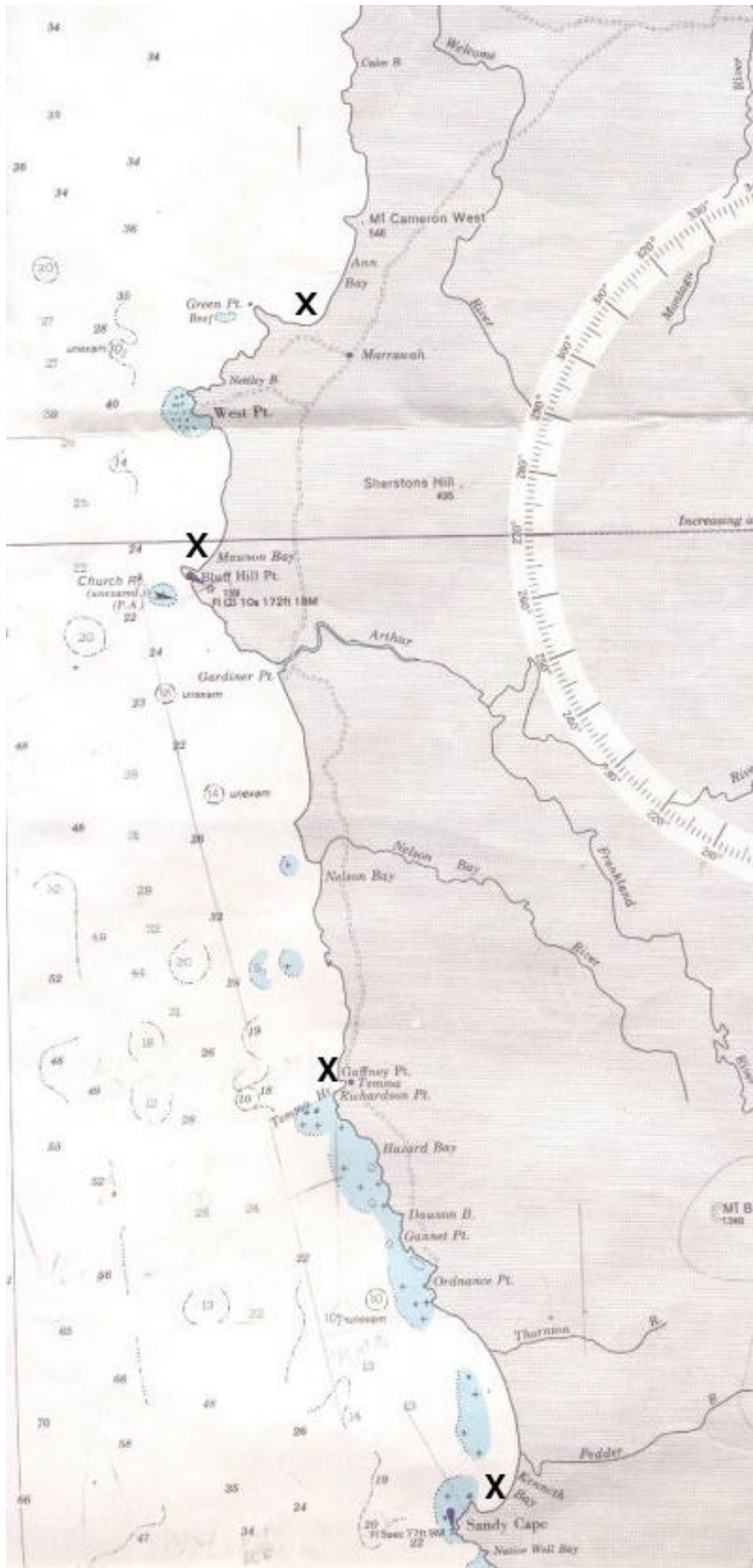


Figure 3, depths in fathoms

4. **Macquarie Harbour**, see Figure 4, Lat 42° 12' S Long 145° 12' E

4.1. **Strahan**

Hells Gates to the South East of Cape Sorell, marks the entrance to Macquarie Harbour. The entrance to the Gates starts along a long breakwater that leads on a SS East Course. There is a large tidal flow through Hells Gates, which can at times be over 5 knots. Once past the gates, a series of leads which need to be followed to navigate the Kelly Channel. The channel is sandy, and it is possible to carefully feel your way in without damage to a yacht's appendages.

