Top Designs 2024 Access Guide

This Access Guide provides convenient information about accessing Top Designs 2024 at Melbourne Museum and is available online to prepare for your visit in advance.

The guide can be read independently or shared with a friend, family member, carer or support worker. Contextualised photographs have been used to summarise information and experiences.

This Access Guide has been prepared by Vitae Veritas on behalf of Melbourne Museum and the Victorian Curriculum Assessment Authority (VCAA) and has been reviewed by Deaf and disabled community representatives.

We hope you find the guide useful and welcome feedback.

Contact

If you would like to talk to Melbourne Museum about particular access requirements, or if you need more information about accessibility, please contact their bookings office on 13 11 02 or email AskUs@museum.vic.gov.au.

Deaf access / 24-hour relay call numbers:
TTY/voice calls: 133 677

Speak & Listen: 1300 555 727

SMS Relay: 0423 677 767

About Top Designs 2024

In its 24th year, Top Designs features outstanding works by students who completed VCE and VCE VET design studies in 2023.

With applications received from government, independent and Catholic schools across Victoria, panels of expert educators selected 92 works across each of the 10 design studies- VCE Media, Product Design and Technology, Theatre Studies, Systems Engineering, Visual Communication and Design, and VCE VET Creative and Digital Media, Music (Sound Production), Integrated Technologies, Furnishing and Engineering Studies.

The panels considered the imaginative ways students responded to the assessment criteria and the strength of design development and folios in their decision-making.

Managed by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA), Top Designs is part of the VCE Season of Excellence, which also includes Top Talks, Top Screen, Top Arts, Top Class and Top Acts.

Location

Top Designs is located at the Melbourne Museum, situated within Carlton Gardens, adjacent to the Royal Exhibition Building.

Address: 11 Nicholson Street, Carlton. Google Maps link.

The exhibition is located inside the Mind and Body Gallery on the Upper Level.

Dates and Times

The exhibition is open between 9am and 5pm from Saturday 23 March to Sunday 14 July. Closed Good Friday. Melbourne Museum tends to be quieter between 3pm and 5pm on weekdays during the school term.

Tickets

Your visit to Top Designs is included with Museum entry.

More information and tickets here.

If you have trouble booking online, email: mvbookings@museum.vic.gov.au or call the bookings office on 13 11 02, available 9am–4.30pm daily.

If you have a Companion Card, you qualify for a second, free ticket.

You do not have to book ahead for your companion.

Simply present your companion card at the reception.

If you have a Concession Card, you qualify for a free ticket.

Melbourne Museum Quick Links

Plan your visit

Getting here and parking

Book your car park at Melbourne Museum online

Visitor Map

Sensory Friendly Melbourne Museum floorplan

Accessibility information

Autism friendly Museum social stories

Exhibition Accessibility



This exhibition is fully wheelchair accessible.



This exhibition includes 24 audio descriptions.



All audio content in this exhibition is open-captioned.



This exhibition is described in an access guide.



The nearest Quiet Room is located near the entrance of the Gandel Gondwana Garden and has a sign on the door saying Quiet Room.



An acrylic Braille tactile map of this exhibition is available.



Large print exhibition labels are available online and in print.

Getting to the Museum

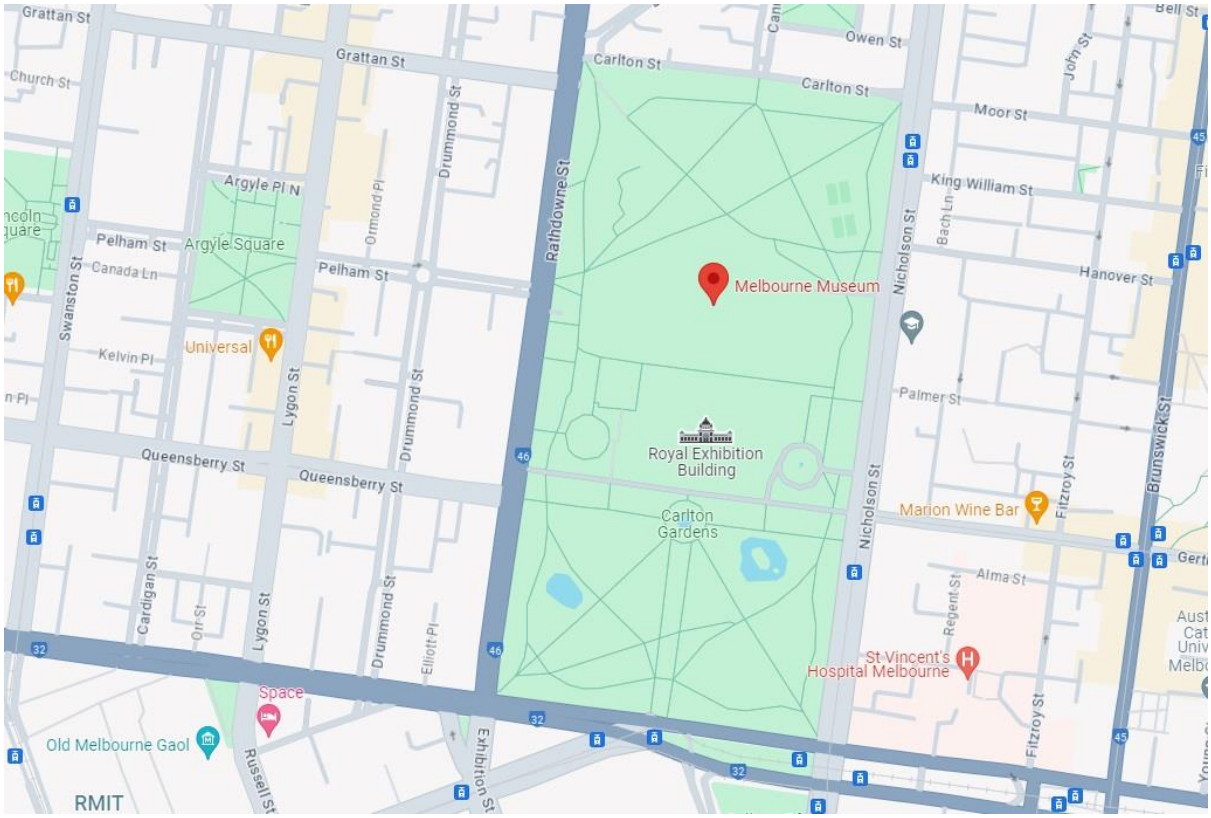


Image 1- A computer screenshot of Melbourne on Google maps. The streets surrounding the Museum are Rathdowne Street on the west side, Victoria Street on the south side, Nicholson Street on the east side.

Tram

If taking Tram route 86 or Tram route 96, get off at Stop 11, corner of Nicholson and Gertrude Streets. Melbourne Museum is 300 metres from here.

If taking the free City Circle Tram, get off at the Victoria Street and Nicholson Street intersection. Melbourne Museum is 550 metres from here.

Train

If catching a train get the City Loop train to Parliament Station, which has lift access to the top of Lonsdale Street. Melbourne Museum is 750 metres from here.

