Community Consultation Report

Stolen Generations Marker

November 2025



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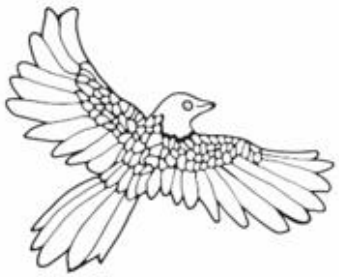
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Moonee Valley City Council respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which Moonee Valley is located – the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation; and we pay respects to their Spirits, Ancestors, Elders and their community members past and present.

Council also extends this respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples who call Moonee Valley home.

Artwork by Wurundjeri artist, the late Judy Nicholson

1.Summary

1.1 Background

As part of Council's Bagarru Bagarru Djerring (Shoulder to Shoulder Together) Reconciliation Plan and Policy 2022-2025, Council is committed to working with the community to acknowledge and address the pain, suffering and ongoing impact of colonisation and racism experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. A significant initiative in this plan is to work in partnership with Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Elders to design and install a permanent Stolen Generations Marker in Moonee Valley to acknowledge and respect Stolen Generations.

To progress this work, Council is grateful to be working with the Stolen Generations Marker Project Working Group. This group includes Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Elders, representatives of organisations working with members of the Stolen Generations and First People who live locally. We want the Marker to be designed, located and used in an ongoing manner in accordance with the wishes of the Stolen Generations.

Proposed locations for the Marker

The Working Group shortlisted three possible locations for the Marker:

- Napier Park
- Salmon Reserve
- Nursery Corner

The shortlisted sites were selected based on their accessibility, environment, amenities and cultural importance. Further information about each of the proposed locations is available at Appendix 1.

1.2 Engagement strategies

Council sought community feedback on the shortlisted locations. In particular, Council was keen to hear from members of the Stolen Generations and local residents whether there are any other considerations important for the working group to be aware of regarding the preferred location for the Marker.

Findings from the community consultation will be reported to the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, who will make a final recommendation about the most appropriate site.

Consultation took place over 4 weeks from 14 October to 10 November 2025. Community was invited to have their say on the preferred location for the Marker by:

- Completing a survey online, in hard copy or over the phone
- Calling or emailing Council

- Audio recording a verbal response via a ‘Speak Pipe’ tool on the project Your Say page.

Council also undertook targeted communication and consultation with a range of relevant stakeholders and community members, including the Stolen Generations Marker Project Working Group, representatives of organisations working with members of the Stolen Generations (including Link Up, Connection Home, Wurundjeri Corporation), and Friends of Napier Park, Woodlands Historic Park, and Moonee Ponds Creek. Members of the Stolen Generation and other First Nations peoples were also invited to an informal community barbeque to discuss the sites.

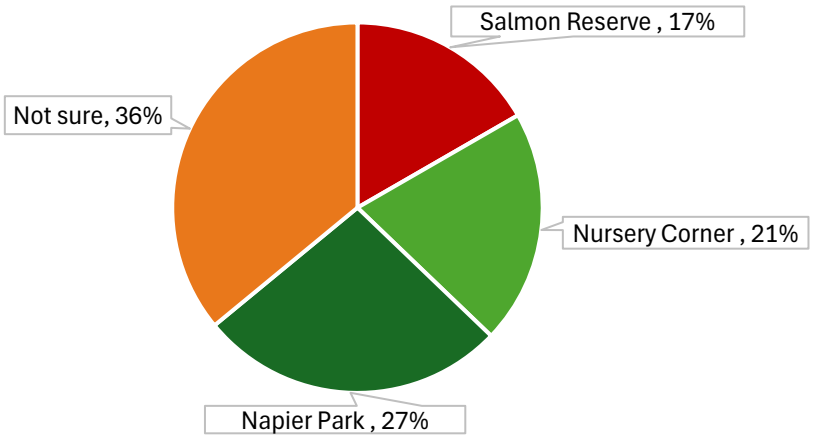
A total of 92 community members participated in the consultation.

1.3 Key findings

- **Participants** - The majority of survey respondents were local residents who do not have lived experience as a Stolen Generations survivor. Three (3) respondents identified as Aboriginal.

- **Preferred site** - When asked which of the three shortlisted sites they would prefer to be chosen as the location for the Stolen Generations Marker, most survey respondents said they are not sure, followed by Napier Park, Nursery Corner and Salmon Reserve.

