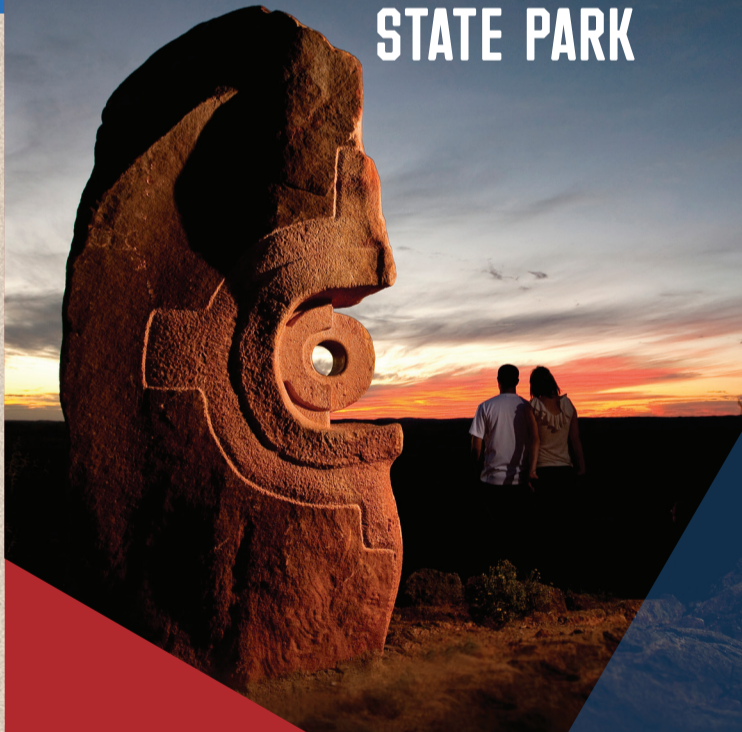


LIVING DESERT STATE PARK



SCULPTURES SITE,
CULTURAL WALK
AND CAMPSITE

BROKEN HILL
CITY COUNCIL

AUSTRALIA'S FIRST
HERITAGE LISTED CITY

LIVING DESERT STATE PARK

The Living Desert State Park is Broken Hill City Council's contribution to the environment, for the protection of native flora and fauna and for the better management of our ecosystem and sustainability.

The Living Desert is nestled amongst the Barrier Ranges and is located 12km from the City of Broken Hill. It is a unique 2,400ha reserve which was established in 1992. The scenery within the reserve is breathtaking and can be enjoyed via the numerous walking trails and the Starview Primitive Campsite.

An entrance fee per person is required and payable at the PayBay (only PayWave accepted), located at the entrance. Parking is available at the picnic area or the car park at the top of the sculpture hill. Please follow the signs.

The Living Desert also provides a recreational picnic area with free gas barbecues, shade shelters and accessible toilets.

JOHN SIMONS FLORA & FAUNA SANCTUARY

The 180ha sanctuary is located within the reserve and bordered by an electric predator-proof fence. The area allows visitors to gain an educational and cultural experience which further enhances an understanding of our Natural and Cultural Heritage. On the 2.2km Sanctuary Cultural Walk Trails you will discover Natural and Cultural Heritage, wildflowers (including Sturt Desert Peas), an arboretum of native plants, geological interpretation, an animal viewing hide, scenic lookouts, a prospector's mine site, quartz outcrops and free ranging fauna including Wallaroos and Red Kangaroos.

Walking trail: Approximately 2.2km - return
Estimated completion time: Approximately 1.5 hours to walk and observe interpretations.

SANCTUARY OPENING TIMES

Summer months (Dec-Feb): 6am to 2pm
Remaining months: 8.30am to 5pm

When visiting the Living Desert, please be aware that this area is isolated. Sturdy footwear, a hat and sunscreen is advisable. Please wear appropriate clothing according to the weather and take sufficient drinking water with you. Remain on walking tracks at all times. Do not disturb the natural features of the environment. Do not touch interpretive displays or artefacts.

THE SCULPTURES

Broken Hill has long been known as a centre of excellence for the art of painting. Lawrence Beck, a Gosford based sculptor, proposed holding a Symposium to add sculpture to Broken Hill's art culture. 53 tonnes of sandstone were transported from the Wilcannia area to the Living Desert State Park.

