

RUPERT STREET POCKET PARK

a green oasis in the heart of Subiaco

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Front cover: Rupert Street Pocket Park 2026



Mayor’s Message



City of Subiaco Mayor
David McMullen

“In the centre of an established inner-city area like ours, the opportunity to build a new park from scratch does not come up often.

Where an ageing building once stood, we now have a welcoming pocket park that enhances our City’s tree canopy, supports local flora and fauna, and offers a peaceful spot for our community to sit and enjoy a coffee, lunch, or a chat under plenty of shade.

The park is a beautiful addition to our City-wide network of parks, gardens, and green open spaces that everyone can enjoy.”



Acknowledgement of Country

The City of Subiaco acknowledges the Whadjuk Noongar people as the traditional custodians of the area.
We recognise their cultural connection to the land and waterways of Subiaco, and their continuing contribution to our City.

Project partners

Local Government	City of Subiaco
Design	Propagule Consulting
Construction	Phase 3 Landscape Construction



Thank you

The City of Subiaco would like to thank the surrounding businesses, residents, and landholders for their support during the project.

Recent history

Rupert Street Pocket Park was a Council initiative to transform 203 Bagot Road, between Rupert Street and Bagot Road, into new public open space. The site was formerly home to the Subiaco Community Centre, built in 1967. After more than 50 years of community use, the building reached the end of its useful life and was demolished in 2025.

Opposite Crossways Shopping Centre, the new park provides shaded green space where people can pause and rest. The park responds to community priorities for retaining mature trees, increasing native planting, and creating habitat for local birdlife.

Image at right: Subiaco Community Centre, 203 Bagot Road, 2007. Courtesy of Subiaco Museum.





During demolition, February 2025



Following demolition, February 2025

Creating spaces for the future



Rupert Street Pocket Park was designed as a shady, green place where the community can pause and relax. Retaining mature trees, including the lemon-scented gum listed on the City's Significant Tree Register, was central to the design.

SLOW DOWN

Find a shady bench or sit on the grass beneath the lemon-scented gum.

RESET

A green oasis for coffee, a lunch break or a quiet moment away from the busy streets.

CONNECT

Listen to the birds, play on the swale logs, and watch the plants sway in the

Trees

PROTECTING AND GROWING THE CANOPY

Shade, tree retention, greenery, and habitat for birds were among the community's strongest priorities.

The park was therefore designed around its mature trees, including the lemon-scented gum listed on the City's Significant Tree Register. Arborists established Tree Protection Zones, and construction near roots was carefully managed through hand excavation and specialist oversight. This tree-first approach protected the existing canopy and gave the park an established, shaded character from the day it opened.

NEW TREES FOR A CHANGING CLIMATE

New trees were selected for water efficiency, biodiversity, and suitability to local conditions. Planting includes bull banksia (*Banksia grandis*), swamp bloodwood (*Corymbia ptychocarpa*), coral gum (*Eucalyptus torquata*), quandong (*Santalum acuminatum*), a mature tuart (*Eucalyptus gomphocephala*), and a variety of melaleucas.

Together, these trees will grow the park's canopy and provide food and shelter for birds, bees, and other pollinators. Planting a mix of species also makes the canopy less vulnerable to threats such as polyphagous shot-hole borer.



Creating a resilient, biodiverse ecosystem



COCKITROUGH

The City's second Cockitrough gives birds a raised place to drink and bathe, helping them access water away from ground-level disturbance.



SWALE

The planted swale is a shallow, low-lying area that captures and slows rainwater runoff. Water can soak into the soil and support nearby planting, helping the park make better use of rainfall.



UNDERSTOREY PLANTING

A layered mix of waterwise and predominantly native shrubs, grasses and groundcovers provides food and shelter for birds, bees and other insects. Species were selected for seasonal colour, texture, biodiversity, and resilience in local conditions.

Featured species include *Banksia blechnifolia*, *Conostylis candicans*, *Patersonia occidentalis*, *Ficinia nodosa*, and *Boronia purdieana*.

Sustainability workshops with Subiaco Primary School

To celebrate the completion of Rupert Street Pocket Park, the City delivered educational workshops for Year 5 students from Subiaco Primary School.

