

Healing Country, Healing Ourselves

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Key landscape functions

This Cultural Landscape Strategy is designed to achieve the clients' goals as outlined in Russell Jaffe's 'Master Plan for Willum Warrain' Final Draft Document – March 10 2021'.

This includes a number of primary functions:

- Djakitjuk Djanga Bush Food Nursery
- Cultural Tours for schools, corporate & community groups
- Cultural Events & Celebrations
- Bush Playgroup
- Women's Business
- Men's Business
- Willum Warrain's Daily Operations

Acknowledgement of Country

Regeneration Projects acknowledges Parbin-ata, Mother Earth, and the daily ecosystem services that she provides the communities of the Mornington Peninsula. We especially acknowledge the water catchment and biolink that connects Willum Warrain to the Warringine Creek and the internationally significant Western Port Ramsar Site.

We acknowledge the people of the Eastern Kulin Nation, the Bunurong and Boon Wurrung, their living connections to Country through Elders past, present and emerging. We also acknowledge the paths that have brought other First Nations, European and Migrant cultures into today's community.

This conceptual landscape strategy is shared with a spirit of Djilbruk / deep Respect as we work together towards reconciliation and regeneration.

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CLIENT:
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Cultural Landscape Strategy
Page: 1/13
Date: 17 March 2021

Willum Warrain
Cultural Landscape Strategy

Healing Country, Healing Ourselves

When Peter Aldenhoven was asked whether there was a narrative that could guide the cultural landscape Masterplan, he took a moment, and then described the idea of ‘Healing Country, Healing Ourselves.’

Throughout our tour of the existing Willum Warrain site there was a repeating pattern – degraded industrial land being regenerated through pun puns (ephemeral waterholes) and indigenous revegetation, wildlife starting to return and breed, people coming together to build bridges of understanding across cultures and this leading to social and spiritual healing. Then economic opportunities and job pathways emerge which allow the rekindling of cultural practices and traditional ecological knowledge. This is a spiral of regeneration that is growing swift momentum, hence the need for a ‘masterplan’ framework to guide the growth. It’s like a young native clematis winding itself around a blackwood to support itself as it reaches up towards the light.

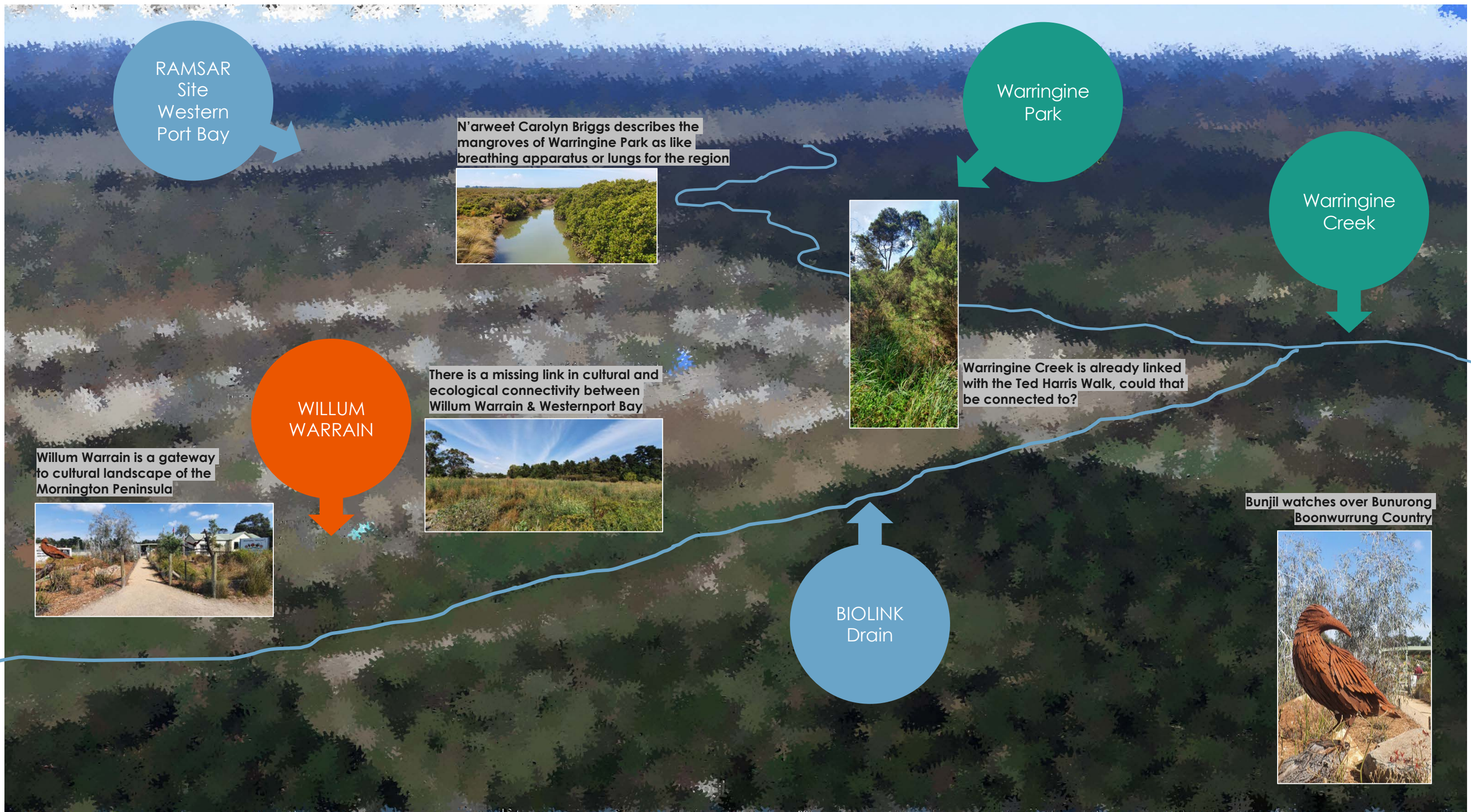
What was once a shire dump site and industrial area is now emerging as a sanctuary for the whole community.