4.2. **Night Shelter at Hells Gates**

The entrance to Hells Gates and the navigation through the Kelly should only be attempted during day light, as the leads through the Kelly Channel are not lit. However, Hells Gates may be entered during the night with care. Once inside the main entrance, there is a pier on the western shore. This may be used to tie up against overnight.

4.3. **Pilot Bay**

Shelter may be found in Pilot Bay just outside Hells gates, to the west of the main breakwater leading into the gates. This should be approached from the North or North East. Shelter may be found from West to Southerly Winds. **Not to be attempted in fresh N-NW winds with ebb tide. Point Hibbs recommended in these circumstances.**

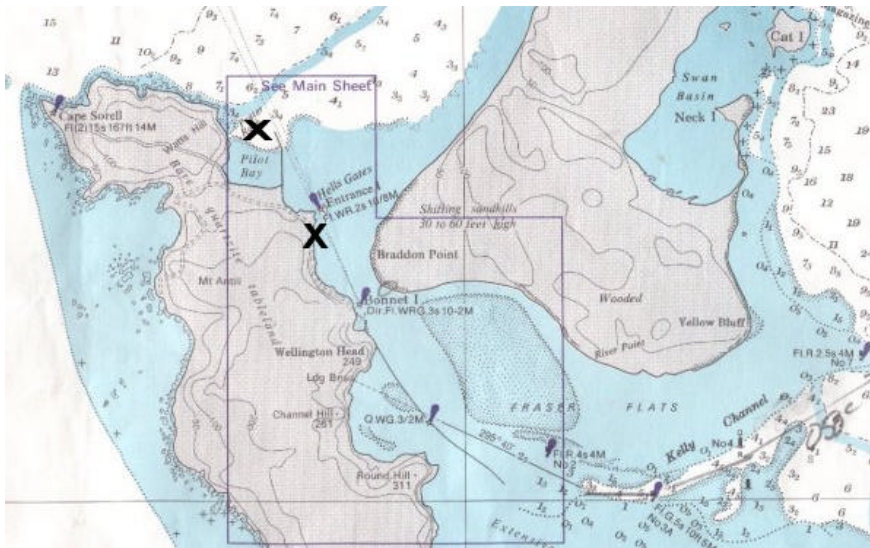


Figure 4, depths in fathoms

5. **Hibbs Bay, Lat 42° 37' S Long 145° 15' E**

Located just north of Point Hibbs, good shelter from both Northern and Southern quadrant wind can be found. This is a favourite for the fishos, and they have been known to exchange abalone and fish. Two locations are listed, refer to figure 5 for more info.

Hibbs Pyramid – approach from north end of Pyramid, do not proceed past SE end of Pyramid due to reef further on. Suitable in winds SW-S-E.

Inside Bird Island on south side of Pt Hibbs – confined, and breaks outside in S-SW weather. Give Bird Island reasonable berth when entering. Suitable in winds N-S-SW