Public Transport Quick Links

PTV Journey Planner
Yarra Trams
Metro Trains Melbourne

Parking

The car park is open seven days a week from 6am to midnight. Entry is via Rathdowne Street or Nicholson Street. It contains a number of accessible parking spaces on level P2 including pram parking.

The car park entrance has a height restriction of 2.15m. Accessible parking for vehicles over this limit is located on Rathdowne Street.

Two Delta Energy Systems AC EV chargers fitted with type 1 connectors are located on level P2 Nicholson Street. There is no additional cost to use the chargers.

There is 2-hour metered parking along Nicholson Street and Rathdowne Street.



Image 2- a photo of the entrance to the Museum underground carpark on Nicholson Street.

Taxi Zone



Image 3- a photo of the taxi zone at 11 Nicholson Street, Carlton.

Accessible Drop-off Spot



Image 4- a photo showing a 2 metre wide driveway in the taxi zone area at 11 Nicholson Street.

Getting to the Museum Entrance

The entrance to the Museum is 200 metres from the taxi zone / accessible drop-off-spot.

The path is flat, wide, paved, step-free and shaded.

The pathway is shared by different users including cyclists, skaters and e-scooter riders.

As you approach the entrance you will pass bollards, planter boxes and a row of concrete cubes.

The Museum is the big building on your right.

The Royal Exhibition Building is on your left.

Refer to image below.



Image 5- a photo of the pathway that leads to the entrances from the taxi zone / accessible drop-off spot from 11 Nicholson Street.

You have reached the Museum entrances when you see words ‘MELBOURNE MUSEUM’ in large capital letters written above on the glass windows.

There is one entrance under the word MELBOURNE, and another entrance under the word MUSEUM.

The two entrances are 20 metres apart.

The glass exterior is highly reflective.

Refer to image below.



Image 6- a photo showing the Museum’s glass windowed front. The closest entrance from Nicholson St is under the word MUSEUM.

Green space for dog guides and assistance animals

The nearest green space is halfway between Nicholson St and the Museum’s main entrance, on your left. More green spaces can be found in the surrounding parks and gardens behind the Royal Exhibition Building and Melbourne Museum.

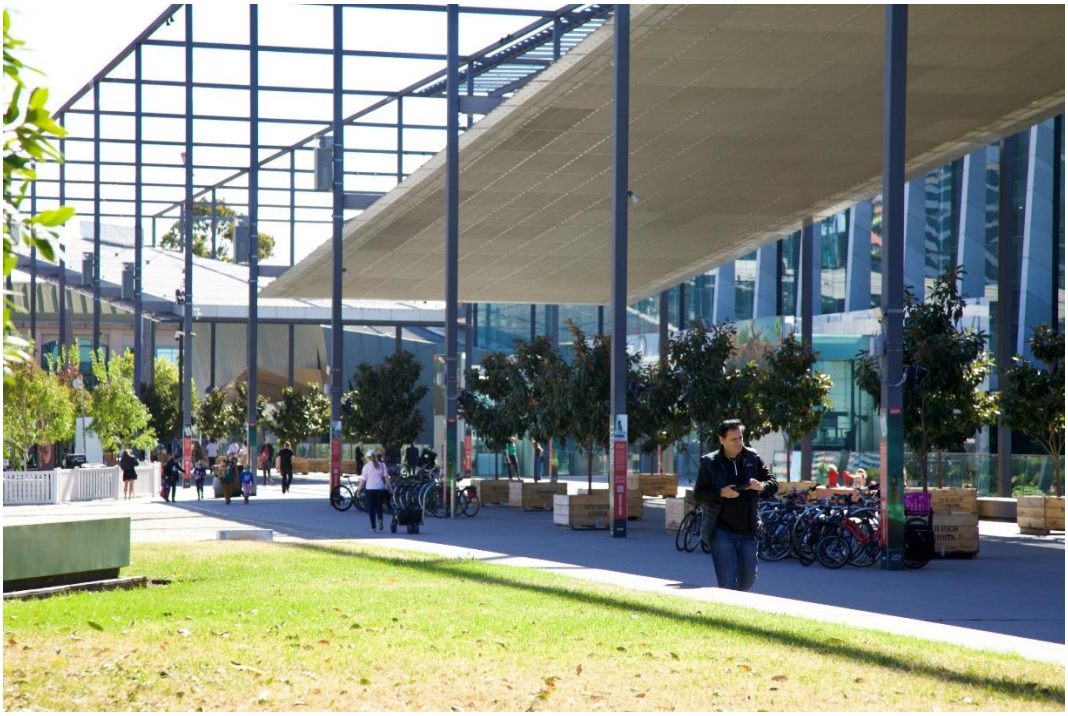


Image 7- a photo of the nearest green space to the Museum's entrance. Please note this area is not wheelchair accessible and has two big steps.

Foyer

Visitor Engagement Officers are located inside the Foyer near the entrance, at the Information desk and Reception to welcome and assist people with enquiries and ticketing.

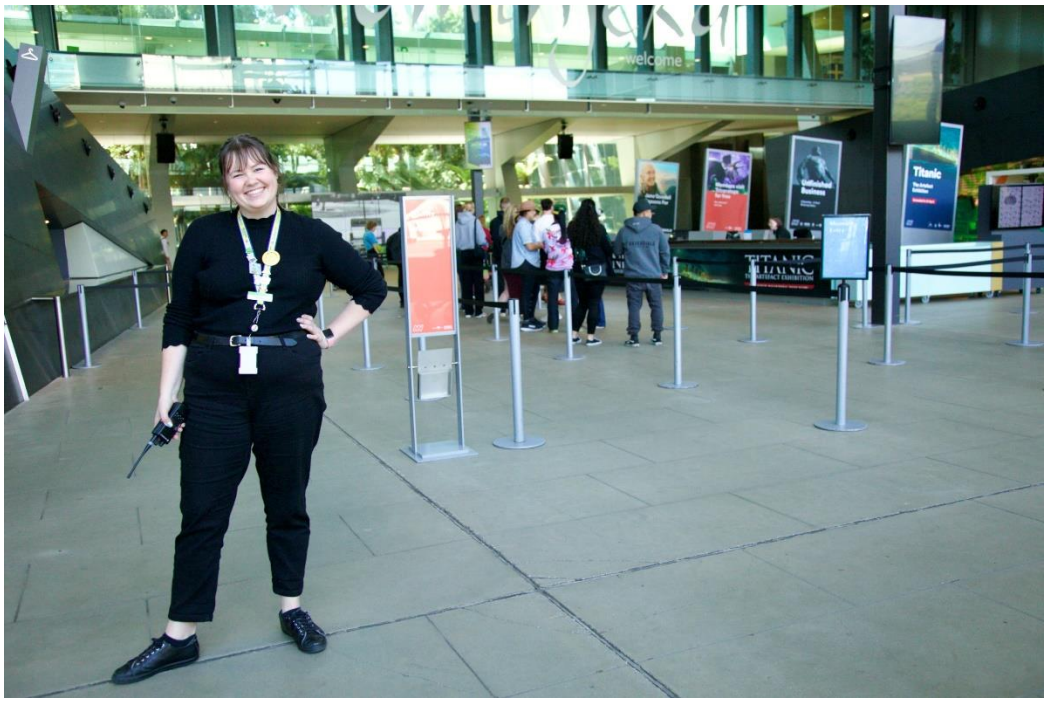


Image 8- a Visitor Engagement Officer stands near the entrance in the Main Foyer. Behind them, on the left, is the Cloakroom, and to the right is the Reception desk.