One of the pun puns which is supporting ecological, cultural & economic regeneration



A temporary carpark which will soon support Willum Warrain's next phase of regeneration.



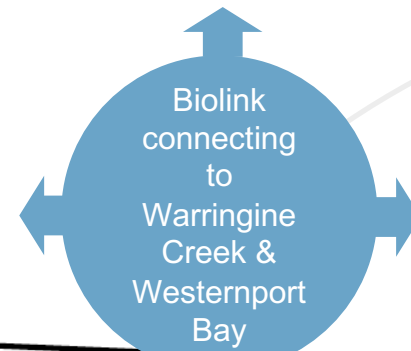
View over the ecological and cultural landscape of which Willum Warrain is a part.

The site is characterised by four landscape conditions as described in the coloured circles.

E A S T

Anecdotally, the site formerly had a stream wind through it, demonstrated by remnant swamp gums. Now water runs around the site via a linear drain.

View south along boundary fence



Existing pun pun ephemeral wetlands



The site has good solar access, with vegetation along northern boundary in particular offering shade and protection from hot north winds



View southwest to biolink & future path

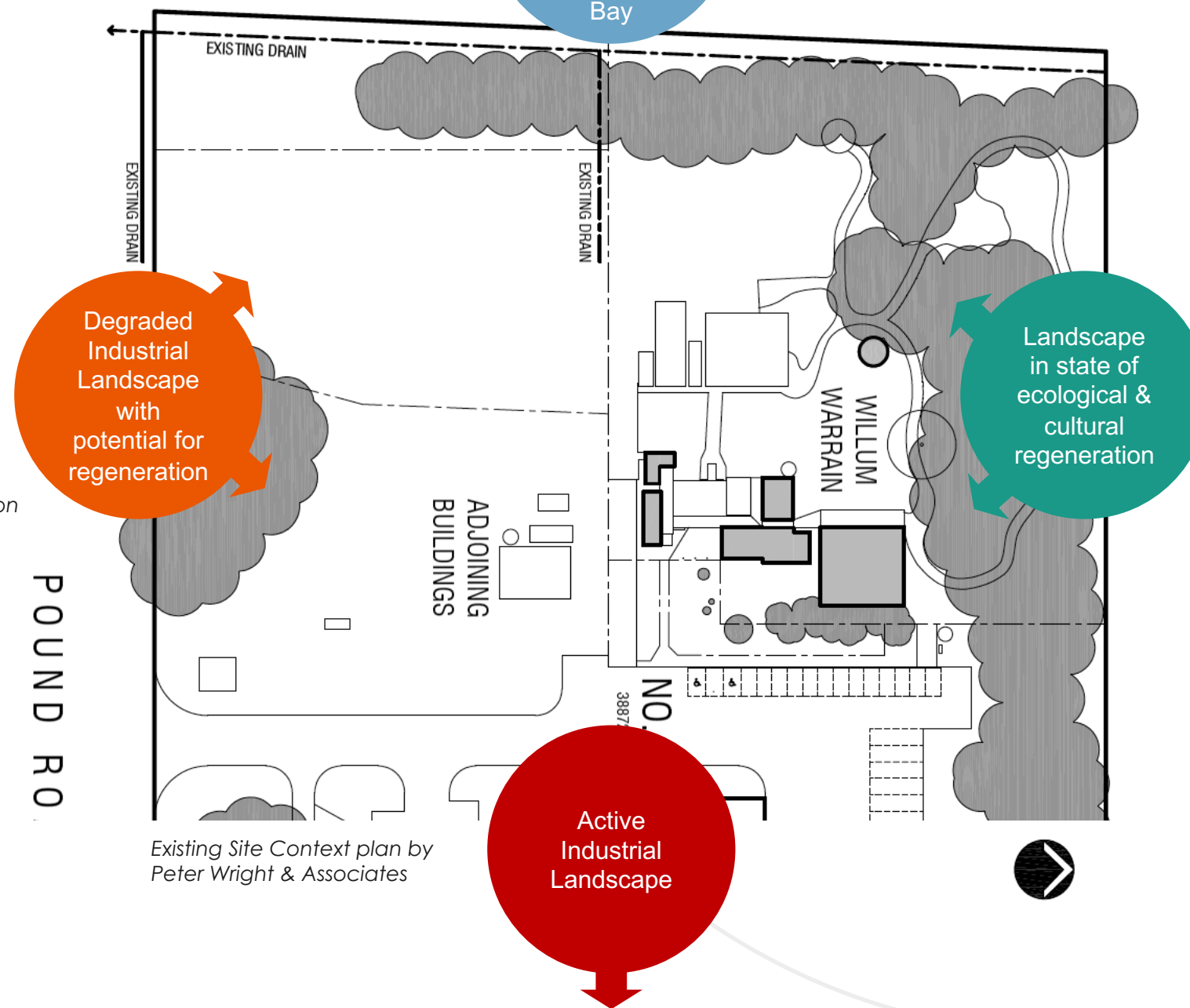


Temporary carpark ready for regeneration



Working yards and 'stockpile' site

The site is mostly protected from prevailing winds, especially cold weather coming from the south west, with assistance from adjacent plantation.



Existing Site Context plan by Peter Wright & Associates



Ngargee space nestled into landscape



Fenced off pun pun (with turtles)



Koorie Bush Trail with plant signage

With extensive indigenous revegetation, the existing site has increasing biodiversity which can be protected and enhanced.

W E S T

REGENERATION INFRASTRUCTURE



Existing entrance with mixed native plantings & Bunjil sculpture



