

**COASTAL TRAILS**

**INDIGENOUS**



## Bayside Coastal Trail Network

Bayside City Council has developed four affiliated trails stretching across the 17 kilometers of the coastline adjacent to Beach Road between Brighton and Beaumaris.

### **The Bayside Coastal Indigenous Trail**

The Bayside Coastal Indigenous Trail Signs and sculptures provide insight into the works and the social customs of Indigenous people. Each of the Indigenous Trail Signs and sculptures are based on stories authored by Boon wurrung Elder, Carolyn Briggs.

The Indigenous Trail Signs and sculptures demonstrate a direct relationship with the Indigenous people and the coastal environment and have been located in positions that enhance and complement this rich cultural heritage.

For more information about the Indigenous stories, visit [\*\*www.bayside.vic.gov.au/trails\*\*](http://www.bayside.vic.gov.au/trails)



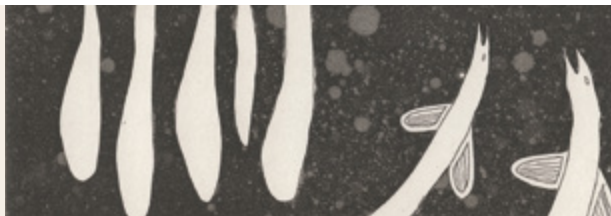


# 01 The Boon wurrung Landscape

Photograph by Bindi Cole

The land around what is today known as the Peninsula was very different two hundred years ago. For the Boon wurrung, the landscape included swamps, lagoons, rivers, open grassland and thinly timbered country. Wildlife abounded in the area.





## 02 The Journey of the Eel

Vicki Couzens Yams and Eels [detail] etching on paper, Bayside City Council collection

Wygabil-ny-ewin was known as the eel season. The migration of the eels provided certainty for the Boon wurrung. The old people had always told them that, as surely as the sun would rise every day, the eels would always return in Pareip. The numbers of eels leaving and returning each year was a sign of prosperity.



## 03 The Journey of Boon wurrung Women Through Bayside

Vicki Couzens Women's Journey [detail] etching on paper, Bayside City Council collection

The coastal area of Bayside was part of the walking track followed by the Boon wurrung women for many thousands of years as they journeyed to their meeting places. One of the last journeys made through the area, by Louisa Briggs and other women, occurred in the 1830s.





## 04 The Boon wurrung People

Ellen Jose Boon wurrung blossom [detail] bluestone  
Photograph by Bindi Cole, Bayside City Council  
collection

For many thousands of years the Boon wurrung walked this land and the area we now call Port Phillip Bay. The descendants of the Boon wurrung continue to live in the greater Melbourne area and take an active role in maintaining and protecting their cultural heritage.

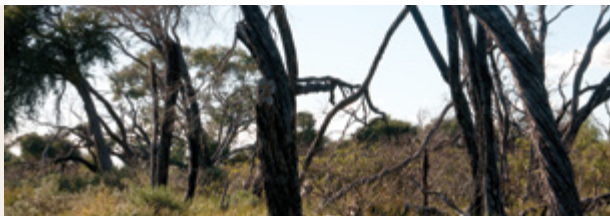


## 05 The Last Arweets – Derrimut and Benbow

Vicki Couzens Arweet Sit Down [detail] etching on  
paper, Bayside City Council collection

In the first years after settlement, there were two Arweet (clan heads) living. They were Derrimut and Benbow. Both men led a struggle for the recognition of the land rights of the Boon wurrung people.





## 06 The Natural Resources of the Boon wurrung

Photograph by Pauline Reynolds

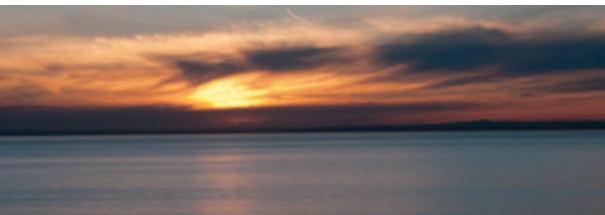
The resources of the area now known as Bayside provided the Boon wurrung with the basis for food and manufacturing. In the open forest they used various tree species and heath vegetation. Plants provided medicines and the raw material for various implements and materials used in everyday life. Shellfish, fish and eels were abundant.



