



**Altona Laverton
Historical Society Inc.**
PO Box 236 Altona 3018

NEWSLETTER

Vale-Owen Hyde

Owen Lesley Hyde (1944 – 2023)



Not everyone's life can be described or summed up in a short paragraph or a few sentences. For some, their lives are more complex, or their lives are a composite of the many experiences that they have had that build up to who they were. Owen Hyde is one such person, a person who was a culmination of his many experiences.

It was certainly a sad day for all our members when we received the news that our dear friend, our long-standing member and President, Owen Hyde, had passed away on Friday, 10 March 2023 after what was seeming to be a short stay in hospital.

Owen had taken on the role of President in late 2020 and not knowing that he would need to lead the society through the COVID pandemic era, always ensuring that the society remained as active as it possibly could, but importantly

that it used its online presence to stay connected with the community of Hobsons Bay and beyond. But this was only one of many of his life accomplishments.

Owen Leslie Hyde was born on 27 May 1944 at the local Altona Community Hospital, which was just across the road, in Sargood Street, from the Altona Homestead where the Altona Laverton Historical Society operates. He was the eldest of two sons born to Leslie George (Joe) Hyde and Joyce Georgina Hyde nee Phair, early residents of Altona.

His father, Leslie Hyde, was employed at the Truganina Explosives Reserve, and at the time of Owen's birth, the family were living in Mount Street Altona near the corner of the Esplanade. By the late 1940's, Leslie Hyde had been promoted to the role of magazine assistant and the family had moved to live onsite within the explosive reserve. Owen was later to recall that he felt that he and his brother, Clive, were the envy of their school mates because they got to live in 'such a magical adventurous playground, which had lots of trees, native animals, lots of places to explore and a whole industry that went on around them.'

Owen attended Altona Primary School, of which he seemed to have fond memories and then went to Williamstown Technical School where he did not enjoy his time so much. He left there after three years and secured a job at the Melbourne bookstore of Angus & Robertson. After about six years there, he opened his own bookshop in Railway Street near the Altona station, and some years later moved his business to Werribee.

In 1976, Owen determined it was time for him to have a career change and he enrolled into teacher's college, and to return to study. By 1979 Owen had gained his Diploma of Teaching and his certificate of registration as a primary teacher. The following year he commenced teaching at St Leonard's College in Brighton where he taught for three years. He also taught at several schools within the Balaclava/Brighton area, one school being a Jewish school for which Owen undertook to learn Hebrew. Following these teaching positions, Owen was employed as an emergency teacher across several schools covering for teachers on extended leave and providing remedial teaching to students. Owen continued with his teaching career for the next seven years.

Owen then decided it was time to upgrade his qualifications and in 1990 was awarded his Master of Education from the University of Melbourne. The following year Owen felt it was time for a change and he left teaching and Victoria, travelling to Sydney to take up a job at the Museum of Contemporary Art managing the museum shop.

After two years there he gained a position with the Australian Museum where he was employed as the museum shop manager from 1993 until 1999. It was whilst employed at the Australian Museum that he was invited to be a keynote speaker at the Art Publishing Forum, Brisbane, in November 1997.

During his time at the Australian Museum, Owen held the position of President of the Australian Museum Shops Association. It seemed that Owen had found his niche and had developed a reputation.

Around 1999/2000 Owen decided it was time to leave Sydney and return to Melbourne where he took up a position with the Law Institute of Victoria, managing their legal bookshop in the city that catered to the law fraternity and those studying law. Over the next twenty-one years, Owen transformed the bookshop into a major income generating stream for the Law Institute and a valued service to the law society members across Victoria. He also took the shop front store into the twenty-first century with the introduction of a vibrant online presence. Owen retired from the Law Institute in March 2021.

In the meantime, Owen had joined the Altona Laverton Historical Society in 2004 and for the next nineteen years set about ensuring that the history of the area was recorded, in one way or another, for future generations. He had a strong view that the society and the work it did need to be relevant to all residents of the area and that it should do whatever it could to preserve its unique history.

Owen was not only a strong advocate of the historical society but also of the Truganina Explosive Reserve and its preservation. The explosive reserve held a very special place in Owen's heart as it had literally been his home for almost twenty-one years. He ensured that he attended all the open days, each month, to impart his knowledge and experiences of life and work at the reserve but always took with him information from the historical society so that he could bring elements of both organisations to visitors.

