


Part of the Australian Heritage Festival

HERITAGE

HOBSONS BAY

21 APRIL TO 4 MAY 2025





Heritage Hobsons Bay is part of the National Trust Australian Heritage Festival. The theme this year is '*Unearthed*', revealing the past and bringing to light diverse histories and stories.

With a program of more than 25 events, including talks, walks, workshops, join us as we 'unearth' and explore our part of the west.

How did Newport Lakes come to be?

How much do you really know about the early days of Williamstown?

Learn about researching family history or join in with like-minded souls in a kitchen session, about jam.

Listen to heartfelt letters from local boys and men, and lean in to a special story time with a First Nations Elder.

Thanks to our wonderful local heritage network and others, for Heritage Hobsons Bay 2025.

Hobsons Bay City Council acknowledges the Bunurong People of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners of these municipal lands and waterways, and pay our respects to Elders past and present.

Calender of Events 2025

MONDAYTUESDAYWEDNESDAYTHURSDAYFRIDAYSATURDAYSUNDAY

April

7

Unearthed... The Millennium
Time Capsule display
(Until Fri 2 May)

8

9

10

11

12

Unearthed... The Millennium
Time Capsule display
(Saturday viewing)

13

14

15

16

Heritage Trivia Night/
Heritage Hobsons Bay
Launch

17

Migrant Melbourne
Karen Culture, Craft and Heritage
(Until Wed 14 May)

18

19

20

21

Lost and Found: Hobsons
Bay's Rescued History
(Until Sun 25 May)

22

Step Back in Time
Guided Walking Tour

The Stories of
Newport Lakes
Author Talk with
Dr Dominique Hes

Altona Homestead
Guided Tour

23

Heritage Screenings

24

Heritage Screenings
Way-back Workshops
Researching Family Military History

Letters from the Front
Sons of Williamstown

Convict Graves and Tales
Cemetery Guided Tour

DrawnOut by Lindsay Douglas
Exhibition Launch

25

Step Back in Time
Guided Walking Tour

Ghosts of Williamstown
Guided Walking Tour

The Forgotten History of
Thompson St Walking Tour

26

Ghosts of Williamstown
Guided Walking Tour

Newport Lakes
Guided Walk

Unearthed... The Millennium
Time Capsule display
(Saturday viewing)

27

May

28

Spotswood Industrial
Walking Tour

29

Step Back in Time
Guided Walking Tour
Altona Homestead
Guided Tour
Unboxing History
Comic Club Special
Heritage Story
Time with 'N'arwee't
Carolyn Briggs

30

Heritage Screenings
Unboxing History
Art Club Special
Tenya Gabi Briggs Exhibition
(Until Sat 10 May)
These Walls Speak Volumes
Author Talk

1

Heritage Screenings
Heritage Help
Point Gellibrand
Convict Walk
Postcards from the Garden

2

Step Back in Time
Guided Walking Tour
Heritage Screenings
Ghosts of Williamstown
Guided Walking Tour
Tea, Tech and Training
Researching family history

3

Ghosts of Williamstown
Guided Walking Tour
The Forgotten History
of Thompson St
Walking Tour
Walk on Country - Manemit

4

Heritage Crafts
Truganina Open Day

5

6

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Heritage Recipes

11

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15

Heritage Help
Secrets of the Pinetum

16

17

18

Legend



Walking event



Toilets



Wheelchair accessible



Unearthed... The Millennium Time Capsule display

Presented by Hobsons Bay City Council and Rotary Club of Altona City

Visit a display featuring items unearthed from the Millennium Time Capsule buried at the 100 Steps of Federation at Truganina Park for 25 years, holding messages from 12,000 people.

7 April–2 May
8.30am–5pm
(weekdays only)
12 April & 26 April
10am to 2pm

Hobsons Bay
Civic Centre Foyer
115 Civic Parade, Altona
Free. No bookings required.



Migrant Melbourne Karen Culture, Craft and Heritage

Presented by the Australian Karen Organisation

Celebrate the important contributions of the Karen migrant community to the heritage of Victoria and Melbourne's West at the Karen Culture, Craft and Heritage exhibition, showcasing the workmanship of handcrafted baskets and clothing traditional to the culture of the Karen people of Burma.

17 April–14 May
8.30am–5pm
(weekdays only)

Laverton Community Hub
95–105 Railway Avenue,
Laverton
Free. No bookings required.