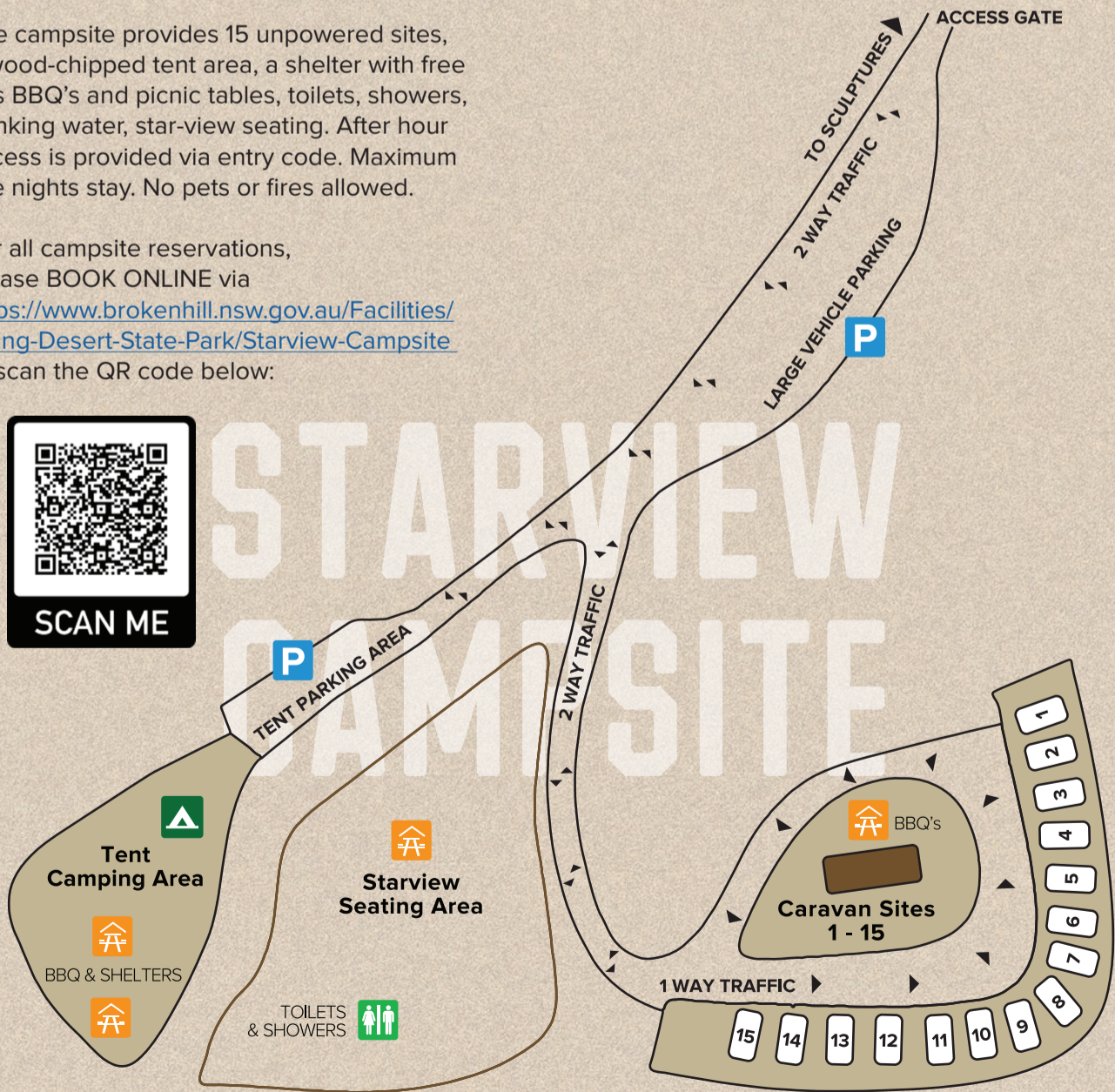
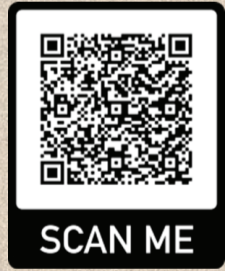
Work on the site commenced in low key circumstances on 1 April 1993 and ended in the third week of May 1993. During this period the lonely hilltop was transformed into an artwork of international standing and the City of Broken Hill and the Australian Outback had obtained a new icon.