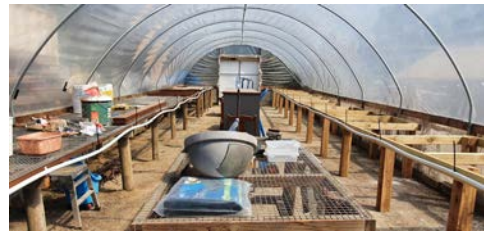
Kitchen area with food availability for community members



Open lawn and picnic area



Existing veggie garden



Greenhouse for seed propagation



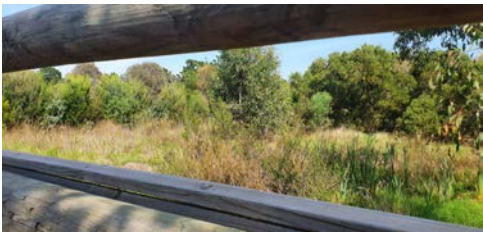
New bush nursery benches



Wetland plants being cultivated



Nesting boxes for animals & birds



Viewing area out into pun pun

STORYTELLING & BUSH CRAFT



Ngargee ceremony ground



New cultural dome & wall



Examples of existing signage



Showcase of local artists work

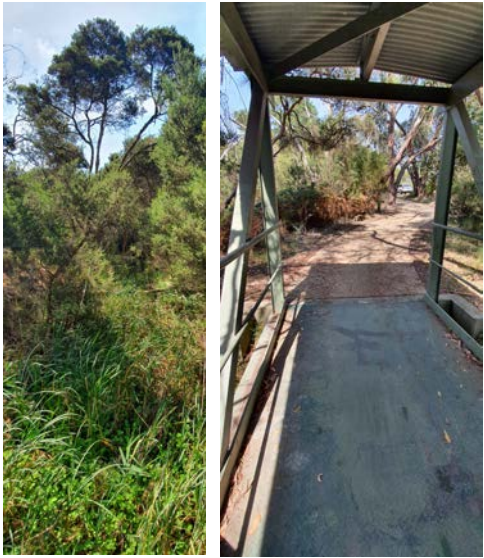


Traditional dome architecture



New cultural dome

BIOLOGICAL LINKS



Warringine Creek & new pathway



Boardwalk example, Warringine Park



Lookout example, Warringine Park



Warringine Creek connecting to Westernport Bay

SITE VISIT #1:

Meeting: Friday March 5, 2021

Karsten Poll

Gathering Place Coordinator

Taneisha Webster

Executive Officer / Women's Business

Peter Wright

Masterplan Project Manager

Key messages:

- Women's business space has restricted access
- Existing partnership with Port Phillip and Western Port Catchment Authority
- Water fenced off for safety reasons
- Swamp gums are a 'shadow' of a former stream that flowed through the site
- Karsten has experience up in Arnhem Land, including at Buku Arts Centre
- Weekly BBQ cookups where people can come into the Gathering Place
- Interest in a larger Ngargee, connected to a larger Pun Pun where the water serves purposes for ecology, culture and bushfire protection