Information Desk



Image 9- a photo of the Information desk front and centre nearest the Museum entrances. Visitor Engagement Officers can be found here. Behind them is Reception.

Reception



Image 10- a photo of a Visitor Engagement Officer sitting behind the reception desk. An EFTPOS machine, Museum floorplan and a sign with ticket prices is on the desk top.

Cloakroom

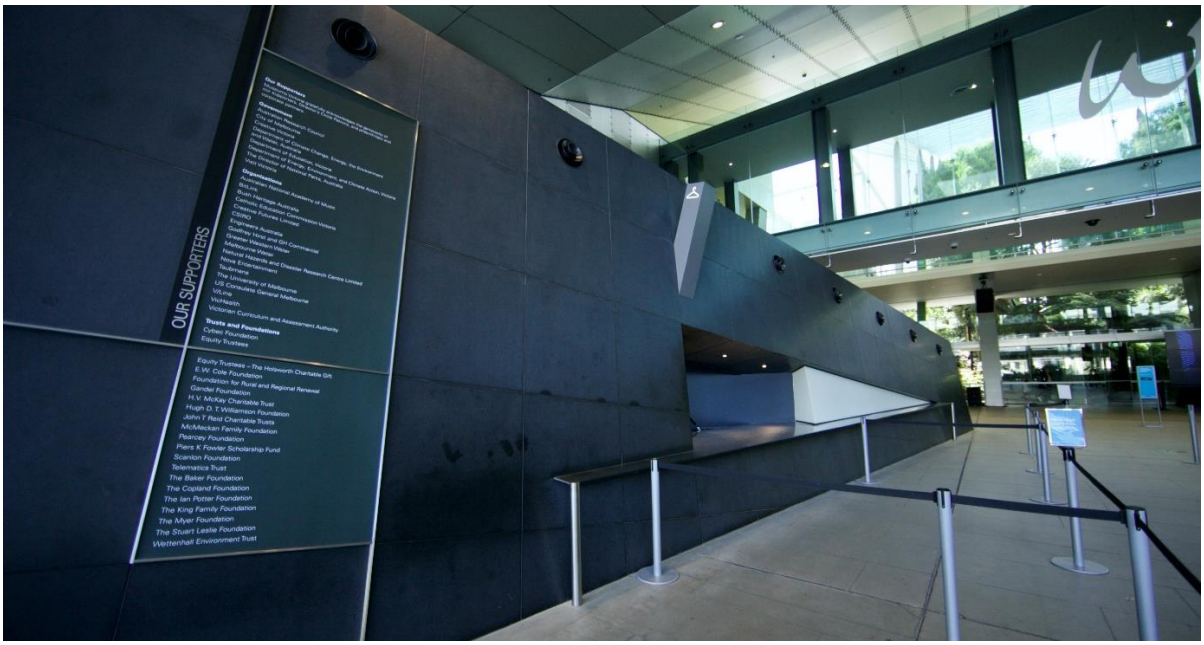


Image 11- a photo of the Cloakroom desk where a Visitor Engagement Officer can assist with storing your belongings during your visit.

Bathrooms

Accessible and all persons bathrooms are located across all three levels of Melbourne Museum.

On ground level (refer to map below)-

RIGHT: Between the Museum Shop and Café and in front of Bunjilaka Aboriginal Cultural Centre.

LEFT: Between the Learning Lab and IMAX, and near the Children's Gallery.

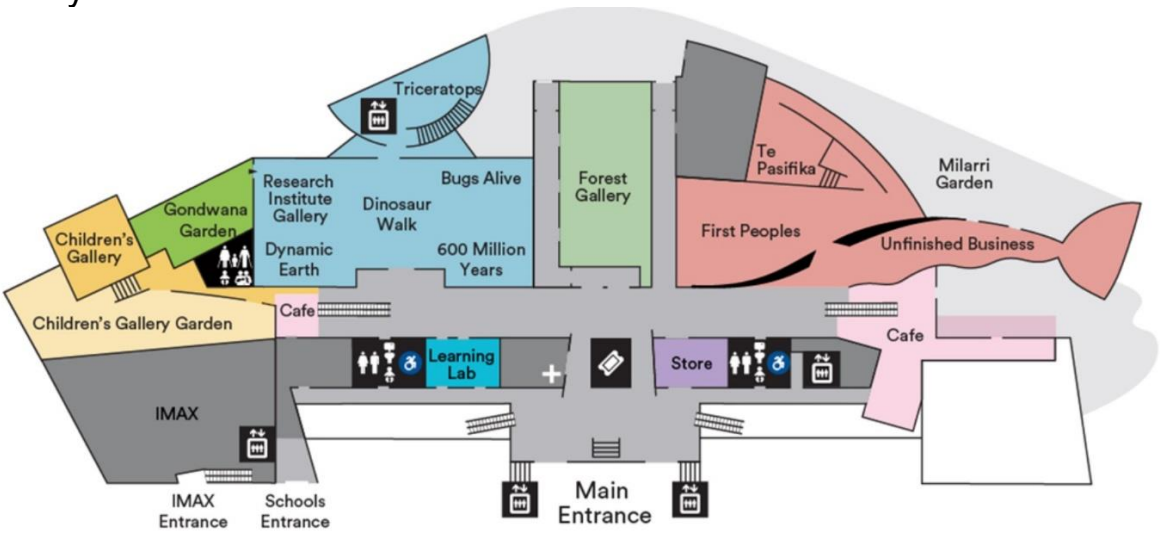


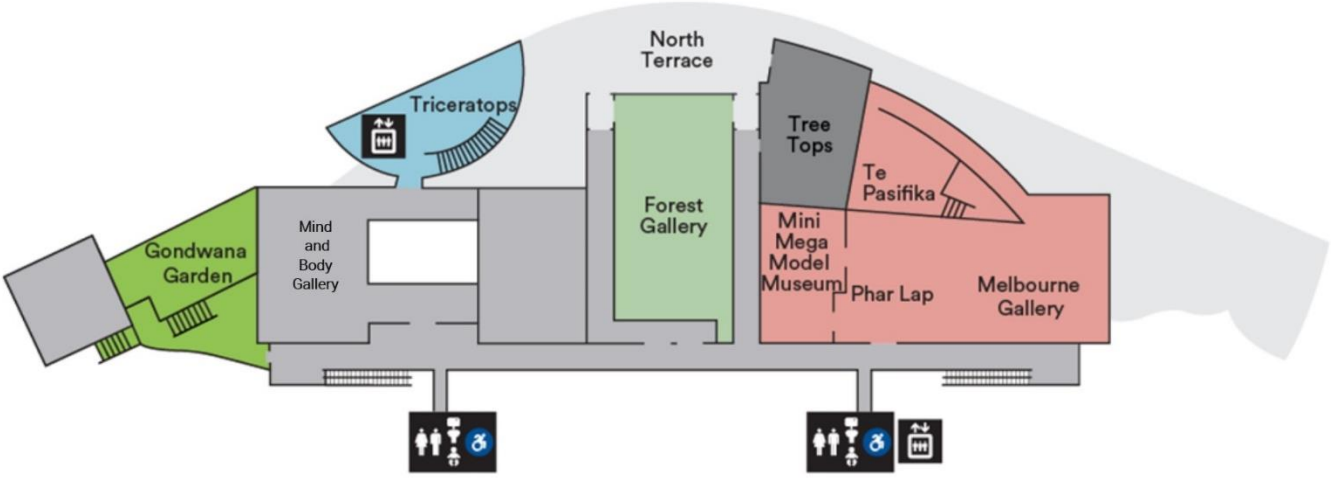


Image 12- a photo of the accessible bathrooms between the Museum Shop and Café.

