

The Koo Wee Rup Swamp used to cover this area with shallow waters, waterways and thick vegetation, all rich with abundant wildlife. But from the late 1800s, water was drained into engineered channels, and the land was radically modified to include roads, rail lines, farms, industry and towns, which disrupted habitat and movement of fauna. Two hundred years on, there is an urgent **need to re-establish protective corridors and habitat** for the wildlife that is still present in this landscape, much of which is threatened and endangered.

In response to this, Monash University Master of Architecture students, working in consultation with local

stakeholders, have created a series of installations that address the connectivity and protection of the endangered Southern Brown Bandicoot and the threatened Australian Grayling, and draw attention to the drain lines and their potential to be enhanced for ecological benefit.

The locations of the installations link the Koo Wee Rup Observation Tower area, the Bunyip River Drain Complex, the disused South Gippsland Railway Line, and the Healesville Koo Wee Rup Road. The installations include three different bandicoot bridges, a protective arbour structure, rock eddies, awareness signs and fencing, public seating, a water gauge and information box and leaflet.



SWAMPWORKS

Awareness and connectivity for Southern Brown Bandicoot and Australian Grayling

The project working group comprises representatives from:
Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne, Shire of Cardinia, Melbourne Water,
Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, Westernport
Catchment Landcare Network, Healesville to Phillip Island Nature Link.

Designed, made and installed by Monash University Master of Architecture students
Led by Nigel Bertram and Catherine Murphy



Pole Signs

Alan Jones and Sakshi Ahuja

Six signs sprayed in orange paint are positioned from Koo Wee Rup town edge to Koo Wee Rup Observation Tower to raise awareness of the endangered bandicoot, the Australian Grayling and local snakes.



Roadside Fencing

Alan Jones and Sakshi Ahuja

Hung over the road-side barriers, black fence material is sprayed with orange bandicoots. This highlights the endangered bandicoot's precarity, as bandicoots experience frequent roadkill here.



Trainline Arbour

Jiaqi Li, Letichia Hoban

This arbour structure is made of steel arches and shade cloth, tied to the disused train tracks of an exposed section of an old rail line. This provides bandicoot cover from aerial and ground predators.



