

Causeway Pedestrian and Cyclist Bridges Project

Public Art Fact Sheet

The Causeway Pedestrian and Cyclist Bridges Project will see two iconic cable-stayed bridges across the Derbarl Yerrigan (Swan River), comprising a 6-metre-wide segregated path linking the Victoria Park foreshore with Matagarup (Heirisson Island) and Perth's CBD at Point Fraser.

Four Noongar artists are creating public art for the areas around the new bridges. Each artist brings a diverse background, experience and style to each art piece.

The vision for the public art is that it will *"reflect Noongar culture and connections to this place – both ancient and contemporary. The commissions will reflect the importance of this site and facilitate a deeper engagement with the history of the site for visitors"*.

Expressions of interest for the public art were assessed by a selection panel, consisting of the Office of Major Transport Infrastructure Delivery, Main Roads, Office of the Government Architect, City of Perth, Town of Victoria Park, representatives from the Matagarup Elders Group (MEG), and the Project's design and community relations teams, and an independent consultant. Members of the MEG met with artists on site providing advice and support for Noongar cultural recognition through the artwork as well as providing feedback on the artists' draft designs.

Derbarl Gordo Bodja (River Island of Birth): Sculptural marker – Point Fraser



About the artwork

The artwork represents a traditional shield and yooral (traditional carrying vessel), with embedded marks representing culturally significant motifs and designs. The sculptural shield features linework mapping the islands, a powerful statement of the continuation of Noongar culture in the context of the Matagarup's (Heirisson Island's) current identity. The families who camped, gathered and told stories here are also represented in the lines, with different colours representing different skin groups. The use of traditional artefacts as contemporary sculptural elements alludes to their important function to defend, support, and govern within Noongar lore.

Meet the artist: **Justin Martin**

Justin Martin is an established Aboriginal artist and Cultural Advisor from Perth. He comes from a strong line of Noongar ancestors, the Whadjuk people, giving him a strong connection to Perth boodja (land/country) and its surroundings.

Justin's art is based on traditional techniques and stories passed down from his grandmothers, prominent Noongar elder Theresa Walley and well-known artist Joan Martin.

Wanna/Booka (*Digging Stick and Cloak*): Sculptural marker – McCallum Park



About the artwork

Both the wanna (digging stick) and booka (kangaroo skin cloak, also spelt bwooka) are significant items in Bibbulmun culture. The Bibbulmun people are one of the fourteen language groups within the Noongar group. In this sculpture, the wanna and booka have been brought together to represent the Bibbulmun yorgah (women), standing at the water's edge ready to cross to hunt small animals.

The form and patterning represent the oyster shells of Matagarup (Heirisson Island), with soft flowing lines depicting the water that flows in the Derbarl Yerrigan (Swan River), the topographical lines of the land that surrounds and the feminine form.

Ni (*Listen*) Wongi (*Talk*): Sculptural marker – Matagarup (Heirisson Island)



About the artwork

This sculpture brings together both female and male cultural items, using the full oyster shell from which the wanna (digging stick) and booka (kangaroo skin cloak, also spelt bwooka) was designed. The copper form of a Noongar shield (symbolising male) surrounded by the soft flowing lines and swollen belly of the oyster shell (symbolising female) represents coming together, out of necessity to share kaardijin (knowledge).

The sculpture emphasises that we learn far more by ni (listening) than we do by wongi (talking).

Meet the artist: *Lea Taylor*

Lea Taylor is an accomplished Wadandi, Menang, Goreng Bibbulmun Noongar artist, with several public artworks throughout Perth including the Six Seasons Bidi Project at Subi East.

Lea's art is influenced by her mother who painted, wrote, sewed and played music. Lea started her practice in painting but did not find her passion until later in life through coiling (weaving) and making booka (kangaroo skin cloaks).

Moorditj Koort (*Strong Heart*): Abutment wall mural – Point Fraser



About the artwork

This mural design takes inspiration from the old stories that are told about Matagarup (Heirisson Island), and those who left the New Norcia Mission to walk to Boorloo (Perth), finding family when they reached the island.

