

The Truganina Explosives Reserve is home to a number of native animals. Here are some of those you might see during an open day tour:



Rakali
(*Hydromys chrysogaster*)

Rakali or native otter spends much time foraging in the water using its webbed feet looking for food like crustaceans and mussels. Rakali can grow over 72cm in length including its long white-tipped tail.



Microbat (Lesser Long-eared Bat)
(*Nyctophilus geoffroyi*)

Microbats locate prey using sound waves and catch insects on the wing. They often live under the bark on trees or in hollows. Species here include Gould's Wattled bat, Chocolate Wattled bat, Lesser Long-eared bat, Little Forest bat, White-striped Freetail bat and the Grey-headed flying fox, which is a larger fruit bat.



Photograph: Matt Clancy

Bougainville's skink
(*Lerista bougainvillii*)

This slim lizard is found in the coastal areas of Hobsons Bay, it has a silver-grey to pale brown body while its tail is orange-brown. It is a burrowing lizard that feeds in loose soil, under rocks, logs, and leaf litter primarily feeding on arthropods.



White-lipped snake
(*Suta flagellum*)

This small snake can be identified by the white stripe under the eye that gives it its name. This is Australia's most cold tolerant snake and they mainly feed on small skinks and occasionally frogs.



Photographs: Con Boekel, Nick Gale

Whip snake
(*Suta flagellum*)

This snake is often mistaken for a juvenile Brown snake but can be distinguished by the dark patch on the top of its head. It can grow to about 40cm long and primarily hunts lizards. Females give birth to three to five young.



Location

276 Queen Street, Altona.

Car Parking is located off Queen Street on the eastern side of the reserve.

You can also conveniently reach the reserve by bike. Take the Bay West Share Trail to Queen Street.

By public transport, you can get the train to Westona Station then walk 2km to the reserve, you can take the 415 bus towards Laverton from Altona Station, or the 412 bus towards Footscray from Laverton. Both of these buses go through Queen Street.

Enquiries

Phone: 1300 179 944

National Relay Service: 133 677

Language Line: 03 9932 1212

Email: customerservice@hobsonsabay.vic.gov.au

Website: www.hobsonsabay.vic.gov.au

Acknowledgement of Country

We wish to acknowledge the Bunurong Peoples of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners of the lands, rivers and coastal areas in Hobsons Bay. We recognise the First Peoples' relationship to this land and offer our respect to their Elders, past and present.



Hobsons Bay City Council is committed to protecting and enhancing our environment. This publication, when printed, is printed with vegetable inks on recycled, non-chemically bleached stock.

Welcome to Truganina Explosives Reserve



Truganina Explosives Reserve has a diverse and intriguing history and varied landscape

The Truganina Explosives Reserve

The Truganina Explosives Reserve is located about 20km from Melbourne's CBD. Some of the last remaining examples of Coastal Alkaline Scrub are found inside the reserve as well as examples of open woodland, saltmarsh and grassland eco-types.

The reserve is open to the general public on the first Sunday of the month excluding January, or during special events and pre-organised tours. Please see the Hobsons Bay website or the Truganina Explosives Reserve Facebook page for upcoming events and tours.

History

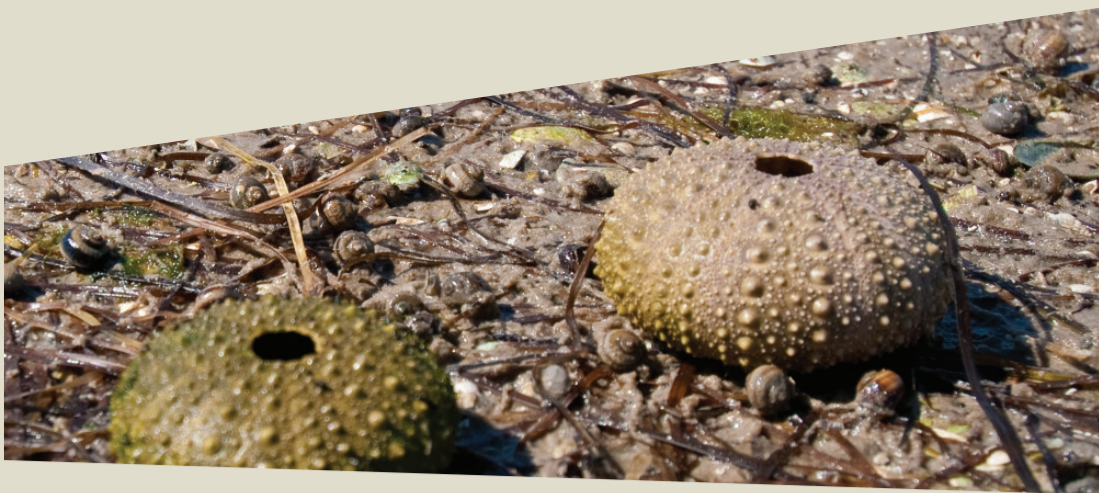
From 1901-1962 the Truganina Explosives Reserve was the Victorian Government's official storage and distribution centre for locally manufactured explosives. No ammunition or military grade explosives were stored on-site. During its operations the site was 223ha in size, with much of the industrial heritage now removed from the original surrounding reserve. Only 16ha remains as a protected reserve. However, dedicated volunteers including those from the Truganina Explosives Reserve Preservation Society

and its working group have fully restored the adjoining historic residences, outbuildings, and ornamental gardens. Some of the exotic plants found within the gardens are remnants of this industrial heritage and were planted by the people who lived and worked here. Please refer to the other Truganina Explosives Reserve brochure for the fascinating industrial history of the site.

Truganina Explosives Reserve

Coastal Alkaline Scrub

This ecosystem is an important part of Hobsons Bay and is dominated by Banksia and Sheoke trees. The undergrowth, also known as the understorey, is predominately grass with herbs intermingling. The soil base is extremely sandy mixed with nodes of calcareous substances (it contains lime or is chalky); hence this ecosystem has also been called Calcarene Dune Woodland.



The ecological zones of the Explosives Reserve:

Apart from Coastal Alkaline Scrub, the Explosives Reserve contains coastal grasslands, open grassy woodlands, sedgeland and saltmarsh. This lends itself to a wide diversity of unique plants and animals.

Our 'lost' animals:

This area would have once been home to several ground-dwelling species of mammals including bandicoots, dunnarts, antechinus, echidnas, swamp wallabies and emus. Unfortunately, these mammals no longer exist in this area due to loss and alteration of habitat and introduced predators such as cats and foxes.

Management:

This reserve is unique in management due to the fact that it is largely closed to the public except during allocated tour days. This means the reserve can remain in a natural state; for instance, if trees or branches fall, they are left on the ground as habitat. Over time rotting wood provides food and habitat for a vast range of invertebrate animals. These animals in turn become a food source for reptiles, birds, frogs and bats, providing a healthier ecosystem inside the reserve.

Weed control:

The conservation team must prioritise weed control and habitat management due to the scale of works required. In the grassland areas, techniques such as catcher-mowing is often used to manage bio mass, similarly to when vegetation is burnt. There has also been some experimentation with unique methods of control that are not possible in other reserves such as a method dubbed solarisation. Large areas are covered preferably by an opaque cover, which enables weeds and their seeds to be cooked by the sun's warmth over time.