The Stories of Newport Lakes Author Talk with Dr Dominique Hes

Presented by Hobsons Bay City Council

Local resident Dr Dominique Hes completed *The Stories of Newport Lakes: Creating regeneration capacity* in 2024. Enjoy a discussion by the author to hear the highly engaging stories of a much-treasured part of Hobsons Bay.

22 April
12pm–1pm

Hobsons Bay Civic Centre
115 Civic Parade, Altona
Free. No bookings required.



Altona Homestead Guided Tour

Presented by Altona Laverton Historical Society

Enjoy a guided tour of Altona's oldest residential building with one of the members who will talk about the Homestead, its occupants, a brief history of the area and the importance of the Homestead to the development of Altona.

22 & 29 April
11am–2pm

Altona Homestead
128 Queen Street, Altona
Gold Coin donation.



Lost and Found Hobsons Bay's Rescued History

Presented by Williamstown Historical Society

The Williamstown Historical Society commenced their collection in the 1950s, to preserve a physical record of the history of the area. This exhibition displays various items, allowing visitors to learn about our unique history and valuable preservation work being done by the Williamstown Historical Society.

21 April–25 May
Open during
library hours

Williamstown Library –
Heritage Room, 104 Ferguson
Street, Williamstown
Free. No bookings required.



Step Back in Time Williamstown Heritage Guided Tour

Presented by Hobsons Bay City Council

Unlock the secrets of the historic Williamstown waterfront and seaport. One hour in duration and catering to all abilities, explore the historic seaport of waterfront Williamstown, as well as its hidden lanes, monuments and buildings.

22, 25 & 29 April
11.45am–12.45pm
2 May
11.45am–12.45pm

Hobsons Bay Visitor
Information Centre,
Commonwealth
Reserve, Williamstown
Free. Bookings essential.



Heritage Screenings

Presented by Hobsons Bay City Council

Enjoy a series of short films created to celebrate local heritage. Including *Behind the Fence* documenting Truganina Explosives Reserve, *Hidden Histories of Spotswood and South Kingsville* and *Caring for Country: Together for a Stronger Future*.

23–24 April
1pm–3pm
30 April – 2 May
1pm–3pm

Hobsons Bay Civic Centre
Digital Lounge (off the foyer)
115 Civic Parade, Altona
Free, no bookings required
Films on a continuous loop.



Way Back Workshops Researching Family Military History

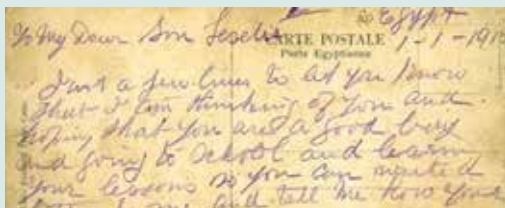
Presented by Hobsons Bay Libraries

Build upon your research skills with our Heritage Librarian for this special ANZAC workshop. Participants will leave equipped with the latest tools and resources for discovering and honouring their family's history of military service.

24 April
2.30pm–
3.30pm

Williamstown Library
Heritage Room
104 Ferguson Street,
Williamstown
Free. No bookings required.





Letters from the Front Sons of Williamstown

Presented by Hobsons Bay City Council

Letters From the Front is a special spoken word event honouring the WW1 soldiers of Newport Spotswood and Williamstown. Held in the foyer of the heritage-listed Williamstown Town Hall, this will be both a moving and inspiring event to commemorate the fallen.

24 April
4pm–6pm

Williamstown Town Hall
104 Ferguson Street,
Williamstown

Free. Bookings essential.



Convict Graves and Tales Cemetery Guided Tour

Presented by Hobsons Bay City Council

A guided walking tour around Williamstown Cemetery, one of Victoria's oldest graveyards.

Visit the largest mass grave in Australia, various naval and convict graves and hear their stories with local historian Brian Haynes.

24 April
10.30am–
12.30pm

Meet at Williamstown
Cemetery entrance gates
Champion Road,
North Williamstown

Free. Bookings essential.



The Forgotten History of Thompson Street

**Presented by Williamstown
Historical Society**

Join members of the Williamstown Historical Society to discover this lost past of 19th Century Williamstown, with stories and photographs where these buildings once stood and operated. Commencing at the corner of Nelson Place and Thompson Street.

25 April
2pm–3pm

Corner of Nelson Place
and Thompson Street

Free. Bookings essential.

