



Map of Bunurong paths through the Mornington Peninsula

Kullurk/Kulluck/Kulluk/Kullurt/Callert/Colour/Coolert/Collourt/Coolurt/Coolart

Coolart Wetlands and Homestead is managed by Parks Victoria and sits between small coastal towns along the Westernport Coast. The wetlands provide vital bird habitat to local and migrating birds. Along this coast and crossing over the Coolart area run indigenous paths of movement.

Coolart is part of the indigenous area of Kullurt. The area of Kullurt was *the Bunurong's own choice in 1840 for a reserve of land for their imagined future*¹. There is a permanent water source here, and early maps show that aboriginal paths cross through the area. Unfortunately, this wish was not granted. 1 Fels, Marie Hansen, *I Succeeded Once*, p8

With its historical significance and being in public ownership, Coolart is an ideal place to engage with indigenous history and knowledge. This design studio will understand this place physically and historically within the larger context of the Mornington Peninsula, its water, topography, geology and the indigenous routes. At the more intimate scale we will consider how one moves over the ground, walks in silence, sits and yarn, gathers for events. A way of slowing down and observing, listening, noticing, interacting with seasonal change, human and non-human life.

The project will introduce students to an understanding of the indigenous history of the area, knowledge of ground and country, time and life. This knowledge along with approaches and methods for documenting and mapping the site, drawing the land, walking, observing, storytelling will be developed to lead to design strategies and small-scale design interventions.

The studio classes will include guest lectures, workshops and site work including long walks, discussions with Coolart wetland rangers. Group and class work is an important aspect of the studio.

Class times: Monday 6.30-9.30pm, Thursday 2.30-5.30pm, with additional weekend field work. Anticipated dates for weekend field work include Sat 10th, Sat 24th March, Sat 7th, Sat 21 April. This studio will be run as an intensive studio, final class on Monday 7th May.

Lucinda McLean, semester 1, 2018