Fishing Seat Water Marker

Grace Upton Jones, Savini Senevirathne

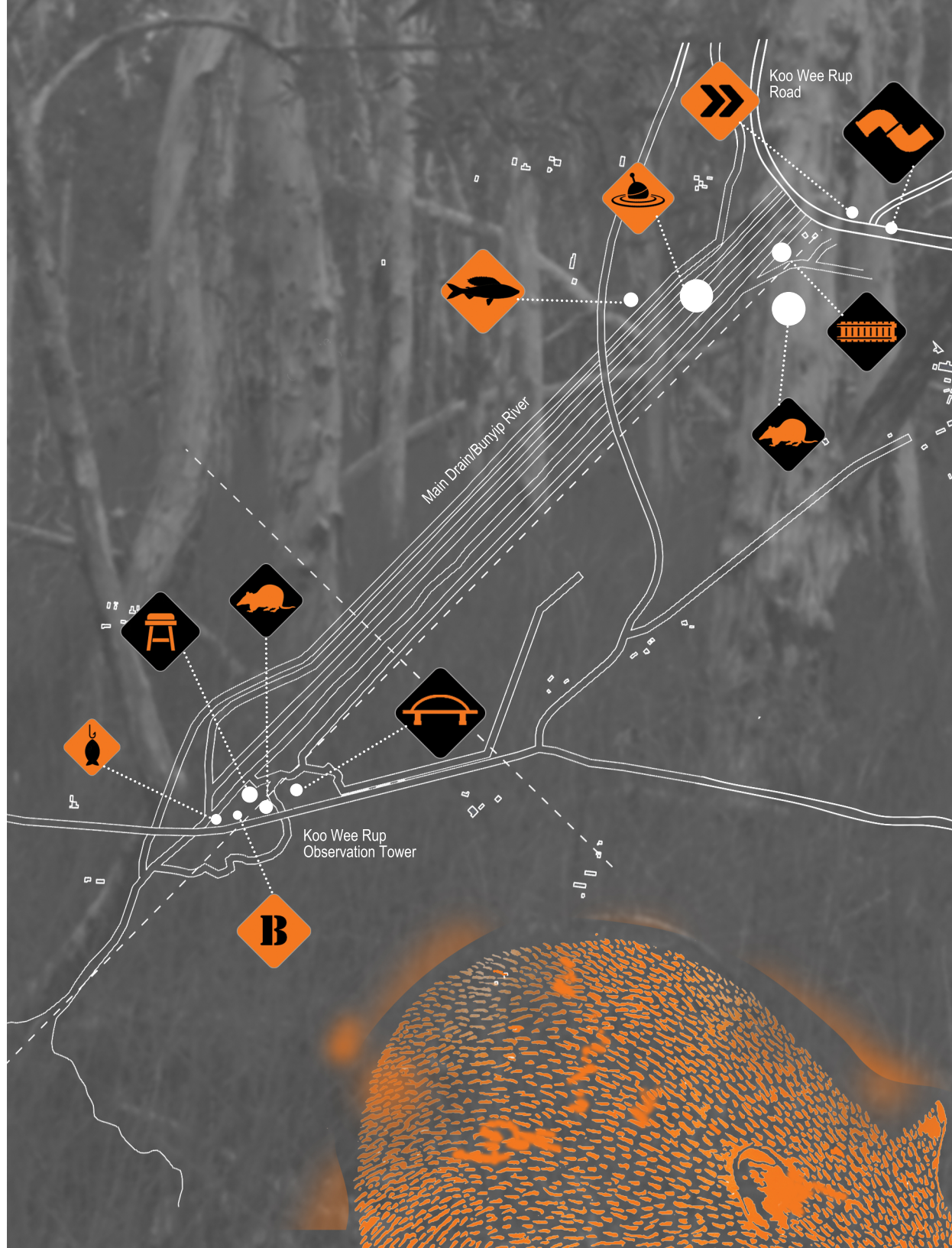
The cast concrete seat is positioned on bank, with the attached steel water level gauge positioned in the drain. This secluded fishing spot engages with the rising and lowering water levels.



Drain Water Seat

Grace Upton Jones, Savini Senevirathne

A seat is repaired by adding concrete tiles, carved with a scaled version of the Bunyip River Drain Complex. Its drain lines can fill and overflow with water, mimicking the flooding of the real drains.



Bank Gabion

Bryce Ferguson, Yousun Oh

Four rock-filled, wire wall structures stabilise the drain bank and create a side eddy to slow the water flow. This creates habitat for the endangered Australian Grayling to rest on its migratory path for spawning.



The Pipe Bridge

Hajar El-Hennawi, Thomas Inglis, Sakshi Ahuja

Made of large pipes with an internal wooden platform, the bridge is suspended under a concrete culvert. This will stop the bandicoot going onto the road and is not visible from the public realm.



The Pontoon Bridge

Mia Hannon, Yizhou Hou, Xihao Xu

Comprised of connected and covered pontoons made of plywood and large recycled water bottles, this bandicoot crossing covers the span of the Main Drain and replaces a recently removed bridge.



The Paw Bridge

Adelina Holil, Ran Duan

Made of pipe, this bandicoot bridge is supported by an arched steel structure with cables connected to bank. The bridge enables the bandicoot to move over the secondary drain into a vegetated area.



The Bandicoot Stencil and Leaflet Drain Box

Alan Jones and Sakshi Ahuja

A stencil of a bandicoot is sprayed with orange paint on the roof of the picnic shelter and the information box is attached to the side of the public information board. Both installations reinforce bandicoot awareness.