These workshops formed part of a broader effort to showcase the park's sustainable design features, biodiversity, native planting, repurposed materials, and bird-friendly landscaping.

On Tuesday 2 June 2026, approximately 90 students participated in three hands-on workshops delivered at the park by City officers and Propagule Consulting.

Students were guided through the space, where they were introduced to the park's key features and the sustainability principles that informed its design.

The sessions focused on helping students understand how thoughtful design choices can support environmental outcomes and create more resilient urban spaces. The hands-on format helped connect classroom learning with a real public space in their local community.

In addition to the workshops, the City gave students a take-home workbook featuring word puzzles, colouring-in and storytelling to reinforce the concepts explored during the visit.

Together, the workshops and workbook demonstrated how people can positively transform spaces to benefit the environment and the communities that use them.







Stories of place, community and Country

In 1997, ceramic artist Jenny Dawson and Noongar artist and Elder Sandra Hill collaborated with students from Subiaco Primary School, Jolimont Primary School, Rosalie Park Primary School, and Perth Modern School to create their first public artwork together, *Subiaco Centenary Tiles* in Postal Walk.

The artwork celebrates an important First Nations story while capturing the places that made Subiaco meaningful to local young people. It depicts the Noongar story of the Waugyl, the ancestral being who shaped the waterways and landforms of present-day Perth and the south-west of Western Australia. Through scenes of local life and landscape, the work connects community memories with enduring cultural knowledge.

Nearly three decades later, the artwork's significance became evident when part of the installation was removed to accommodate the growth of the mature tree that shades Postal Walk. Former students involved in the original project contacted the City, expressing concern for a work they had continued to visit throughout their lives. Their response highlighted the enduring connection between people, place and public art.

That connection inspired *Nanninup* (2026), a new commission that continues the Waugyl's journey from Postal Walk to Rupert Street.





Pictured above: Creation of *Subiaco Centenary Tiles* at Postal Walk, 1997.
Photographs by Peter Zuvela.



Pictured above: Jenny Dawson and Sandra Hill, 1997.
Photographs by Peter Zuvela.

Artwork: *Nanninup*

Nanninup is the title given to this artwork by Sandra Hill and means ‘a place to stop and rest’ in Noongar language.

Artists Jenny Dawson and Peter Zuvela worked with Year 3 students from Subiaco Primary School to create a series of ceramic tiles celebrating the Noongar Six Seasons. Using soft clay, students captured impressions of natural objects gathered from nearby remnant bushland, preserving the textures of leaves, seeds, bark, and other natural elements to evoke a distinct sense of place. Textured surfaces and coloured glazes recall wildflowers, orchids, waterways, sky and earth, extending along the pathway between Bagot Road and Rupert Street.

Sandra Hill collaborated closely with Jenny Dawson to create individual ceramic works representing each of the six seasons in culturally appropriate colours. Sandra Hill also designed the Waugyl artwork engraved into a metal panel set atop the cast-concrete seating at the park entrance. Nearby, a plaque presents the Indigenous history of Wandaraguttagurrup (now Subiaco), researched and written by Sandra Hill.

Jenny Dawson explains, “We wanted to work with children again to encourage community involvement and ownership of the artwork. It was also a very interesting way to tie into the original work produced in 1996 – 1997, where children from local Subiaco schools were involved in clay tile-making workshops.

