



“Ngi-a-Gat Balit-Djak Yirramboi”

Woi Wurrung language which means “Building a Very Strong Tomorrow.”

In an evening sky, Bunjil flies across a crystal moon staring out over country, his great creation... The moon represents Merri Health’s commitment to shine a light on Reconciliation at all times of the day and night.

Bunjil carries a gumleaf in his mouth. In the Woi-Wurrung language, the meaning of Wurundjeri means – ‘Wurrun’ meaning Manna Gumtree, and ‘djeri’ for the white grub that lives in the tree. The gumleaf represents Wurundjeri Country and signifies Merri Health’s respect to its Traditional Owners in building meaningful relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Bunjil’s reflection can be seen in the very rocky waters of Merri-Merri Yaluk – Merri Creek below. His reflection represents Merri Health looking inward and their commitment to Reconciliation.

The healing waters and surrounding areas of Merri Creek once provided abundant plant life and food sources and were used for restorative and medicinal purposes for our people. Women would carry woven baskets

or wade in the water with stringy dilly bags around their necks collecting reeds and shellfish. The bush berries and medicine leaves that lay in the carved coolamon represent the healing properties of Country and Merri Health's commitment to providing care and healing.

The large scar tree represents the 20 redgum scar trees found in the surrounding areas, these are the fingerprints of our ancestors. The shield carved from the tree signifies strength in culture fortified by Merri Health's strength and commitment to building lasting relationships with community. The roots of the tree are widespread across Country just as Merri Health reaches across community with services for all ages.

A stone axe lays on the grass. The axe represents the many identified tools found in the area from long ago signifying Merri Health's hard work and commitment to building relationships with the Aboriginal and Torres Islander Community in their journey towards Reconciliation.

The junction in the waterways represents the Birrarung River and Merri Creek. Traditionally, the site was once a significant meeting place for heads of Clans which is signified by the meeting place etched in the moon. It's on this sacred site that ceremonies were regularly held in the evening to remove sickness and disease by people smearing red ochre all over themselves.

The split waterways come together to form one strong river in a direction moving forward. This represents closing the gap in the health divide and Merri Health's commitment, enthusiasm and responsibility to changing that. The gathering circles within represent all community working together in the ongoing journey of education and Reconciliation in building a very strong tomorrow – **Ngi-a-Gat Balit-Djak Yirramboi.**

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Simone Thomson Artist Proud Yorta-Yorta and Wurundjeri woman