

Aboriginal Melbourne

Things to see and do to learn about the Aboriginal heritage and culture of Melbourne.

melbourne.vic.gov.au/aboriginalmelbourne



1 *Sir Douglas and Lady Gladys Nicholls Memorial*
Parliament Gardens

Sir Douglas and Lady Gladys Nicholls were instrumental in the 1967 referendum campaign. They pressed their case for Aboriginal reconciliation well before reconciliation became the popular view. From their humble beginnings of the Gore Street Church in Fitzroy to Government House in Adelaide, their legacy still lives on today. Artists: Louis Laumen, bronze sculpture, and Aboriginal artist Ngarra Murray, ground etching design.

2 *Paving inlay*
Parliament House, Spring Street

This red granite and brass paving inlay uses a painting entitled *Ceremony* created c. 1880 by Wurundjeri Ngurungaeta (headman) William Barak to reference the past of this site as a traditional ceremonial ground and a meeting place for the people of the Kulin Nation. Aboriginal artists: Ray Thomas and Megan Evans.

3 *Scarred trees*
Various locations

Scarred trees are trees that have had bark removed to create canoes, containers, shelters and shields by Aboriginal people. The tree continues to grow around the 'scar' creating a unique appearance. Scarred trees can be found at the Royal Melbourne Zoo, Fitzroy Gardens and Yarra Park.

4 *Aboriginal flag*
Melbourne Town Hall,
Collins Street

On Sunday 27 May 2012, as part of National Reconciliation Week, the Aboriginal flag was permanently raised on Town Hall acknowledging Aboriginal people as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which the City of Melbourne is located. The Aboriginal flag, created by Harold Thomas, is an official Flag of Australia under the Flags Act 1953. The colours of the flag represent the Aboriginal people of Australia: the

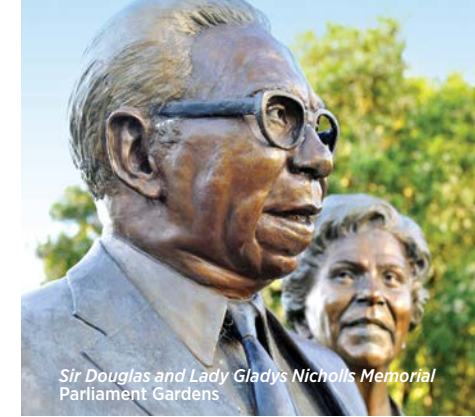
red ochre colour of earth and a spiritual relation to the land and the sun, the giver of life and protector.

5 *Birrarung Marr*
Yarra River, Federation Square

Birrarung Marr's name comes from the language of the Wurundjeri and Boon Wurrung people who inhabited this area. 'Birrarung' means 'river of mist' while 'Marr' refers to the side of the river.

This popular park sits on the north bank of the Yarra River next to Federation Square. The park includes some striking Aboriginal art.

