

Frankston postcode history: Attractions, famous faces and more

Frankston has produced some of the country's best athletes and musical talents, and is known for some pretty quirky art. Here's a closer look at postcode 3199.

[Brittany Goldsmith](#), Frankston Standard Leader



Sculptor Gregor Kregar with Frankston community's beloved 'Reflective Lullaby' attraction, also known as Frankie the gnome. Picture: Jason Sammon.


With a giant gnome, 10km of pristine coastline and it's own CBD you'd be hard-pressed to find a Victorian region as unique as Frankston.

The gateway to the Mornington Peninsula has had no shortage of the limelight since it was established as a city 54 years ago, with streets made famous — or infamous — in Hollywood films to The Footy Show's Street Talk.

More than 140,000 people call the postcode home with notable past locals including AFL champions Robert Harvey and Leigh Matthews, Olympic gold medallist Debbie Flintoff King and television king Graham Kennedy.

Dance Monkey star Tones and I, from the neighbouring Mornington Peninsula, [joined the star studded list after snapping up an \\$800,000 abode in January.](#)



 Singer Tones and I, also known as Toni Watson, picked up an \$800,000 property in Frankston this year. Picture: Supplied



📷 St Kilda champion Robert Harvey is one of the many athletes to have lived in the 3199 postcode.

Located 45 minutes southeast of Melbourne, Frankston has cemented itself as the host of one of Melbourne's most eclectic mixes of culture and characters, with thousands of families lapping up beautiful beaches, world-class hospitals and schools and a lively hospitality and entertainment scene.

Starting as a small fishing village with a retail precinct wrapping around Young St in the early 19th century, the seaside region quickly evolved, encompassing the northern points surrounding Seaford and Carrum Downs through to Langwarrin, Karingal and Frankston South.

It's believed Europeans first set foot in Frankston as early as 1803, according to the Frankston Historical Society.

It's unknown where the Frankston name came from but some believe it was named after publican Frank Stone who owned a hotel on the corner of Nepean Hwy and Davey St, formerly Point Nepean Rd and Hastings Rd.

Others say it was after Charles Franks, one of Melbourne's early settlers, or a British army general like neighbouring suburbs Cranbourne, Hastings and Mornington.



Part of Frankston pier ripped off during wild storms in August last year, but it has since been repaired. Picture: Jason Edwards

According to the Frankston Visitor Information Centre, the first land sales in the area were held in 1853, but early development of the region was complicated by poor soils, distance from Melbourne's CBD and a major swamp sitting between Mordialloc and Seaford.

Frankston's pier was completed in 1857 and Oliver's Hill was named after local fisherman James Oliver who built a cottage on the hill.

The first bank was opened in 1881, and two brickworks factories and a cordial manufacturer were in full swing in the same decade.


Frankston evolved into a seaside resort for city slickers when the Melbourne rail hit in 1882, and electrified rail slashed travel time to an hour four decades later.

Frankston's population exploded during World War II, increasing from 12,000 in 1947 to 82,000 by 1982 with small government housing estates set up to house families of Australian Defence Force personnel stationed along the Mornington Peninsula.

The suburb was the site of the first Australian Scout jamboree in 1935, as well as the state's first Safeway supermarket in 1963.

Film stars Gregory Peck, Ava Gardner hit Frankston beach for *On The Beach* (1959) as well as Mel Gibson gracing Seaford's shores for *Mad Max* (1979).



 The original *Mad Max* was filmed across a number of Victorian locations including Seaford and St Kilda.

[The 21st Century Danceclub on Davey St](#) — featuring an iconic revolving dancefloor — was a hub for clubgoers in the mid 80s and early 90s, with INXS, Men at Work, Cold Chisel, James Reyne, Noiseworks, the Chantoozies and Hoodoo Gurus all rocking the main stage.

In 1995, the Frankston Arts Centre — home to the biggest stage outside of Melbourne — opened, featuring an 800-seat theatre with two exhibition gallery spaces.

Other Frankston attractions include the beautiful paddocks at Langwarrin's Cruden Farm, the showstopping sculptures at McClelland Sculpture Park and Gallery, and smiling chrome gnome Frankie at the Hastings Rd and Moorooduc Hwy intersection.