

# *A Chronological History of Wyreena*

Originally the land was the home of the Wurrundjeri people.

- 1884 The land on which Wyreena now stands was the original Crown lot of Hector Turner, the son of Croydon's European founder, William Turner.
- 1922 Catomore family purchase land and in 1923 built "Hayward" (main building).
- 1930 "Silver Birches" built for Hilma (Catomore's daughter) and Noel Cooke.
- 1942 "Hayward" purchased by Elsa Grise and named "Wyreena".
- 1945 "Silver Birches" is sold to the Gordon Family.
- 1953 "Silver Birches" purchased by Pierce Beary.
- 1953 "Wyreena" (the main building), purchased by "The Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, the Catholic church and named "Our Lady of the Sacred Heart".
- 1961 "Silver Birches" purchased by "The Daughters of our Lady of the Sacred Heart" and used as a Commercial Business School.
- 1977 Shelby investments purchase both buildings for property development.
- 1977 Croydon City Council and the Victorian State Government purchase "The Convent" for \$360,000 to create a Community Arts Centre.
- 1978 Wyreena officially opens as a Community Arts Centre.
- 1998 The Conservatory Café opens.
- 1999 Wyreena celebrates 21 years as a Community Arts Centre.
- 2000 "Silver Birches" extensively renovated.
- 2001 "The A'spire" sculpture, located near Hull Road, was created by Megan Foote, Niki Hassold, Anne Iversen, Fleur McArthur and Kristin Scherlies.
- 2002 Opening of new Radio Studios and Pottery Rooms, featuring artwork by Ann-Maree Gentile, Niki Hassold, Anne Iversen and Kristin Scherlies.
- 2006 "Silver Birches" entrance and toilet renovated with funding from Scope Victoria. The Conservatory Café kitchen extended.
- 2007 Wyreena entrance and office area renovated to provide access for all abilities.
- 2008 Renovation of Conservatory Café and kitchen. "Wyreena" celebrates 30 years as a Community Arts Centre with the publication of "Refections of Wyreena", sponsored by the Maroondah Tourism and Heritage Advisory Board.