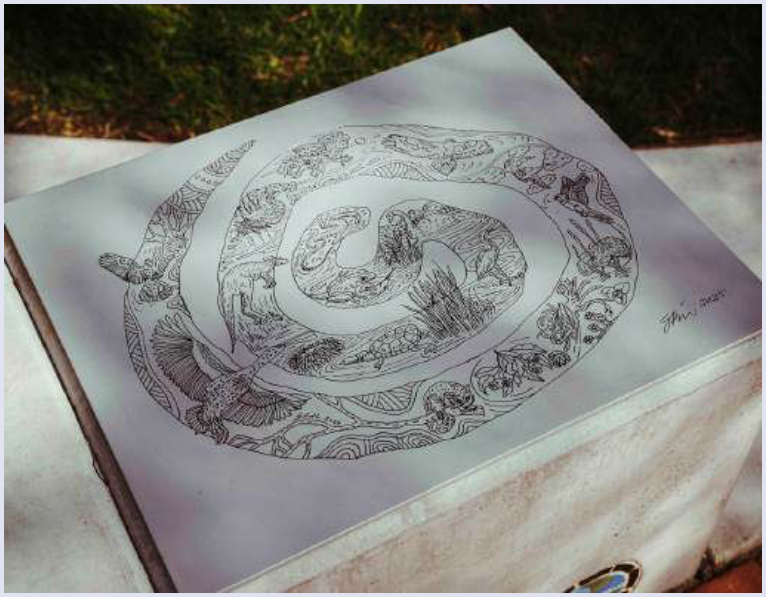
Our artworks have been designed to fit seamlessly into the landscape design, which focuses on retaining mature trees while replanting native-inspired gardens, creating safe walkways, seating and places for contemplation. The design also reflects the area’s history as an important water drainage swale.

Our resolved artwork designs express a connection to native flora and fauna, acknowledge the long history of First Nations people in this area, create a strong sense of place and relate thematically to *Subiaco Centenary Tiles*.”

Together, *Nanninup* and *Subiaco Centenary Tiles* demonstrate how art can connect generations, deepen understanding between cultures and bring layers of history and meaning into everyday civic spaces.



Waugyl artwork drawing by Sandra Hill, 2025.



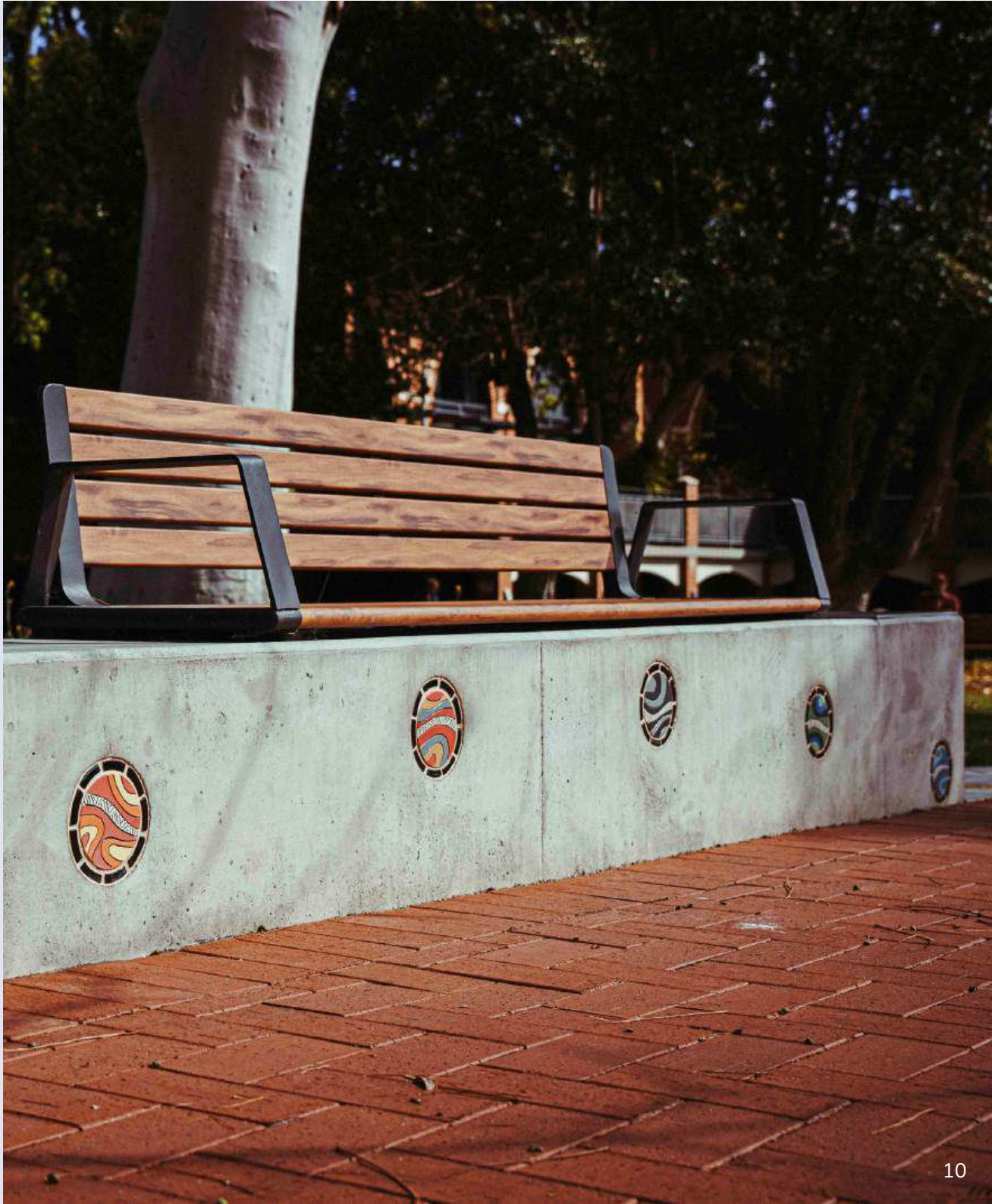
Detail of the engraved metal artwork by Sandra Hill, 2026.