Broken Hill City Council was the principal sponsor with additional funds supplied by the Australia Council through their grants program for

THE STARVIEW CAMPSITE

The campsite provides 15 unpowered sites, a wood-chipped tent area, a shelter with free gas BBQ's and picnic tables, toilets, showers, drinking water, star-view seating. After hour access is provided via entry code. Maximum five nights stay. No pets or fires allowed.

For all campsite reservations, please BOOK ONLINE via <https://www.brokenhill.nsw.gov.au/Facilities/Living-Desert-State-Park/Starview-Campsite> or scan the QR code below:



Take Only Photographs – Leave Only Footprints

The trail is a 2.8km long return walk and takes approximately 1.5 hours to complete. The terrain is hilly and rocky and is suitable for people with moderate levels of fitness. The walk is suitable for children over 7 if accompanied by an adult. Do not attempt the walk during the middle of a hot day in summer. Take your own water and supplies. Wear strong shoes. Hiking poles are recommended.

THE SUNDOWN TRAIL

Although the Sundown Nature Trail is part of the larger Living Desert State Park, it is not accessible from the Nine Mile Road. Follow the Silver City Highway towards Tibooburra for 10km. The turnoff to the Sundown Nature Trail is signposted and follow the 2.2km graded track to a car park at the beginning of the trail (not suitable in wet conditions).

SCULPTURES OPENING TIMES

Summer months (Dec-Feb): 6am to approx half hour after sunset. Remaining months: 8.30am to approx half hour after sunset. Note: The area may be closed periodically for maintenance. Please check exact closing times with the Visitor Information Centre staff (Phone: 08 8080 3560).

THE SCULPTURES



1. Facing the Day and the Night
Eduardo Nasta Luna - Mexico City, Mexico.
 During the Symposium, Eduardo was particularly impressed with Nature and Her elements - specifically the silence and solitude of the site. He badly injured his hand while working on his piece so it became a collective work with input from Catherine Mould, Badger Bates and Herbert Shiner. The work is a monumental head that at dawn looks towards the sun. At the back of the piece, the Dove of the Night symbolises darkness. To one side, the Wedge-tailed Eagle symbolises spirituality, height, strength and freedom. The hands represent those of the sculptors.



2. Thomasina (Jillarruwi - the Ibis)
Thomas Munkanome - Tiwi, Bathurst Island.
 As with most Tiwi artists, Thomas developed his art under the watchful eye of 'the old men' - experienced Tiwi carvers from Nguiu on Bathurst Island. His sculpture of a water bird, neck stretched upward catching a fish, is named after Thomas' daughter, born during the Symposium. Thomas returned to Bathurst Island early but sadly the child died several weeks later of viral meningitis. The unfinished sculpture may be viewed as a metaphor for the child's brief life.



3. Motherhood
Badri Salushia - Tbilisi, Georgia.
 Badri graduated from the Tbilisi Art Academy and was a senior member of the Georgian Red Cross. He could not communicate with his family throughout the weeks of the Symposium because of the war in Azerbaijan and his melancholy is reflected in his work. His classical sculpture theme was influenced by a sense of purity which he found at the Symposium site. Badri commented, "The child is a portrait of my son and the fine details are left to your own interpretation".



4. The Bride (Australia)
Dr Mahomad Mira - Damascus, Syria.
 Mahomad studied sculpture at Damascus University and the Albazar Sculpture School in France. His work depicts a reclining woman on the near point of the back, with her face and breasts facing the sunlight. On the body of the sculpture are Australian icons - the Southern Cross, emu and kangaroo. Other symbols represent Aborigines and the City of Broken Hill. A hand is raised in greeting.