Key messages (cont'd):

- Diverse community members with First Nations people from across the country, reflecting our history of displacement
- A place for all ages, from young Bush playgroup kids through to Elders
- Links to Mental Health & Wellbeing



Sculpture of Bunjil, creator spirit of the Bunurong & Boonwurrung community

SITE VISIT #2:

Meeting: Friday March 12, 2021

Peter Aldenhoven

Executive Officer / Men's Business

Zoe

Bushfoods Nursery Project

Key messages:

- By healing Country, we are healing ourselves ("people feel peaceful" when they come here)
- This is a Reconciliation Destination
- The land has dreaming (it can lie dormant in degraded landscapes but be reawakened through revegetation and regeneration)
- Existing Ngargee is the heart of Willum Warrain, very important place.
- Importance of layering of vegetation for different wildlife and cultural plants (eg: sugar gliders)
- Pun puns (ephemeral waterholes) are providing rich habitat for threatened species like the native Galaxias fish
- Keen to restore links to the broader biosphere: restore water ecology (the site formerly had a creek wind through it) and connections to Warringine Creek and Western Port Bay (including pathways)

Key messages (cont'd):

- Iconic events, eg: Mornington Peninsula Reconciliation Walk (~2000 people), Change the Date (~350 people)
- Connect, Belonging, Cultural Strengthening
- Growth potential for jobs – eg: need 10 guides for tours, currently at 6, consider 500 local First Nations kids
- Bushfoods nursery linked to Victorian government program supporting 13 sites across the state
- Response to cultural appropriation of bushfoods
- Traineeship and job pathways important for self-determination
- Opportunities to negotiate through procurement within government and other local organisations
- The Restaurant market provides a significant opportunity
- Idea of the landscape acting like an 'advertising' showcase where people can fall in love with the plants and then 'exit through the gift shop', eg: the wildflower meadow



wukalina Walk

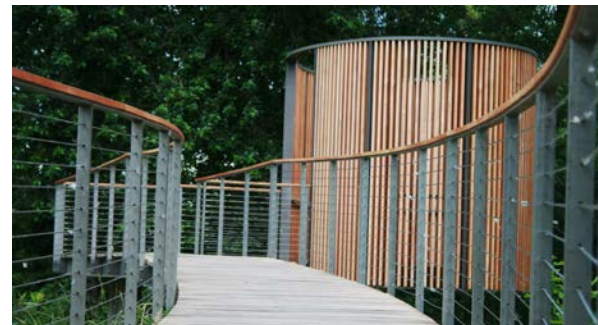
Location: northeast Tasmania

Relevance: 4-day luxury cultural walk owned and operated by the Palawa community

- The Krakani Lumi standing camp is an excellent reference for Willum Warrain's Ngargee and Conference building
- The training of Palawa guides through TasTafe is a useful model for WW's cultural tour development
- The project has created ways for Elders and Culture bearers to share their knowledge

More info: <https://www.wukalinawalk.com.au/>

Photos source: wukalina Walk & Rob Burnett



Confluence Project

Location: Columbia River, northwest USA

Relevance: Cross-cultural art and education project created with Native American leaders

- The Listening Circle at Chief Timothy Park is a great benchmark for the Ngargee
- The Bird Blind at Sandy River Delta is a useful model for the proposed bird blind in WW's pun pun
- The Learning in Schools program is a world-class example for Indigenous education

More info: <https://www.confluenceproject.org/>



Eden Project

Location: Cornwall, southwest England

Relevance: Former coal mine transformed into a botanic garden, attracts 1mill. people per year

- Use of plantings to communicate ecological and cultural narrative
- Interpretation and education around Sustainability through signage and art
- Extensive gift stores equipped with 'tools' to sustainable living, including plants and seeds

More info: <https://www.edenproject.com/>



Food Studio

Location: Oslo, Norway (Losaeter Urban Farm)

Relevance: Example of food events staged at an urban farm linking art, food & community

- The central bakehouse, kitchen and workshop space is iconic and versatile
- People are invited to get their hands dirty through guided tours, workshops & events
- Children are well catered for in their whole of community approach

More info: <https://foodstudio.no/> & <http://loser.no/?lang=en>



Peninsula Hot Springs

Location: Fingal, Mornington Peninsula

Relevance: Hot springs wellness destination with growing arts and culture event program

- Nature walking trail created to link two cultural spaces designed in collaboration with N'arweet Carolyn Briggs
- Separate Women's & Men's Spaces
- Partnership with Lionel Lauch from Living Culture to run regular cultural walks

More info:
<https://www.peninsulahotspots.com/indigeno-us-cultural-walk-comes-to-the-hot-springs/>

Children's WILD PLAY Garden

Location: Bicentennial Park, Sydney

Relevance: Fantastic unstructured outdoor play space for children and families to enjoy

