



YALINGBILA BIBULA

MOOLOOMBA, MINJERRIBAH

WHALE ON THE HILL
POINT LOOKOUT, NORTH STRADBROKE ISLAND



Introduction to Yalingbila Bibula

Yalingbila Bibula tells the intersecting stories of the whale, culture, scientific research, conservation and education.

The scheme houses the skeleton of the 15-metre long adult male humpback whale which came ashore at Main Beach in 2011 as Traditional Owners, the Queensland Government and island stakeholders were working together to determine a new way forward for Minjerrabah (North Stradbroke Island) under Native Title.

The yalingbila (whale), along with the buwangan (dolphin), are two of the significant Moieties of the Quandamooka people. Locating this whale skeleton at the headland and facing the ocean, will form a direct connection to the island's rich history of more than 20,000 years of continuous Quandamooka culture.

Due to the particular alignment of the continental shelf at Mooloomba (Point Lookout), the headland is the closest shoreline position along Australia's East Coast to view the annual migration of the humpback whales, from Antarctica where they feed, to the Whitsundays where they give birth. From this unique location, the University of Queensland (UQ) and the local community have conducted the world's longest running whale count.

Yalingbila Bibula will see Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation (QYAC) partner with UQ to share this important scientific research with the public, through on site learning and the incorporation of a hydrophone (ocean tethered microphone), allowing visitors to hear, as well as see the migrating whales.

The skeleton's conservation is the result of collaboration between QYAC and the Queensland Museum, who collected the bones and cared for the skeleton in preparation for its return to the Quandamooka. Preserved, they offer the public and scientific community an opportunity to study up-close the only intact humpback whale skeleton in the Southern Hemisphere.

Design Statement

The Yalingbila Bibula site provides a setting for visitors to form connections between Quandamooka culture, science, conservation, education and place with direct views of the whale migration.

At the heart of the project is the idea of restoration.

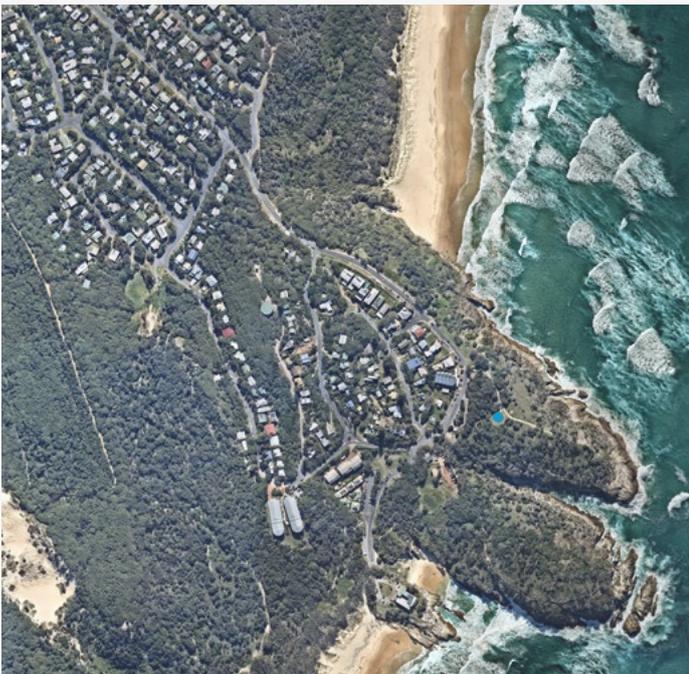
The site, a disturbed part of the headland landscape is restored to more closely resemble its original topography and vegetation. The original ridge line is restored, embankments stabilised, and exotic weeds replaced with site appropriate native species.

A Quandamooka presence is also restored to the Mooloomba Headland.

The architecture emerges from these strategic moves, allowing the structure to sit comfortably in the topography and within existing and replanted vegetation.

The approach, manifested as a Landscaped Shelter, achieves a scale that is in keeping with its natural setting, below the tree line and framed by foliage.

The orientation of the built form aligns yalingbila towards the open ocean and connects its sight line with the water.



