



The Bicycle Punt Over the Yarra



Doug Grant Reserve, Altona



Westgate Park, on the eastern side of the Yarra



Noon flowers, Altona Park



Jawbone Reserve, Williamstown



Time Beacon and 100 Steps at Truganina Park, Altona



LaVERTON Creek Footbridge



Williamstown Botanic Gardens



100 Steps to Federation, Truganina Park

A Taste of the Trail Ahead



Grandstanding

This must have been an exhilarating place to come to. With the rustle of ladies skirts, the intoxicating smell of roses, a thumping circular racing track, and a multi-tiered Victorian grandstand;

Beginning in 1873 the Williamstown Racecourse was one of Victoria's most popular tracks with even Phar Lap winning a race here. It had its own railway station, spectacular gardens, bay views and a footbridge across Kororoit Creek.

The area has always been flood prone, so the racetrack was fenced with special swinging gates to allow water through without damaging the fences.

The peace and solitude that welcome you when entering the Altona Coastal Park is a rare feeling this close to a major city. A palm tree, a reminder of the racecourse, is the only element that breaks the wild and free nature of this landscape. Bordered by the tranquillity of a thriving mangrove-salt marsh habitat (rare this close to a major city), the Altona Coastal Park is critical in providing habitat for indigenous flora and fauna, including the glasswort, a food for the rare Orange-Bellied Parrot.

You can do your bit for habitat by staying on the pathways, keeping dogs leashed, picking up litter and, most importantly, by taking the time to appreciate the natural beauty this landscape provides.



John Perceval 1923-2000 Australian

John Perceval was a painter and a ceramic artist. Despite having had no formal art training his work attracted attention in early Contemporary Art Society exhibitions in which he exhibited bold surrealist paintings, some of which were reproduced in Angry Penguins. During the 1940's he joined the Boyd family at Murrumbena where he assisted in rehabilitating the family pottery. Perceval married Mary Boyd. His spontaneous drawings of family life, his paintings of the bush and coastal scenes, with ships or seagulls, or figures partially lost in thick whorls of colourful paint, combined with his ceramic work, soon gained him a large following.

Perceval wrote "at all times my work is primarily a response to the subject, to light and trees, air, people... to a desire to equate the vitality, the pulse of life and the world around us".

Gannets diving 1956
Enamel paint and gouache on composition board
90.6 x 121.2 cm
Reproduction courtesy of the National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne.