3 May
2pm–3pm



Newport Lakes Guided Walk

**Presented by Dr Dominique Hes
and Friends of Newport Lakes**

Take a guided heritage walk with local author Dr Dom Hes to unearth stories of the Lakes area from pre-colonial days to today. Come prepared for stories of convicts, shootings and murders; as well as contemporary tales of conservation, placemaking and regenerative development.

26 April
9.30am–
11.30am

Newport Lakes, enter via Mason
Street. Meet at the BBQ shelters

\$5 donation. Bookings essential.



DrawnOut by Lindsay Douglas Exhibition Launch

**Presented by Art and Industry Projects
and Hobsons Bay City Council**

Join us in launching the new DrawnOut exhibition at the Outside Gallery. Artist Lindsay Douglas has hand drawn and meticulously planned images that unearth often unnoticed details of our built environment. A night of art, images and glowing light boxes.

24 April
7pm–
8.30pm

Launch is at Newport Bowling Club
Outside Gallery is at Paine Reserve,
4 Market Street, Newport

Free. No Bookings required.



Ghosts of the Old City, Williamstown

Presented by Lantern Ghost Tours

Explore King William's Town, the original capital of Victoria, by lamp light. Steeped in history, apparitions, alleyways and lager, hear about the stories of this thriving maritime town. Visit an abandoned morgue, forgotten burial grounds and hidden laneways in Victoria's most historic seaport.

25–26 April
2–3 May
8.30pm –
10.30pm

Hobsons Bay Visitor Information
Centre, corner of Nelson Place
and Syme Street, Williamstown

\$39.00 per adult or \$108.00 for
two adults and two children aged
8-16 years. Bookings essential.



Spotswood Industrial Heritage Walk

Presented by Hobsons Bay City Council

This tour of Spotswood provides an insight into the people, industries and businesses that transformed this landscape from a dairy farm to one of Victoria's most important manufacturing hubs. Uncover some of Spotswood's secret history with a group of likeminded, curious people.

28 April
10am–12pm

Meet at the corner of
Hudsons Road and
Booker Street, Spotswood

Free. Bookings essential.



Unboxing History Comic and Art Club Special

Presented by Hobsons Bay Libraries

Join a special edition of the Comic Club and Art Club and share in the excitement of unboxing as we discover local history. In a hands-on session where we make guesses, find clues and create stories about unusual historical objects.

Comic Club
29 April
3.45pm–4.30pm

Art Club
30 April
3.45pm–4.30pm



Comic Club, Altona Library
123 Queen Street, Altona
Art Club, Newport
Community Hub
11-13 Mason Street, Newport

Free. Bookings required.
Ages 5–12.



Heritage Story Time with N'arwee't Carolyn Briggs

Presented by Hobsons Bay Libraries

A live author reading of *The Time of Chaos*, a story of the Boon Wurrung language group, illustrated by Balnarring Preschool. Learn about the dramatic changes to Nairm (Port Phillip Bay) and imagine the grassy plain to the Bay of 'Koorit - Boork - Boork' (Williamstown). Stay after the reading, take a map and join in an optional self-paced walk around Williamstown.

29 April
10am–10.30am



Williamstown Library –
Heritage Room, 104 Ferguson
Street, Williamstown

Free. Bookings essential.



Tenya - Gabi Briggs Exhibition

Presented by The Substation, Liquid Architecture in association with the Yirramboi Festival

'Tenya' explores Anaiwan cultural revitalisation through walking as practice. This new work by Anaiwan and Gumbayngirr artist Gabi Briggs, builds upon her 2024 work *Arkan and Irbela*. This multi-layered sound and visual installation captures the process of communicating with Country.

**30 April–
10 May**
11am–5pm
(Wed to Sat)

The Substation,
1 Market Street, Newport

Free. No bookings required.



Point Gellibrand Convict Walk

Presented by Hobsons Bay City Council

Join a walk around Point Gellibrand to discover the heritage of Hobsons Bay's convict past with local historian Brian Haynes retracing our convict system in the colony. There may be some walking on the beach to view the convict sea wall.

1 May
10.30am–
12.30pm

Meet at Timeball Tower,
Battery Road, Williamstown

Free. Limited numbers.
Bookings essential.



Postcards from the Gardens Moments in Time

Presented by Hobsons Bay City Council with Friends of Williamstown Botanic Gardens

Using the historic postcard collection of the Williamstown Botanic Gardens archive, explore the early 1900s craze for postcard sending and collecting. The talk and tour will be followed by a morning tea and a chance to write your own postcard from the gardens.