On upper level (refer to map below)-

RIGHT: Foyer across from Mind and Body Gallery

LEFT: Foyer across from Melbourne Gallery



Getting to the Mind and Body Gallery

Lifts

Whilst there are two lifts within the Museum, the easier lift to go to the Upper level is found on ground level down the right-hand side corridor of the building, after the Museum Shop, and bathrooms on your left. If you have come to the Café, you have gone too far.



Image 13- a photo of the alcove where after turning left into it, the lifts can be found on your right.

The lifts have tactile indicators in the form of raised print numbers on the buttons, but without Braille or voice guidance. Refer to image below.



Image 14- A photo of the lift on ground level right hand side of building.

The Mind and Body Gallery is on Level 1, the Upper level.



Image 15- a photo of the panel inside the lift on the right hand side as you enter.

Exit lift. Turn right.

Travel along the passageway, past the accessible and all persons bathrooms on left and right, towards the ascending ramp. It has handrails on both sides. Refer to image below.

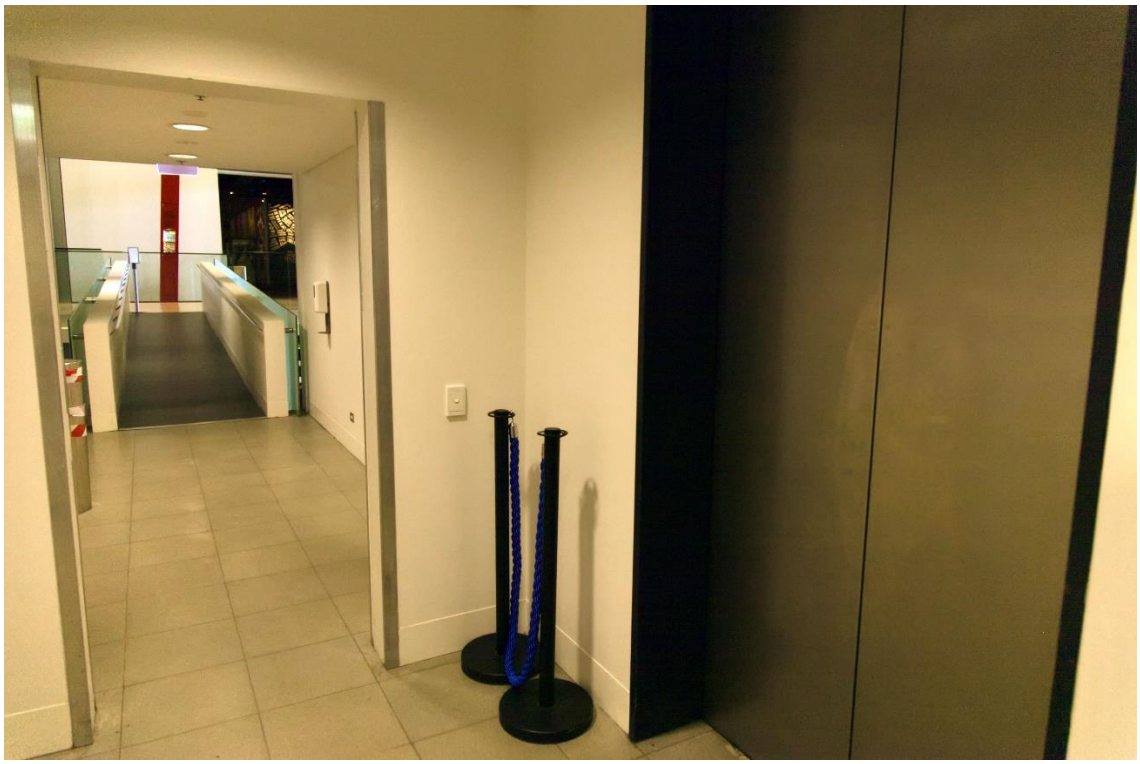


Image 16- a photo of the passageway after exiting the lift.

At the end of the ramp, turn left.

You are now on the Upper level wooden floor mezzanine.

Travel down the 200 metre length of the mezzanine to the entrance to the Mind and Body Gallery on the right.

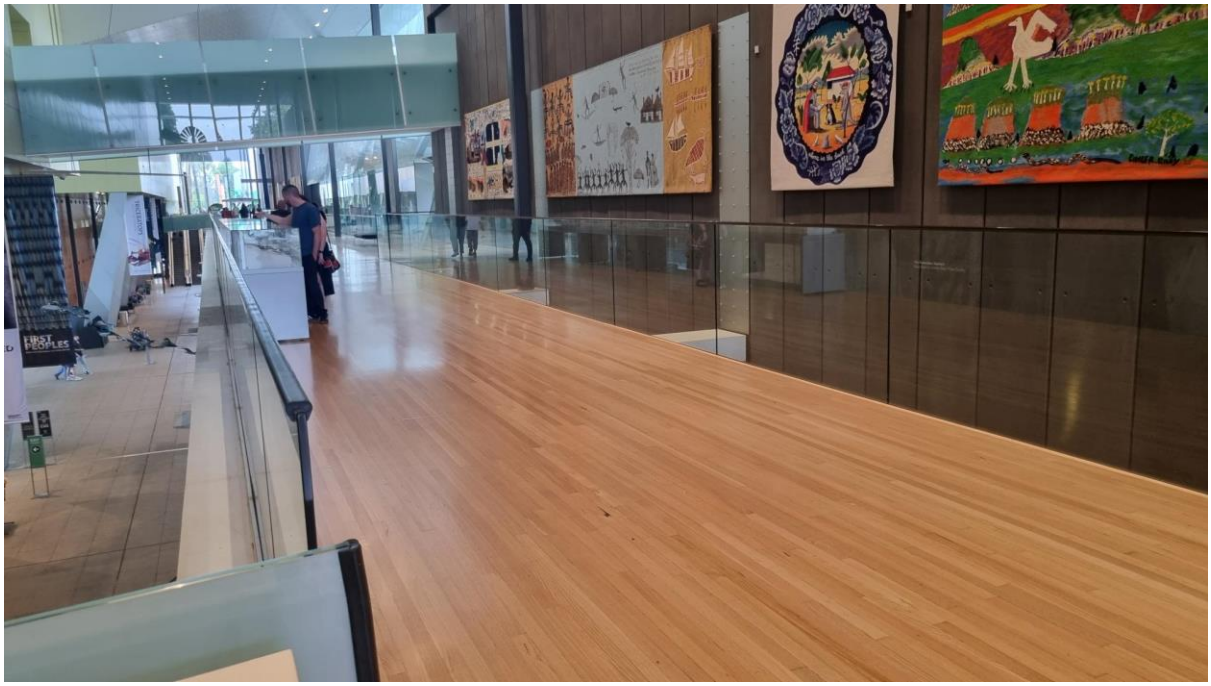


Image 17- a photo of the length of the Upper level mezzanine after exiting the from the lift. It is approx 3 metres wide. There are glass barriers on either side.



