

The Corio 'Welcome Walk' for new arrivals

Background

The Corio Welcome Walk was developed by the students of Northern Bay College, Corio in partnership with the City of Greater Geelong.

The walk is a part of series of *Knowing Your Place Walks, 3214* that are being developed as a Community Development Place Based activity by the City of Greater Geelong. Knowing your place is about connecting with your neighbourhood and finding places of interest along the way using active transport.

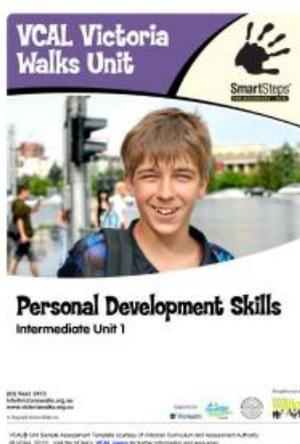
The students were English as an Additional Language (EAL) students, and the teachers used parts of the [Smart Steps VCAL Victoria Walks Unit, Personal Development Skills](#), as a way to improve their English language skills and to learn more about their local area.



Developing the Walk

The Community Development Project Worker from the City of Greater Geelong spoke to all teachers of the Northern Bay College Senior campus to gauge interest in being part of the project. Teachers working with EAL students saw it a good opportunity to improve their students English language skills in a practical and meaningful way. An action plan was put together by the Council Project worker and discussed with the teachers.

Being new arrivals, the student's knowledge of their immediate area and beyond the suburb in which they live in was limited, so first step was a visit to City Hall to gain an insight of how Council functions and what services are provided for its residents. Students participated in a guided walk around the *Norman Lane Heritage Walk*. (This is the first of the Knowing Your Place walks developed for the area of 3214.) During this walk the project officer spoke of how the walk was developed and what students may need to look for and consider when developing a walk route.



During class time, the students completed background lessons on the concept of place, walkability and liveability using the [VCAL Victoria Walks Unit](#).

The students completed a personal reflection on services, their experience as refugees in a new community and created a survey to determine what locations in their local area were most important across the cohort.

A route and points of interest were chosen and mapped, then audited using a modified [Victoria Walks Walking Audit](#) (simplified into plain English for these learners).



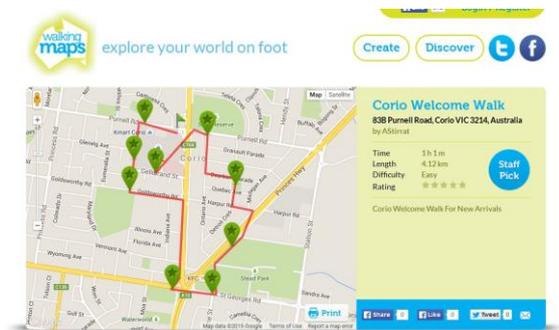
School Case Studies



The Corio Welcome Walk has been produced as a brochure and translated into 5 different languages.

It is now being used at New Arrival inductions at Diversitat (a Settlement services agency), given to patients at the local Medical Centre in their first language and has been widely distributed across the 3214 area.

The [Corio Welcome Walk](#) has also been added to [Walking Maps](#). Photos and descriptions have been included and provide a detailed view of all points of interest. Walking Maps also allows the school to link the map to it to their website and promote the route to the broader community.



The learning outcomes of this project have been:

- Improved English language skills
- Increased knowledge and understanding of immediate local area
- Development and improved social connections to the local community
- Increased understanding and skill development around the concept of place, walkability and liveability
- Improved understanding of the role and services provided by the City of Greater Geelong



Opportunities for schools

Victoria Walks is keen to support efforts to “get students walking” and is able to provide similar workshops for schools in Healthy Together Communities or those registered for the Achievement Program. These workshops can be offered for students, teachers and parents and will be tailored to suit school requirements.

For more information please contact:

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