The aim is to construct only as much as necessary and as little as possible.

The roof form frames and protects the whale and responds to its sense of movement, to climatic and programmatic considerations.

The roof extent is minimised to avoid dominating the Gorge Walk experience.

Rainwater management is low impact and returns stormwater directly to the landscape.

The form is open but securable.

Full enclosure and the associated mechanical ventilation are avoided in favour of an open form that responds to natural landforms and the articulation of the whale.

Yalingbila is not static, but majestic and dynamic.

The ground and roof forms respond to the animated expression of the whale. The mirrored soffit is analogous to the fluidity and light at the ocean's surface.

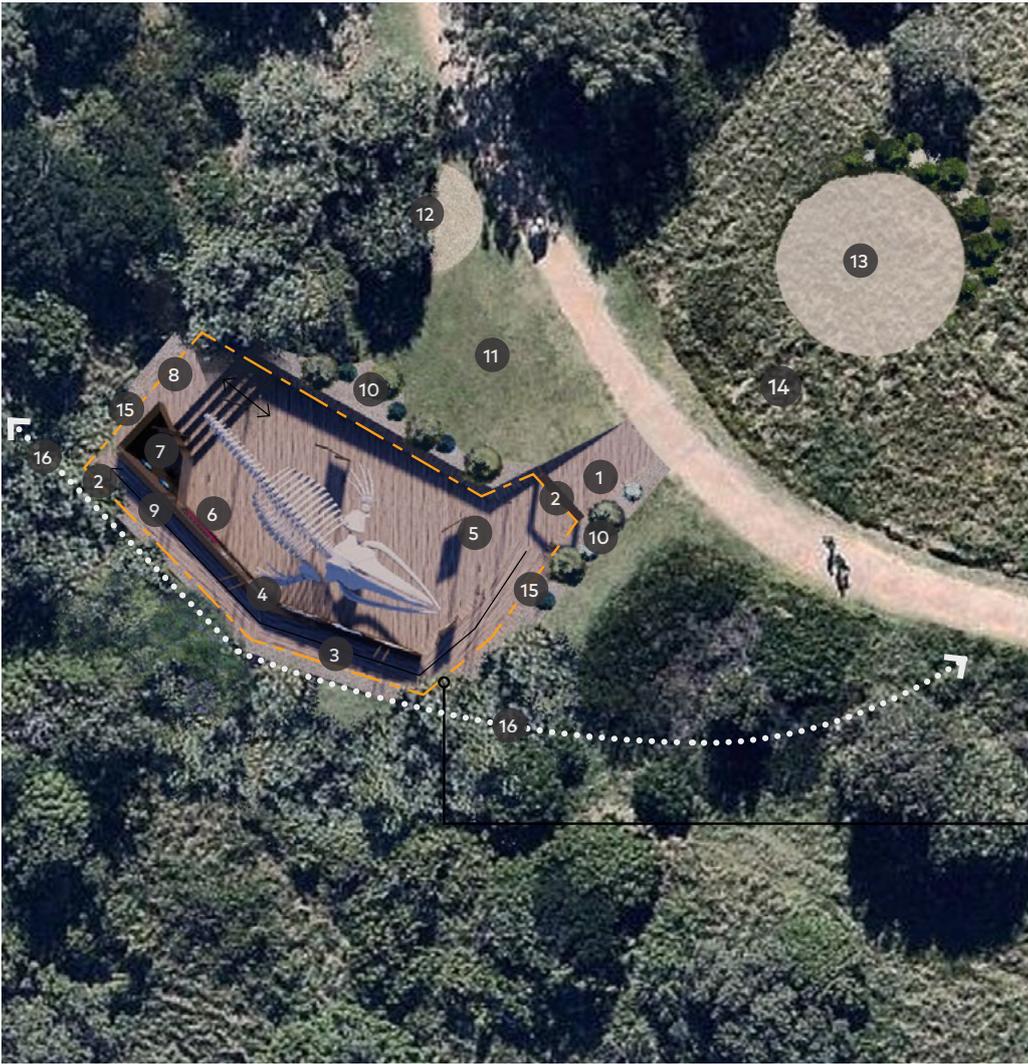
Multiple vantage points frame visual connections between yalingbila and the ocean, and invite engagement and views from below, beside and above the skeleton.