5. Moon Goddess
Conrad Clark (UK) - Katoomba, Australia.
 Conrad was born and raised in the United Kingdom and had extensive experience in a variety of sculptural mediums. During the Symposium, Conrad taught techniques to visiting students and an additional work, carved at the site, is now on display in the Broken Hill Civic Centre Plaza. Conrad's sculpture is best described in his own words, "I worked around the rock discovering, within it, the moon. I recalled an Aboriginal legend of a woman who steals the moon and places it in a dilly bag. You can see the legend in the sculpture".



6. Habitat
Dr Ahmad Al Ahmad - Damascus, Syria.
 Ahmad is a Bedouin and grew up living a traditional Bedouin life. He studied Sculpture and Fine Arts in Damascus and Warsaw. Ahmad's sculpture is symbolic of the interior shapes 'that keep a loving family together'. Commenting on the Symposium Ahmad said, "Around here I feel that this has been a home or a habitat for thousands of years. The landscape protects this warmth and kindness as happens within a family. All things are together. In many respects the sculpture is like a map of the surrounding hills but it is more to represent the spirit of the place".



7. Bajo El Sol Jaguar (Under the Jaguar Sun)
Antonio Nava Tirado - Mexico City, Mexico.
 Antonio is an Aztec Indian who studied at the National School of Painting, Sculpture and Printing, Mexico City. His sculpture is based on the music of Jarge Reyes, 'Bajo El Sol Jaguar'. Use of the sun and the moon depicts duality and Night is represented by the star of Venus. The mouth of the Jaguar takes the sun at night to protect it. Day is represented by the circle created by the sun.



8. Angels of the Sun and the Moon
Valerian Jikiya - Rustavi, Georgia.
 Valeri graduated in Fine Arts in Tbilisi. Several times during the Symposium he worked all night under a full moon to determine the planes and shadows for his sculpture. He described his work as a "device to measure time and light". The eastern face reflects the moon and the western face, the sun. The shadows move continuously across the rock and thus the sculpture changes from season to season. The sun dial, located on the back of the sculpture, casts a shadow which falls in the triangle each year at the time Valeri was working on the rock.



9. A present for Fred Hollows in the Afterlife.
Lawrence Beck (Symposium Director) - Koolewong, Australia.
 Lawrence studied Sculpture in Sydney, London and Sofia. His work is featured in many galleries both in Australia and overseas. It was Lawrence's single-minded determination which led to the Symposium. He described his sculpture, cryptically, as: "My work is an extension of the strata of the hill. All matter is love, even hard Wilcannia sandstone. Only Fred and I truly know what the sculpture is."



10. Nhatji (Rainbow Serpent)
Badger Bates - Broken Hill, Australia.
 During the Symposium, Badger (a local Barkindji elder) felt a spiritual link with his ancestors who left magnificent stone carvings at Mutawintji National Park. This was his first attempt at sculpting stone, having previously established a national reputation in emu egg carving and lithographs. The work is dominated by two rainbow serpents travelling north. As the serpents always lived near water, a pool was carved between them. The footprint is a duality, being both the god Gullawirra journeying from Broken Hill to Mutawintji and Fred Hollows stepping into the afterlife. The hand stencils represent three generations of the Bates family. Other symbols include two interlinked water holes and a single water hole with animal tracks as well as a sand goanna.



11. Tiwi Totems
Gordon Pupangamirri - Tiwi, Bathurst Island.
 The Tiwi people of Bathurst Island have a long tradition of carving burial poles. The poles are purchased by institutions and private buyers throughout the world. This was Gordon's first attempt at sculpting stone and the development of technique is evident, particularly on the eastern side of the sculpture. The sculpture represents a traditional burial pole with motifs of birds, fish and tortoise.



12. Horse
Jumber Jikiya - Rustavi, Georgia.
 Jumber studied sculpture in Tbilisi and, at the time of the Symposium, was President of the Georgian Sculpture Society. He was particularly impressed by the Symposium site: "My first thoughts were that the stone arrangement was so powerful in itself, that the symposium was already complete and we could go on holiday!" Jumber's work is a tribute to horses. In his words, "People must be aware of the nobility of the horse. At Stalin's request, all the Georgian horses (a special European breed) were slaughtered."

LIVING DESERT STATE PARK MAP

PB Please use the ticket machine at the **PayBay** to pay your entry fee. Accepting PayWave only. (Alternatively payment can be made at the Broken Hill Visitor Information Centre).