Six Bibbulmun season designs by Sandra Hill, 2025.



Detail of the Djilba ceramic tile, designed by Sandra Hill and created by Jenny Dawson, 2026.



Artist Profile: Sandra Hill

Sandra Hill is a Minang, Wardandi, Bibbulman and Ballardong Noongar woman who lives and works in Balingup. Raised in the north-west of Western Australia, she is a survivor of the intergenerational impacts of policies enacted under the *Aborigines Act 1905*, which affected four generations of her family.

Hill has exhibited extensively throughout Australia and internationally. Her multidisciplinary practice encompasses collage, printmaking, sculpture, installation and public art. Reflecting on her creative journey, she says:

“As a member of the Stolen Generation, art became a way to immerse my sense of loss, sadness and grief into something more tangible and concrete.”

Today, much of her work focuses on cultural knowledge, Country and community. She explains:

“My Culture and my Country are everything to me. When I was given Eldership through my Aunties in Bunbury, I took on the responsibility of working with and teaching not just my own family, but also our young people, to help reconnect them with their culture and the Country they live on.

Our young people are our only hope for the future of our ongoing culture. We need to build in them a strong sense of identity, as well as cultural identity, so they are able to take on the responsibility of caring for Country into the future.”

Since collaborating with Jenny Dawson on their first public artwork in 1996, Sandra Hill has become one of Western Australia’s most respected contemporary artists. In 2023, she received the prestigious Red Ochre Award for Outstanding Lifetime Achievement, recognising her significant contribution to Indigenous arts and culture in Australia.



Pictured left:
Sandra Hill and Jenny Dawson, 1996.
Photograph by Peter Zuvela.



Pictured above: From left, Sandra Hill and Jenny Dawson, 2025

Artist Profile: Jenny Dawson

Jenny Dawson is an acclaimed Fremantle-based ceramic and public artist whose collaborative projects have celebrated Indigenous culture, local history, and community identity across WA for several decades. Originally trained as a teacher of children with special needs, she later undertook formal art studies at Curtin University. Her enduring interest in working with children and communities has become a defining feature of her public art practice. Dawson has contributed to more than 60 major public artworks across WA, including projects such as Yagan Memorial Park and the Leighton Indigenous Paving Project. Her work has received numerous design and civic awards and has helped embed local stories – particularly Noongar histories – into everyday public spaces. Her ceramic murals and collaborative works with Sandra Hill can be found in parks, streetscapes, civic buildings, and coastal locations throughout the state, bringing Indigenous narratives, women's perspectives, and local histories into the daily lives of Western Australians. Projects such as *Subiaco Centenary Tiles* and *Nanninup* demonstrate the capacity of public art to foster reconciliation, community pride, and intergenerational storytelling.