Image 18- a photo similar to above but showing a set of escalators in the foreground, with the ramp 10 metres away. These escalators can be found on ground level near Bunjilaka Gallery, and Melbourne Gallery on Upper level.

Escalators

After obtaining your tickets from reception, the escalators are located behind the Foyer area.

The most direct way to the exhibition is to turn left.

Travelling down the long corridor, at end, about 100 metres away, you will find a pair of escalators that will take you directly to the Upper Level.

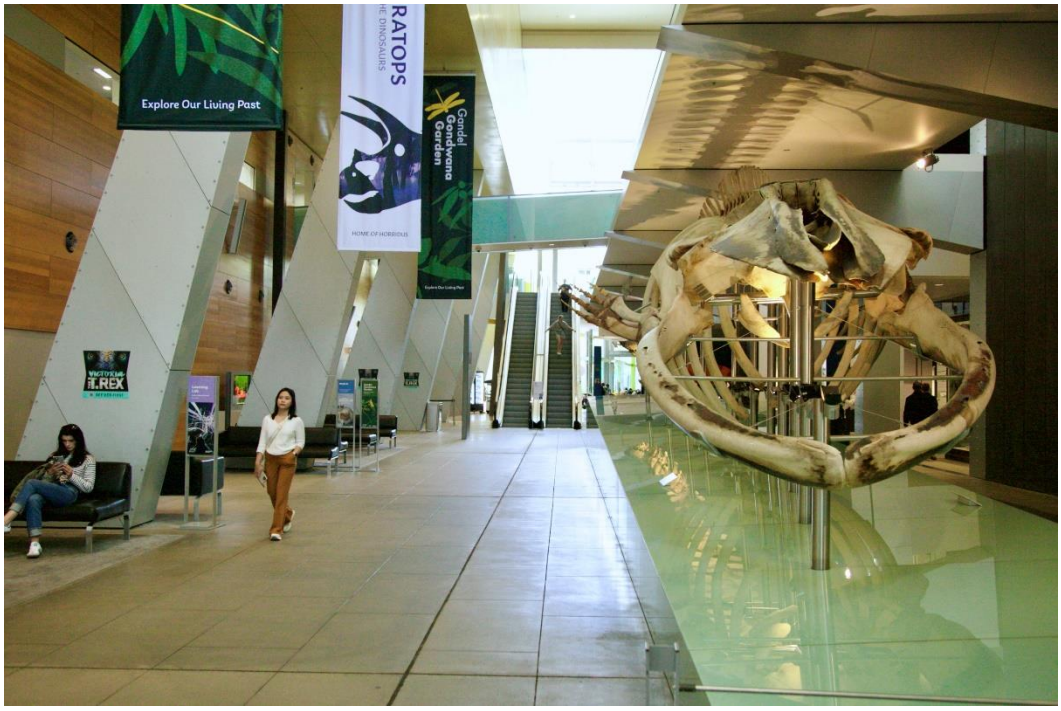


Image 19- a photo of the corridor that leads to the escalators as described above. You will pass an 18.5 metre Blue whale skeleton and the Science and Life Gallery on your right, and sitting areas and bathrooms on your left. If you have come to the Children's Gallery, you have gone too far.

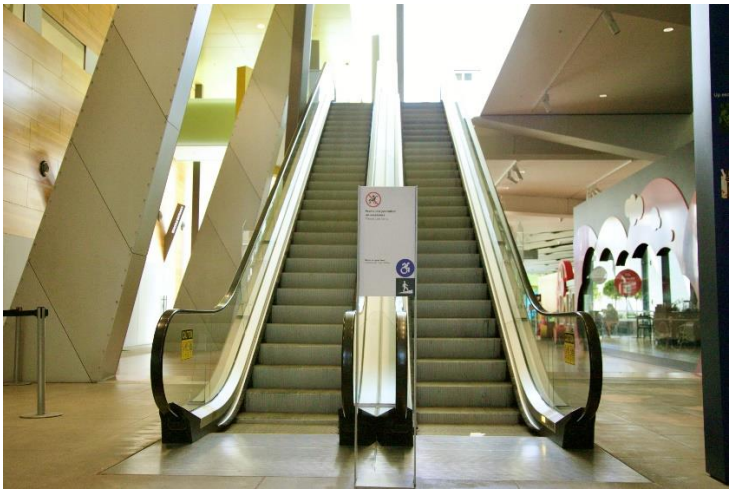


Image 20- a close-up photo of the escalators. The left escalator goes up. The right escalator goes down.

At the very top, directly opposite is the outdoor Gandel Gondwana Garden and immediately to your left, along a short passageway, is the Quiet Room.



Image 22- a photo of the view at the top of the escalators as described above.

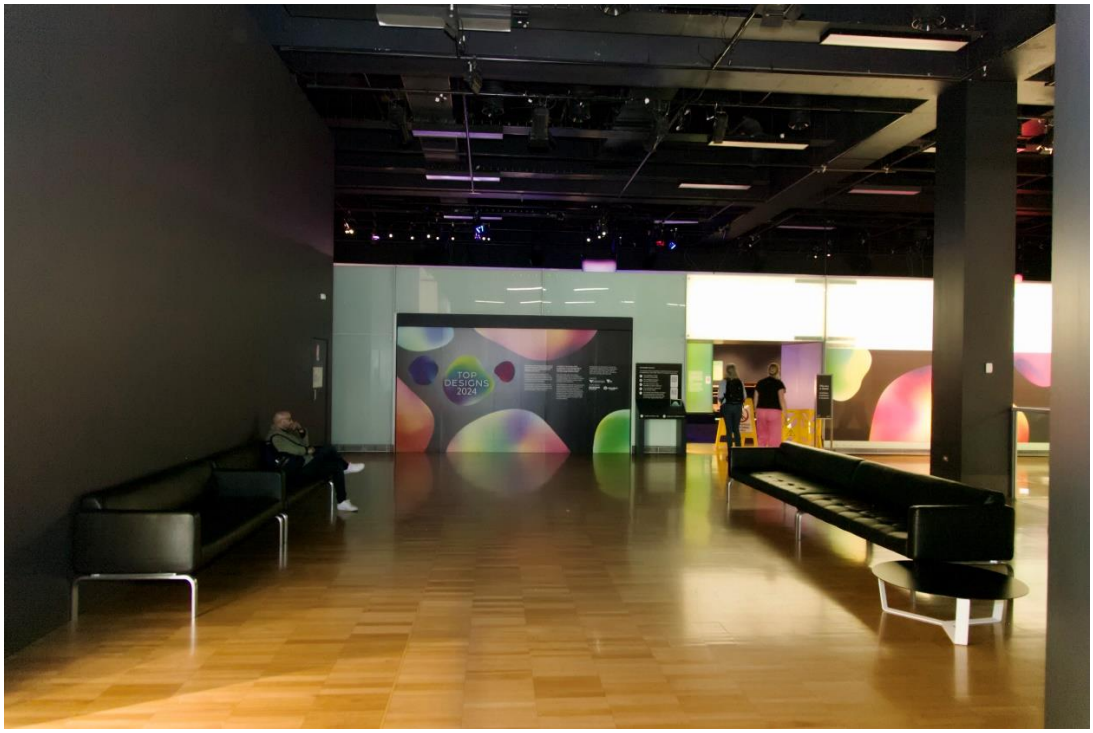
Turn right. Travel 5 metres and turn right again. You are on the mezzanine. The entrance to the Mind and Body Gallery is 20 metres away, on your left. Refer to image 23 below.