- Excellent reference for Willum Warrain to develop its Bush Playground experience
- Diversity of materials and immersion experiences for kids to connect with nature
- Loose materials available for kids to dream and create their own structures and spaces

More info:
www.centennialparklands.com.au/wildplay

Ceres Environment Park

Location: Brunswick, Melbourne

Relevance: World-class environmental education centre and urban farm

- Proven diversified business model can inform Willum Warrain's economic development
- Degraded, marginal land transformed into an urban sanctuary for locals and visitors
- Café featuring local, seasonal produce grown on-site as well as extensive nursery

More info: <https://ceres.org.au/>

Kuranga Native Nursery

Location: Mt Evelyn, Dandenongs

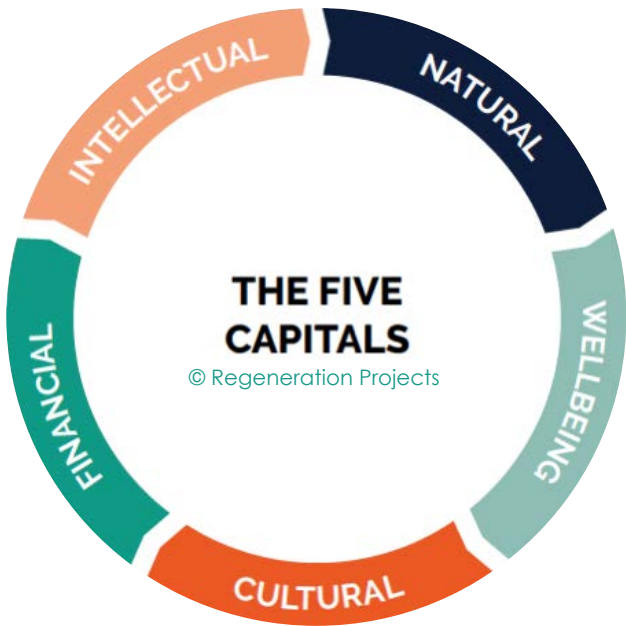
Relevance: Native Nursery with gift shop, café and extensive bush foods offering

- Successful model to inform Willum Warrain's masterplan and underlying business model
- Café menu features many native ingredients which could inspire WW's own offering
- Café and nursery integrate very well, to enhance flow-on sales opportunities

More info: <https://www.kuranga.com.au/>

The 5 Capitals model underpins all of Regeneration Projects work and is designed to scale from individual businesses and organisations to regional, state and national economies.

It represents a wholistic growth framework that is aligned with circular economic principles. Each capital is interdependent and reinforces cycles of either regeneration or degeneration.



Natural Capital

The ecosystems, biodiversity and associated ecosystem services that are the foundation of Willum Warrain’s own services.

Strategic Alignment:

MP Biodiversity Conservation Plan
Western Port Ramsar Site & associated biolinks
Partnership with Catchment Authority

Landscape Elements & Assets:

Soil (in its relative states of health)
Sun and Air (plus seasonal cycles)
Pun puns (ephemeral wetlands) & hydro cycles
Revegetation Areas
Breeding Boxes
Indigenous Plants & Animals
Protection fences
Weed & pest control
Existing drain adjacent to site
Warringine Creek Corridor
Adjacent Reserve
Gardeners & Maintenance people / Rangers

Wellbeing Capital

The health, wellbeing and happiness of Willum Warrain’s community, including staff, contractors and partners.

Strategic Alignment:

MP Public Health & Wellbeing Plan

Landscape Elements & Assets:

Kitchen
Veggie Garden
Cafe
Ngargee
Pun puns
Seating
Women’s Area
Men’s Area
Koorie Bush Trail & Boardwalk (inc. link to Warringine Creek)

Cultural Capital

The diversity of people and perspectives that drives collaboration and innovation within Willum Warrain.

Strategic Alignment:

MP Reconciliation Action Plan
MP Disability Inclusion Plan
MP Arts & Culture Plan

Landscape Elements & Assets:

Elders
Staff
Tour Guides
Bush Food Nursery managers
Cultural Rangers
Ngargee
Women’s Area
Men’s Area
Koorie Bush Trail & Boardwalk

Financial Capital

The financial assets, products & services that Willum Warrain contributes to the emerging circular economy.

Strategic Alignment:

MP Economic Development Strategy
MP Climate Emergency Plan

Landscape Elements & Assets:

Staff
Ngargee
Djakitjuk Djanga Bush Food Nursery
Koorie Bush Trail & Boardwalk (inc. signage)
Café
Carpark
Fencing

Intellectual Capital

The knowledge and systems that form the foundation of Willum Warrain’s culture, strategy and operations.