Figure 1. Preferred site



- **Site strengths and concerns – Overall themes**

  Feedback about specific strengths and concerns of the proposed sites comprised the following key themes:

Figure 2. Key strengths

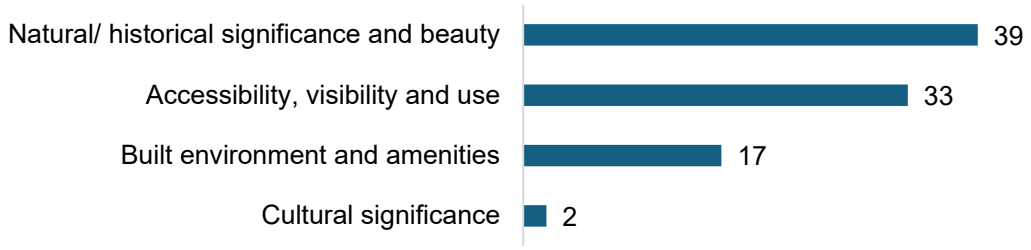
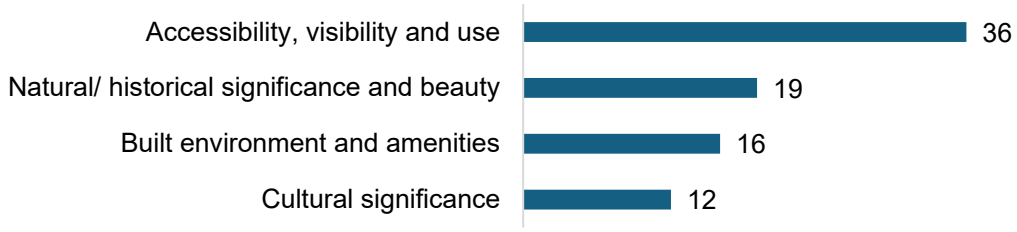


Figure 3. Key concerns



- **Site strengths and concerns – Site specific feedback**
  - **Napier Park**
    - Strengths (38) – Natural/historical bushland, peaceful with private spaces, broadly accessible, visible and well used.
    - Concerns (27) – Absence of natural waterway. Potential impact on flora and fauna. No toilets. Potential impact of traffic and playground noise
  - **Salmon Reserve**
    - Strengths (33) – Central, visible, accessible via public transport. Appropriate size. Natural, beautiful vegetation, abundant fauna, peaceful. Close to amenities and parking. Cultural significance.
    - Concerns (24) – Narrow thoroughfare with limited appeal or use by the broader public. Unsuitable for quiet reflection. Potential impact on fauna. Limited privacy due to nearby housing. Distant toilets.
  - **Nursery Corner**
    - Strengths (18) – Aligns with development plans and potential for required recreational facilities and amenities. Larger space. Off street parking. Close to natural waterway. Quiet, remote.
    - Concerns (17) – Limited accessibility via public transport, and centrality and visibility to the broader public. Limited privacy due to nearby houses. Limited familiarity with this site.

- **General level of support** – Many respondents expressed general support for a particular site or a Marker in general, and several were opposed due to ideological or financial concerns.
- **Other considerations** – Some respondents provided feedback about the nature of the Marker itself and alternative sites. Several reiterated their desire for the Marker to be accessible and visible to promote awareness and respect. Several called for more information about the cultural significance of the sites, and some expressed explicit support for the preferred site to be determined by First Nations people.

2. Methodology

2.1 Key engagement questions

The survey asked respondents:

- Do you or a family member have lived experience as a Stolen Generations survivor? (Y/N)
- In considering the three shortlisted sites, which would you prefer to be chosen as the location for the Stolen Generations Marker? (With the option to choose 'not sure' or one of the three sites, as summarised in the survey, and Appendix 1).
- Please note any strengths or concerns you perceive about the shortlisted sites.
- If there is anything else you would like the project working group to consider regarding the site selection for the Marker, please comment below.

Survey respondents were also asked (optional) questions about their demoographic characteristics, as summarised in Section 2.6 below.

2.2 Communication and reach

The consultation was promoted via:

- The project Your Say page (Appendix 2)
- A direct mailout to residents near potential sites
- Targeted communication with relevant stakeholder groups
- An Instagram story (on 28 October 2025)

The level of engagement with the project Your Say page and social media reach is summarised below.

- Your Say page views 287
- Your Say page visitors 185
- Instagram reach 262

2.3 Participation

A total of 92 community members participated in the consultation, via:

- 88 survey responses
- 3 emails
- 1 telephone call

2.4 Theming framework

Based on a sample of 30 free text responses to each of the qualitative engagement questions about the Stolen Generations Marker, a framework was developed to code community feedback against key themes. Some comments were assigned more than one code to reflect multiple themes or 'mentions' within the one comment. A total of 23 comments/mentions were excluded from coding as they did not directly respond to the question (e.g. "No comment")

The framework was refined throughout the coding process, with the following themes identified:

1. **Specific strengths and concerns -** Specific features considered to be a strength or concern about locating the Marker at one or more of the sites, including:

    1.1 Natural/historical significance and beauty – Suitability, beauty and historical significance of the vegetation, landscape and other nature features and habitat of the site.