Owen was very proud of the Hyde family association and history across both Altona and Laverton, and this included both his immediate family and that of uncles and cousins. This association with the area stretched back to the pre-World War 1 period. He never lost his love for this area even though he spent many years both working and living interstate and within the Melbourne CBD.

All the society members, both past and present, and others within our community are all the richer for having had the privilege of knowing Owen Leslie Hyde and our society has benefited from his enthusiasm and drive over the many years that he gave of his time. Owen you will be sadly missed by all and to you we all say thank you.

THE MONTH OF APRIL INCLUDES-ANZAC DAY AND REMEMBRANCE OF SOME MILITARY ACTIVITIES OF TIMES PAST

The month of April includes Anzac Day and our thoughts turn to the many Service personnel who have represented Australia in conflicts within Australia or around the world either as Australian troops alone, or side by side with allied units from other nations in order to retain world peace.

In past editions of our Newsletters we have covered the activities of some of the Australian Military units and their specialised activities, such as commando and special forces, code breaking, military police and the like, now for something different.

Strange but true-1941 and 1942-Aussies fought the Foreign Legion

At times Australians were fighting Australians who were members of the French Foreign Legion supporting the French Vichy State, headed by Marshal Philippe Petain.

Vichy France was officially independent but with half its territory controlled by a harsh terms of an armistice with Germany it had adopted an attitude of collaboration with Germany.

The text below from a news reports in 1941 & 1942 tell of a clash between Australian troops and Legion troops in Syria.

It indicates that there were Australians serving in the French Foreign Legion at the time.

Argus (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1957), Friday 12 June 1942, page 3.

FOREIGN LEGION FOUGHT FOR AND AGAINST AUSTRALIAN TROOPS



Some of the bloodiest fighting in Syria was when the Australians encountered the French Foreign Legion. Afterwards it was discovered that there were Australians among the legionnaires.

Some of the bloodiest fighting in Libya occurred when Germans and Italians attacking Bir Hakheim, found themselves opposed by among others, the French Foreign Legion. At least one company of legionnaires was led by a German officer.

The explanation was that the Foreign Legion is not and never was a single military unit. Before the war various battalions of the legion were to be found in almost any of the out of-the-way places where the French flag flew.

Allegiance of the battalions went with the territory in which they found themselves, Legionnaires are soldiers not patriots. They forgot the lands that gave them birth as they forgot their identity, most of them, when they joined the legion. Their loyalty was to the men who commanded them, and went with the loyalty of those men. So today some fight for the cause of the United Nations and some for Vichy France,

13 Jun 1941 - **CLASH IN DESERT**

Mercury (Hobart, 1860 - 1954), Friday 13 June 1941, page 5.

SOMEWHERE IN SYRIA. Thursday.-Australian troops and legionnaires of the French Foreign Legion met in a series of fierce encounters late on Tuesday night and early yesterday morning. A West Australian battalion leading the Australian push past Adioun was the first which encountered the dusty blue-clad



fighters. They belonged to the 4th Battalion of the Legion's 6th Regiment. When the West Australians had been relieved a Victorian battalion took up the fight against the retreating legionnaires. Neither Australian battalion suffered serious casualties, but a number of the Legion's fighters were killed, and more than 100 are in our hands. The legionnaires fought bravely and against heavy odds, since they had to match their light machine-guns and trench-mortars against the Australian artillery.

A Victorian officer who interrogated many of the prisoners told me they seemed to be of all nationalities, including German, Czechoslovak, Dutch, and natives. Several said they did not want to fight us. One man declared that three of the Legion's regiments had tried to desert, rather than fight against the British, but they were punished so terribly that others who felt the same way were deterred.

Three of the prisoners asked eagerly whether they could start fighting the Germans at once. These were Frenchmen. The legionnaires proved their courage and determination when a little band of 50 held up the Australian advance for three hours. They had gathered evidently for a last stand in a great grey crag, honeycombed with small caves and almost overshadowing the road. They had made a clever and formidable road block by inserting machine-gun windows amongst the hundreds of natural holes with which the face of the rock is riddled. Their fire from machine-guns, mortars, and long carbines was so deadly that the Australian column was halted. Eventually artillery had to be brought up, and the 25-pounders hammered at the crag until the infantry was able to charge with bayonets.

