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# Brambuk Cultural Centre, 277 Grampians Road, HALLS GAP



HG 22 - Shire of Northern  
Grampians - Stage 2 Heritage  
Study, 2004

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## Location

277 Grampians Road HALLS GAP, NORTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

## Municipality

NORTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

## Level of significance

Recommended for Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Listing

Northern Grampians Shire

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - July 31, 2004

The Brambuk Cultural Centre, 277 Grampians Road, Hall Gap, has significance as a rare local example of a Koori cultural centre and as award winning architecture. It is also significant for the landscaped setting of bush tucker and representations of local eco systems. Opened in 1990 it was designed by architect Greg Burgess and was the recipient of state and national architectural awards.

The Brambuk Cultural Centre, 277 Grampians Road, Hall Gap, is **architecturally** significant at a **NATIONAL** level. It demonstrates many outstanding original design qualities. These qualities include the curved free form shapes, the use of stone, timber and corrugated steel. The design has sources in both the traditional Aboriginal

shelter (stone circles of the western district) and in Aboriginal art. The plan form of five rough circles represents the five Koori community groups which constitute the client. The landscaped setting with the building approached along a "journey pathway" which represents many of the local plants and local ecosystems contributes to the significance of the place. The landscape design takes into account the growing and harvesting of bush tucker and medicinal plants, which are used to help interpret the complex association between the Koori people and the land.

The Brambuk Cultural Centre, 277 Grampians Road, Hall Gap is **socially** significant at a **LOCAL** level. It is associated with the local Koori groups in the region and is a significant cultural and tourism initiative in the area.

Overall, The Brambuk Cultural Centre, 277 Grampians Road, Hall Gap is of **LOCAL** significance.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Northern Grampians - Shire of Northern Grampians - Stage 2 Heritage Study, Wendy Jacobs, Vicki Johnson, David Rowe, Phil Taylor, 2004;
Hermes Number	105127
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

The building sites within a landscaped setting with the building approached along a "journey pathway" which represents many of the local plants and local ecosystems. The landscape design takes into account the growing and harvesting of bush tucker and medicinal plants, which are used to help interpret the complex association between the Koori people and the land. The landscape is an important component of the place.

The free form building is constructed of a number of materials including local stone, timber and corrugated steel. Unprocessed tree trunks act as pillars in the main lobby surrounding a central stone fire place and chimney. A ramp winds its way around the chimney ascending to an upper level. The rooms include a theatre, meeting room, display room, art & craft shop, lobby and cafe.

Kim Dovey in Architecture Australia discussed the source of the design: "The design has sources in both the traditional Aboriginal shelter (stone circles of the western district) and in Aboriginal art. The plan is formed out of five rough circles which represent the five Koori community groups which constitute the client, but the internal divisions are functional and not social. The work is strongly archetypal, with the plan centered on a large hearth in the foyer, a kind of *axis mundi*. A helical pathway leads to a workshop and restaurant with eye-shaped windows framing glimpses of the mountains as one rises... The plan is strongly oriented to two outdoor spaces which it embraces; an entry courtyard and a meeting area with fire pit."

The building can be seen in many ways. The undulating two toned corrugated steel roof as the wings of a bird or the reflection of the mountains nearby. It has also been suggested that the roofline simulates a currawong in full flight, with the apex window at the front being its beak. The curving ramp through the central interior represents eels which were once a staple food for the Koori communities in the region.

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*