

Buriburi: Spirit ancestor to Aboriginal people of coastal Sydney

Acknowledgement of Country

The Randwick Campus Redevelopment project acknowledges the Traditional Custodians on whose land the project stands and pays respects to the Bidjigal and Gadigal peoples of the Eora Nation who traditionally occupied the Eastern Suburbs Coast.

The Randwick Campus Redevelopment is committed to making the project a place of cultural competency where the rich history and proud heritage of the local La Perouse Aboriginal community.

The Randwick Campus Redevelopment has worked with the Gujaga Foundation to acknowledge the spiritual, physical and cultural connection to country held by the local La Perouse Aboriginal community. To recognise the significance of connection to place, artwork of Buriburi - a local totem or spirit ancestor to the Aboriginal people of coastal Sydney is now prominently displayed on the project's construction site.

The artwork, prepared by La Perouse Aboriginal artist Jordan Ardler, features on the construction jump form, the working platform for constructing the main lift core, that will be raised 50 meters over the construction site.

Buriburi, the humpback whale, has special significance to the local Aboriginal people of the area. "In our dreaming, Buriburi (humpback whale) and his ancestors were responsible for making all of the islands from Sydney Harbour to the Shoalhaven River. He remains a significant spirit ancestor for our people." says Raymond Ingrey Chairman of the Gujaga Foundation. Numerous stone carved symbols of Buriburi can be found dotted along walking trails of Sydney's south eastern coastline. This stone carved artwork tells stories of local totems and showcases the rich Aboriginal cultural history of the area.



Buriburi artwork design prepared by local Aboriginal artist Jordan Ardler

Artist profile – Jordan Ardler

Jordan Ardler is an Aboriginal artist from La Perouse. Since 2011 Jordan has been a freelance graphic designer working with a variety of Sydney-based small businesses, foundations, councils and other organisations.

Jordan completed her Bachelor of Design at UNSW Art and Design. During her time at UNSW, Jordan was recognised for her ongoing volunteer work within the Indigenous student community.

Jordan also plays a key role in supporting local youth through her work at the La Perouse Youth Haven. Her Buriburi artwork design acknowledges the local La Perouse region and incorporates elements symbolic to the eastern coastline.



Aboriginal Participation in Construction

Lendlease the principal contractor delivering the Integrated Acute Services Building, prides itself on a commitment to Reconciliation. Lendlease has the vision that all employees acknowledge and celebrate the proud heritage of Australia's First People and promote opportunities for career development, sustainable business growth, and economic participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians within the construction sector.

The Randwick Campus Redevelopment construction team is working with the local Aboriginal community and key partners to empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through economic participation in both the workforce and supply chain. Yamari Ochre Signs, one of several Aboriginal owned businesses engaged on the project site, produced and installed the banner displayed on the jump form.

Arts in Health at Prince of Wales Hospital

The delivery of health services and facilities is greatly enhanced by ensuring Art is built-in and becomes a core part of healthcare services and facilities. The Arts in Health approach at Prince of Wales Hospital focuses on improving health outcomes.



Stone carving workshops with the La Perouse Aboriginal Land Council Youth Haven.

Art and Culture Strategy

The Randwick Campus Redevelopment's Arts and Culture Strategy outlines how arts and culture will be embedded in the Integrated Acute Services Building.

The Strategy celebrates 'STORYTELLING: Yarns and Tales – a narrative of people and place' as the theme for arts inspiration. The theme will encapsulate ideas of inclusion, community, Aboriginal history, cultural diversity, health and wellness, sustainability and the natural environment.

Working with the community

Stakeholders, staff and local communities have been consulted throughout the project's development, providing wide-ranging input that has informed the Arts and Culture Strategy. Dominant themes were the natural environment and sustainability; Aboriginal history and culture; community inclusion and belonging; and nontraditional art forms such as digital projections and interactive art, performance and sound artworks. Participation by the whole community in both the development of the Strategy and the creation of the artworks is a key goal.

The Strategy aims to use arts and culture programs to create a strong sense of place, community connection and ongoing enlivening of the space.