    1.2 Accessibility, visibility and use – Accessibility of the site via public transport or other means, public visibility and proximity of the site to populated areas, current level of use of the site.

    1.3 Built environment and amenities – Size of the site, proximity to roads and housing, adequacy of onsite amenities (e.g. public toilets, parking, shelter, seating and signage).

    1.4 Cultural significance – Significance of the site to First Nations peoples.

2. **General opposition** – Opposed to a particular site or a Marker; in general, or due to financial or ideological concerns.

3. **General support** – Supportive of a particular site or a Marker; in general.

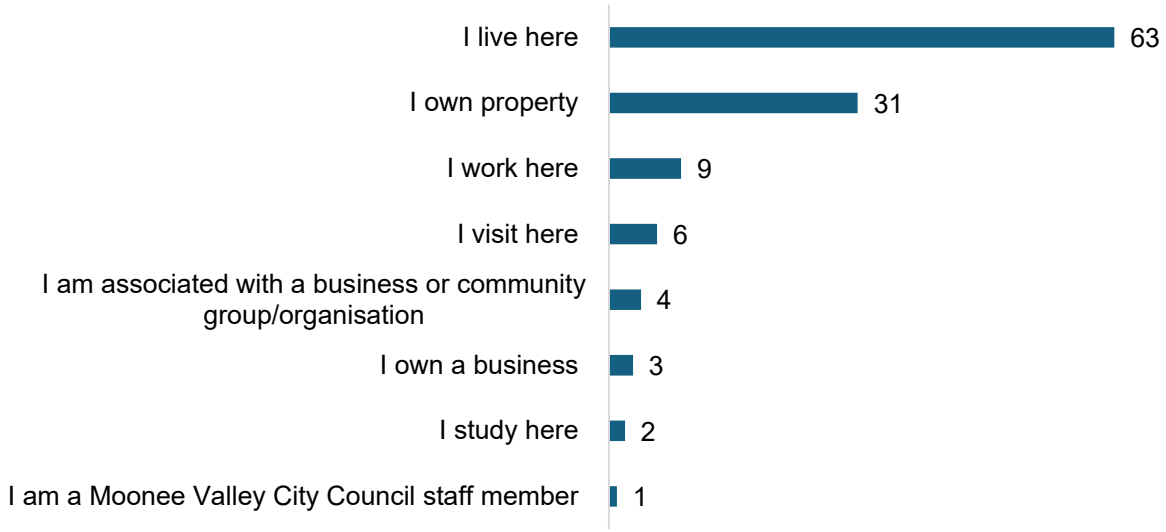
4. **Other considerations** – Broader feedback about the initiative and the Marker itself.

2.5 Survey respondent demographics

- Survey participants were asked whether they or a family member have **lived experience** as a Stolen Generations survivor. Of the respondents to this question, 3 (4%) said yes and 75 (96%) said no.

- Survey participants were asked to indicate their **connection to Moonee Valley**, with the option to select one or more of the options listed in the graph below. Of the respondents to this question, most (n[1]=63) indicated they live in Monee Valley, followed by local property owners (n=31), with several respondents indicating other local connections.

Figure 4. Connection to Moonee Valley

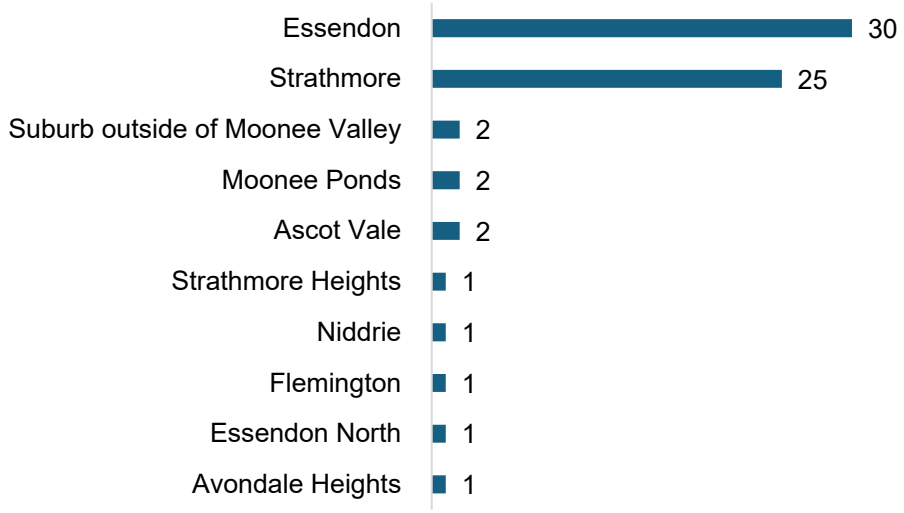


- Of the four respondents who indicated they are associated with a local business or community group/organisation, the following **associations** were specified:
    - Friends of Napier Park
    - Friends of Steel Creek and Maribyrnong River and Waterways Association
    - Essendon Baptist Community Church

- When asked what **suburb** they live in, most respondents indicated they live in Essendon (n=30) or Strathmore (n=25), with a total of 9 participants from seven other suburbs in Moonee Valley and two from outside of Moonee Valley (including Craigieburn and Parkdale).