Strategic Alignment:

Bunurong & Boonwurrung Cultural IP (including Traditional Ecological Knowledge – may include other First Nations IP)
MP Economic Development Strategy
MP Reconciliation Action Plan

Landscape Elements & Assets:

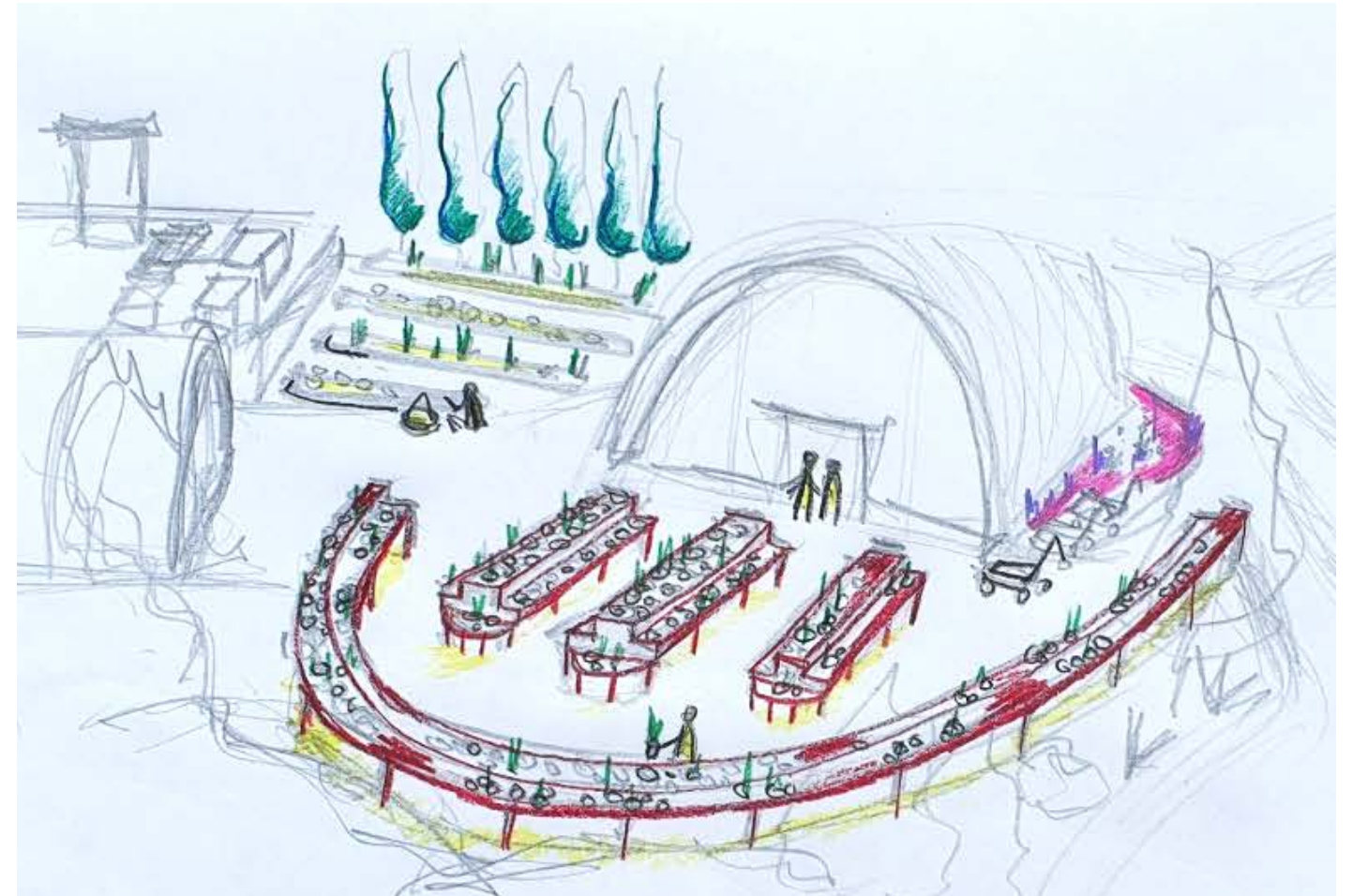
Stories & Metaphors
Signage & Interpretation handbooks
Artworks & Sculptures
Standard Operating Procedures for Events, Tours, Programs
Café recipe book

TO BE UPDATED WITH
PLAN FROM PETER
WRIGHT'S OFFICE





View looking over the new Ngargee (from the Pun Pun bridge)