## 07 Bullarto N'youweenth (Plenty of Sun)

Vicki Couzens Women's Journey [detail] etching on paper, Bayside City Council collection

In the area we now call Bayside, the area around Ricketts Point was a gathering place – especially for the women and sometimes their visiting neighbours, the Woi wurrung. Today the remains of their activities can be seen in the middens left behind – a record of thousands of years of annual visits to this area.



## 08 Louisa Briggs – Living Across Two Worlds

Photograph by Pauline Reynolds

One of the last journeys made through Half Moon Bay and Black Rock by the Boon wurrung women occurred in the 1830s. Louisa Briggs and other women journeyed along the coast but never returned from their journey as they were kidnapped by sealers and taken to islands in Bass Strait.



## 09 The Time of Chaos

Photograph by Pauline Reynolds

Many years ago Port Phillip Bay was a large flat grassy plain. One day there came a time of chaos and crisis when the Boon wurrung and the other Kulin Nations were in conflict and, as a result, neglected their land. As this chaos grew the sea became angry and began to rise. The river became flooded and eventually the whole flat plain was covered in water. Today, the river that once flowed through this large flat plain still flows under the bay.





# 10 The Time of Change

Photograph by Pauline Reynolds

In the late 1700s the Boon wurrung made their first sightings of new visitors – strange white people in ships that looked liked birds. In 1803 they observed the first settlement of the white men, who arrived at what is now known as Sorrento.





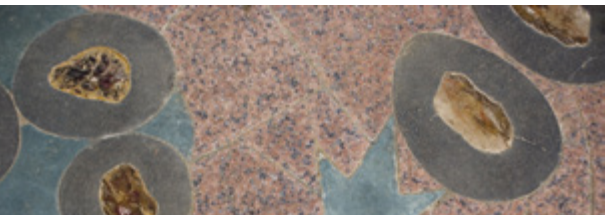


11

### The Ochre Pits

Vicki Couzens Paint the Country [detail] etching on paper, Bayside City Council collection

The ochre pits of Bayside provide one of the most direct links to the culture and history of the Boon wurrung. The pits provided them with a palate for art, especially for the live body art used in dance and performance. Ochre was gathered at Sandringham and Beaumaris and prepared for sacred ceremonial customs, art and celebration events.



12

### The Barraimal (Emu)

Glenn Romanis The Barraimal [detail] Bayside City Council collection, Photograph by Bindi Cole

The barraimal was a funny bird – too big to fly, with short useless wings. But apart from its funny appearance, the old man barraimal had been cursed – it was up to him to take over the role of the female. He sat on her nest until the young chicks hatched – and then had to look after them as the female barraimal continued to frolic with her friends.





## 13 The Constellation

The Barrimal (Emu) Constellation Sculpture by Glenn Romanis, 2008, Bayside City Council collection

The sculpture depicts Barrimal (Emu) as a constellation and how it is seen using the constellations of the Southern cross, (Crux), the Pointer, Scorpio, Sagittarius and using the Colsack Nebula (the dark shadows under the milky way) to create its head, neck and back. Scorpio shapes the body and Sagittarius the nest and eggs.

In this work, Carolyn Briggs (Elder of the Boon wurrung) is cross-referenced with scientific knowledge and the seasonal visibility of the constellation in the sky (only visible at the time when the male emu is sitting on a clutch of eggs – traditionally, the male was not hunted at this time). The constellation is seasonally visible, June, July or August.



14

### **The Ancient Yarra River with Bunjil's eggs**

Sculpture by Glenn Romanis, 2008, Bayside City Council collection

This sculpture was inspired by Carolyn Briggs's story (Elder of the Boon wurrung) 'the time of chaos'. It depicts the ancient Yarra River, where it originally flowed 10,000 years ago and six eggs. The eggs represent the six traditional groups of the Boon wurrung people. The sculpture is encompassed in the shape of Bunjil's eye, which represents his ever watchful gaze. This installation is oriented geographically to how Port Phillip Bay is today.