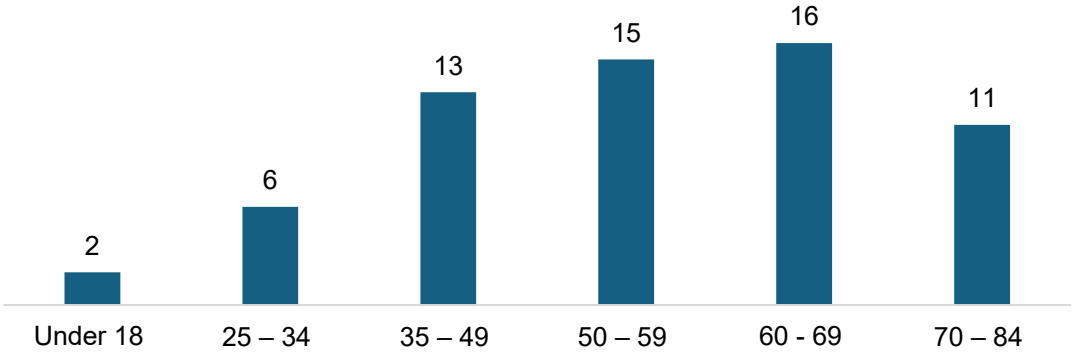
[1] When referring to data in this report, 'n' represents the number of people who responded to a particular question or prompt.

Figure 5. Residential suburb



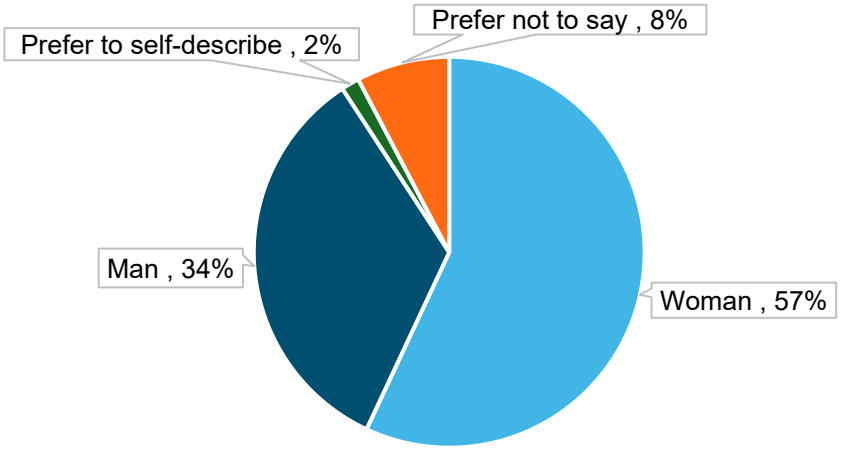
- Participants were asked which **age group** they belong to, from the options listed in the graph below. Most (67%, n=43) respondents indicated they are 50 years of age or older, with smaller representation (n=21) across three younger age groups.

Figure 6. Age group



- When participants were invited to specify their **gender identity**, a greater percentage of survey respondents identified as a woman (57%) compared with those who identified as a man (34%).

Figure 7. Gender identity



- When asked whether they usually speak a **language** other than English at home, four of 64 respondents (6%) said yes. Two respondents specified the main language they speak at home, which included Bosnian and Aboriginal.

- When asked about other aspects of their **identity**, 3 survey respondents identified as Aboriginal. Several respondents identified as a person with a disability (n=1), a carer (n=4), a disability ally (n=6), or someone who needs help with self-care, body movement, or communication (n=1 each). Five respondents identified as LGBTIQA+.