View looking over the Djakitjuk Djanga Bush Food Nursery



View across the new boardwalk which floats over the existing Pun Pun area



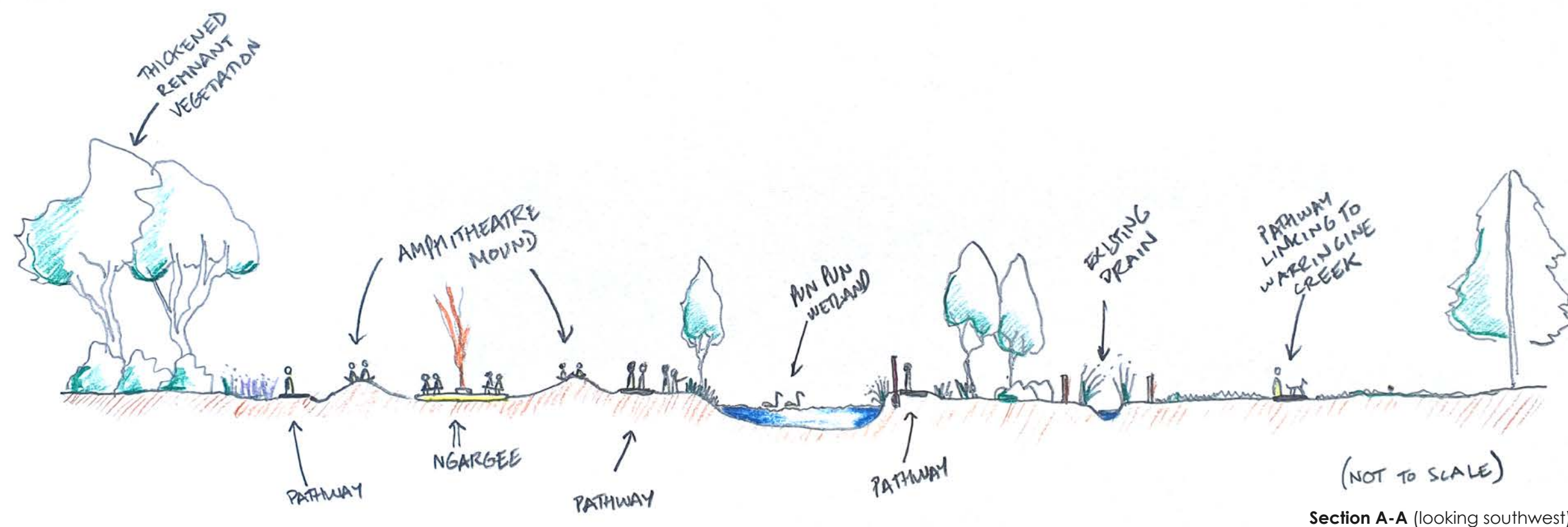
View of the 'floating' bird blind on the main Pun Pun wetland



View of revitalised Women's Area with handwoven bush timber screen

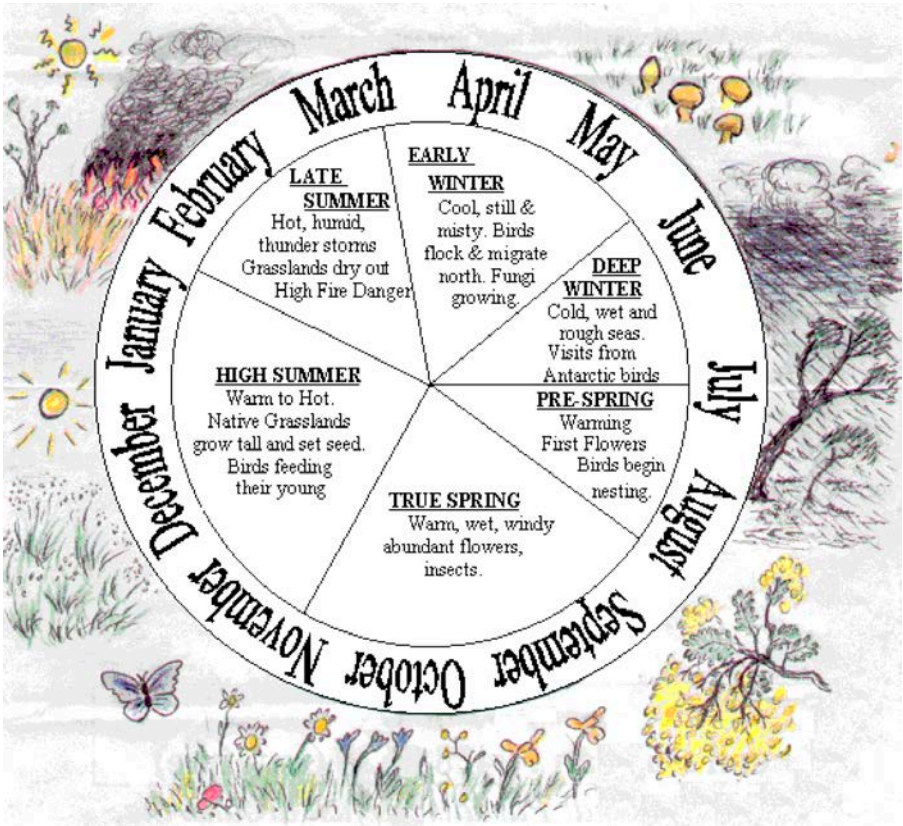


View of new Men's Area with 5 carved wooden poles



Section A-A (looking southwest)