The artwork features important symbolism representing fresh water of Derbarl Yerrigan (Swan River) and the once abundant oysters found in this location. Two groups sit in conversation. At the top, the women's group sitting with digging sticks, making decisions. At the bottom, the group who travelled from New Norcia to Matagarup (Heirisson Island). To the left and right are men's groups with their spears, keeping watch over moort (families) and boodja (land). Boomerangs and digging sticks are featured in the background representing the hunting and gathering of food, with the white and orange of songlines passing through families and communities.

Moorditj Ngaangk (*Strong Mother*): Abutment wall mural – Matagarup South (Heirisson Island South)



About the artwork

In Noongar language, the word for 'mother' and 'sun' share the same name (ngaangk) because they are both the givers of life. This mural symbolises strong women, represented by Fanny Balbuk, a strong woman who walked the traditional paths that Noongar people had walked for hundreds, if not thousands, of years. In this mural Balbuk is surrounded by the young ones who looked up to her as a strong female leader.

The starry night sky where many Dreamtime stories come from, is reflected on the Derbarl Yerrigan (Swan River) below, with the colourful flower buds representing food sources.

Meet the artist: *Jodie Riley*

Jodie Riley is a Ballardong Noongar artist and teacher. Jodie's art is closely linked to her connection to the land and commitment to telling stories honouring family, history, and a profound bond with the country.

Jodie is also a Noongar language teacher, with a strong commitment to Aboriginal education.

Six Seasons: Abutment wall mural - McCallum Park



About the artwork

Unlike the European calendar, there are six Noongar seasons in Western Australia's South West region, which are indicated by changes in local plants and animals. The Six Seasons mural reflects the boodjar (land), its rich abundance and the interconnectedness of the natural elements, which hold many stories significant to the Noongar people. This connection facilitates navigation and respect for the land, recognising this as a perpetual journey.

The artist's fascination with song, dance, and art is rooted in the dreaming of the Noongar people, which is an enduring part of their cultural heritage and practice. This artwork embodies the knowledge upheld by the Elders and signifies the continuity of Noongar traditions.

Yagan: Abutment wall mural - Matagarup North (Heirisson Island North)



About the artwork

This mural is inspired by Yagan and the Noongar warriors who opposed the Swan River Colony's encroachment.

Yagan emerged as a prominent Noongar leader during the early colonisation of Noongar land. The mural reflects his legacy and the profound impact he had on Noongar rights and recognition. It also symbolises the return of Yagan's remains to Perth in 1997, underscoring his enduring significance to the Noongar people and their ongoing connection to the boodja (land).

Meet the artist: **Rubeun Yorkshire**

Rubeun Yorkshire is a Noongar man, visual artist, dancer, stage combat choreographer, and actor who is well known for his performance as Banquo in the award-winning production of Hecate (Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company). After graduating from the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) in 2010, Rubeun performed in shows *Kep Kaatijin* (2015), *Boodjar Kaatijin* (2016 – 2017), *Djinda Kaatijin* (2017) and *Kaarla Kaatijin* (2018) for Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company.

Rubeun has also completed a range of public art for corporate clients, major festivals and education institutions.

Further information

If you have any questions, please contact 138 138 or email enquiries@mainroads.wa.gov.au

More information about this project is also available on the project webpage and you can also subscribe for updates:
www.mainroads.wa.gov.au/causeway-path

ARTWORK LOCATIONS



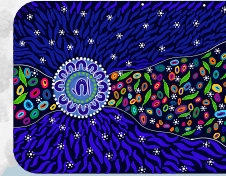
**DERBARL GORDO BODJA
(RIVER ISLAND OF BIRTH):
SCULPTURAL MARKER –
POINT FRASER**
by Justin Martin



**NI/ WONGI (LISTEN/TALK):
SCULPTURAL MARKER –
HEIRISSON ISLAND**
by Lea Taylor



**MOORDITJ KOORT
(STRONG HEART):
ABUTMENT WALL MURAL –
POINT FRASER**
by Jodie Riley



**MOORDITJ NGAANGK
(STRONG MOTHER):
ABUTMENT WALL MURAL –
HEIRISSON ISLAND SOUTH**
by Jodie Riley



**YAGAN:
ABUTMENT WALL MURAL –
HEIRISSON ISLAND NORTH**
by Rubeun Yorkshire



**WANNA/BOOKA
(DIGGING STICK AND CLOAK):
SCULPTURAL MARKER –
MCCALLUM PARK**
by Lea Taylor



**SIX SEASONS:
ABUTMENT WALL MURAL –
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