3. Findings

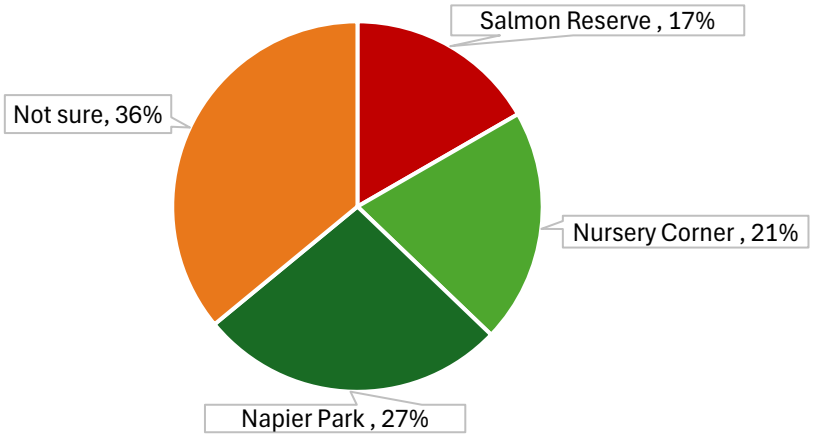
This section presents the consultation findings from all feedback methods.

3.1 Survey responses

3.1.1 Preferred location for the Marker

When asked which of the three shortlisted sites they would prefer to be chosen as the location for the Stolen Generations Marker, the majority of survey respondents said they are not sure (36%), followed by Napier Park (27%), Nursery Corner (21%) and Salmon Reserve (17%).

Figure 8. Preferred location for Marker



3.1.2 Strengths and concerns about shortlisted sites

When invited to note any strengths or concerns they may perceive about the shortlisted sites, 52 respondents provided a total of 170 free text comments and 250 separate mentions in relation to the three sites. The table below summarises the key themes, content, number of mentions (n) and example quotes from respondent comments. Note, some comments were repeated in relation to multiple sites.

Site 1: Napier Park (n=83)	
Strengths (38)	**Concerns (27)**
Natural/historical significance and beauty (21) • Pre-colonial trees, native flora, natural, dense bush setting and revegetation • Quiet, peaceful, with protected areas • Connection to land and natural environment *The significantly older bush present in Napier Park makes it feel like a more authentic, connected place for the marker.* *That trees have been there before colonisation nice link to the past.* *This park is … currently being reclaimed/revegetated with native vegetation and is recognised as an historic site.* **Accessibility, visibility and use (15)** • Proximity to public transport, easy to get to • Broader community accessibility and exposure– near populated areas and major	**Natural/historical significance and beauty (10)** • Absence of a natural waterway • Preservation of natural setting. Potential for Marker to impact on current revegetation/ preservation and fauna, depending on type of Marker, visitor numbers and events *It would be good to ensure the native setting is not disturbed too much ...* *Napier Park is all about nature. Please keep it natural, and don't add artwork to it. It was donated to be a nature reserve.* *Napier Park has lots of beautiful wildlife like birds and owls. Construction on this area would kill these wonderful creatures.* **Accessibility, visibility and use (6)** • It was noted that the proximity to the playground could be a negative aspect. Some noted the playground is underutilised so people may not know about the nearby

streets, well known, regularly used walking park/nature reserve. • Private spaces *It is a locally known walking park and therefore would be viewed and appreciated by significant numbers of Essendon/Strathmore residents.* *It is easily accessible to people who may want to visit, with privacy and yet prominent in our community.* **Built environment and amenities (2)** • Designated walking tracks	marker if placed there, but others noted the proximity to a playground could create excessive noise for those wanting to use the space as quiet reflection. • Unsuitable for park function • Dense vegetation *Napier Park does not appear open and accessible unless you are approaching from the corner of Glenbervie Road and Noble Avenue. The bushland is attractive but not inviting.* **Built environment and amenities (7)** • No toilets, perception that toilets could attract antisocial behaviour if provided on site • Excessive existing signage. • Impact of noise/traffic, busy roads and playground on natural setting and purpose *this is next to busy roads … it feels like a moving through zone rather than a contemplative site.* **Cultural significance (4)** • Lack of information/awareness/alternative view about cultural significance of this or alternative sites *I know nothing about its meaning for First Nations peoples, but it seems a suitable place in some ways.* *I would like to know more about the "cultural importance".* *Salmon Reserve has strong evidence of aboriginal habitation.*
General opposition (11)	**General support (3)**
• Opposed to this location or a Marker in general *I don't want it here / Not appropriate* • Financial and ideological concerns – questioning relevance, utility, necessity and Council expenditure on the Marker	• Generally supportive of this location *I think it is the perfect location for this marker.* *Commemorative artwork would be very welcome here.* *Napier Park would also be a wonderful site as well [as Salmon Reserve].*

This waste of our rate payer's money will NEVER improve any indigenous people's lives.	

Other (4)

- Lack of information/suggestions about the Marker

  I'm not sure how large the marker would be so it's difficult to assess its impact. Artwork which the MVCC is considering has not been shown and I cannot comment on this except to say we need inspirational messages of hope in public areas.

- Broader value of the Marker

  Being in the bush is a peaceful experience that relieves suffering and trauma for many people. in a busy city and we need more places like this.

- Alternative proposal

  I am surprised that all of the options are in Strathmore. I would think something in the vicinity of the Town Hall and Moonee Ponds junction should be considered.