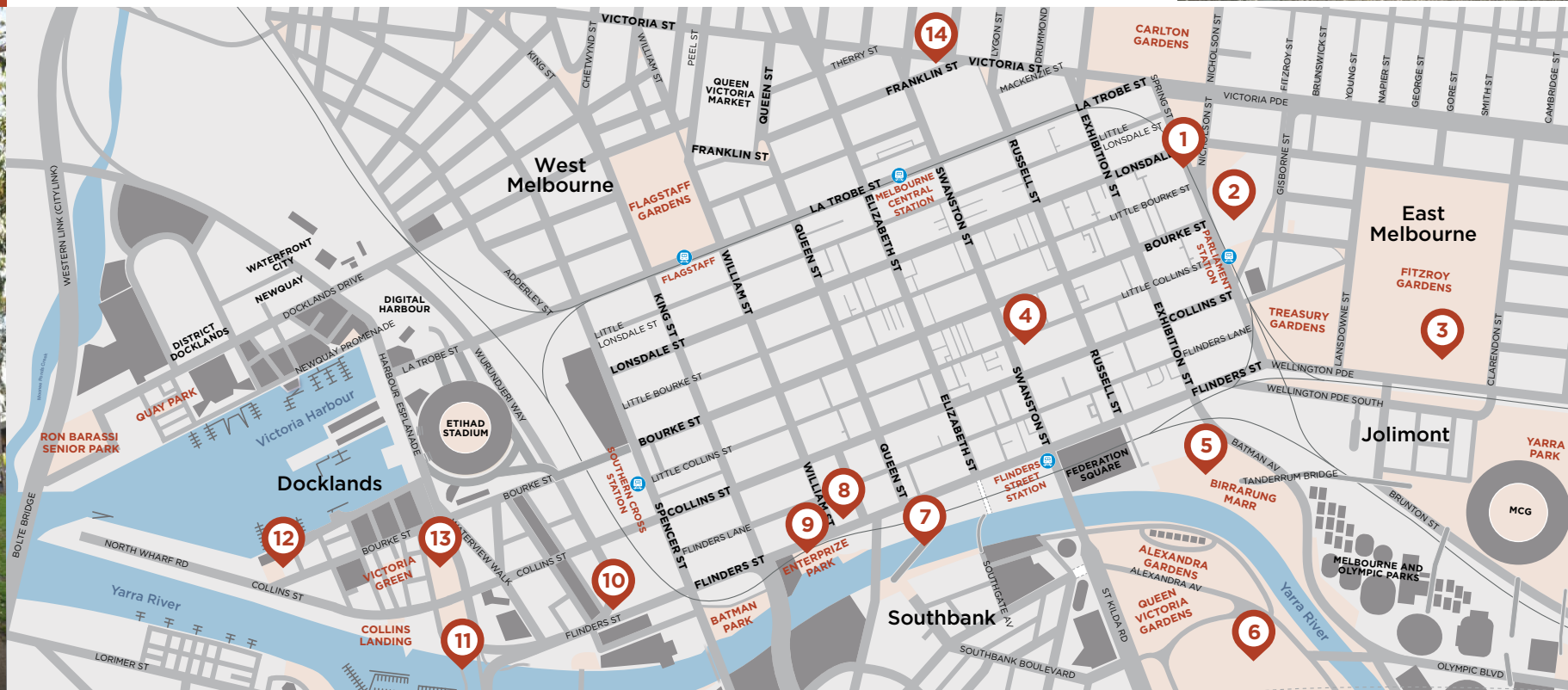
Birrarung Wilam (Common Ground), river camp installation, interprets stories from local Aboriginal communities, using a winding, textured pathway to acknowledge the eel, a traditional food source for groups camped by the river. Large rocks incised with animal drawings enclose a performance space and, closer to the river, a semi-circle of metal shields



Sir Douglas and Lady Gladys Nicholls Memorial Parliament Gardens



Paving inlay Parliament House, Spring Street



Scar - A Stolen Vision Enterprise Park



A scarred tree

represents each of the five groups of the Kulin Nation. *The Eel Trap* is designed to represent both the river and the eel trap.

Aboriginal artists: *Birrarung Wilam (Common Ground)* – Vicki Couzens (Gunditjmara and Kirrae Whurrong), Lee Darroch (Yorta Yorta) and Treahna Hamm (Yorta Yorta).

Eel Trap – Fiona Clarke (Kirrae Whurrong) and Ken McKean.

6 Kings Domain Resting Place Linlithgow Avenue

Kings Domain Resting Place is the site of skeletal remains belonging to 38 Aboriginal people from throughout Victoria. The remains were repatriated from the Museum of Victoria in 1985. The site is marked by a granite boulder with an inscription memorial plaque. It was the first successful repatriation of Aboriginal remains in Australia.

7 Gayip Part of *The Travellers* installation Sandridge Bridge, Yarra River

The Travellers installation celebrates Aboriginal presence and the meeting of cultures through migration. One of the sculptures in the installation represents Gayip, a Woiwurrung word that describes the ceremonial meeting of different Aboriginal clans through dance and storytelling. Gayip is central to many Aboriginal social traditions such as marriage, trading and settling disputes. Nadim Karam, along with Wurundjeri artist, Mandy Nicholson, designed this particular sculpture representing the Aboriginal people of Melbourne.

8 Paving inlay Old Customs House, Immigration Museum, Flinders Street

In this stone and brass paving inlay, a silhouetted figure and horseshoes commemorate the race won by an Aboriginal schoolboy Peter, in 1876. The plaque was intentionally placed in contrast to the John Batman plaque, which commemorates his landing in 1835. Aboriginal artist: Ray Thomas

9 Scar – A Stolen Vision Enterprise Park

The work consists of 30 carved and decorated recycled pier posts, evoking ancient shield and canoe making techniques. Each pole represents a different aspect of Aboriginal life, history or mythology and, like the trees they came from, are a testament of endurance. Aboriginal artists: Kimba Thompson, Karen Casey, Ray Thomas, Maree Clarke, Glenn Romanis, Craig Charles, Ricardo Idagi and Treahna Hamm.