Pictured left: Year 3 students from Subiaco Primary School creating ceramic tiles with artist Jenny Dawson, 2026. Photograph by Peter Zuvela.



Journey



ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

The City consulted local residents and businesses. Feedback prioritised shade, tree retention, greenery, drinking water, bird habitat, seating, play, lighting, and waste facilities.



DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

Responding to community aspirations, Propagule Consulting designed a safe, welcoming, and sustainable green space for rest, reflection, and connection to nature.



CONSTRUCTION

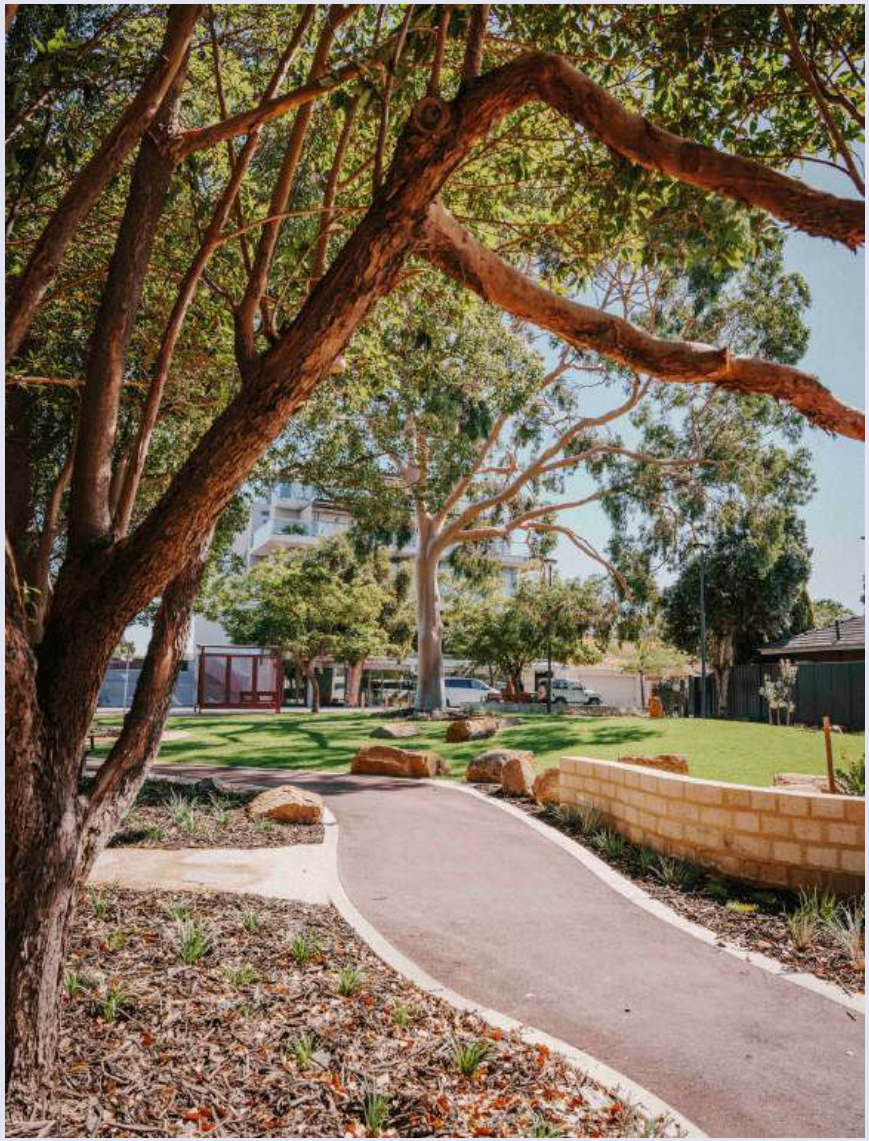
Construction was completed over 32 weeks. Careful staging and tree protection measures allowed work to proceed within the site's small footprint while retaining its mature canopy.



COMPLETION

Rupert Street Pocket Park is a leafy urban escape that supports community connection, relaxation, wildlife habitat, and biodiversity.

Completion















a leafy urban escape



SEE SUBIACO

CITY OF SUBIACO