  I would nominate Queens Park for its notable Aboriginal heritage and its accessibility to many more people due to its more central location

Site 2: Salmon Reserve (n=72)

Strengths (33)	Concerns (24)
Natural/historical significance and beauty (11) • Archetypal Australian bush/organic, natural parkland, beautiful trees, native gums and scrub, abundant wildlife and native birdlife • Quiet, peaceful, relaxing • Potential for Marker to protect the parkland from development **Accessibility, visibility and use (13)** • Some respondents listed the size of the park as a strength, with most describing it as small but a couple describing it as spacious or large • Pleasant, popular place to walk through and use • Well located/central, easily accessible, close to public transport (similar to Napier Park) • Open, visible, welcome space *Lots of people walk through here daily who would see the marker & appreciate its significance among the beautiful trees.* *Beautiful peaceful spot with a lot of wildlife, and quieter than Napier Park, but*	**Natural/historical significance and beauty (6)** • Impact on fauna • Windy, falling branches • Very muddy after rain *The tawny frogmouth owl has been seen nesting here and if we have large machinery it will disrupt their nesting.* *… branches fall sporadically, and the wind can get very intense here. If there's a safe spot though that'd be a great addition for the art.* *Not natural enough.* **Accessibility, visibility and use (11)** • Narrow strip, too small • Limited current purpose or identity as a park • Mostly used as a thoroughfare • Unsuitable for quiet reflection • Limited use by broader public *this is a very small park and while it does get foot traffic through it is mostly commuters and dog walkers and people*

still very close to a lot of amenities and makes for a pleasant walk from Woodlands Park or Napier Park. *Pick the site that enables the most visibility to the marker* **Built environment and amenities (7)** • Clear walking paths • Close to amenities • Some seats available • Parking available in nearby streets **Cultural significance (2)** • Significant Aboriginal cultural site *Artifacts discovered in the reserve provide direct evidence of aboriginal occupation*	*exercising. It is not a common sit and stop zone or a contemplative site* *It's just a path and not a destination.* *… really only used by local residents not the broader community like Woodlands and Napier Parks.* **Built environment and amenities (6)** • Limited privacy due to proximity to high density housing • Potential for the Marker to attract graffiti • Distant toilets • Limited appeal *There is not much in Salmon Reserve apart from a walking track and a few bench seats.* **Cultural significance (1)** *I would like to know more about the "cultural importance"*
General opposition (9)	**General support (3)**
• Opposed to this location or a Marker in general, due to unspecified, financial or ideological concerns *I'd prefer not to have this installed in our community* *I have concerns in general about the amount of money that has been, and will continue to be, spent on this project which will deliver no material benefit or change to the lives of the current and future generations of all Australians who live in MVCC.* *It's not in WA.*	*It could be really nice* *Salmon reserve would be a wonderful site as well [as Napier Park].*
Other (3)	
• Broader value of/suggestions about the Marker and alternative site *Being around and amongst trees is healthy for people. Having worked in the area of mental health we need places to rest, relax and have peace. We need messages of hope* *… Woodlands Park … should also be on the short list?* *I would choose Queen's Park*	

<table>
<tr><th colspan="2">Site 3: Nursery Corner (n=56)</th></tr>
<tr><th>Strengths (18)</th><th>Concerns (17)</th></tr>
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Natural/historical significance and beauty (6)

- Close to natural waterway/creek

Accessibility, visibility and use (4)

- Quiet area, versus “A lot of foot traffic”
- Remote (supportive of most remote site)
- Community desire for a relaxing family recreational space here

Built environment and amenities (8)

- Pleasant surroundings, larger space
- Potentially appropriate with redevelopment
- Optimism about development plans for recreational amenities/facilities at the park
- Off street parking
- Away from men’s shed

… as the location is currently undergoing a masterplan process it makes sense to include the marker as part of that process because it can take into account the factors needed to support its placement there - parking, toilets, accessible pathways

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Natural/historical significance and beauty (1)

Feels too manicured

Accessibility, visibility and use (13)

- Limited accessibility, not central enough/too remote/far/hidden/out of the way from the rest of Moonee Valley
- Too far from public transport
- Uncertain about extent of use of this park/adequate visibility of the Marker
- Lack of privacy

I don't think many people would take much notice of a marker there.

Any acknowledgement of pain , suffering and ongoing trauma would be best suited in a more appropriate areas and not hidden away.

Built environment and amenities (1)

- Too close to houses

Cultural significance (2)

- Seeking more information about “cultural importance” of this site.

Don't know if any Aboriginal history here

</td></tr>
<tr><th>General opposition (8)</th><th>General support (6)</th></tr>
<tr><td>

- Opposition in general and/or on ideological grounds – e.g. concern the Marker is not relevant in Moonee Valley or will be divisive. Preference for one of the other sites.

