



# South Yarra Siding Reserve and Arthur Street

Murrup Biik by Aunty Kim Wandin and Christine Joy



Artwork, Murrup Biik, in South Yarra Siding Reserve

“Murrup Biik aims to create a sense of spiritual intrigue and transformative healing for passers-by and those standing fully in the sculpture’s presence. There will be an energetic exchange of giving and understanding.”

Aunty Kim Wandin

Wurundjeri Elder and artist Aunty Kim Wandin, with collaborating artist Christine Joy, have created a series of artworks for the Siding Reserve and the new Arthur Street pocket park in South Yarra.

In 2021, the Metro Tunnel Project sought expressions of interest from Victorian First Nations artists to create a permanent public artwork within the South Yarra Siding Reserve. Aunty Kim Wandin, with collaborating artist Christine Joy, were selected by the arts advisory panel to develop artwork that responds to the rich cultural heritage of the area and concepts of moving on Country.

Titled Murrup Biik, the artwork honours the location of a significant Aboriginal cultural site as a series of string bags (Bilangs) to honour the journey of Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung women across Country, and the work of women collecting food to provide

for families and as Custodians of the land. It aims to change the way people view Aboriginal artefacts and acknowledge that they are a living, breathing life-giving force with spirit and knowledge.

Murrup Biik means ‘Spirit Country’ and is the name of the sculptural space which incorporates sculpture and light, with on-site plantings. The artwork comprises three colourful sculptures placed across the Siding Reserve and Arthur Street pocket park in South Yarra. Each sculpture features a patterned design of Murnong flowers (native yam), which represent the harvest collected by the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung women of Victoria.



Artist, Aunty Kim Wandin



This artwork facilitates connection to place through the exploration of Aboriginal women's methodologies of healing, collaboration, honouring Country and Culture, traditional plant fibre technology and building a relationship of belonging through inclusion.

Murrup Biik acknowledges the layers and the merging of Country: earth, spirit and sky and creates a place of healing, being and belonging – a culturally safe place for reflection and spiritual growth and a place of Aboriginal representation.

Aunty Kim, with collaborating artist Christine Joy, was selected from a shortlist of Victorian First Nations artists, by an advisory panel which included representatives from Creative Victoria, City of Stonnington and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation. The team overseeing the legacy artwork worked closely with representatives from the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation to ensure the artwork was respectful of Wurundjeri cultural values.

## Exploring the artwork

### Colour

The colours of the sculptures represent ochre colours found across Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Country, used to tell stories and practice ceremonies.

### Form

The sculpture is inspired by the Bilang which means string bag in Woiwurrung language and represents women in this work. Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung women harvest, prepare and weave Karawan (*Lomandra longifolia*) to create a vessel traditionally made to carry food and babies. Bilang is a symbol of renewal and revival through the sharing and reciprocity of feminine energy. It is also symbolic of women providing for family, as the vessel for holding, nurturing and caring and respecting journeys of the past.

### Pattern

The pattern incorporated into the sculpture represents Murnong or yam daisy (*Microseris lanceolata*) harvested and collected by the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung women of Victoria. Because of their harvesting and propagation techniques of murnong and other tuberous plants, Aboriginal women are regarded as the first agriculturalists. This plant is one of great significance as it represents a rejection of colonial agriculture. It was women's role to collect this highly nutritious food using a careful process and extensive knowledge to ensure plant renewal and a continued food supply. It was a way of working with Country and its resources.

### Location


The sculptures are placed in various orientations within native planting, representing the movement of Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung women as they pass through Country collecting Murnong.



Artwork, Murrup Biik

### More information

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