In May 1942 the Queensland Times reported the following:

TAKEN PRISONER IN SYRIA.

Australians and N. Zealanders in Foreign Legion.

MELBOURNE,

May 11.-Australian and New Zealanders fought in the French Foreign Legion against the A.I.F. and the latter took some of them prisoners..

This was stated to-day by wounded A.I.F. men who returned. Among them was Private J. R. Gannon, Warwick, Queensland, former buckjumping rider. He said that the legionnaires talked tough, but the Anzacs would equal them any where on bayonet charge. The prisoners said they did not know at that they were fighting against their fellow countrymen, When they found out some were concerned about it, but the others did not care.



Syria 1942 AWM Image



Syria 1942 mules were used to transport ammunition AWM Image

In 2023 the French Foreign Legion are now considered to be a long established and respected military organisation. and allies of Australian Forces.

Some Interesting Facts:

The Legion is the only unit of the French Army using the white kepi. The white kepi is worn by ordinary legionnaires for guard duty, military ceremonies, or as part of their walking out uniform. Officers and non-commissioned officers wear a black kepi, as well as senior corporals (Caporal-chefs) with more than 17.5 years of service.



The ONLY way to join the French Foreign Legion is to travel to France and knock on the door of a recruiting office they are open 7 days per week 365 days per year.

Traditional colours of the Legion are Green and Red, the official symbol; is the seven flame grenade.

The marching step is 88 steps per minute.



During the Bastille Day Military Parade in Paris on July 14 (the French National Day), the Foreign Legion is always the last marching unit because of its slower marching speed. It is also the only unit that marches with its own music band, and the only unit which does not split up in front of the French president's grandstand. Finally, the Foreign Legion is the only unit of the French Army led by non-commissioned officer (from the Pioneer platoon) during the Bastille Day Military Parade. The others are headed by their commanding officers.



Les Pionniers de la Légion étrangère. The Pioneers (or Sappers) are a popular, traditional unit of the Foreign Legion. They wear large beards (mandatory) and the traditional Foreign Legion Pioneers uniform, including leather aprons and axes. The pioneers/sappers were very common in the French Army during the Napoleonic Era (1799-1815), but disappeared after 1870, excluding the Pioneers of the Foreign Legion. Several pioneer companies existed within the Legion in North Africa in the 1920s-1940s.

References

Wikipedia, Trove and Google searches, Australian War Memorial Images

The Story behind the Army Camp at Altona (1916)

We had always been aware that in the initial years of World War 1, Altona was home to a military unit and an army camp that was open for about three months from early September 1916. It had been erected in the anticipation that the government, under the leadership of Billy Hughes, would obtain a 'yes' vote for military conscription but this did not happen, and the camp was closed. The question of why a camp in Altona and why it was situated east of central Altona has not been known, until now. The following is a summary of what transpired between William Henry Croker and the Department of Defence in relation to the use of land within Altona.

As a brief background, the federation of Australia, in 1901, brought with it necessary changes to the defence of the country and the need to establish a permanent army and navy. Pre-Federation had seen each of the colonies form and train their own defences, but all these now needed to be consolidated under the Commonwealth. In its own way, Altona was also attempting to shape itself as a legitimate suburb but was struggling to attract sufficient residents to take up the challenge.

At the invitation of Prime Minister Alfred Deakin, Lord Kitchener, Commander-in-Chief of the British Army, visited Australia to inspect the existing state of defence preparedness of the Commonwealth and advise on the best means of providing Australia with a land defence. Kitchener's report, submitted in February 1910, recommended the introduction of compulsory military training which was immediately adopted. The flow on was that there was an increased demand more sites, to facilitate large camps and support the then established sites at Kilmore, Seymour, Ballarat, and Heidelberg.

But four years later, with the outbreak of World War 1, even more training camps were seen necessary, and a camp was hurriedly established at Broadmeadows. Within the next year, other temporary camps being established, notably at Ballarat, Flemington, Geelong, Maribyrnong, Royal Park and at briefly at Altona.

Initially, Altona had been utilised by the 8th Light Horse Regiment, which included a 1000 detachment, who had camped for one or two weeks during November 1914. This arrangement had been established by William Henry Croker who had granted permission to use his land for this necessary military training.

From this initial engagement, a scheme appeared to spark in William Croker's mind and so in October 1915, he wrote to Senator Albert Gardiner, the Assistant Minister for Defence, offering 100 acres of land, at the western end of Altona, as a permanent military training camp.