I am totally against the proposal to install any marker to the stolen generations in Moonee Valley.

Its not in FNQ / Don’t support

I think the Napier site is best

</td><td>

Nursery Corner could be an opportunity to create a place from scratch as a reconciliatory gesture

Looks like a nice spot

… it would have appeal to a broad group of residents.

Nursery corner is a terrific choice to put a Stolen Generations Marker. We must support the wonderful First Nations Community in placing a marker in this great location.

</td></tr>
<tr><th colspan="2">Other (7)</th></tr>
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- E.g. unfamiliar with the site, or alternative proposal

I would choose Queens Park. The name of the park could be replaced with the site's original Aboriginal name

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3.1.3 Other considerations

When asked if there is anything else they would like the project working group to consider regarding the site selection for the Marker, 34 survey respondents provided free text comments and 39 separate mentions, as summarised below.

<u>Strengths</u> (2)

Natural/historical significance and beauty (1)

Historical significance of areas selected

Accessibility, visibility and use (1)

- Opportunity for education.

  Lots of school kids walk to and from school through Napier Park which would provide a wonderful and rich opportunity for education.

<u>Concerns (15)</u>

Natural/historical significance and beauty (2)

- Desire for native vegetation and preservation of natural woodland.

  The marker should be surrounded by native vegetation.

  Please avoid Napier Park at all costs. It must be maintained as a natural woodland not a park/gathering place (apart from the existing corner). The community has Woodlands Park nearby for that.

Accessibility, visibility and use (6)

- Desire for the Marker to be accessible and visible, to raise awareness and facilitate respectful acknowledgement and protection.

  Pick the site…that enables the most visibility for the most people …

  Don't hide it away - let it be available & visible but not too huge such that it doesn't blend in. Make it visible so people go to it to see what it is about but don't take over the whole area with too large a marker or it will be graffitied or climbed on. We need to recognise & mark this history in a respectful way.

  I think that if the Stolen Generations Marker is to have significance and impact it should be at a site used by a variety of MVCC residents and visitors. On that basis the best sites would be Woodlands Park and/or Napier Park or for that matter Queens Park.

  I think for safety and protection of the marker, it should be in a high traffic, well-lit and camera observed area.

Built environment and amenities (2)

- Desire for adequate accessibility and amenities.

  Please consider the accessibility needs for elders and infirm. Will there be seats or tables for families to gather close to marker?

Cultural significance (5)

- Inadequate information.

  Please elaborate on what you mean by "cultural importance". No information has been provided. The "Marker" should intersect significantly with some sort of known cultural importance (i.e. a known meeting place, campground, etc). Otherwise, a claim for cultural importance seems forced, like the importance is being imposed. Can we have facts, please?

- Desire for decision to be determined by the working group, Traditional Owners or First Nations people.

  I think it is up to the Traditional Owners to decide where would be the most appropriate site.

  Please prioritise opinions of local First Nations people, consider seeking out those who may have moved away as the area was colonised.

General opposition (15)

- Unsupportive of acknowledging Aboriginal people in general or acknowledging Stolen Generations members in Moonee Valley.
- Preference for Council to spend funds on cores services, infrastructure and facilities.

  I wish NOT to have a marker erected anywhere in my Council land. Surely the rates could be more equitably spent for ALL citizens.

  … there is already a marker near the softball fields along the creek …

  not sure that it is needed

General support (1)

  I strongly support this proposal and MVCC in working with local elders in making this a reality.

Other (6)

- Feedback about the nature and intent of the Marker and alternative site suggestions.

  Should be positive and future looking …

to make the Marker attractive and easy to understand in the context

The type of marker and its intended usage is key for deciding the location. If the marker is to attract visitors and have events held there, then proximity to facilities is important. … If the marker is to provide First Nations people with a place for contemplation and also provide the broader community with a reminder of the injustices experienced then it should be in a suitably prominent location. I'm not sure any of these reserves provide the appropriate space and supports to meet these objectives.

Queens Park could be given the Aboriginal name of the land: Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and the marker placed there. A reclamation of the land.

3.2 Other feedback

- Three community members provided feedback via email.
    - Two respondents opposed the installation of a Stolen Generations Marker in general, on ideological and financial grounds.
    - One respondent expressed concerns about the visibility and accessibility of the proposed locations for the Marker and sought clarification regarding the purpose of the Marker. That is, is it mainly intended to serve as a gathering place for the Wurundjeri people, or as a broader reminder that Stolen Generations trauma occurred?
- One community member sought clarification about the engagement process via telephone.

4. Conclusion

This consultation provided valuable insight into community perspectives on the proposed location for the Stolen Generations Marker. Participants shared a range of views, highlighting key strengths, concerns, and suggestions in relation to each of the shortlisted sites.

