

Powlett River

Site #8 on the Strzelecki Taxonomy Map

The mouth of the Powlett River is a favourite spot for many fishermen, but few probably realise that the rocks they are standing on contain ancient treasures. There is a small carpark at the end of the winding road that leads to the mouth of the Powlett River. From here it is a good 500-600 metres walk southeast along the coast and, if you are lucky, you will see low rocks cropping out on the sandy beach.

The main logistical problem with this locality is that it is rarely exposed, as the sand along this beach is very deep. It is sometimes exposed after high spring tides, but there is no guarantee. Researchers persevere with this site as it has produced the only complete turtle shell found in Victorian Early Cretaceous rocks, as well as some freshwater plesiosaur teeth.

Plesiosaur teeth in freshwater sediments are very rare, as these aquatic reptiles are usually associated with marine deposits. However, the teeth are very diagnostic and can indicate the approximate size of the animal. The individual this tooth came from was 2-3 metres in length.



Photo: Lesley Kool



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