Apart from controlling a great deal of the land in Altona, William Henry Croker was a well know Williamstown and Melbourne solicitor and one of the key solicitors who had acted for Alfred Thomas Clark, politician and local land developer, and then for the Altona Bay Estate Company, who had purchased the Altona estate from Alfred Thomas Clark in 1888.

William Croker had an astute legal and business mind and could see potential, for the Altona land, and believed that this generous gift to the Department of Defence would bring with it government investment and therefore a sound investment.

Prior to his approach to the Department of Defence, William Croker had promoted Altona as seaside suburb, its ample supply of coal and its potential to generate electricity to power industry. After the collapse of the land boom and the Altona Bay Estate Company, William Croker now solely controlled a large parcel of land within the Altona estate.

As part of his 'sell' to Senator Gardiner, and the Defence Department, was that:

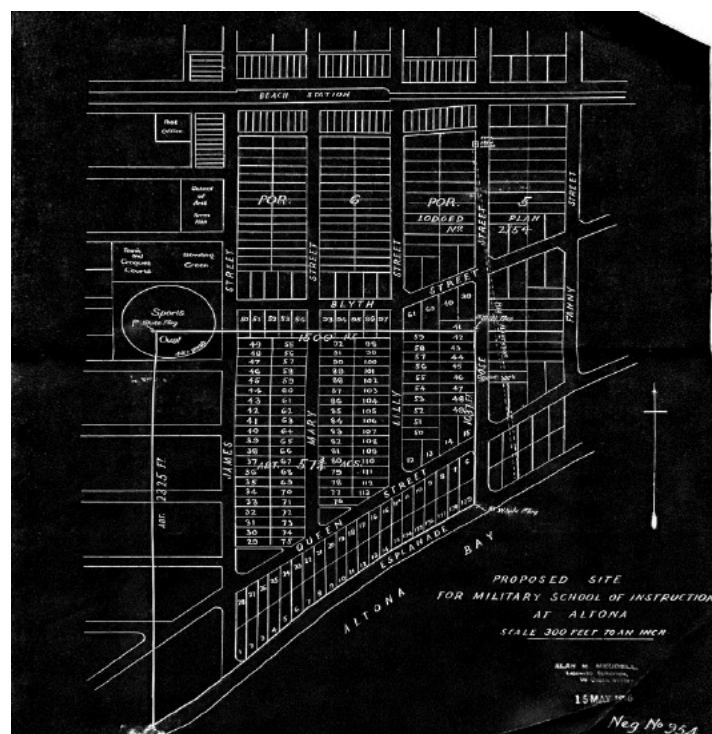
- Altona was only 10 miles (16 kilometres) from the Melbourne General Post Office.
- There was a railway line built leading directly to the proposed camp area.
- It was in walking distance to the Commonwealth rifle range.
- The area had access to the Yan Yean water supply.
- It enjoyed good access to the beach.

- There was ample fuel supply from the neighbouring Altona colliery, which could also be utilised to generate electricity to the camp.
- Altona had a pier that could be used to bring in supplies and for embarking troops to troop transport ships.
- There were no hotels for at least 3 or 4 miles (about 5.5 kilometres) and there was no likelihood of any licenses being granted within the Altona area.

There was method in William's approach, for the offer of 100 acres of prime real estate, which wasn't selling readily at the time, he could see larger profits from the sale of coal to support the new camp, he saw the Department of Defence needing to build infrastructure, maintain the railways and improve existing roads and build new ones from Altona to Newport and beyond. This would make the remainder of the estate more attractive to merchants and families wanting to work and live in a seaside suburb with the amenities of suburb in the east of Melbourne.

The map/plan below illustrates the clear location of the 100 acres being offered for military use. Remembering that this plan was drawn up around 1915 and so we will provide a quick update to modern names of streets so to give an accurate placement of this proposed camp site.

On the righthand side of the map/plan, Fanny Street is now Rayner Street, Lilly Street is now Grieve Parade and the bottom end of Rose Street, between Queen Street and Esplanade, is now Sarros Street. The Beach Railway station was removed around 1917 when a new station was built just west of Pier Street.

