



Environmental Artwork Doongalla Survey

Project Background

This Artwork is a public art project for ngurrak barring | RidgeWalk and celebrates the natural and cultural histories of the the Dandenong Ranges, from First Nations people to contemporary local communities. It runs along 39 kilometres of walking track. The delivery of ngurrak barring is led by Yarra Ranges Council in partnership with Parks Victoria, Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, and the local community.

The project is funded by the Federal, State and Local government. The funding enables significant upgrades to existing tracks, 14 kilometres of new pathways, the installation of 5 architectural/landscape nodes, wayfinding signage and heritage interpretation – along with permanent sculpture, land art and a rotating program of temporary exhibitions and performances.

ngurrak barring is a contemporary art experience with stories expressed through a variety of creative platforms. The artistic program will be dynamic, providing opportunities for multi-sensory, participatory, and educational experiences. It will feature permanent sculpture and installations, temporary exhibitions, performance, and new media.

The Doongalla Forest Artwork will form part of this creative program as a permanent public artwork. The artistic brief for the artwork was put together from the public consultation feedback.

Who we spoke to

Engagement	Engagement period was 25/07/2023 – 21/08/2023.
Communication	• We sent out 260 letters to residence. • Reached 33,233 people via paid advertising. • Emailed 1,997 people. • Advertised one community pop up.

We had

- We have 92 contributions to the survey.

- 90% of them living in the Yarra Ranges Council.
- Ages were mostly between 35 – 64.
- Women being 75% if the survey contributors.

What we heard

Following the recommendations from the survey respondents, the permanent environmental artwork/s located in Doongalla Forest will be made from natural materials and will celebrate local flora and fauna. The artwork/s will be simple and calming and provide education about local environmental ecosystems. Residents and community groups will have the opportunity to be involved throughout the project including in the making of the artwork.

60%	Wanting to see permanent sculptures or installations.
83%	Wanting to see nature-based elements included in the art, e.g. water, stone, metal, wood, moulded and landscaped earth.
59%	Want the artwork to invoke calming emotions.

Concept Selection

The team Clarke, Kennedy, Bodycomb and Paten team (CKBP) has been selected for their concept "We are Storytellers."

Comprised of cultural advisor Aunty Lee-Anne Clarke, writer Cate Kennedy, artist Helen Bodycomb, and arts manager Martin Paten, CKBP stood out among 28 submissions after a thorough evaluation process conducted by the public art panel. Their proposal resonated with the panel for its deep consideration of the environment, cultural significance, and historical context of the site.

The artwork, designed to create a subtle and harmonious narrative experience with the forest surroundings, aims to pique the curiosity and imagination of walkers, inviting them to pause and reflect amidst the lush Doongalla forest. The CKBP team has also incorporated feedback from the recent community survey into their proposal, demonstrating a commitment to community engagement throughout the project.

Over the next few months, the design will be further developed, with completion scheduled for December 2024. We look forward to the continued collaboration with the CKBP team and community participation at various stages of the project.