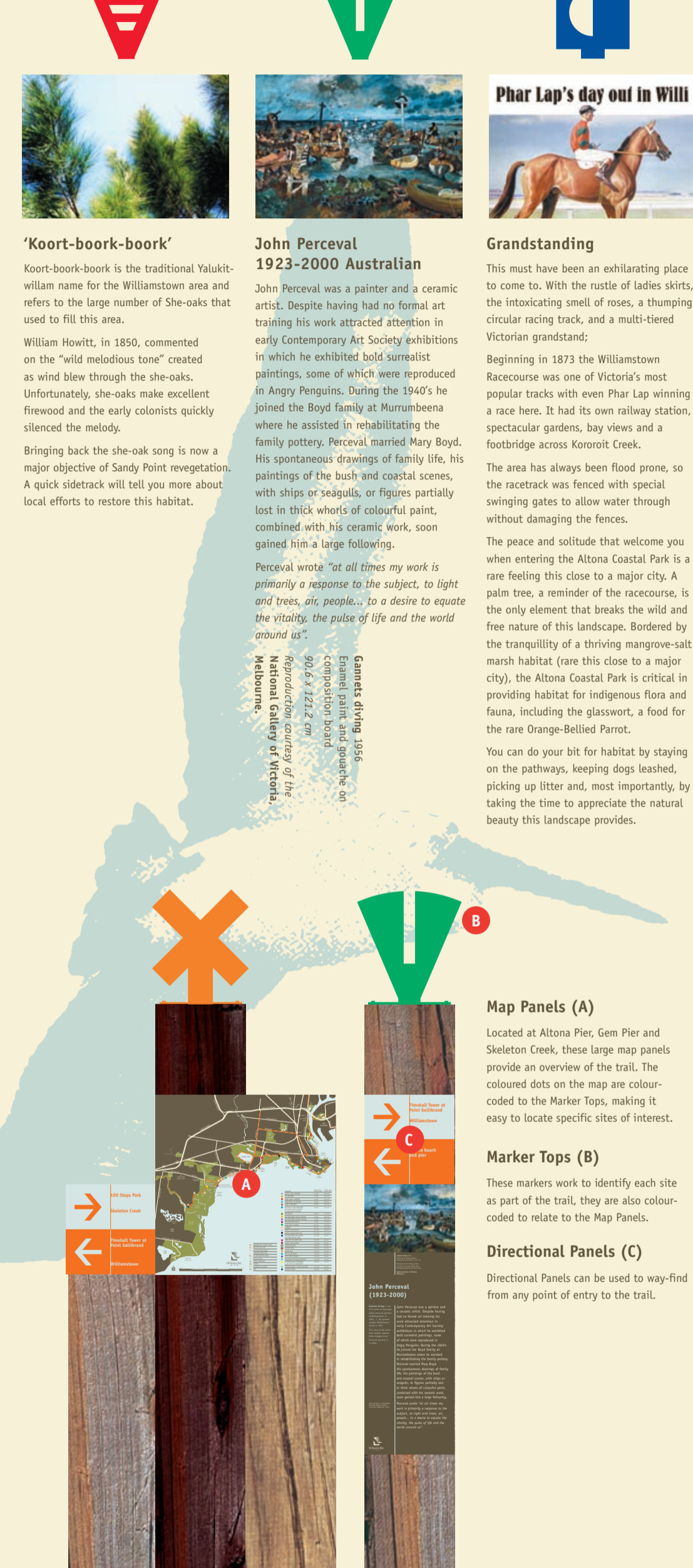


'Koorrt-boork-boork'

Koorrt-boork-boork is the traditional Yalukit-willam name for the Williamstown area and refers to the large number of She-oaks that used to fill this area.

William Howitt, in 1850, commented on the "wild melodious tone" created as wind blew through the she-oaks. Unfortunately, she-oaks make excellent firewood and the early colonists quickly silenced the melody.

Bringing back the she-oak song is now a major objective of Sandy Point revegetation. A quick sidetrack will tell you more about local efforts to restore this habitat.



Map Panels (A)

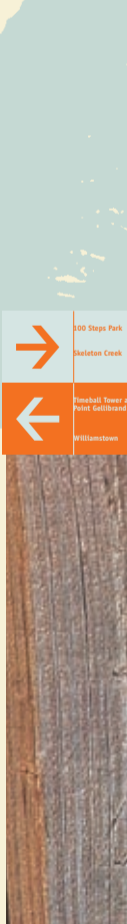
Located at Altona Pier, Gem Pier and Skeleton Creek, these large map panels provide an overview of the trail. The coloured dots on the map are colour-coded to the Marker Tops, making it easy to locate specific sites of interest.

Marker Tops (B)

These markers work to identify each site as part of the trail, they are also colour-coded to relate to the Map Panels.

Directional Panels (C)

Directional Panels can be used to way-find from any point of entry to the trail.



Tips for Healthy Riding and Walking

- Wear sunscreen in all seasons. UV rays can burn skin on dull days as well as sunny days
- Take a water bottle and drink before you feel thirsty

- Half an hour of exercise each day is good for the heart, the bones and the mind!



People, Piers & Pelicans Hobsons Bay Coastal Trail 2005

Welcome to People, Piers & Pelicans – Hobsons Bay Coastal Trail

You are about to embark on a very special journey. People, Piers and Pelicans coastal trail takes you past botanic gardens, sandy beaches, internationally important habitat and spectacular historic buildings. The trail is easily navigated by foot or bicycle and is clearly signposted with tall markers topped with colourful nautical motifs and sharing local information.

The total length of the trail from the Westgate bridge to Skeleton Creek is 23km. For more information about the trail call the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department of Hobsons Bay City Council on 9932 1000.

A bicycle punt runs across the Yarra River on weekends to link to the Westgate Park and the Bay Trail, which leads to St.Kilda and beyond – for operating times telephones: 0419 999 458.

