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# BRITTANNIA CREEK TRAMWAY WOOD DISTILLATION FACTORY

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## Location

BRITANNIA CREEK ROAD AND GUIDEHOUSE ROAD WESBURN, YARRA RANGES SHIRE

## Municipality

YARRA RANGES SHIRE

## Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H8022-0038

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

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Interpretation of Site	Wood Distillation Plant 1907-1924; Sawmill Site 1924-1936, residential buildings for managers, gatehouse.
Archaeological Significance	Low to medium archaeological significance. Potential for archaeological remains to exist particulation in relation to collapsed house area and shed.
Historical Significance	High historical significance particulation for the chemical plant role in the first world war. It was the only such plant in Australia in 1906. Documented in Cumming, Smith & Co "A Chemical Industry in a Victorian Forest"
Hermes Number	10585
Property Number	

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## History

Heritage Inventory History of Site: Cuming, Smith & Co. established the only commercial wood distillation plant in Australia in 1956. It had a sophisticated chemical plant on site and manufactured products such as wood tar, pyroigneous acid, acetic acid, methyl alcohol, formalin, acetone and charcoal. It operated from 1907 until 1924, and was especially successful during WW1. The factory attracted international attention. From 1924 until 1936 the Yelland brothers developed the associated sawmill sites.

More detail in HV Report 194, Vol 12, Part B by Supple *et al.*

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*