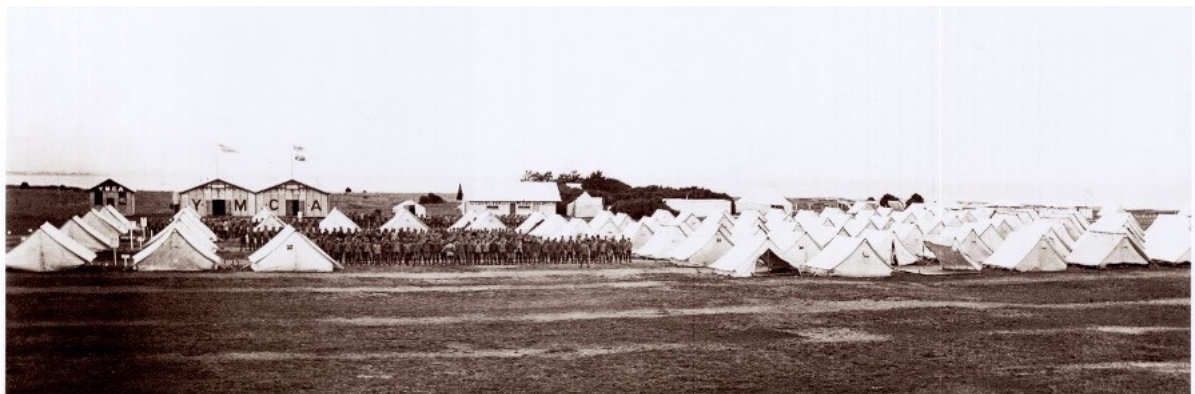


Also, James and Mary Streets have gone and replaced by Mulga/Manning Streets and Belah Avenue. It is interesting to note, if the plan is to be believed, that this end of Altona appeared to be its own suburb with provision for a Post Office, Sports facilities, School of Arts and Town Hall.

Four days after William had written to Senator Gardiner, he met with Commandant Colonel Williamsⁱ who inspected the 100-acre property but also inspected land that was situated east of Pier Street around the area of Bayview Street, heading eastward to Millers Road, which contained some 50 acres of undulating land. Here, Colonel Williams noted that the land had a more extensive frontage to the bay and as well comprised higher lands with more perfect drainage facilities which seemed ideal to facilitate a permanent army camp.

William Croker had no hesitation in offering this new location for the disposal of the Department of Defence, selling its virtues as also being close to the railway line, that he owned, which would easily facilitate the transport of soldiers in and out of the camp. He also highlighted the existence of the pier that could possibly be utilised for embarkment of soldiers to troop ships.

The army camp opened on 2 September 1916 which facilitated the reopening of the railway line and special train services operating to the camp and stopping just near Seves Street where personnel and stores could be unloaded. A bulk store was situated north of the railway line. All train services then ran into Altona which had facilities for the loco to turnaround. As we mentioned, in our introduction, the camp closed in early December of the same year when the conscription vote failed and so the Defence Department no longer required the camp facilities.



Altona Military Camp, circa September 1916

We are not certain as to how many new residents the camp attracted to the area, but some residents prospered from being able to supply goods and services to the camp. It also reopened the railway which would have been pleasing to William Croker and his plan to attract more permanent residents and increase the value of his land holding.

When the camp closed there was little correspondence between the Defence Department and William Croker and for William this would have been seen as the matter and the offer of the land coming to nothing. However, on 9 March 1918, the Defence Department wrote to William requesting identification of the original land offer, on the relevant Certificate of Title, so that transfer of title could take place to the government. It was obvious that with the war continuing well beyond what had been first thought the need for more training sites was required.

The following month, William responded with a three-page letter setting out the history of the conversations had, with the Defence Department, and the temporary use of the land for various military units during 1915 and 1916 as well as other facilitiesⁱⁱ, in Altona, owned by William that had been provided to the military free of charge. But the intimation that the previous offer was still on the table was an incorrect assumption. What had changed, from William's perspective, may have been that the land in Altona was now selling and that more families were moving into the area and so his need of the government's perceived investment was no longer required and perhaps that thought of a more permanent military installation was not a desirable one as to attract more families to the area and the idyllic image of Altona, the bayside suburb and its comparison with the bayside suburbs on the east side of the bay. With this letter of response from William, the matter closed and within eight months the war concluded and so the needs of the Defence Department diminished. Had it not and the push for more military training facilities continued, Altona may have been a very different suburb during the last century.

