

Bunjil Lookout Keeping an Eagle-Eye on the Moorabool Valley



Warm winds, blue skies and the timely appearance of a native eagle greeted a large crowd of community spectators for the opening of Bunjil's Lookout at Maude. The Lookout celebrates Bunjil, the wedge tail eagle and in local aboriginal mythology, the creator of Kulin country.

Gayle Tierney, Member for Western Victoria, along with Cr Des Phelan, Mayor, and an assemblage of admiring members of the community were delighted to officially celebrate this spectacular viewing platform, looking out over the picturesque Moorabool Valley.

Over countless meetings, local residents and Council staff together with architect Fiona Gray, sculptor Viktor Ceberg and Wathaurung elder Uncle Bryon Powell brought a community and cultural vision to life.

Cleverly sculpted into the viewing deck's design is the story of the Great Creator Ancestor Spirit, Bunjil, the wedge-tail eagle and his six mighty men. Mid-ritual, a native eagle like the Great Creator himself, soared dramatically in the backdrop, making the event extra special.

Bunjil's Lookout is important to Golden Plains Shire for many reasons. It's a piece of art, a symbol of indigenous culture and a significant tourist attraction opening out onto picturesque Moorabool valley. Most importantly, the Lookout reflects the great things that can be achieved when Council and the community work together.

"The project really is a collaboration," said the Mayor in his address to the community; he concluded with, "Council looks forward to working with the State Government and



DID YOU KNOW ... *The Creator of the Kulin land and its people was the work of the Great Creator Ancestor Spirit Bunjil (the wedged-tailed eagle). The Bunjil story tells that Bunjil summoned six brothers to assist him in the creation of the land, people and all living things and to pass on his teachings and knowledge to all men and women.*

Kicking off the official proceedings, Uncle Bryon performed a smoking ritual, believed to cleanse the lands of toxic energies and clear the minds of all who were there and all who are yet to visit.

"A smoking ceremony enables people to come to the Lookout with an open mind and become one with the landscape," said Uncle Bryon, whose knowledge and love of the land was invaluable to the project.

government agencies to help maintain and create more community infrastructure like this."

Bunjil's Lookout is the result of \$125,000 of funding from Regional Development Victoria, combined with Council's \$45,000 contribution and a strong community coming together and setting a good example of what great collaboration can achieve.

Photograph courtesy of Stephen Axford.