At the entrance of the Mind and Body Gallery you will see ‘Top Designs 2024’ in bold white letters on a colourful oval shape, on a wide black wall. Refer to image 24 below.



Travel 5 metres forward. Turn left. Travel 15 metres through a foyer area with couches on either side, towards another brightly coloured wall. Refer to image 25 below.



Note about second pair of escalators:

There is another set of escalators from Ground level to Upper level near Bunjilaka Gallery. Refer to image below and image 18.

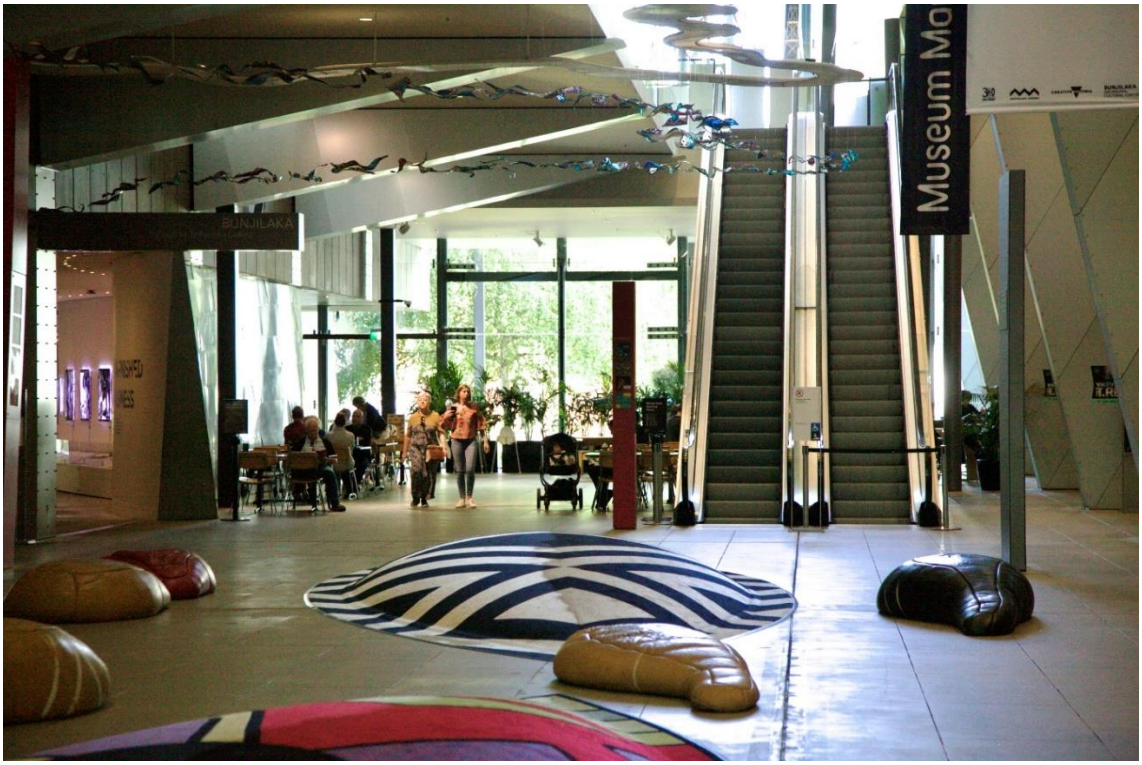


Image 26- a photo of the escalators after passing through reception and turning right. You will pass large, textured floor cushions decorated in First Nation designs, and sitting areas and bathrooms on your right. If you have reached the cafeteria you have gone too far.

Exhibition Information

Welcome Wall



It features colourful oval shapes and white text against black background. Refer to image 27 above.

One large oval, left of centre has ‘Top Designs 2024’ printed.

This area has raised linework, inspired by cartographic maps signifying the different pathways available to students post-VCE.

You are welcome to touch this area of the wall and it is accessible to wheelchair users.

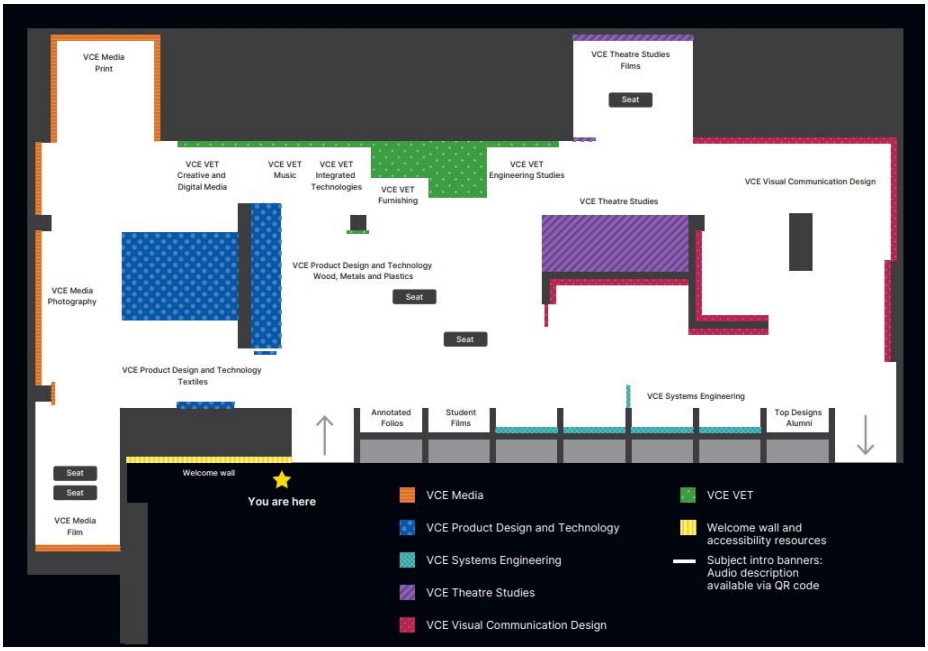
To the right of the Welcome Wall there is an ‘Accessibility Resources’ information panel. Refer to image 28 below.