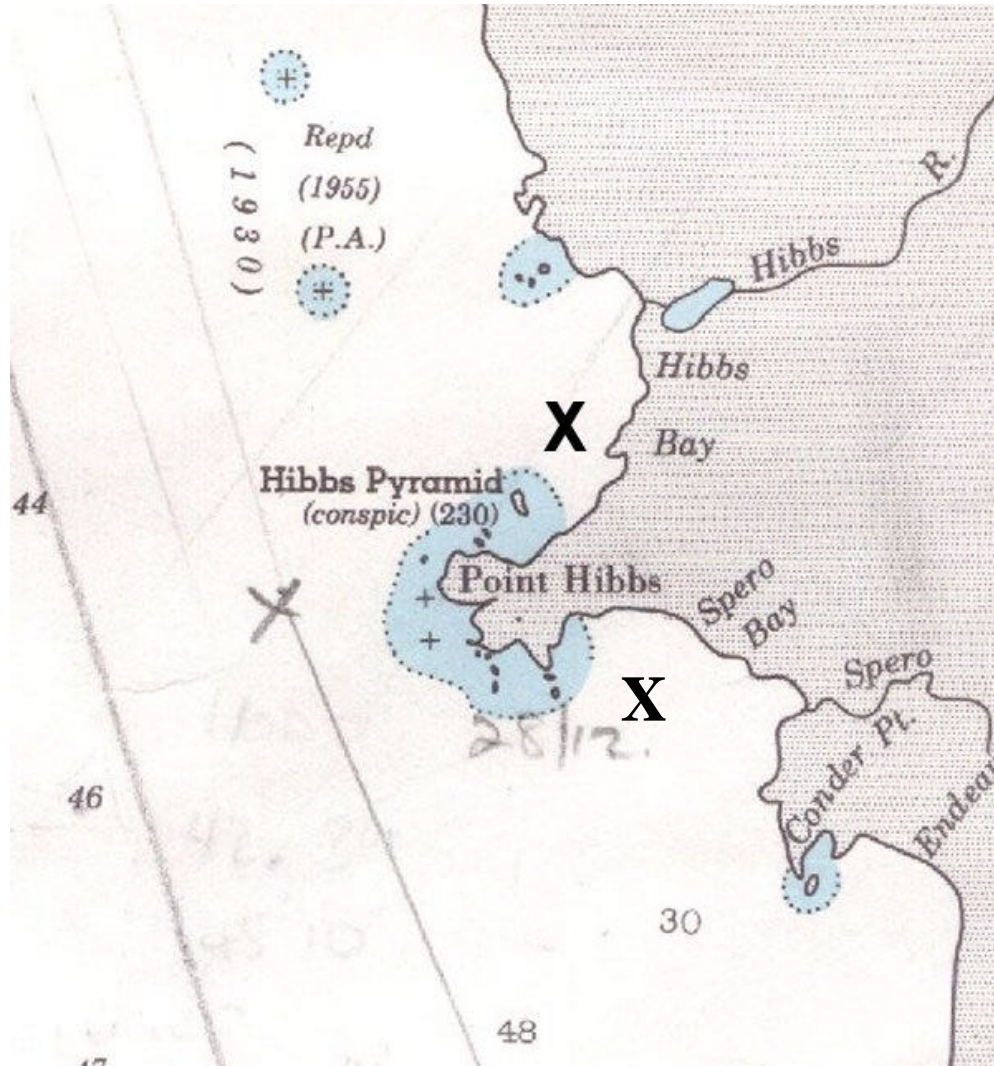


Figure 5, depths in fathoms

6. **High Rocky Point to Low Rocky Point**, see figure 6

6.1. High Rocky Point, Lat 42° 47' S Long 145° 23' E

South of point – rather confined – shelter from N-W winds, awkward if swell makes.

6.2. Christmas Cove,

Situated 5 miles SSE of Conder point and North of High Rocky Point offers anchorage for small vessels. There are two arms, the North arm providing shelter for Wind in from East to North West, whilst the south arm offers protection for wind from the West to the South East.

6.3. Elliott Bay, Lat 42° 59' 30" S Long 145° 30' E

Located 4 miles east of Low rocky Point light, is the **Gulch** good protection for all winds except S-SE. Under **wooded foreshore**. Enter the bay from the south, taking care to avoid a shallow group rocks which breaks just south of Low Rocky Point.

