

Welcome to Walyalup

Teachers

Please walk with your students to each of the three stops around **Walyalup***. This should take no longer than one hour, so please allow time to return to the Museum, ready for the next part of your program.

Each stop will explain the importance of that place.

Read all the pages aloud, asking students to find the locations and important signs, plants and landforms. Encourage students to take part in all the discussion questions along the way.

Use this map to find each stop on your walk. The numbers show the main stops.



Please note: Due to the fact that the Nyoongar* language was traditionally an oral language, there are multiple spellings for several of the Nyoongar words written in this trail as recordings of many words by Europeans would have varied. There are also variations in spelling and pronunciation due to the different dialects within the Nyoongar language. Please refer to the footnotes for alternative spellings of some of these words.

*Walyallup *Noongar



Stop 1: River/Bilya and Limestone Bar

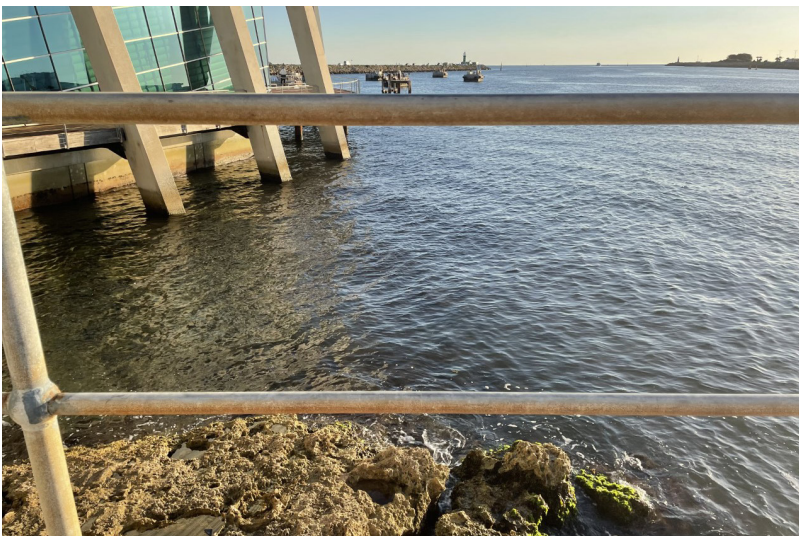
Places: The original people of this area are the **Whadjuk* Nyoongar** people of the **Bibbulmun*** Nation. The Nyoongar name for Fremantle is **Walyalup**.

Here, the ocean meets the river. The Nyoongar name for river is **bilya*** (parts of this bilya are also called **Derbarl Yerrigan***).

Look across to the other side of the harbour. At this very point, there was once a rocky limestone sandbar that stretched across the bilya to form a shallow estuary.

The sandbar was an important crossing point and fishing area for Nyoongar people. The bilya would also have provided many important resources for Nyoongar people.

In the late 1800s, settlers (non-Aboriginal people) wanted big ships to enter this area, so the sandbar was removed with explosives. This significantly impacted on Nyoongar people and the wildlife in the bilya. You can see the remnants of the bar in the picture here.



Fremantle Harbour Blasting, 1894

State Library of Western Australia
009026D/BA1328/10.

Seasons and Resources: There are six Nyoongar seasons. Do you know the Nyoongar season that we are in right now? Look out at the bilya. Tell the person next to you three words that describe the weather.

What are some animals or plants that might have been found in or near the bilya (examples include fish, crabs, freshwater crayfish, turtles, swans, dolphins, bullrushes)?

*Wajuk, Wadjuk *Bibulmun, Pibulmen *bilya, beeliar

Stop 1: River/Bilya and Limestone Bar (continued)

Places: Find the **Dwert*** (dingo) sculpture by artist Martin Jaine.

On the ground nearby, find the blue **Waagyl*** (Rainbow Serpent) painting by artist Rickesha Burdett (Makuru Designs).



Stories: Read the plaque beneath the Dwert, which recounts the Walyalup Dreaming Story as told by Nyoongar community leader, Trevor Walley.

- What is **Yondock*** and where did Yondock travel from?
- What happened to the Derbarl Yerrigan (Swan River) when Yondock disturbed it?
- Why did the Waagyl fight Yondock?
- What did the Waagyl do to Yondock's tail?
- Where did Yondock's body end up?
- What was the job of the Dwert and where was this job done from?

The tail of Yondock in the story is often described as creating the rocky sandbar that stretched across the bilya.

When the sandbar was removed by Europeans in the 1890s, it was also the removal of an important spiritual location from this Walyalup Dreaming Story.

