

Aireys Overboard

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■ Lorne, Anglesea and Torquay seem to have succumbed to the popularity of the Great Ocean Road over the years, losing their small seaside-town charm. Yet Aireys Inlet has thankfully escaped the trend. It is still a hamlet with a magnificent beach, a couple of shops, a pub, a terrific modern Greek restaurant known as A La Grecque and, just so you cannot miss the place, the Split Point lighthouse.

As the name suggests, Aireys Overboard is decked out in a nautical theme – but tastefully done, matched to the lovely recycled and new timbers that have gone into making this most delightful cottage.

There are all the comforts you'll need (a gas log fire, well-equipped, modern



kitchen), and little extras such as a heated floor and towel rails in the bathroom, to make this a great weekend retreat. All you need to do is stock up on breakfast, lunch and dinner provisions. The usual tea and

coffee are supplied, but that is all.

The mezzanine level, which houses the main bedroom, has a small balcony where you can glimpse the Split Point lighthouse and listen to the ocean at dusk – while enjoying a glass of wine, of course.

Aireys Overboard is suitable for one couple – it's fantastic and there is plenty of room. It would also be perfect for a young family, as the small bedroom downstairs sleeps up

to three children.

On the deck each morning you'll be joined by a colourful surprise: king parrots galore and errant magpies, which you can feed with the birdseed

supplied. There are naughty cockies too, but feed them at your peril.

JANE FAULKNER ■

Cost: \$225 a double a night on weekends, minimum two-night stay; \$35 a night for extra person.

Distance: 120 kilometres (about 90 minutes' drive) from Melbourne; or V/Line train to Geelong with connecting bus.

Accommodation: self-contained cottage with queen-size bed on mezzanine level and a small bedroom downstairs with a double bed attached to a single-bed bunk.

Features: spa, gas fire, well-equipped kitchen, heated bathroom, CD and DVD players, books, games, air-conditioning, barbecue.

Nearby: fishing, surfing, golfing, walks, Split Point lighthouse with heritage-listed buildings, horse riding, Aireys Inlet beach, whale watching from May to October, restaurants.

Bookings: at least three weeks in advance.

Children: yes.

Wheelchair access: no.