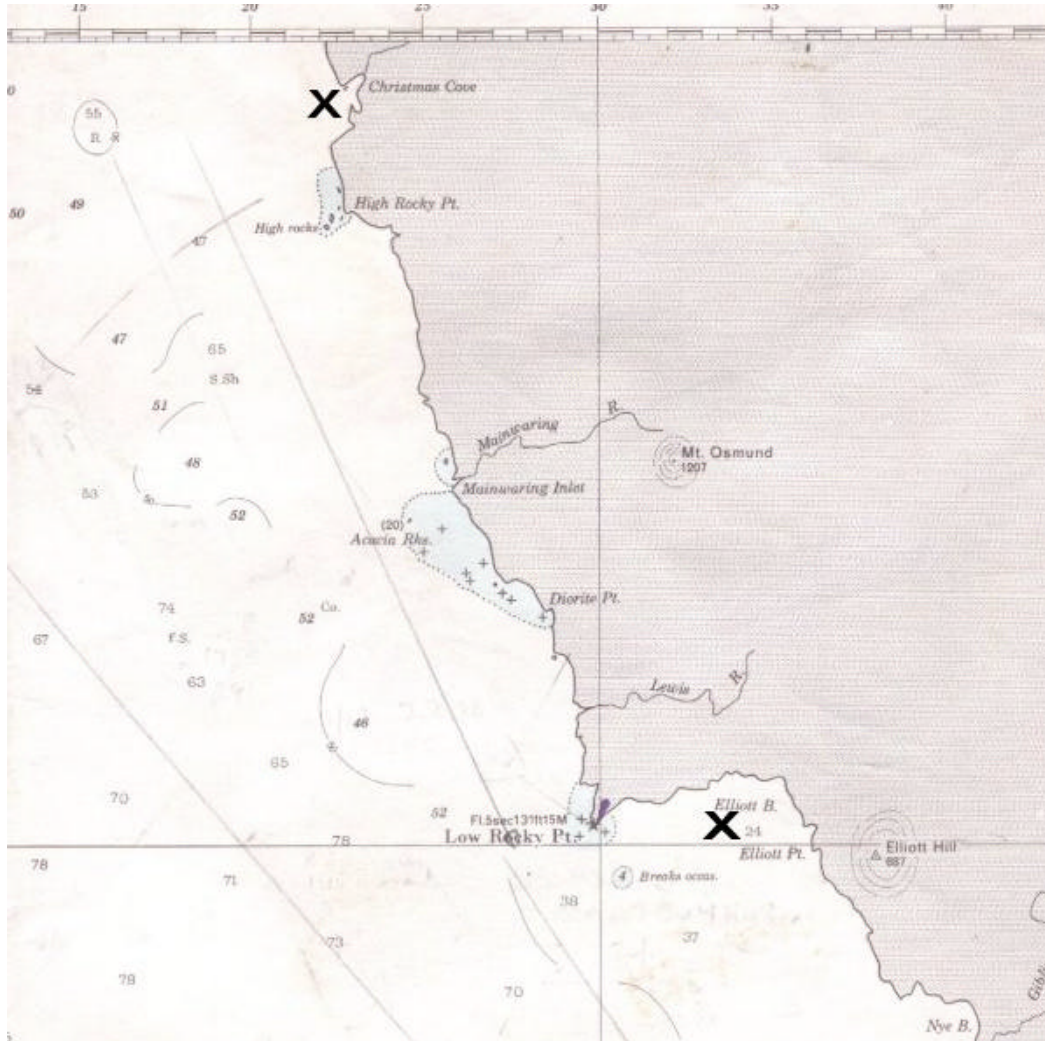


Figure 6, depths in fathoms

7. **Port Davey,**

Port Davey offers excellent protection from all wind directions. Anchorage can be sought at a number of locations, see figure 7

7.1. Payne Bay

Situated on the Northern site of the main entrance is Payne Bay. Shelter from South West to Northern Quadrant breezes may be found.

7.2. Schooner Cove

Situated in Bathurst Channel, excellent shelter is afforded from all wind directions. This cove is where most boats returning from Hobart to Melbourne via the West Coast stop over. There is a great little beach where a BBQ can be had, and it is also the starting point for the annual race run by the Port Davey Yacht Club.

7.3. Bramble Cove - Lat 43° 19' 30" S Long 146° 00' E

Recommended anchorage in Port Davey. Enter by passage to north of Breaksea Islands – keep clear of visible rocks

7.4. Whalers Cove - Lat 43° 18' S Long 145° 55' 30" E

Safe anchorage all weathers.