1 May
10am–12pm

Williamstown Botanic Gardens
gates, corner of Giffard and
Osborne Streets, Williamstown

Free. Bookings essential.



These Walls Speak Volumes Author Talk

Presented by Hobsons Bay Libraries

Originating from a radical Scottish movement to educate workers, Mechanics Institutes thrived in Victoria during 1839 to 1930, including Newport, Spotswood, and Williamstown. *These Walls Speak Volumes* is an indexed history of these institutions. Join authors Ken James and Pam Baragwanath to explore their cultural significance in Victoria and beyond.

30 April
2pm–3pm



Newport Community
Hub and Library –
Mechanics Institute
13 Mason Street, Newport

Free. Bookings essential.



Heritage Help

Presented by Hobsons Bay Libraries

Hit a roadblock in your research into your house, family, or local history? Book a free, 30-minute session with our Heritage Librarian at Williamstown Library. One-on-one research assistance, either in our dedicated Heritage Room or via teleconference, can be scheduled by appointment.

1 & 15 May
10am–
2.30pm

Williamstown Library
Heritage Room, 104 Ferguson
Street, Williamstown

Free. Bookings required.



Tea, Tech and Training Researching Family History

Presented by Hobsons Bay Libraries

Learn how the internet can be used to help you research your family history.

Our friendly library team will answer any questions you may have. Don't miss this opportunity to learn and connect!

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided.

2 May
10am–11am

Altona Library, Meeting Room 1
123 Queen Street, Altona

Free. Bookings essential.



Walk on Country Manemit/Early Winter Walk

Presented by Hobsons Bay City Council and Regeneration Projects

Join Uncle Willie Pepper and Matt Sykes (Regeneration Projects) to celebrate the traditional season of Manemit / Early Winter with a Smoking Ceremony and Walk on Country, along Laverton Creek. Limited numbers.

3 May
10am–12pm

Meet at Andrew Park Drive
Carpark, Altona Meadows

Free. Bookings essential.





Heritage Crafts

Presented by Seabreeze Quilters and Altona Laverton Historical Society

Unearth crafting traditions from times past – from pedal powered treadle sewing machines to hand stitching a ‘chatelaine’ – useful sewing items that would hang from the belt of the lady of the house. All materials will be supplied, and morning and afternoon tea is provided.

4 May
11am–3pm

Altona Homestead
Logan Reserve
128 Queen Street, Altona
\$10. Bookings essential.



Truganina Explosives Reserve Open Day

Presented by Hobsons Bay City Council and Truganina Explosives Reserve Protection Society

What’s behind the fence? Explore the historic Truganina Explosives Reserve and discover a curious chapter of industrial heritage. Wander through the Keeper’s residence, join a guided tour of the conservation grounds and discover the work done to preserve the area for the community.

4 May
1pm–4pm

Truganina Explosives Reserve
276 Queen Street, Altona
Free. No bookings required.



Heritage Recipes

Presented by Altona Country Women’s Association

Unearth a treasure trove of timeless recipes, passed down through generations. Discover the forgotten ingredients and classic techniques that still pack a punch in flavour, along with exciting new twists on traditional relishes, jams, and preserves. Watch live recipe demonstrations, sample delicious homemade creations.

10 May
12pm–3pm

Brooklyn Community Hall
35 Nolan Avenue, Brooklyn
\$10. Bookings essential.



Secrets of the Pinetum

Presented by Hobsons Bay City Council and the Friends of Williamstown Botanic Gardens

Follow the historic, winding pathways of the Williamstown Botanic Gardens through the Pinetum. Join a walking tour to discover lost garden structures, the elegance of Edward La Trobe Bateman’s garden design and how the garden is preparing for the future while honouring the past.

15 May
10am–12pm

Williamstown Botanic Gardens
gates, corner of Giffard and Osborne Streets, Williamstown
Free. Bookings essential.



How to Book Tickets

Many of the events in this year’s Heritage Hobsons Bay program are free, but bookings are required. Visit our website to explore the full program and book your tickets.

hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/heritagehobsonsbay

Contact us

If you have any questions about the program or need help booking your tickets, please contact the Arts, Culture and Heritage team at Hobsons Bay City Council.

