

New Aboriginal Art at Swan Reserve in Warrnambool

The Friends of Swan Reserve are excited to announce the installation of aboriginal art at Swan Reserve featuring local “6 Aboriginal Seasons”

Indigenous students at Warrnambool College designed the Six Seasons mural as part of a Living Classroom Project. They were supported by teacher Anthea Rafferty and two local artists to design the artwork, create a mural and associated interpretive signage which was placed in a native garden at the school in 2023. The artwork features the 6 Aboriginal Seasons and is laser burnt into 9 Corton steel panels each 1 metre x 2 metres high, all up 9 metres long.

In 2024, Leadership Great South Coast undertook a project to fund the production and installation of a second edition of the artwork in Swan Reserve which is a significant site for aboriginal peoples.

The nine-metre, laser cut Corten steel artwork is a replica of the original artwork and has been installed at Swan Reserve for all of the community to enjoy. Corten steel is a type of steel that is designed to weather naturally but not break down like regular steel. A layer of rust forms over the steel and protects the metal underneath from weathering. The lengths start out a dull silver color and take 5 weeks to form the rust finish, A surrounding garden planted by the indigenous students, features bush tucker plants such as Yam Daisies (Murnong) Muntries (Kunzea pomifera) Bulbine Lilies (Bulbine bulbosa) and native grasses. Thank you to Warrnambool City Council and Friends of Swan Reserve for assistance with the garden bed.

The project team worked closely with the students, artists and local Indigenous groups to bring the project to reality with the aim of increasing awareness of local Indigenous culture and celebrating the creativity of the young Indigenous students.