The experience is magnified by the ability to see migrating whales and hear their whale song in real time via the proposed hydrophone technology.

The dominant building material, weathered native hardwood, is innate to the site blending visually with its setting.



Ground Plan



LEGEND

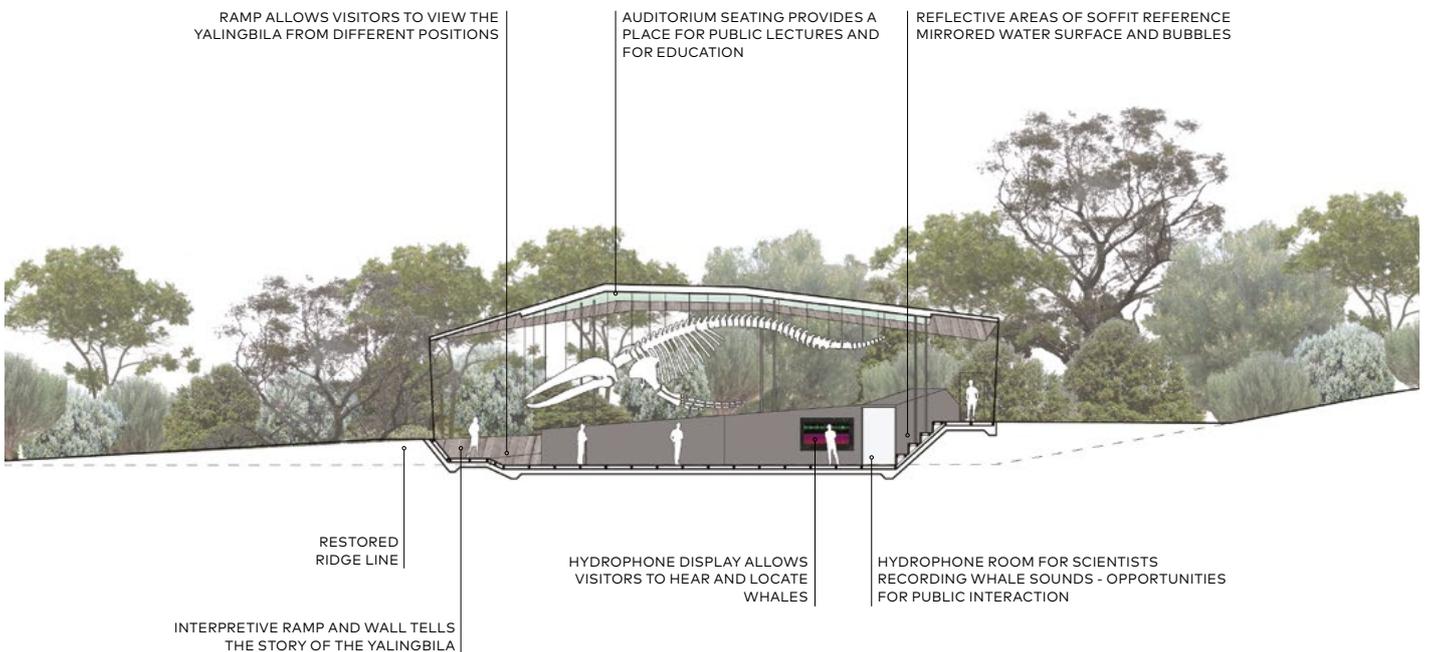
- 1 Entry path
- 2 Entry portal
- 3 Interpretive ramp
- 4 Interpretive wall
- 5 Interpretive panel
- 6 Hydrophone screen
- 7 Hydrophone room
- 8 Teaching amphitheatre for 35 students
- 9 Storage under ramp accessible from
- 10 hydrophone room
- 11 Gravel trench drain
- 12 Viewing berm
- 13 Yarn circle
- 14 Dance circle
- 15 Natural amphitheatre
- 16 Secure line to roof underside
- Informal bush pathway