When the rocky sandbar was removed, what do you think happened to the balance of fresh water and salt water in the bilya (river)?

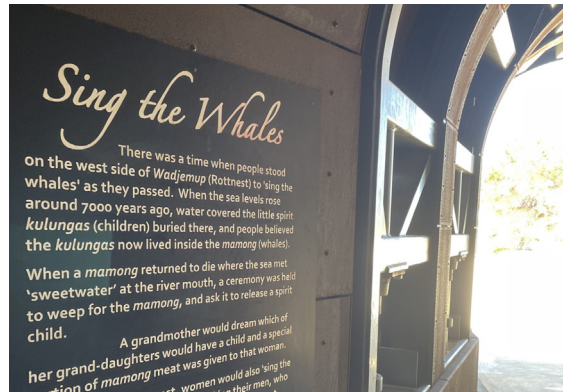
Seasons and Resources: Find one of the seating pods and look for a small plaque on the back of the seat. Tell your group the name of the season and a short fact about it.



*Dwerta, Dwerda *Waugal, Wagyl, Waakal *Yondok

Stop 2: Whalers Tunnel and Round House

Places: You are standing in the Whaler's Tunnel beneath the Round House.



At the tunnel entry, find and read *Sing the Whales*, as told by Elder Noel Nannup, to discover Nyoongar stories and use of **mamong*** (whales).

Now read the opposite panel, *Lament for the Whales*. This explains how mamong were used by the settlers in the 1800s.

Return to the main path and look up to see the Round House. From the 1830s, this colonial building imprisoned Aboriginal people from all over the state. It was very crowded and incredibly harsh, punishing Aboriginal people in a new and unfamiliar system.

Many imprisoned Aboriginal people were also sent to **Wadjemup** (Rottnest Island) - a sacred place that Nyoongar people did not visit. It was inappropriate and upsetting to send them there.

Seasons and Resources: The Nyoongar word for ocean is **waadan**, or **wattern**.

What does the water look like today? Do you think it reflects the season that we are in?

Mamong have not been hunted in this area for many decades. They can be seen migrating along these shores, especially between August - December during the seasons of **Djilba**, **Kambarang** and **Birak**.

Name some other animals and resources that could be found in the waadan (dolphins, fish, shellfish such as abalone, mussels, clams and oysters, kelp, shells)?

*mamang *Wadjamup, *wardan, wattern

Stop 3: Manjaree

Places: This area is known as **Manjaree** – a place of trade, meeting and ceremony.

Spot the wooden hut that you can see in this photo of a smoking ceremony. Performed by an Elder to cleanse and purify the area, these ceremonies have been held many times on this beach and nearby.



One Day In Fremantle,
Bather's Beach, 2019

Freo's View: freoview.wordpress.com

Look out to sea and find the white cliff. This is the edge of Garden Island. The Nyoongar name is **Meeandip***

Seasons and Resources: Find a pathway sign about **galyang** (red eye wattle).

Find the galyang trees nearby (circled). Are they in bloom today?

Using seasonal plants is very important to Nyoongar people. What other clues from the environment might tell us about the Nyoongar season we are in today?



What are some other native trees or plants that may have grown around the Walyalup area before it was cleared by settlers (paperbark, marri, quandong, balga, banksia, zamia, wattle eucalypts)?

The Nyoongar word for land is **boodja***. What native animals live on boodja around Walyalup and further inland (snakes, lizards, kangaroos, possums, birds such as cockatoos, magpies, crows and emus)?

*Meeandup *boodjar

More to Explore (only if time allows)

At the Walyalup Aboriginal Cultural Centre, people learn and share culture, stories and arts, taught by local Aboriginal artists and Elders. The steps just past the Round House lead to the building in the photo so students can view it from the outside. Find out more about the wonderful range of programs offered in each Nyoongar season:

fremantle.wa.gov.au/arts-culture/walyalup-program



Walyalup Aboriginal Cultural Centre

Behind the Round House is High Street, where Japingka Aboriginal Art Gallery is situated. Their website contains culturally, and Education Department approved lesson plans and resources for students, as well as interviews with artists, stories, iconography and exhibitions:

fremantle.wa.gov.au/arts-culture/walyalup-program



Wardarnji
City of Fremantle

There are many special events in Walyalup that celebrate Nyoongar culture, such as Wardarnji, which is an annual festival of dance, song and storytelling. Visit the City of Fremantle website to find out about more Nyoongar cultural events in Walyalup: fremantle.wa.gov.au