1300 179 944
arts@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au



←
Explore the
program online



Gem Pier, Williamstown, 1906 (image courtesy State Library Victoria)



Old Laverton School, Altona Meadows

Our Local Heritage

Heritage Street Signs

The stories behind some of Hobsons Bay's oldest street names are told through heritage street signs. The signs provide a glimpse into the history of the city, the lives of political, business, cultural and community leaders and opportunities to showcase important elements of its past. Created with input and advice from Hobson Bay's historical societies, streets signs across the city connect us to our past and provide clues into the origins of our neighbourhoods. Do you know what your street name means?

As you travel through the city, look out for these signs and find out more about the history of Hobsons Bay.

hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/Community/Arts-Culture-Heritage/Cultural-Heritage/Heritage-Street-Signs



Hobsons Bay Coastal Trail, art-works and interpretive markers

A great way to experience the city is through following the Hobsons Bay Coastal Trail, 23km that is sign posted with trail markers and artworks that allow the significance of the cultural and natural history of the coast to be revealed, reinforcing our sense of local place and community and enriching our understanding of the environment.

Interpretive signage and markers are also placed throughout the city, stories of people and places that make up the history of Hobsons Bay. Or download the Experience Hobsons Bay App to explore the Hobsons Bay collection of public art, installations, museum and heritage buildings.

hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/visit/Experience/Things-to-do/The-Hobsons-Bay-Coastal-Trail

CREATIVE CITY
HOBSONS BAY



Arts & Heritage

Download the Creative City Arts & Heritage Hobsons Bay app and take a tour.



Places to Visit

Museums in Hobsons Bay

Heritage in Hobsons Bay resonates with locals and draws visitors year-round. Check out some of the museums and museum experiences you'll find here.

Altona Homestead

Every Tuesday, 11am to 2pm, Saturdays 10am to 12pm, and first Sunday of the month, 10.30am to 2pm
Logan Reserve, Altona
alhs.com.au

Enterprize Tall Ship

Gem Pier, Syme St, Williamstown
For upcoming sailing dates from Gem Pier and bookings visit the Enterprize Melbourne website at enterprize.org.au

HMAS Castlemaine Museum Ship

Open weekends and public holidays, 11am to 4pm
Gem Pier, Syme St, Williamstown
hmascastlemaine.org.au

Newport Railway Museum

Open to the public Saturday from 12 noon to 5pm, on selected Sundays (including during school holiday periods), and the third Sunday of every month, from 12pm to 5pm
Champion Road, Williamstown
newportrailwaymuseum.org.au

Scienceworks

Open daily, 10am to 4.30pm
2 Booker St, Spotswood
museumsvictoria.com.au/scienceworks

Seaworks Maritime Museum

Open Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday, 11am to 3pm
Open other days for group bookings by appointment
82 Nelson Place, Williamstown
seaworks.com.au

St John Ambulance Australia Museum

Open Thursday and Sunday, 10am to 4pm
Corner The Esplanade & Garden Street, Williamstown
stjohnvic.com.au/about/st-john-museum/

Getting There

One of the real charms of getting to Hobsons Bay is just that, getting there! Travel by ferry, get on your bike and take a ride, take the train or bus, come by car, or catch a seaplane. Phone the Hobsons Bay Visitor Information Centre for best travel arrangements. Whichever way you come, your adventure starts the moment you leave home

Experience Hobsons Bay

Visit experiencehobsonsbay.com for things to do, see, places to eat and places to stay.

We encourage people to share their favourite pics of places they love in Hobsons Bay by using the hashtag **#experiencehobsonsbay** on social media. Follow us on Instagram [@hobsonsbaycc](https://www.instagram.com/hobsonsbaycc)

Hobsons Bay Visitor Information Centre

Corner of Nelson Place and Syme Street, Williamstown
Open Daily (*closed Good Friday and Christmas Day*)
Phone 9932 3016
NRS phone 133 677 and quote 03 9932 1000
experiencehobsonsbay.com
hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

Stay up to date with the latest arts and culture events, opportunities and news.

Subscribe to the Creative City Hobsons Bay e-newsletter or follow us on social media.