7.5. Saddle Bight - Lat 43° 18' 30" S Long 145° 54' E

For winds from N to SW – anchor western side of Bight outside kelp

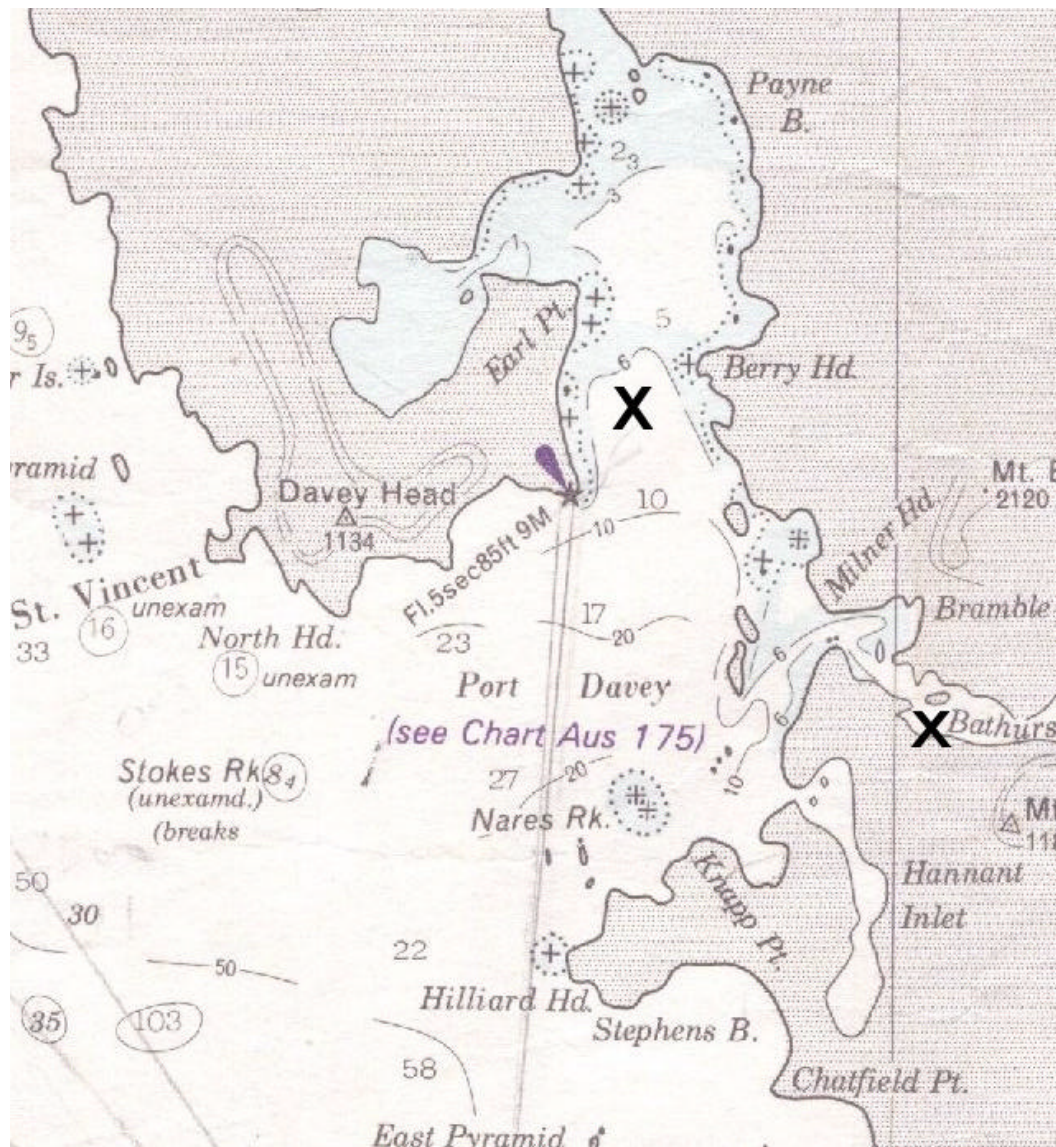


Figure 7, depths in fathoms

8. Vicinity of South West Cape, see figure 8.

8.1. New Harbour Lat 43° 30' 30" S Long 146° 09' E

Passage OK either side of rocks at entrance. Poor in SW-SE weather.

