

Inverloch Foreshore

Site #17 on the Strzelecki Taxonomy Map

The rocky shore platform continues northeast of The Caves for a kilometre or two before the cliffs give way to tree and scrub and a wide sandy beach. Isolated fossils have been found in the shore platform between The Caves and Inverloch Township, including evidence of freshwater plesiosaurs, ankylosaur dinosaurs and fish.

A very well preserved plesiosaur rib was found in 1991, partially exposed on the shore platform approximately one kilometre northeast of The Caves. One of the diagnostic features of plesiosaur ribs is the large cup-shaped articulation on the end of the rib where it attached to vertebra along its back. This specimen had the cup-shaped articulation and so researchers were able to identify it.

Most of an ankylosaur rib was found in 1991, approximately 500 metres north-east of The Caves. The diagnostic feature of ankylosaur ribs is the T-shaped cross-section through the bone. This can easily be seen in the rib found by Mike Cleeland on the shore platform. The rocky point where Mike found the ankylosaur rib is now referred to unofficially as “Ankylosaur Point”. More recently, a small ornithopod dinosaur jaw was found at this site, along with a number of small bones from unidentified animals.



Image of Inverloch foreshore. Photographer: Lesley Kool



**Image of ankylosaur rib found by Mike Cleeland.
Photographer: Steven Morton. Courtesy of Monash University**



Image of plesiosaur rib. Photographer: Lesley Kool