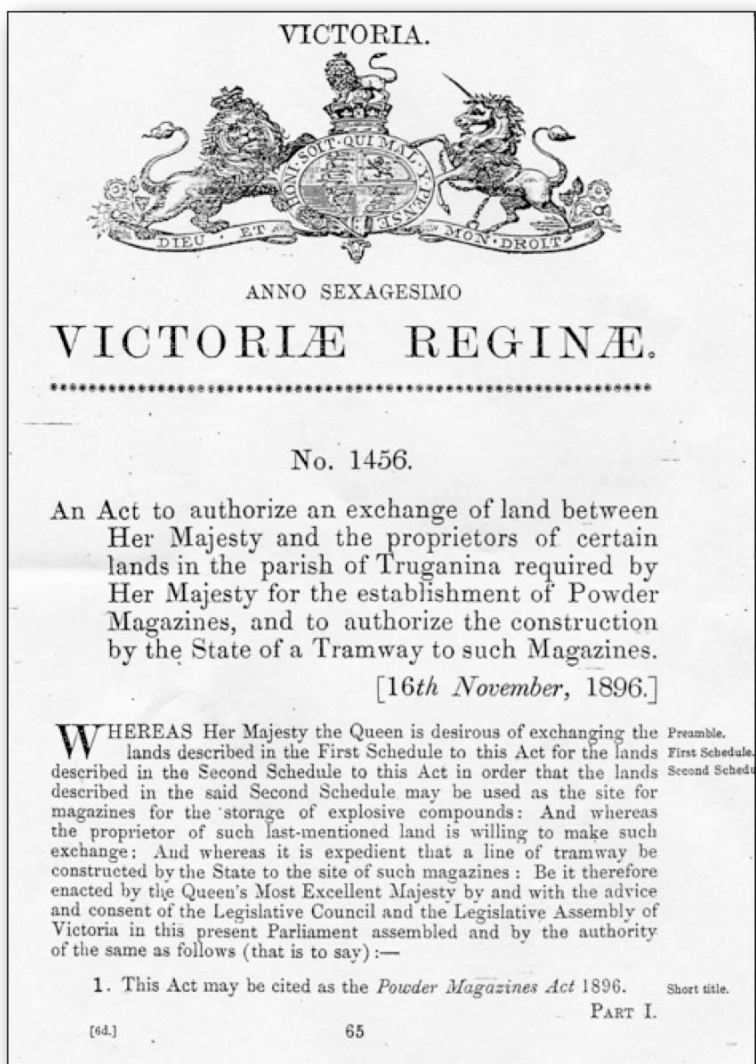




NEWSLETTER

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Truganina Explosives Reserve



Altona and Laverton gained a link to the Truganina Explosives Reserve in Queen Street when in 1896 the Victorian Government passed the Powder Magazine Act authorising an exchange of land with the then owner George Chirnside so that an Explosives storage facility could be established.

Originally 971 acres of land was utilised the remaining area within the fenced boundary is approximately 17 hectares.

(continued)

Truganina Explosives Reserve



The establishment of the facility on this site was required because the then current Magazine in Maribyrnong was being surrounded by increasing residential growth in that area.

The Reserve opened on the 1st May 1901 (in 1900 the population of Altona was less than 50, with a total of 15 occupied dwellings).

A tramway to sidings near Laverton Station, four kilometres in distance was established to enable product to be moved using horse drawn equipment.

The line was discontinued in 1936 and replaced by Road Transport

Products handled included commercial blasting explosives, which came from the explosives factory in Deer Park, originally constructed in 1873 by the Australian Lithofractor Company, which later became Nobel Explosives Company and then ICI.

By 1916 the explosives manufactured at Deer Park were exported to other parts of Australia.

Around 1962 there was a decline in product stored and handled when a storage facility was established at Point Wilson, near the Alcoa aluminium smelter.

A closer link with the Altona Laverton Historical Society can be established because Leslie (Joe) Hyde and Joyce, together with sons Owen and Clive, were resident on site because of Joe Hyde's occupation as Officer in Charge, for 36 years beginning in 1940.

Because of the dangers in storing and handling explosives, separation of storage was required and it is understood that there were 58 storage magazines behind bunkers.

Owen Hyde is currently a Committee member of the Society, and recalls fondly his time on the Reserve.

Other members including Bob Hawkins have also a long connection with representing the Society with the Truganina Explosive Reserve Preservation Society (TERPS).

The Homestead on the site is Heritage listed and under the management of the Hobsons Bay City Council

EXPLOSIVES

Altona

From our Collection

Pictured below are Seniors attending the Homestead during Seniors week in October, which coincided with Ethel's 96th Birthday



The Homestead was also visited by a Scout Group





Society News

Information for all Members

The committee of management for the 2013 - 2014 year is shown below.

Committee 2013 - 2014

President: Peter Weaver

Vice President: Carol Winfield

Secretary: Sharon Walsh

Treasurer: Annette Stephens

Committee Members

Kim Walsh

Owen Hyde

**A series of Devonshire Tea's has been held
in The Homestead in the past few months but
December will be different**

Christmas High Tea

**Sunday 1st December 2013 at the Altona Home-
stead**

11.00am to 4.00pm

\$25.00pp – Bookings essential – 0447 840 895

**Join us and the Laverton Community Choir for
High Tea and Christmas Carols in the courtyard
of the magnificent historic homestead**