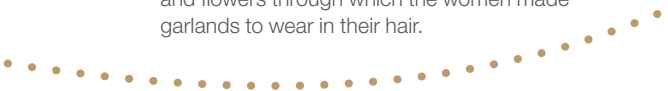


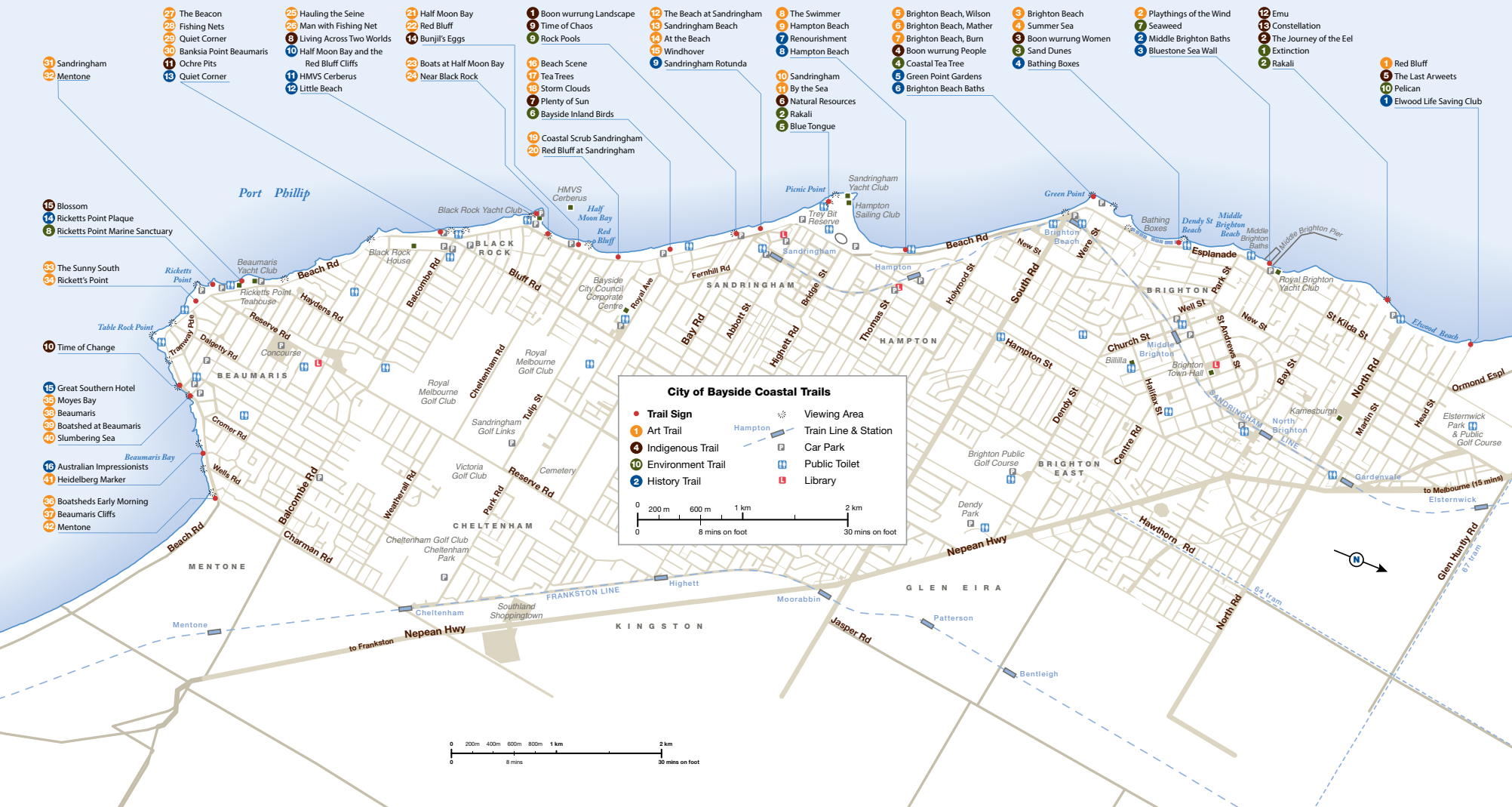
15

### **Boon wurrung Blossom**

Sculpture by Ellen Jose, 2008, Bayside City Council collection

The bluestone is laid on crushed yellow ochre sandstone, with the base encircled by indigenous flowering plants. Each rock represents one of the six clans that made up the Boon wurrung. For thousands of years, Boon wurrung women and children congregated in this area during special periods in spring and summer. The area was rich in seafood and had fresh water wells dotted around it. Among the Banksia trees that provided shelter, grew indigenous plants and flowers through which the women made garlands to wear in their hair.







76 Royal Avenue, Sandringham  
PO Box 27 Sandringham VIC 3191  
T (03) 9599 4444  
[enquiries@bayside.vic.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@bayside.vic.gov.au)  
[www.bayside.vic.gov.au](http://www.bayside.vic.gov.au)



Get the Bayside Walks & Trails App

