



# Future of Bunbury Street

## Heritage

## Heritage of Bunbury Street

Bunbury Street has a rich heritage. Originally a bank on the edge of a saltwater river home to native flora, fauna and indigenous peoples, this Street became an important connection to the west with the landing of the punt at the shore there. It grew into a key avenue of Footscray connecting the punt to the new rail station with the rail line later cutting through this same avenue. Today Bunbury Street connects the urban realm of Footscray to one of the premier open spaces in Maribyrnong.

Currently much of the heritage of this place is not well known or understood. As part of any streetscape improvements, we are proposing to emphasise the heritage of this location.

### Indigenous culture, flora and fauna

Maribyrnong is filled with important and significant Aboriginal history. Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of this land, the Kulin Nation, and acknowledges the rich culture and considerable contributions Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples have made and continue to make to this City.

The First Peoples of Maribyrnong (Mirring-gnay-bir-nong), the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Bunurong peoples have a connection to this land and its waterways.

This connection dates back to time immemorial, is deep, continuous and dynamic and contributes to a diverse and thriving community.

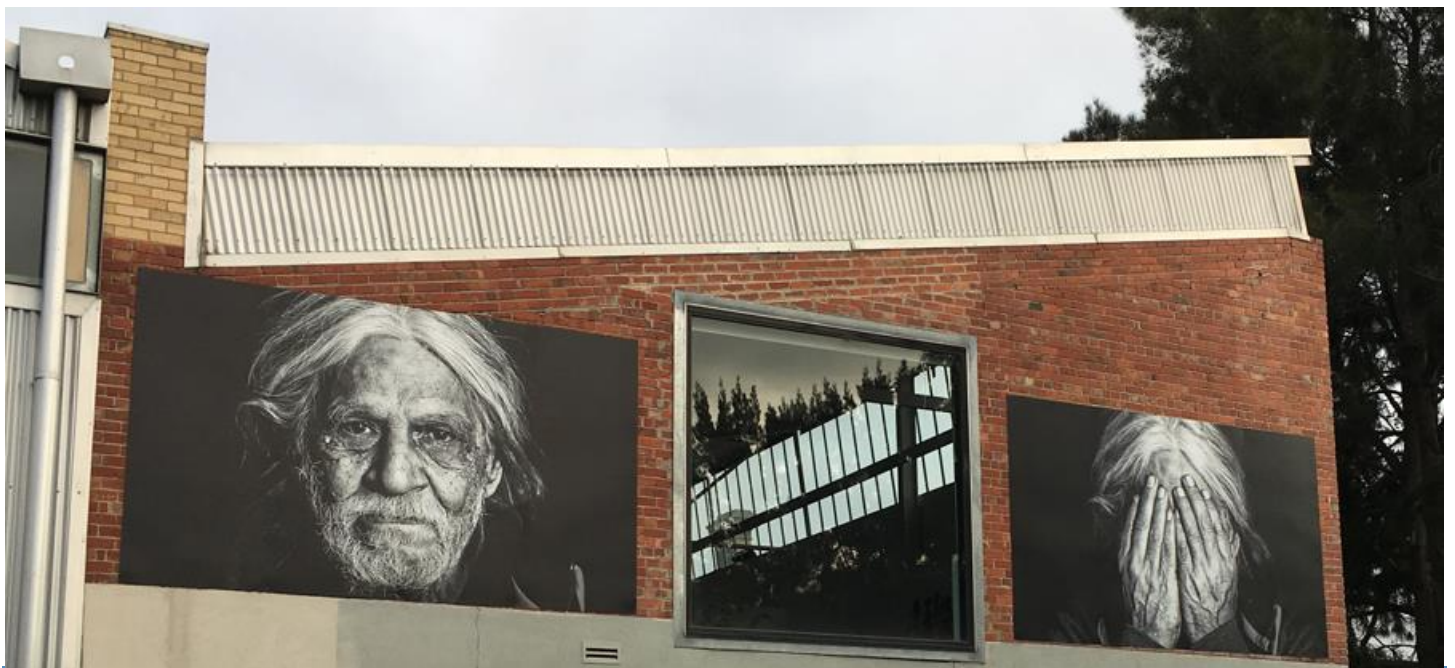
### Historical buildings, places, trees and items

In 1839, Captain William Lonsdale set the site of a punt servicing the road from Williamstown to Geelong on the Maribyrnong (then Saltwater) River.

This punt brought settlers from Melbourne to the west, where they landed at the base of Bunbury Street. Bunbury Street sits in the middle of the 1849 Old Footscray Township residential precinct.

Multiple inns and public houses were built nearby including the Shipp Inn at the base of Bunbury Street.

The City of Footscray, established in 1859, held its first meeting in the Junction Hotel on Bunbury Street.





### The people of Bunbury Street

The pedestrian bridge at the end of Bunbury Street is named after William Cooper, a pivotal figure in the struggle for Aboriginal rights in Australia, who moved to Footscray in his later but still politically active years.