8.2. Cox Bight, Lat 43° 30' 30" S Long 146° 13' E

Situated North of Maatsuyker Island, There is a beach on the Northern shore, and shelter from W and NW winds may be found. The anchorage is unsuitable for shelter from wind in the Southern Quadrant. If forced into Cox's Bight, keep to western shore – don't go past white bluff on western side of bay.

8.3. Louisa Bay. Lat 43° 32' S Long 146° 19' E

Situated North of Maatsuyker Island, Shelter from W, NW and Southerly quadrant if tucked in behind Louisa Island. Anchorage on west side of bay, but keep clear of kelp in middle of bay.

8.4. Walkers Island, Lat 43° 38' S Long 146° 16' E

Small island north of Maatsuyker Is. Anchorage on east side of W-S winds. If wind shifts to E move to north side of island.

8.5. De Witt Island, 43° 36' S Long 146° 21' 30" E

Lat Anchorage north side of island for SW-SE winds.

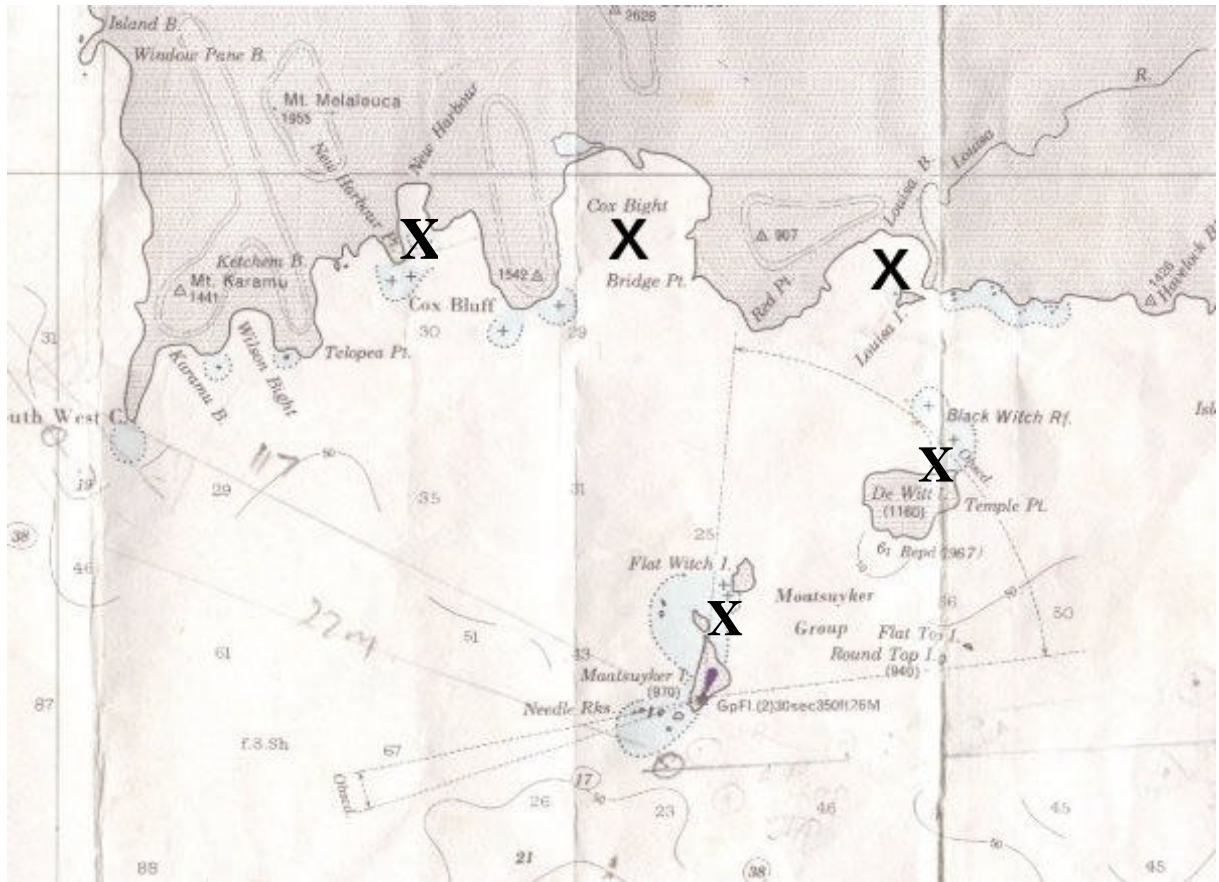


Figure 8, depths in fathoms

9. **Recherche Bay**

Situated to the North of South East cape, and near the entrance to the D'Entrecasteaux Channel is Recherche Bay. This anchorage offers good sandy holding ground, and protection from all wind directions. It is also a popular overnight stop for yachts returning to Melbourne following the Hobart race. See Figure 9.