Seasons



Seasonal calendar for the Melbourne area, Beth Gott.
(Source: <https://dcmc.org.au/plan/indigenous-seasonal-calendar/>)

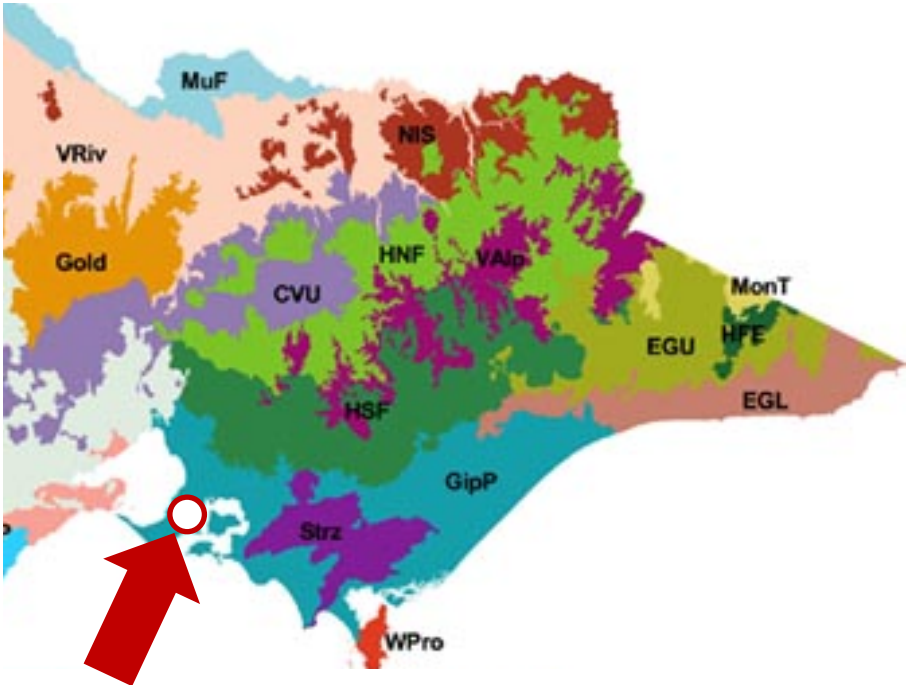
Animals

Willum Warrain is home to a growing community of indigenous animals, birds, reptiles and insects. Examples of residents include: sugar gliders, ducks, ring tail possums, blue tongue lizards, blue wrens, turtles and native galaxias. All future landscape developments should look to support and expand upon these established communities and be assisted where appropriate by nesting boxes, protection fences, pest control etc.

Located within the MP Biodiversity Conservation Plan's 'Moorooduc Plain' region, the site also has the potential to create habitat for threatened and key species such as: Dwarf Galaxias, Growling Grass Frogs and the Glossy Grass Skink. Before any disturbances to the site, including earthworks associated with the temporary carpark, appropriate ecological specialists should be consulted to support ongoing regeneration.

More info: <https://www.morpen.vic.gov.au/Your-Property/Environment/Flora-Fauna-Biodiversity/Our-Biodiversity>

Bioregion



Hastings sits within the Gippsland Plan Bioregion which overlaps with much of Bunurong & Boonwurrung Country.
(More info: <https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/biodiversity/bioregions-and-evc-benchmarks>)

Cultural Landscape Materials

It is vital that landscape materials wherever possible are sourced from Bunurong & Boonwurrung Country, with special procurement emphasis on the Mornington Peninsula.

This includes soil, rocks, gravels, sands, mulches, timbers, plants, ochres, dyes etc. These should be sourced in consultation with appropriate Elders and according to relevant cultural protocols.

Consideration should also be given to cultivating cultural materials required in the operation of the Gathering Place, for example, reeds and grasses used in weaving practices, timbers used for carving and shaping cultural tools etc.

Furthermore, every opportunity to employ a Willum Warrain or local First Nations person during the construction of the landscape should be taken. This includes staff coordinating the sourcing and cultivation of plants for the project.

Ecological Vegetation Communities



Willum Warrain sits within the Pre-1750 Ecological Vegetation Community described as '175 Grassy Woodland' in the Lower Slopes or Hills Woodlands group.

The vegetation along Warrigine Creek is described as '83 Swampy Riparian Woodland, while to the southwest of the Creek is '16 Lowland Forest'

Along with consultation with cultural advisors and local Indigenous plant specialists, these will be useful references in determining plant selection for the future landscape.

(More info: https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0033/48696/GipP_EVCs_combined.pdf)

Signage, Interpretation & Connectivity

Storytelling is an integral part of Willum Warrain's cultural immersion experience. As part of the Masterplan, new wayfinding & interpretative signage is proposed to enhance the experience. Consideration should also be given to the potential for a Cultural Education App which could enhance the group training offered by the Gathering Place.



Example: Facility Map, Eden Project, Cornwall, UK