George Seelaf, a trade union leader and community activist – appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 1976 – was thought to reside on Bunbury Street. He was named Footscray Citizen of the Year in 1983 and received the Footscray Institute of Technology's first honorary Bachelor of Arts in 1984.

The Fawcett sisters (Maisie and Gwen) were raised on Bunbury Street, and Maisie lived in what is today the Milking Station Cafe on the corner of Bunbury St and Cowper St. Maisie, an innovative Australian ecologist and botanist, contributed much to our understanding of the uniqueness of Australian plants and their environmental systems. Gwen, a diver, won the Australian women's high tower title three years in a row.

### Tunnel and railway

Oblivious to most passerbys, what was once the longest rail tunnel in metropolitan Melbourne, lies beneath their feet as they cross over Bunbury Street. The tunnel was cut into the already established avenue in 1927. It only reaches ground level by Middle Footscray Station. The tunnel is fully operational and currently carries freight and regional trains.

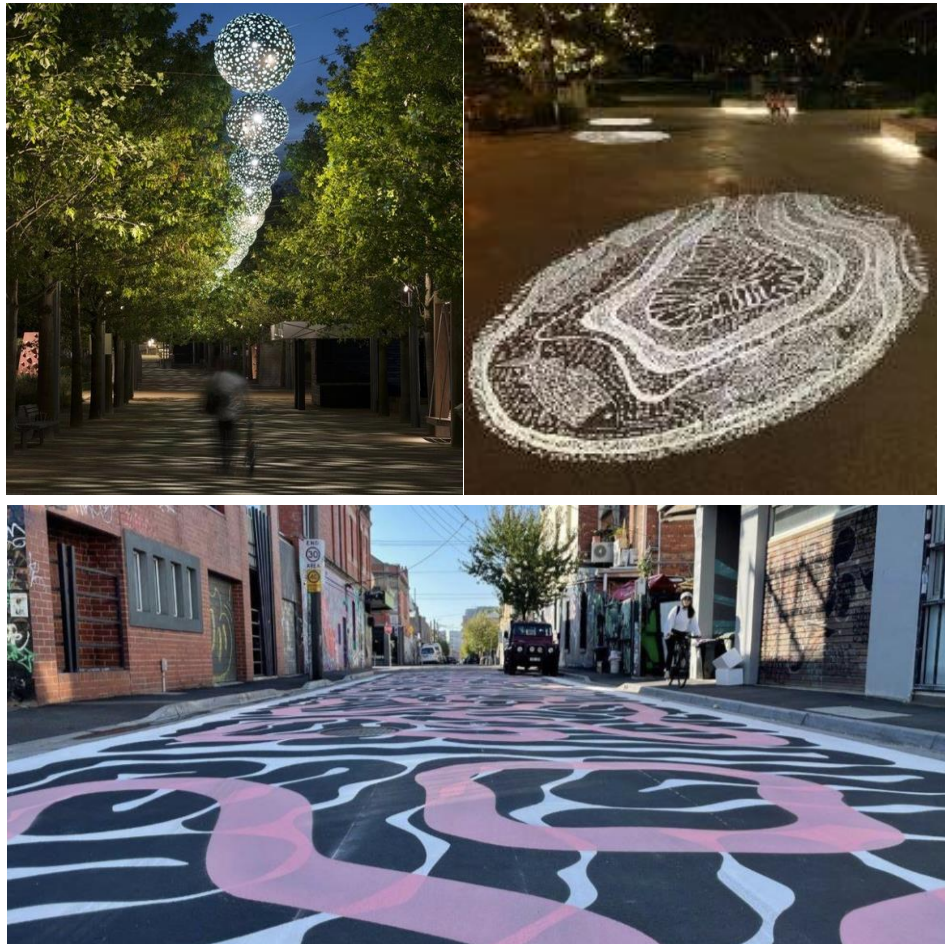


## Telling the stories of Bunbury Street

Bunbury Street is a vital civic spine of heritage significance, connecting the Footscray CBD and train station with the cultural precinct and Maribyrnong River. Making visible the many-layered stories of the street will enhance the pedestrian journey and create a streetscape that is a source of community pride. There are a wide range of creative approaches to placemaking, both temporary and permanent, that can be explored. Your input will help us to better understand how the streetscape improvements can now only keep the history of Bunbury Street alive, but also have a significant impact on the quality of life and local sense of place.

Whether you're a long-term resident, a recent arrival, a local worker, or a regular visitor – we'd like to hear from you on the ways we could not just tell the stories of Bunbury Street but creatively embed them within the streetscape.

In this way we can create a series of rich and diverse experiences that forge strong connections to place, expressing our stories, cultures, character, and our local arts precinct.



## Share your thoughts

For more information, project updates and to share your thoughts online, visit

[yourcityyourvoice.com.au/bunbury](http://yourcityyourvoice.com.au/bunbury)

You can also get in touch with us by emailing

[CD@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au](mailto:CD@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au)