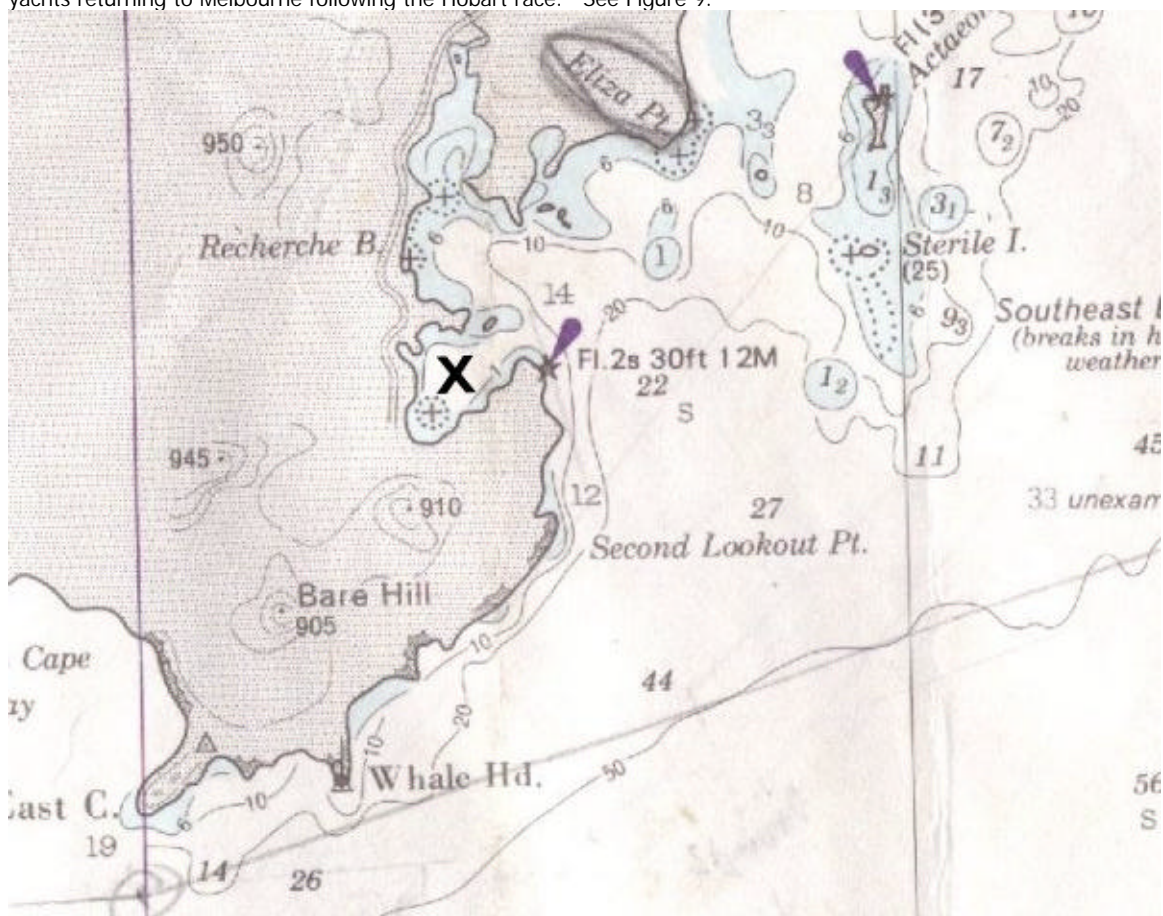


Figure 9, depths in fathoms