

Acknowledging and Celebrating Aboriginal Heritage in the Surf Coast Shire

The area that is now the Surf Coast Shire is the traditional home of three Aboriginal nations, the **Wadawurrung**, the **Gulidjan** and the **Gadubanud**.

The *Gulidjan* were based to the west of the Barwon River at Winchelsea and past Colac. The *Gadubanud* were located west of the Painkalac Creek along the Otway Ranges. The *Wadawurrung* covered the rest, which is most of the Shire. Each nation had their own language and their own Country for which they were responsible. A major way that Aboriginal people recognised, related to and looked after their Country was through art.

Acknowledgement of the local Aboriginal heritage is an ongoing project in the Surf Coast Shire. Recognition and information is provided through public art, cultural activity and place-naming.

Aboriginal Place and Road Names in the Surf Coast Shire

The following words are used as place or road names in the Surf Coast Shire.

The meanings have been collated from work by Bruce Pascoe and with assistance by the Wadawurrung Aboriginal Corporation.

This is not a definitive list and may be updated and corrected.

<i>Mirri</i> - sun	<i>Parwan</i> - Magpie
<i>Dya</i> - earth	<i>Narrodyia</i> - Female Meeting Ground
<i>Wiyin</i> - fire	<i>Goim/Koim</i> – Kangaroo
<i>Yirn</i> - moon	<i>Yuurok</i> – Goanna
<i>Warradjak</i> - wind	<i>Modewarre</i> - Musk Duck
<i>Yallock, yaluk, yaloak</i> - river	<i>Painkalac</i> – the meaning is still being interpreted
<i>Ngobeeyt</i> - water	<i>Angahook</i> - Iron Bark
<i>Karreenga</i> - grow	<i>Connewarre</i> - Swan
<i>Wadawurrung</i> - The people whose word for 'no' is Watha(<i>Wada</i>). Wurrong (<i>Wurrung</i>) - lips/language. The people in whose language the word for no is watha (<i>wada</i>)	<i>Moorabool</i> - Mussel
<i>Merrijig</i> - very good/well done	<i>Barrabool</i> - Oyster
<i>Banyul Warri - Banyul</i> - Hills / <i>Warri</i> - sea	<i>Barwon - Barre</i> - Land/ <i>warre</i> - sea
	<i>Gherang</i> - Black Cockatoo
	<i>Jan Juc</i> - Milk

Public Art locations around Surf Coast

White's Beach Playground, The Esplanade

(opposite Lochard Drive, Torquay Foreshore. (Mel 506 E3)

The community local to the playground had input into the themes and design of the playground and unique space, acknowledging the indigenous heritage of Torquay. The playground does this by depiction and plantings of flora and fauna significant to the local aboriginal people.

Community art workshops were held to create some of these elements.

Play elements are named with the Wadawurrung (Wathaurong) names – a Flying Fox becomes Waa the Crow. Waa was one of the two totems of the Wadawurrung. Signage adds to the interpretation of the indigenous elements.

Artists involved: *Kirsty Manger, Lee Goller, Kyla Vinton, Claire Gittings, Glenn Romanis.*



6-13 July
2014

**SERVING COUNTRY –
 CENTENARY & BEYOND**

Torquay Sundial, Torquay Foreshore

The Esplanade (end of Darian Road) (Mel 506 B4)

Torquay Analematic Sundial is a Torquay Lions Club project.

Artists Claire Gittings and Glenn Romanis designed the images based on the flora, fauna, landscape and the indigenous sky and oral story of the Mindii. The Mindii was a great 3 pronged tongue snake who was a law keeper under the command of Bunjil. Bunjil, the eagle is depicted in the centre of the Sundial. Bunjil is one of the two totems of the Wadawarrung.

More information can be found when visiting the sundial and by collecting the brochure explaining the workings and stories behind it.

Other artists involved in creating the Sundial are: *Mark Trinham, Kyla Vinton, Steve Vinton, Anne Kalamaris and Kathryn Soanes.*



Bell's Beach Toilet Block

(Mel 15 A21)

A mural project developed through Shire and SANE (Surfers Appreciating the Natural Environment) to enhance an essential facility by adding cultural and educational elements relevant to this popular and iconic surfing reserve.

Artists – Mark Trinham and Glenn Romanis designed the work to represent the flora and fauna – both land and sea of the area.

They were supported by artist, Tom Gittings.

'Bells Bowl' is depicted topographically

The Mindii and Wandji Spirit oral stories of the Wadawarrung (Wathaurong) are depicted through the Mindii, a snake with a three pronged tongue; a red bellied black snake and an eel.

Point Addis -Koori Cultural Walk

(Mel 15 A21)

The Koori Cultural Walk is a self-guided walk with signage indicating and informing significant local indigenous information based on life and the environment.



Anglesea Community House Mural

(Mel 514 E7)

Mural designed and painted by Glenn Romanis. The work is based on the topography of Anglesea with the Anglesea River (Kuarkadorla – Fishing Place - Mullet) as the central image. The mural was created to acknowledge the indigenous heritage of Anglesea.



Buckley's Bunyip Sculpture

Allan Noble Sanctuary, Inlet Cres, (off Great Ocean Road)
Aireys Inlet

Artist Jeff Raglus was commissioned to create a sculpture based on the story of William Buckley, an escaped convict who lived with the Wathaurong people for over 30 years from 1803. He was thought to be the "ghost" of the warrior, Mangowak.

As Jeff researched and developed the sculpture it developed it as a work celebrating the bird life, insects, the weather, the story of William Buckley, myths and history of the fantastic wetland in which it sits.