10 Eagle Wurundjeri Way, Docklands

Created by non-Aboriginal artist Bruce Armstrong, *Eagle* stands a proud 25 metres tall and is made of timber and aluminium. His eyes are made of glass. *Eagle* is affectionately known as 'Bunjil', the Kulin Nation's creator spirit who appeared as an eagle hawk after creating the land, the lore and its people.

11 Webb Bridge Docklands

This pedestrian and cycling bridge, inspired by an Aboriginal eel trap, was designed and created by architects Denton Corkel Marshall and artist Robert Owen.

12 Buluk Park Docklands

Buluk Park was named in 2014 to reflect the geographical heritage of the area. Buluk means 'wetlands' in the Woiwurrung language of the Wurundjeri people. Before the arrival of Europeans, the area now known as Docklands was a vibrant wetland that provided local Aboriginal people with plenty of food and resources that included

birds, eggs, small animals and reeds for basket and rope weaving.

13 Reed Vessel Navigation Drive, Docklands

Virginia King's *Reed Vessel* acknowledges the history of the site and embraces the themes of migration, passage and survival. The area on which it is located was once extensive tidal wetlands, which provided abundant food and spiritual connections to the area for its traditional owners. The basket-like vessel also symbolises a container in which memories are held – memories of the undeveloped site and its traditional uses, but also of the ocean journeys that have brought early settlers and later generations of migrants to these shores.

14 Standing by Tunnerminnerwait and Maulboyheenner Corner of Franklin and Victoria streets

This artwork commemorates the story of two incredibly significant figures in Melbourne's early history. Tunnerminnerwait and Maulboyheenner were born in Tasmania and brought to Melbourne in 1839 by George Augustus Robinson, 'Chief Protector of Aborigines' in the Port Phillip District. In 1842, they became the first people to be hanged in Melbourne after they were convicted of the murder of two whale-hunters in the Western Port area during a time of violent conflict between Aboriginal and settler populations.

Their stories touch on the establishment of Melbourne, including conflict over land and the history of crime and punishment, the treatment of Aboriginal people in Tasmania and any historical and community links between Port Phillip and Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania).

Experimental and empowering, this artwork invites you to discover how the story of Tunnerminnerwait and Maulboyheenner informs our knowledge of Aboriginal history and contested narratives of colonisation.

Artists: Brook Andrew (Wiradjuri, Ngunnawal and Celtic) and Trent Walter.

Photo: Dianna Snape.



Kings Domain Resting Place
Linlithgow Avenue



Paving inlay
Old Customs House, Immigration Museum



Reed Vessel
Navigation Drive, Docklands



Standing by Tunnerminnerwait and Maulboyheenner
Corner of Franklin and Victoria streets

PLACES TO VISIT

Koorie Heritage Trust Yarra Building, Federation Square

The Koorie Heritage Trust protects, promotes and preserves south-east Australian Koorie (Aboriginal) history and culture. The centre advances reconciliation through education, tours, exhibitions and a gift shop that sells a diverse range of authentic Aboriginal artwork and products.

kooorieheritagetrust.com.au

Aboriginal Heritage Walk Royal Botanical Gardens, Birdwood Avenue, South Yarra

The Aboriginal Heritage Walk, set in the Royal Botanic Gardens, is a vibrant cultural experience providing an opportunity for visitors to explore traditional uses of plants for food, medicine, tools and ceremony. Discover the ancestral lands that the Royal Botanical Gardens now occupies.

**Bookings are essential, call
03 9252 2429 or visit rbg.vic.gov.au**

Bunjilaka Melbourne Museum Nicholson Street, Carlton

Learn about Victoria's unique Aboriginal cultures and celebrate the diversity of language, custom and art.

**Trading hours:
7 days a week, 10am – 5pm.
Visit museumvictoria.com.au/bunjilaka**

The City of Melbourne respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land, the Boon Wurrung and Woiwurrung (Wurundjeri) people of the Kulin Nation and pays respect to their Elders, past and present.

For the Kulin Nation, Melbourne has always been an important meeting place for events of social, educational, sporting and cultural significance.

Today we are proud to say that Melbourne is a significant gathering place for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.