References:

- Punch (Melbourne), 25 February 1915, 29 June 1916
- Weston Bate, 'Williams, Robert Ernest (1855-1943)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <https://abd.anu.edu.au/biography/williams-robert-ernest-9117/text16079>, accessed 5 March 2023
- The Bendigo Independent, 12 March 1917
- National Archives of Australia, Title: Land of Altona - offer by Mr Croker, Contents date range: 1915 – 1919, Citation NAA: MP367/1, 517/8/134, <https://RecordSearch.naa.gov.au/scripts/AutoSearch.asp?O=I&Number=360864>
- Spectator and Methodist Chronicle (Melbourne), 27 September 1916

ⁱWe believe that the Colonel Williams referred to by William Croker, was also noted in the daily press as the State Commandant Brigadier General Robert Ernest Williams.

ⁱⁱ It is believed, from William Croker's letter dated 19 April 1918, that the Military also had use of Altona House, the Homestead and the telegraph communication facilities that appear to have been installed at Altona House, which was situated opposite the railway station.

An early image of Altona House is pictured below (Colorised)



NEW SHELVING

Work has begun at the homestead to make way for the installation of new shelving units in the storage room later this month. At the same time Altona High School archives will be rehoused appropriately in suitable archive boxes instead of the current polystyrene cases.

The new shelving will significantly increase our storage capacity allowing us to better protect the collection, preserving it for future generations so that they may learn about their past. Orderly storage will also make it so much easier to access items for particular displays and for carrying out research.

Funding for this project has come from money raised through Devonshire Teas and donations, all very gratefully received.



AROUND LAVERTON COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

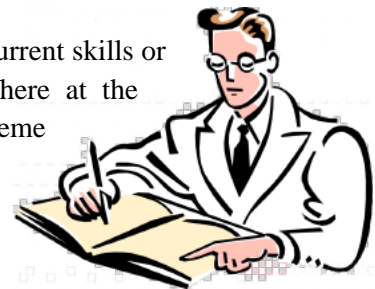
Graeme Reilly, secretary of ALHS, recently answered a phone call from Heidi Pettersen from the Laverton Community Centre after they had opened an unused cupboard to see what may be lurking there. Inside they found about 20 boxes of A4 size containing copies of the Around Laverton community newspaper and associated material for the period 1979 until the publication ceased at the end of 2017.

We were pleased to comply with the community centre's wish by taking these off their hands and they have now been sorted preserving two hard copies of each edition. The next part of the process will be to go through the three boxes of photographs linking images with their relevant editions. Cataloguing and scanning will also be carried out so that the publications and the photographs can be made available to anyone research events or family members included within the newspapers.

A typical issue from 1974



If you would like to be part of this project, using your current skills or learning new ones, in a happy and relaxed atmosphere at the Altona Homestead in Queen Street, please contact Graeme Reilly on g.reilly@alhs.com.au



Bronwen & Allan-Pier Street Pearls Project

Pier Street Pearls is a community project that celebrates the life of Pier St in Altona. Using oral histories, images, and found artefacts, it traces the history of Pier St from the dreamtime through to its humble origins as a shopping precinct in the early 1900's, up to the stylish mix of cafes, shops, and apartments it has become today. The brain child of the creative collective New World Arts, the project is being developed by two local residents Bron and Alan.

“Over the last few years, and especially after COVID, we noticed just how quickly the landscape of Altona has been changing – some of our grand old homes are making way for modern new builds, two or three houses are appearing where there was previously one and the change to Pier Street is just phenomenal” Said Bron.

“We don't have a problem with the changes, it's inevitable and in some instances, it's been good because it's producing a more liveable and sustainable lifestyle, but it did get us reminiscing about what used to be here, and how much things have changed” said Alan.

With the assistance of the Altona Lions Club, they applied to Council for some funding through the Make it Happen Scheme and the rest is history. In June, all of their research will culminate in a multi – generational exhibition which will initially be launched at the RSL in Sargood Street. Later a more intimate version of the exhibition will be housed at the Altona Laverton Historical Society for those who want to explore in greater detail the stories and changes that have taken place in Pier Street over the years.

“The best thing about working on a project like this, is that we still have some community members who remember how it was – and listening to them tell their stories has been an absolute joy. And I'll tell you what, there's a few 90 year olds out there, whose memories are still as sharp as tacks!” Said Bron.