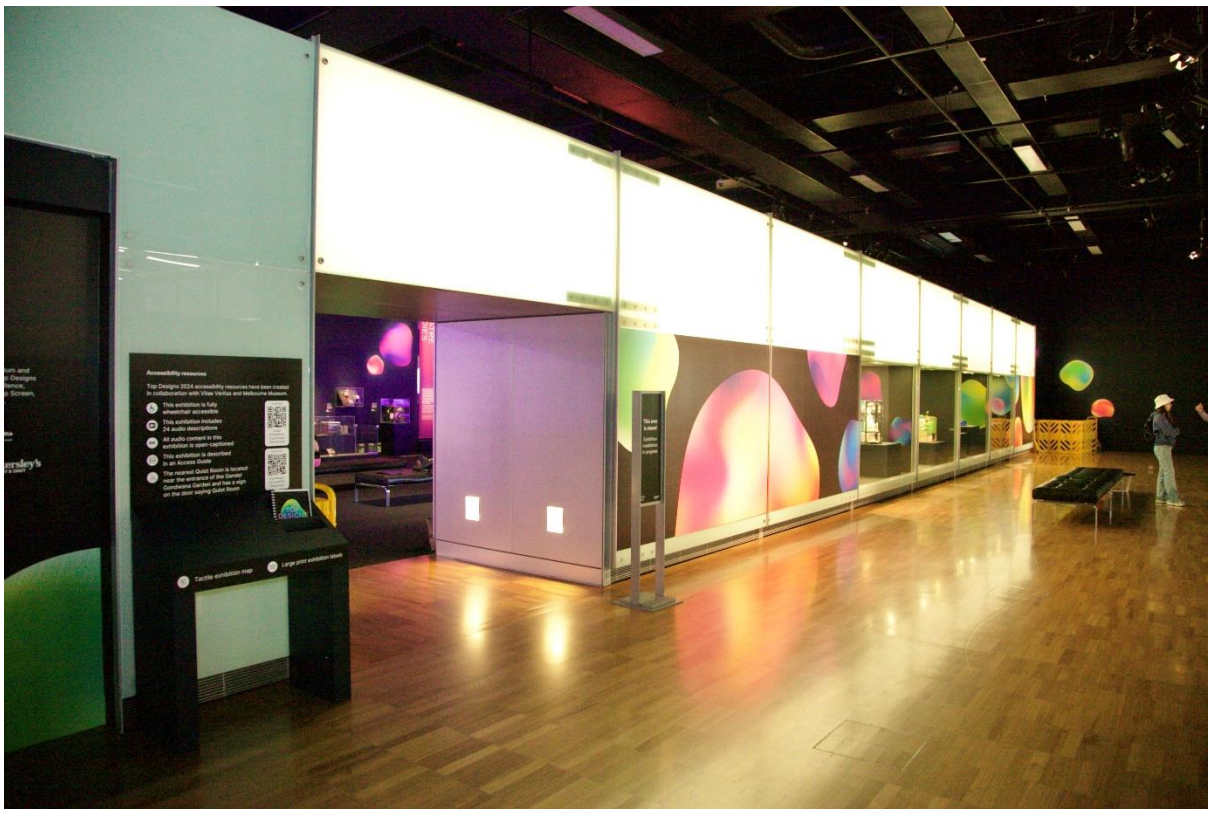
This panel has two QR codes on the right hand side margin and both are placed at a wheelchair accessible height.

The first QR code is an audio recording of the text featured on these panels. The second QR code will take people to the Melbourne Museum Top Designs accessibility web-hub.

Beneath this panel, there is a tactile, Braille-labelled, A3-sized exhibition floorplan on a pedestal and is accessible to wheelchair users. Refer to image 29 below.



To the right of these panels is the entrance into the carpeted exhibition space where 92 student works are displayed.



Study Banners

Each VCE and VCE VET design study area has a distinct four metre high x 90 centimetre wide banner in various colours.



Image photos of each banner featuring from top to bottom- the name of study area, paragraph description, audio description A5-sized QR codes on the right-hand side at wheelchair accessible height.

Layout

We will use compass directions to describe the space in a clockwise direction, where entrance side is South-

The West wall features VCE Media- Film, Photography and Print.

In the inner area on the left features VCE Product Design and Technology- Woods, Metals, Plastics and Textiles.



Image 31- West view from the entrance

The North wall features VCE VET- Creative and Digital Media, Music (Sound Production), Integrated Technologies, Furnishing, Engineering Studies, VCE Theatre Studies and Visual Communication Design.



Image 32- North view from the entrance

The East wall continues with Visual Communications Design.

In the inner area on the right, more of VCE Theatre Studies and Visual Communication Design.



Image 33- East view from the entrance.

The South wall features a list of Top Designs alumni, VCE Systems Engineering, Student Interview videos and annotated folios.



Image 34- South view from the middle of the exhibition space

Seating

There is ottoman-style seating in the central area of the exhibition space, as well as in the Media- Film and Theatre Studies areas. Refer to images below.

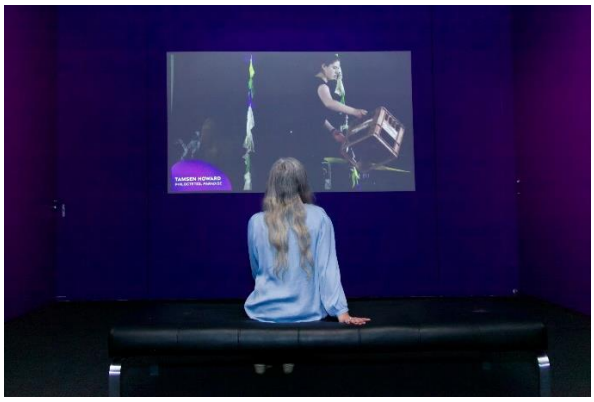




Image 35 and 36

Exhibit displays and sensory information

Objects are displayed on walls, plinths and platforms at various heights, behind or within clear acrylic cases and walls. Refer to images below.



Image 37

Exhibitor labels with student name, school name, title of work and statement is displayed near the work. Refer to image below.



Image 38

A content warning sign is displayed near the Media- Film area.

