



## Bern Emmerichs - Artist Statements

### A short description of each artwork in the artist's own words

#### 1 WILLIAM BARAK

As well as being a skilled political leader and mediator William Barak was a fabulous artist, creating paintings, drawings and artifacts. His works are held in many public collections.

#### 1 ANNIE BORAT

The Wurundjeri people lived entirely from resources derived from the land supplying their shelter, food, tools and medicines.

#### 2 BUNJIL THE CREATOR SPIRIT

Bunjil the Creator Spirit created all life; the mountains, rivers, plants, animals and the Wurundjeri people and their lores (laws) customs and beliefs.

#### 2 DEEP WINTER

The Middle Yarra region has 6 seasons, which the Wurundjeri people had their own way of marking. Autumn, winter, prespring, true spring, early summer and late summer.

#### 3 YAM

Some native species from the area. Wollert (derived from Walert) means possum in the Woiewurrung language.

#### 3 RIVER RED GUM

Majestic River Red Gums are prominent throughout the area. They may live for more than 500 years.

#### 4 THE GOLD DIGGERS

Ballarat 1854, here we have Peter Lalor and the gold diggers who had built a wooden fort or stockade, at the Eureka diggings known as the Eureka Stockade.

#### 4 GOLD DIGGERS, ADVANCE AUSTRALIA

This is one example of the Advance Australia Arms, representing the miners from the gold fields of the 1850's gold rush.

#### 5 DEMOCRACY

Democracy is a system of government in which people choose their rulers by voting for them in elections.

#### 5 1854 BALLARAT

The Eureka Stockade began when insurgents swore the 'Eureka Oath', their allegiance to the Southern Cross on the 1st of December 1854.

#### 6 PETER LALOR

Peter Lalor was elected to Parliament in 1855. This is Peter dressed in the robes and wig of 'the speaker of the house'. He continued to fight for the rights of the miners and the working class.

#### 6 LALOR

The Southern Cross is a powerful symbol, heralding winds of change, and unity in defiance. The digger to the right is admiring it.

#### 7 PETER LALOR

Peter Lalor quote, "It is sweet and pleasant to die for one's country but it is sweeter to live and see the principles for which you have risked your life's triumphant!"

#### 8 ANASTASIA HAYES

Here are the three brave women sewing the Southern Cross Flag by candlelight, which flew over the Eureka Stockade, throughout the famous uprising.

#### 9 WUCHATSCH

Here we see the various farming activities of the area in the mid 1800's in Westgarthtown.

#### 9 MINER'S RIGHTS

Since 1855, the Victorian government has managed gold prospecting through a licencing system, known as The Miner's Right. These certificates grant prospectors permission to search for gold in Victoria.

#### 10 PETER LALOR MATERIALS STOCKADE

This sign was erected on 22nd of June 1947 as the members of the Co-op started to build the stockade.

#### 10 LALOR

'In this township, employment will be found for the majority of breadwinners of the community and the whole community will enjoy homes of their own, trading and recreational facilities managed co-operatively, and the advantages of living in a clean, neighbourly, spacious and picturesque environment.' ...from part of the leaflet of 'The Idea' of the Peter Lalor Society.

#### 11 SCAR

There are many Aboriginal scar trees that date back thousands of years. The bark was removed by Aboriginal people to make canoes, shelter, coolamons and shields.

#### 12 HIGH SUMMER

The Wurrundjeri people have their own way of marking the seasons. In High Summer, the native grasslands grow tall and set seed and the birds are feeding their young.

#### 13 P.L.C.O HOUSES AND STREETS

'It is an ambitious, brave experiment, the first of its kind in Australia', quoted architect Robin Boyd in 1948. Approximately 200 houses were built under the Peter Lalor Co-op scheme. The dedication and naming of streets within the estate emphasised the strong connection between the co-operative and ex-servicemen, who lost their lives during the war.

#### 13 WILLIAM

William Westgarth, a Scottish born merchant, financier, historian and politician in Australia who lived from 1815 to 1889. He was influential in the subsidizing of the emigration of German farmers and labourers, in the 1850's, who formed settlements in Thomastown, Doncaster and elsewhere.

#### 14 BETTER WORLD

Can you spot someone you may know? Lalor railway station was originally known as Rail Motor Stopping Place 77, when it opened in 1949!

#### 14 PETERS

Depicted here are some of the delightful pioneer farmhouses, constructed of the local bluestone, during the establishment of Victoria's first German and Wendish settlement, Westgarthtown, around the 1850s.

#### 15 FIRST AUSTRALIANS

The First Australians have inhabited this land for over 65,000 years. In the Woiewurrung language 'Mernda' means 'young girl'. The crow Waa and Bunjil, the Creator Spirit are present!

#### 15 DOG AND PIZZA BOX

Myth or legend? The happy dog with the pizza box steaming from his mouth! The worldly village of Lalor, always a lively hub of colourful activity!

