

Wattle Park Sculptures

Fact Sheet



Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Country

Wattle Park offers a large area of natural bush, containing a vast amount of flora and fauna, from towering gums and native grasses to seasonal wildflowers and animals including lizards and frogs. This area has been through many changes, but remains a significant site for the community, including Traditional Owners.

Acknowledgement of Country

The acknowledgement of Wurundjeri Country sculptural elements are inspired by the Kulin story of Bunjil, the ancestral Wedge-tailed Eagle, and creator Waa, the ancestral crow, the protector.

The sculptures are created by sculptor Shlomit Moria in consultation with Uncle Colin Hunter, Wurundjeri Elder.

The poles supporting the sculptures are carved to resemble trees and carry traditional Wurundjeri carving motifs by emerging Wurundjeri artist, Lewis Wandin-Bursill.

Artistic approach

Wombats, owls and possums were selected, in consultation with Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung

Traditional Owners, to be represented in the park's sculptural elements.

These species are identified as fauna that once lived, or still live, on the Country on which Wattle Park stands. While wombats may not be found in the area as in the past, the wombat was included to incorporate the prior existence of the species in the area, as told by the community.

Concept sketches

The sculptural elements include two large wombats, a baby wombat, an owl and possum totem situated on cypress poles. Each animal and pole is made from cypress.



Bunjil and Waa.

Artist Statements

Lewis Wandin-Bursill

Lewis is a proud young Wurundjeri artist of the Woi-wurrung language group, who has always lived on Country in Healesville.

His wood carving and burning designs (pyrography) reference his ancestral relationship with his four-times great uncle, Uncle William Barak. He explores symmetry and the natural lines of nature, as did his uncle, who carved similar designs onto shields which are now held in major institutions in Australia. Lewis honours Barak's legacy and keeps his spirit with him through his carving.

His recent works for Wattle Park, in collaboration with artist Shlomit Moria, have been informed by his interest in the traditional ways of finding food and the implements used in that pursuit.

Woodcarving has always been an integral part of Aboriginal culture and Lewis has been gifted the knowledge of his ancestors.

"We are still here."

- Lewis Wandin-Bursill

Lewis particularly enjoys carving dagan (clubs), and clapsticks, utilising manna gum (*Eucalyptus viminalis*) which is sacred to Wurundjeri people and a significant tree in the landscape around Healesville where he lives. He also honours the ancestral being Bunjil and Waa through his work, feeling a strong presence of his Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung ancestors as he carves.

Through utilising ancient traditions, Lewis Wandin-Bursill brings the past into the present and the future. His practice is a statement of resistance and survival, saying proudly 'We are still here.'

(3rd Person – Edited)



Sculptures created by artist, Shlomit Moria in consultation and collaboration with Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Elders Uncle Colin Hunter and Auntie Kim Wandin and Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung artist Lewis Wandin-Bursill are featured throughout the picnic area.

Shlomit Moria

Shlomit is a wood sculptor and chainsaw carver living in Warburton, Victoria, on Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Country.

Her collaboration with Wurundjeri artist Lewis Wandin-Bursill provides a unique opportunity to create a Welcome to Country piece for Wattle Park, as well as helping to inform the other wooden sculptures situated within the Wattle Park playground. As an immigrant who arrived in Australia 20 years ago, this was a significant project for Shlomit as it provided a feeling of acceptance as an Australian, while also giving her an opportunity to show her respect and gratitude to the traditional custodians of this land.

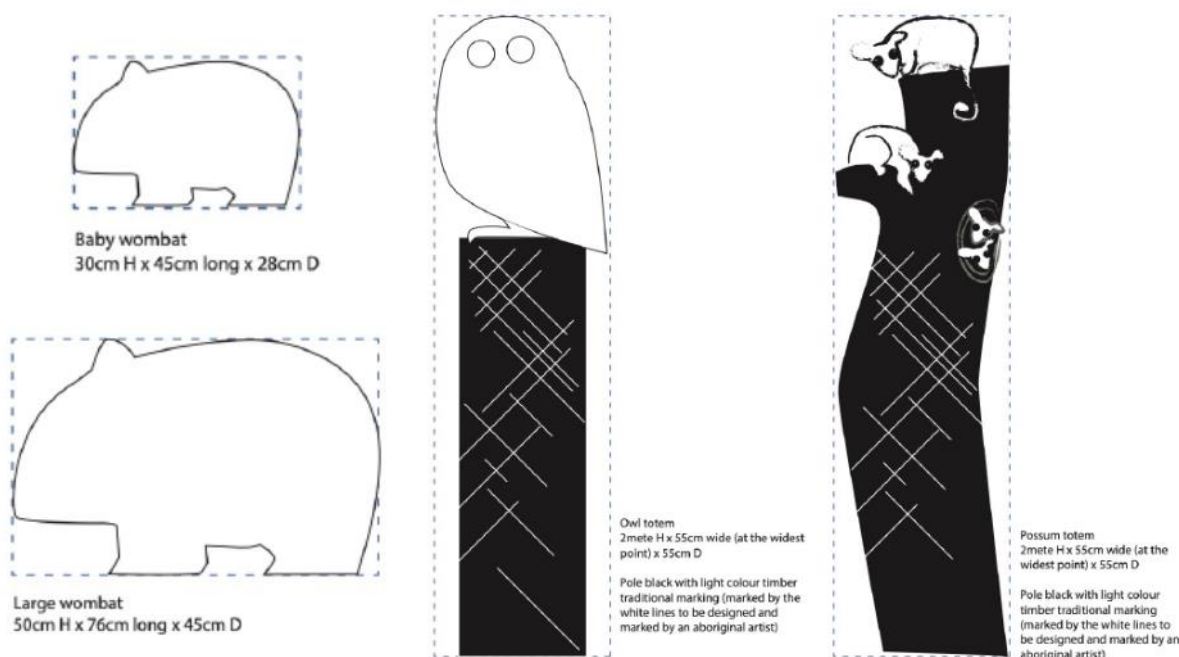
Through working with Lewis, Shlomit was able to connect with the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung community and their rich cultural heritage.

Together, they delved into the history of the land, researched local fauna, and learned about the importance of old growth trees and their hollows, which provide habitats for many different animals. It provided the artist a fascinating journey that allowed her to gain a deeper appreciation for this Country.

The collaboration between these two artists has resulted in a beautiful Welcome to Country piece featuring intricate carvings by Lewis Wandin-Bursill and representations of important Wurundjeri spiritual figures, Bunjil & Waa, by Shlomit Moria and pays homage to the Wurundjeri community's connection to the land.

Shlomit Moria is proud of what they have created together and hopes that it will inspire others to connect with nature and appreciate the importance of caring for Country.

(3rd Person – Edited)



The playscape sculptural elements include two large wombats, a baby wombat, and an owl, and possum totem situated on cypress poles.

For more information about Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, [click the link](#) or scan the QR code.