While more than a third of participants were unsure of their preferred location for the Marker, Napier Park was the most preferred of the shortlisted sites. While several participants expressed opposition to the Marker, others were explicitly supportive. Overall, participants expressed a desire for the Marker to be visible and accessible, surrounded by natural beauty, but also a desire to provide a space for private contemplation and protect the surrounding habitat. Several participants called for more information about the cultural significance of the sites.

This feedback demonstrates strong community interest in acknowledging members of the Stolen Generations and an appetite for more information. These findings will help inform next steps and decision-making regarding the chosen site.

5. Appendices

Appendix 1 - Proposed Marker locations

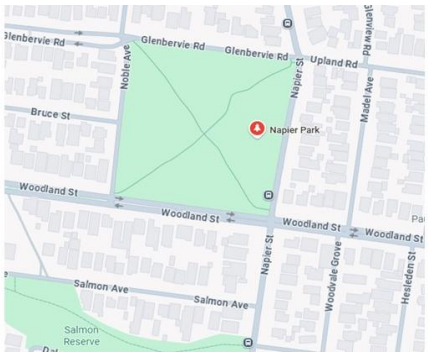
Site 1: Napier Park

Napier Park is full of natural character. It is an example of pre-European woodland with some significant flora. This includes River Red Gums that pre-date colonisation and feature large hollows that can take more than a century to develop. Many are protected under the Significant Tree Register.

Napier Park has a good understory of native shrubs, grasses and wildflowers. The trees and bush conceal parts of the park from the road, but the sound of traffic is sometimes audible. There is a playground in the north-west corner.

It is a 10-minute walk from the closest train station and is serviced by a bus stop on its south-east corner. The closest public toilets are in Woodlands Park.



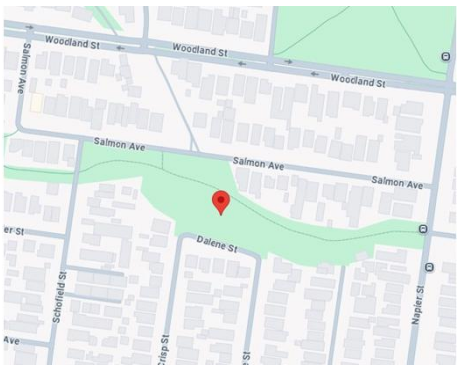


Site 2: Salmon Reserve

Salmon Reserve is a strip of land in suburban Essendon that features several well-established gum trees. The trees give the area a peaceful feeling and attract a variety of bird life. The park covers the drain that was Five Mile Creek and is predominantly mown lawn and bordered by rear fences of residents.

It is a 10-minute walk from the closest train station and a 2-minute walk from the nearest bus stop. The closest public toilets are in Woodlands Park.



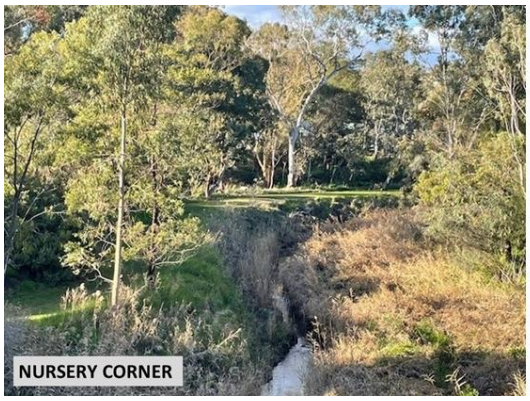


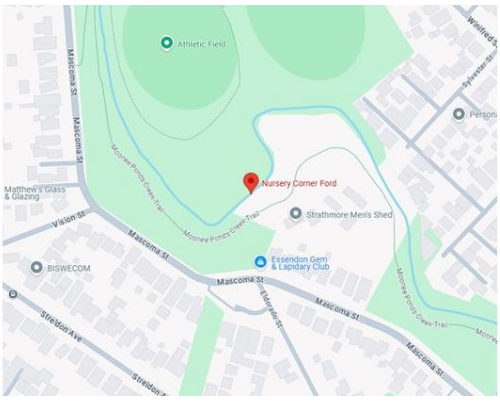
Site 3: Nursery Corner

Nursery Corner sits between the creek and the rear of residential houses. It has some native vegetation and is intersected by the Moonee Ponds Creek trail.

It is the focus of a community driven Master Plan to connect people to the site through improved landscape and amenities. The masterplan includes a realignment of the trail and additional planting of native vegetation, including trees, shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers.

It is a 25-minute walk from the closest train station and a 12-minute walk from the nearest bus stop. The closest public toilets are in Oak Park Reserve.





Appendix 2 - Your Say page