#### 16 ANNIE BORAT

Annie Borat, the sister of William Barak, was a tribal elder, (whose father witnessed the signing of the John Batman treaty in 1835).

#### 16 WILLIAM BARAK

William Barak and the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nations lived on the land for tens of thousands of years, predominantly as hunters and gatherers.

#### 17 EARLY EUROPEAN SETTLERS

Westgarthtown is an historic dairy farming settlement, 16 kilometres north of Melbourne, established in the 1850's by German and Wendish (also known as Sorbian) immigrants. Now located within the residential suburbs of Lalor and Thomastown.

#### 17 MUSICIAN WITH WHEELS

May Rd and Station Street Lalor, with its laid back neighbourhood vibe, has it all, complete with colourful musicians and entertainers! I love it!

#### 18 TIMM. JOHANN

The heavy horses we see in this painting, have their tails docked.... can you think why this would be? What is the traditional name of the working trousers the farmer is wearing? (answer- lederhosen.... what would this be in English do you think?)

#### 18 KARSTEN

The Karsten family were one of the pioneer immigrants from the 1850's to the area. Each original purchaser paid 1 pound per acre, but a proportion was set aside for the Lutheran Church, school, cemetery, access road and communal springs.

#### 19 MATTED FLAX LILY

Matted flax lily, is a tuft mat forming lily, with a small blue-violet flower with orange stramae. The Wurundjeri people use it for food, berries when ripe, and seeds to chew. The leafs are used for basket making, plaited into cords.

#### 19 ZIEHELL

Have you visited the lovingly restored Ziebell's Farmhouse, with its stunning outbuildings and flourishing gardens? It was built by the Ziebell family between 1851 and 1856. It is opened every second Sunday of each month from 1-4 pm or by appointment!

#### 20 MINER'S RIGHT

After the rebellion, a Royal Commission was held and licencing laws were replaced with a system whereby miners paid a tax on gold they found, instead of paying for the possibility of striking gold. They were also given the land on which they worked.

#### 21 STOCK

Stockade and stock! Both unique to Lalor!

#### 22 MINER

Hot, dusty, cold, damp the life of a miner was one of hard labour, flies, dysentery, mud, sly grog and occasionally gold!

#### 23 YAM

The yam daisy is a native root vegetable, 8 times as nutritious as potatoes and as sweet as coconut. Also known as murrnong, it was a major food source for the Wurundjeri people.

#### 24 WATTLE TREE

Wattle trees were used routinely by the Wurundjeri people for a wide range of uses from food to

medicines, utensils, weapons, musical instruments, firewood, ash, glues, dyes, waterproofing, and other purposes.

#### 25 SHOP KEEPER AND YOUNG SCOOTER LAD!

The friendly, relaxing multicultural environment of Lalor is the perfect place to relax and enjoy! It's great for all the senses!

#### 26 ZIEHELL

The many names of Thomastown: Keelbundoora, German Town, German Colony, Dry Creek, New Mecklenberg, Westgarthtown

#### 27 PETER LALOR

The eastern and western borders of Lalor are defined by Darebin Creek and Merri Creek respectively! A rich and proud history, and a whole lot of love, from a vibrant community, lies in between!

#### 28 SHIPS

The Pribislaw arrived in Melbourne the 2nd of February 1850. Half of the original Germans and Wends who settled at Westgarthtown, sailed on this ship.

#### 29 FRAULEIN UND MADCHEN MIT HUND

Life was not all work in the mid 1850's. Lots of fun was to be had, the seasons being a lot milder than Europe!

#### 29 MUSICIAN

You never know what wonderful musical surprises you may see and hear in the Lalor shopping precinct! Always a treat!

#### 30 FIRST AUSTRALIANS

The painting depicts an Aboriginal language map of the Woiewurrung (woiwurrung) language group, spoken by the Wurundjeri Willum Clan the Traditional Custodians of this land.

#### 31 WILLIAM WESTGARTH

Dairying was the main farming activity of the area and continued on for 120 years, until the early 1970's. Pura Milk Dairy at Preston, was established to retail milk from Westgarthtown in 1934.

#### 32 EARLY EUROPEAN SETTLERS

Here we have the German and Wendish emigrants leaving Hamburg, for their new home and life in Australia. The journey took six months.

#### 33 MILK BOTTLES

1850 living and working hard in Westgarthtown. Today there are 5 original farmhouses, as well as many other historic sites, that remain as a shining legacy of the German and Wendish pioneers that settled in the area.

#### 34 EMU

The Plenty River had many creeks offering various types of fish, birdlife and animals, a rich source of fresh water, food and shelter, for First Australians.

#### 35 ZIMMER

1857, Maria Kaiser, working on Johann Zimmer's farm writes, "We are harvesting now and everything looks good, we have 8 cows, 6 calves and 2 pigs."