Alan continued



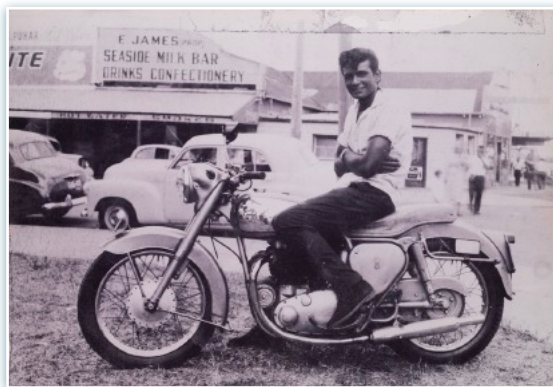
*Shops built on site of Picture Theatre.
Cnr. Pier and Queen St. 1965.*

“People have been really generous with what they've shared with us and I must say apart from tracking the history of the street, I've learnt a great deal about the hard work that goes in to running your own business – that's for sure. We've had some laughs and there's been a



few tears at times also – a few secrets have been shared but most of all we've discovered the genuine loyalty people in Altona have for this street. This image of the Gold Star Emporium is one of my favourite images, mainly because I was able to bring it back to life! When we first located the picture it had this huge rip down the middle of it and I suspect many people would have thought it just needed to go in the bin. But seven hours later here it is – this wonderful piece of Pier Streets history.”

“My favourite is this one of Joe Appozardi on his bike outside the ABC café down on the Esplanade in the 1950’s. I love it because of the story attached to it – this is Joe going on his first date with his now wife. They’ve been together for 67 years and have raised their seven children here in Altona. And that’s how we kind of approached the project. We started with the shops – the buildings themselves, but we let them be the conduit for telling the personal stories of ordinary people who have called Altona home” said Bron.



Bron and Alan have quite long association living and working in and around Hobson’s Bay. Alan, who is a professional photographer and communication designer came to Altona with his parents when he was five years old and his mum, who’s in her 80’s still lives here. Bron, on the other hand is a bit of a blow in, having only discovered Altona 30 odd years ago. Bron’s background is in theatre and in storytelling and in her spare time she also has worked as a public artist.

“Our first collaboration was called ‘The Ten Quid Tourists’, which was an oral history project about the Anglo Celtic migrants who came through the Brooklyn Hostel, said Alan. Many of these migrants ended up living in Altona because of its proximity to work opportunities at the chemical complexes. We’ve also done oral history projects that relate to Truganina Explosives Reserve, Point Gellibrand and the Laverton Old School”

“We even set up an outdoor theatre on site at the Explosives Reserve, where we showed short films that had been generated by students from RMIT that were based on the oral histories we had collected earlier” said Bron. “We think that one of the great things about Pier Street Pearls is that it’s going to appeal to lots of different age groups. Older members of the community might enjoy the trip down memory lane reminiscing about times gone by, whilst younger people might like the interactive nature of the exhibition as it includes a simulation of how the shops have changed overtime – there’s really something for everyone.”

In preparation for the launch of the project, The Historical Society will be holding a free workshop at the homestead at 128 Queen Street on the 29th of April, from 10am – midday. It’s an opportunity to come and contribute to the project by sharing some of your favourite memories of Pier Street with the team. If you have any old images that you’d like to share with us also, perhaps of you or a family member out and about in Pier Street, we’d love to see them too. It will also be your chance to have a sneak preview of some of the work that’s being created before the exhibition opens in June. Bookings for the workshop aren’t essential but are appreciated and can be made on pierstreetpearls@gmail.com

Notice of a Gathering Saturday April 22, 2023



The Homestead 128 Queen Street Altona 3018

The Altona Laverton Historical Society will be holding an informal get together of family members, Club members and friends of our late President Owen Hyde who passed away in hospital on March 10, 2023 this will be held at The Homestead 128 Queen Street Altona 3018.

It was Owens specific request that no funeral service be held after his death, however the Society consider that an informal get together with discussion amongst members and family members, former work associates, friends and others will be an appropriate method to reflect on his contribution to his family members, the Association and his work commitments over many years.

It is considered that this will not be an event of speeches as Owen had indicated to others that he did not want to have that sort of major function in the event of his passing.

Sandwiches and light refreshments will be available from 11.a.m until 1.p.m.

We look forward to seeing those who can make it on the day,