SECURE LINE FROM
EDGE OF TIMBER
WALLS TO ROOF



1:400 0 4 8 12

Section



RAMP ALLOWS VISITORS TO VIEW THE YALINGBILA FROM DIFFERENT POSITIONS

AUDITORIUM SEATING PROVIDES A PLACE FOR PUBLIC LECTURES AND FOR EDUCATION

REFLECTIVE AREAS OF SOFFIT REFERENCE MIRRORED WATER SURFACE AND BUBBLES

RESTORED RIDGE LINE

INTERPRETIVE RAMP AND WALL TELLS THE STORY OF THE YALINGBILA

HYDROPHONE DISPLAY ALLOWS VISITORS TO HEAR AND LOCATE WHALES

HYDROPHONE ROOM FOR SCIENTISTS RECORDING WHALE SOUNDS - OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC INTERACTION

1:200 0 2 4 6



GOURGE WALK APPROACH



OCEAN VIEW

Hydrophone Facility

Scientific Collaboration

The recording of whale sound is a key part of UQ's research into whale behaviour. This technique uses a hydrophone.

UQ will establish a hydrophone facility at Yalingbila Bibula. The hydrophone is a microphone located in the water with buoys and has integrated audio equipment to transmit whale and other sounds to a room for recording and analysis. The sounds will also be transmitted to the whale shelter space.

There are opportunities for UQ staff in the hydrophone space to interact with the public, explaining what produces various sounds. This is a powerful conservation and environmental

awareness tool to create a direct connection between visitors and a singing whale. This is consistent with the Yalingbila Bibula goal of conservation and scientific knowledge sharing.

The small hydrophone room is housed beneath the Yalingbila Bibula canopy. Glass provides a visual connection between the room and the adjacent hydrophone screen.

This will allow scientists to assist visitors to understand how the hydrophone works and the importance of this scientific research.

INTERPRETIVE RAMP AND WALL TELLS THE STORY OF THE YALINGBILA

HYDROPHONE DISPLAY & SPEAKERS ALLOW VISITORS TO HEAR AND LOCATE WHALES

HYDROPHONE ROOM FOR RESEARCHERS RECORDING WHALE SOUNDS - OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC INTERACTION



AUDITORIUM SEATING PROVIDES A PLACE FOR PUBLIC LECTURES AND FOR EDUCATION



- STAINLESS STEEL MESH SECURES THE FACILITY AFTER HOURS, WHILST BEING VISUALLY OPEN AND TRANSPARENT.
- THE NARROW GAUGE MESH PREVENTS BIRDS AND OTHER SMALL CREATURES INHABITING THE SKELETON AND ENCLOSURE.
- THE MESH MAY SUPPORT NATIVE CLIMBING PLANT SPECIES.

The Yalingbila and the Water

The roof contributes to the sense of the whale being in movement, responding to its form without distracting from the sculptural qualities of the whale.

The underside of the roof soffit is arranged as a dynamic folded surface to resemble the underside of the water surface. It responds to the articulation of the whale in a dynamic pose.

Mirrored materials recall the fractured, reflective, liquid qualities of the water's surface viewed from below.

Circulation paths around yalingbila allow full discovery of its size and complexity.

The whale is sheltered from sun and rain but remains open to the elements.

Viewing positions are beside the whale, at eye level and below the whale. The whale and the ocean are seen together.

The dynamic observer movement enhances the experience of the living whale as distinct from a static museum display.

The Yalingbila Bibula is an open, securable, shelter providing a direct link between the yalingbila and the ocean.

Connection to the Ocean

Yalingbila arrived on the shore as he journeyed South towards Antarctica. His head continues to face South-East, while his eye looks out towards the ocean to the East, watching the yearly migration from South to North and back again.

Both the Yalingbila Interpretive Space and the adjacent gathering space have views to the ocean.



Roof Form

MIRRORED SOFFIT RECALLS WATER SURFACE