#### 35 PARTRIDGE

Lalor today is a bustling hub of life filled with many independent spirits. It is a worldly village, a place of opportunity, where over 30 languages are spoken.

#### 36 DEMOCRACY

Peter Lalor, the Irish born Australian rebel and later politician. He was the leader in the Eureka Stockade uprising in Ballarat in 1854, which gave rise to the birth of democracy.

#### 36 LALOR

The census division map of Lalor, from 1966, is the centre piece of this painting. The 'e' triangle is the home of the Peter Lalor Home Building Co-Operative Society.

#### 37 THE LUTHERAN CHURCH

The beautiful bluestone Lutheran Church in Thomastown, is the oldest of its kind operating in Australia. Dedicated on the 17th of November, 1856, it was built at a cost of at least 320 pounds!

#### 37 DRUMS

Lalor's shopping strip is the hidden compact gem of the North offering tantalizing food from across the globe, as well as over 100 services of retail and businesses and a very vibrant local library!

#### 38 A STEP TOWARDS A NEW WAY OF LIFE

Two classic examples of homes built in the Peter Lalor Co-op in 1946. The estate is located 18 kilometres north of Melbourne's CBD.

#### 39 1854 BALLARAT

Eureka Stockade : The battle lasted less than 15 minutes. 24 miners were killed, or died from wounds. At least 5 soldiers died. 125 miners were taken prisoner. 500 miners took the oath under the Southern Cross.

#### 40 ANASTASIA HAYES

Women were also present on the gold fields, fulfilling very important roles. They were miners, teachers, writers, journalists, traders, activists, as well as being wives, mothers, and carers.

#### 41 OLD CODGERS!

Lalor, a meeting place for young and old, this is what I love about Lalor!

#### 42 ANASTASIA HAYES

Anastasia Hayes, Anastasia Withers and Anne Duke, were the three brave women who stitched the famous flag of the rebellion and unity, known as the Eureka Flag.

#### 43 FIRST AUSTRALIANS

The painting depicts an Aboriginal language map of the Woiewurrung (woiwurrung) language group, spoken by the Wurundjeri Willum Clan the Traditional Custodians of this land.

#### 44 and 45 WILLIAM BARAK

William Barak was a Ngunngaeta (Chief lawman) of the Wurundjeri Willum clan, renowned for his work in Aboriginal social justice and as being one of the greatest leaders of this area, in his time.

#### 46 LALOR CONVERSATION

The original 4 ceramic murals.



Thanks to the residents and community groups who participated in consultation for the Lalor Conversation project that also helped inform Lalor Conversations Part 2, including Ian Hunter - Wurundjeri Elder, Wurundjeri Tribe Land Cultural Heritage Council Inc., Whittlesea Reconciliation Group (WRG), the Lalor Traders Association, the Peter Lalor Housing Estate Alliance (PLHEA), Friends of Westgarthtown, Yarra Plenty Regional Library, Whittlesea Multicultural Communities Council, Links Community Garden and residents of Lalor.

# Lalor Conversations Part 2

## A CULTURAL HERITAGE TRAIL OF ARTWORKS

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## A CULTURAL HERITAGE TRAIL OF ARTWORKS








In 2015 after extensive community consultation artist Bern Emmerichs was commissioned by Council to create artworks for Peter Lalor Walk, in Station Street Lalor. The result is four ceramic tile murals entitled, Lalor Conversation. Each mural is intricately detailed with hand painted images, celebrating the history and cultural heritage of Lalor. These artworks were so well received by the community that in 2017 it was decided to build upon the success of the project by expanding it out into the streets of Lalor, in a 3km radius of Peter Lalor Walk.

Lalor Conversations Part 2 by artist Bern Emmerichs is the result; a trail of artworks about the layers of history of Lalor. The artist selected details from photos of the murals in Peter Lalor Walk. These details were reworked by graphic designer Heather Hoare from Pixel City Design and the works were printed by Council's infrastructure staff onto metal signage. More than sixty new artworks were created and installed onto metal poles in streets, parks, playgrounds, car parks and gardens and the Station Street and May Road shopping areas, celebrating Lalor; a vibrant hub imbued with cultural diversity and dynamism.

These project and the artworks are about an exchange of ideas and are an investment in cultural opportunities and imagination. They tell stories about Lalor, and create inviting places for people to walk to. We hope you will enjoy the trail of artworks that celebrate Lalor's unique cultural heritage.

Approximate time to walk the trail is between 35 to 60 mins, depending on the speed of walking and time stopped to view the works. A map with statements about the works can be downloaded via this link: [www.lalorconversations@vic.gov.au](http://www.lalorconversations@vic.gov.au)

### LEGEND

-  Trail route
-  Shopping precinct
-  Parks
-  Car park
-  Railway line