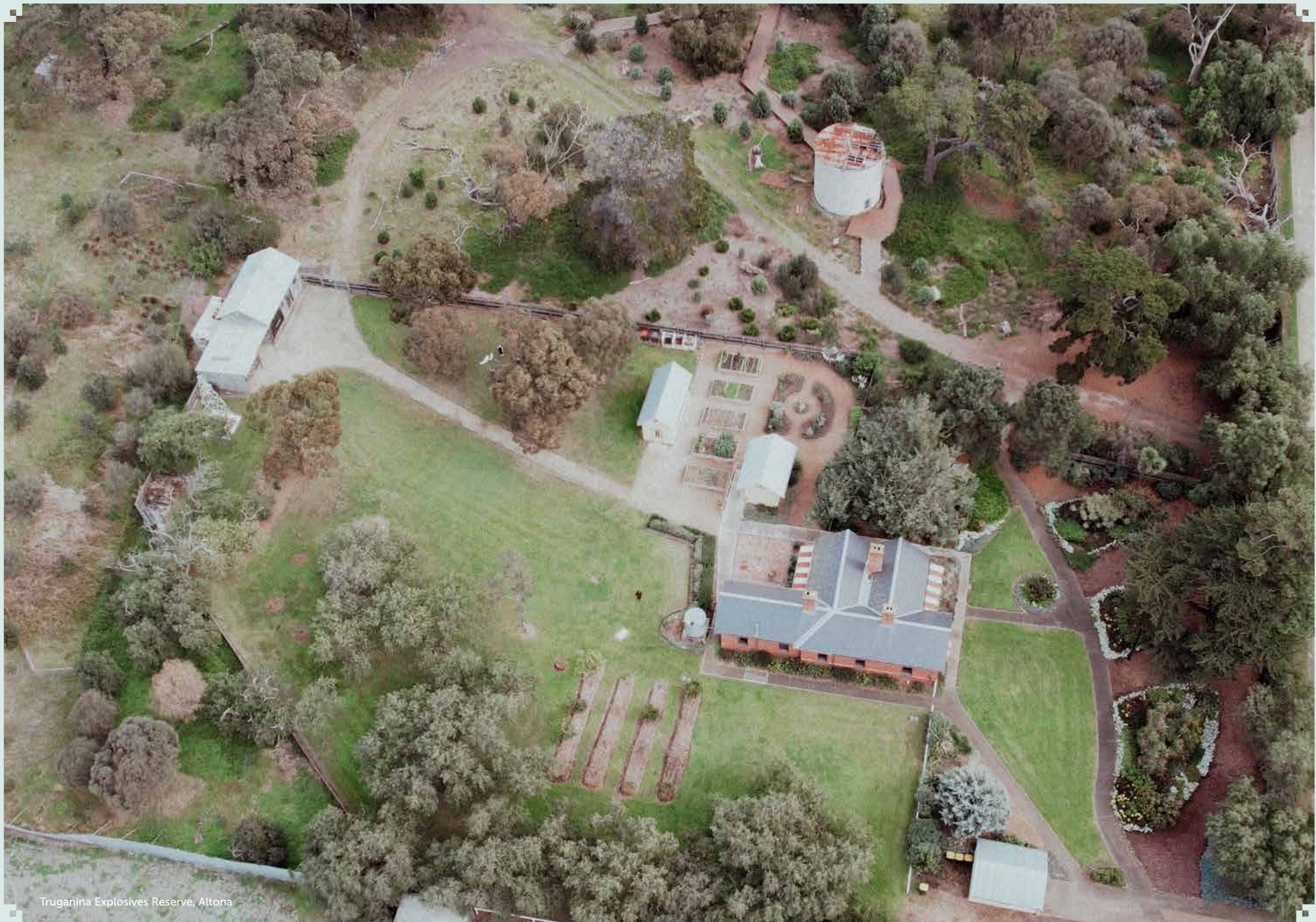
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#heritagehobsonsbay

Explore the program online:
hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/heritagehobsonsbay



'Cargo' by Mike Nicholls and Jonathan Leahey
(2009) Cyril Curtain Reserve, Williamstown



Truganina Explosives Reserve, Altona



The former Message Tree was a significant she-oak tree and meeting place for the Yalikut Willam, the First People of Hobsons Bay, alongside the early colonial settlers of Williamstown. The she-oak tree was removed in 1857 due to road widening.

Today this interpretation site, on the corner of Thompson Street and Nelson Place recognises this important shared story.

The research undertaken about the Message Tree was compiled by the community, led by The New Message Tree Alliance (formerly Get Up Out West). More information can be found at

Scan for more info



**HOBSONS BAY
LANGUAGE LINE**

9932 1212

INTERPRETER SERVICE FOR ALL LANGUAGES
Your Council in your language



Explore the program online:

hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au/heritagehobsonsbay