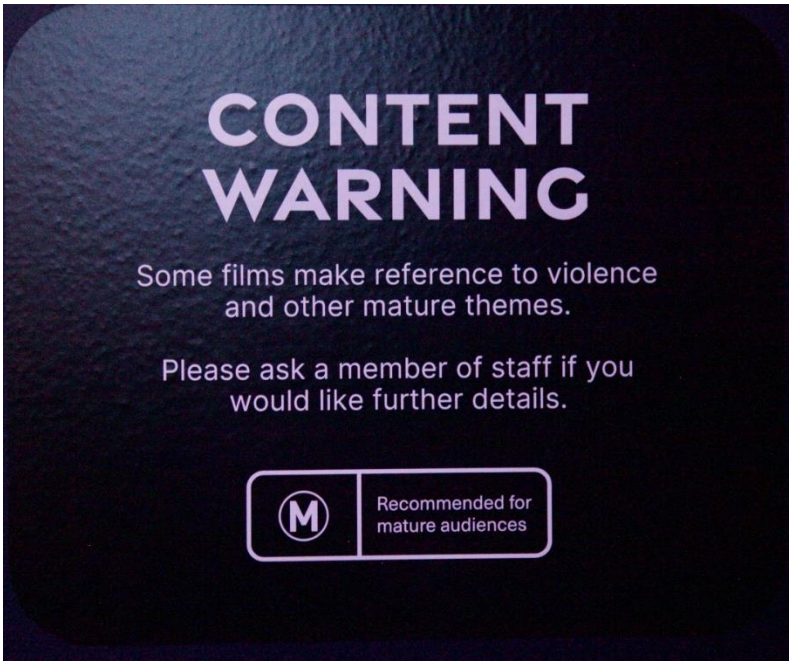
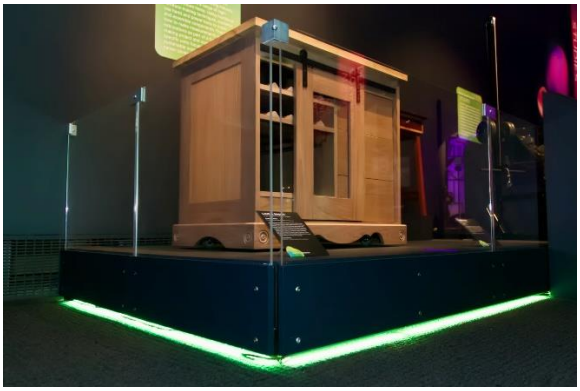


Image 39- White text on black background reads: Content Warning. Some films make reference to violence and other mature themes. Please ask a member of staff if you would like further details. Recommended for mature audiences.

LED strip lighting illuminates the bottom edges of all platforms to highlight different study areas and paths through the space. Refer to images 40, 41 and 42 below.







Each study area will have a number of ‘digital hubs’. These are touchscreens mounted onto slanting pedestals where one can scroll through digitally scanned student folios.



Image 43

Some digital hubs have 1, 2 or 3 touchscreens mounted.



Image 44

Some touchscreens have also been mounted on the wall, such as in the Creative and Digital Media and Systems Engineering areas. Refer to image 45.

Although the touchscreens are not screen reader accessible, the font size is large, with high contrast colours, with white text on black background.



Image 45- a photo of the wall mounted touchscreens accompanying the Systems Engineering student works that are displayed in four windowed glass cases along the south wall.

All films have open captioning.

The student interview films have sound playing through the speakers, while Media, Creative and Digital Media and Music (Sound Production) works provide headphones for listening. Refer to images 46 and 47.



Image 46



Image 47- a photo of the Music listening station which has two tactile buttons on the pedestal, a chair to the right, and headphones on either side.

There are 23 audio described works, ranging from 2-4 minutes in length, except for Media- Photography which is 6 minutes long.

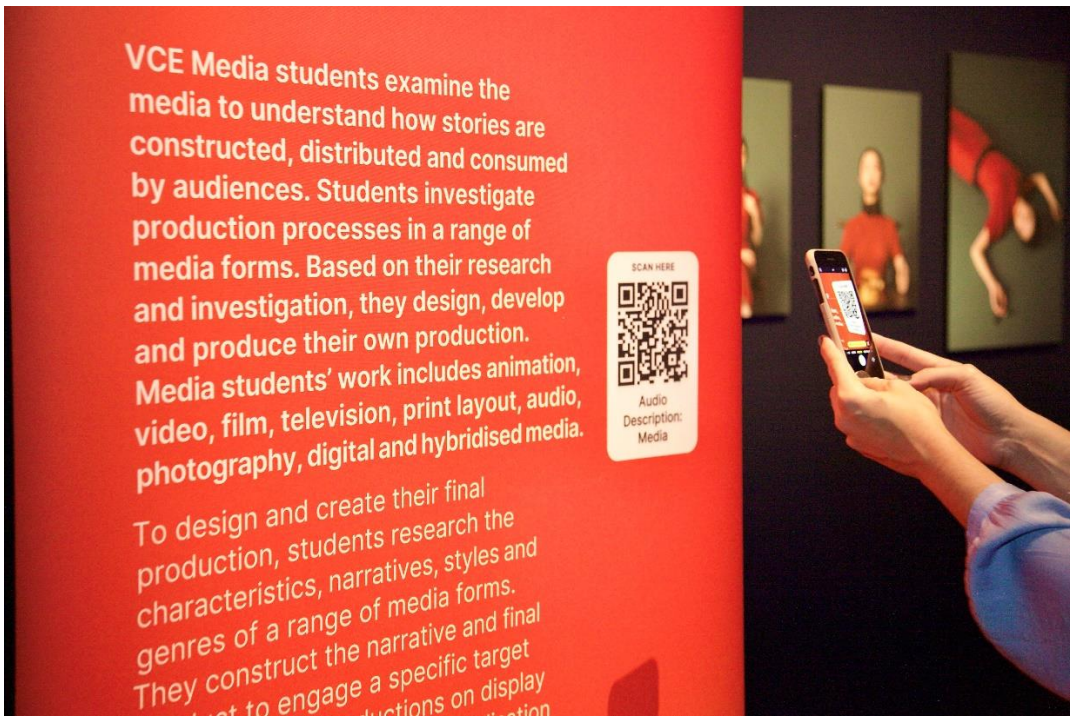


Image 48- a close up photo of the A5-sized QR code displayed on study banners. The black and white graphic of the code is on a white background, with text above that reads: Scan Here, and text below that reads: Audio Description: Media as seen on this particular banner.

VCE Media (study banner orange)

VCE Media- Film

VCE Media- Film is in the first nook when turning left at the entrance, west side. A large LCD screen playing all films is mounted on the back wall. There are 14 works in total of which 2 are audio described.



Image 49- a photo of the Media- Film nook along west wide of exhibition space. The LCD screen is mounted on back wall.

VCE Media- Photography

VCE Media Photography is along the centre of the west wall. There is one work comprised of 13 photographs displayed side by side and is audio described. Refer to image below.



Image 50

VCE Media- Print

VCE Media- Print is in the nook at end of west wall, opposite to Media Film. There are 11 works in total of which 2 are audio described.



Image 51- a photo of the Media – Print nook on west wall, opposite to the Media - Films nook on other end.

VCE VET (study banner green)

VCE VET Creative and Digital Media

VCE VET Creative and Digital Media is shown across 3 small wall-mounted screens at the start left of the north wall. There are 12 works in total of which 2 are audio described.



Image 52- a photo of the VCE VET Creative and Digital Media touchscreens mounted on left hand side of north-facing wall.

VCE VET Music (Sound Production)

VCE VET Music (Sound Production) is next to the above screens where you can find a listening station that has 2 tactile buttons on a pedestal with headphones on the lefthand side, and a chair to sit on, plus QR code displayed above.

You are welcome to scan the QR code with your phone and use the seating area in the middle to listen to the music using your own headphones. There are 2 works in total.



Image 53- a photo of the Music (Sound Production) listening station, a pedestal with two tactile buttons on tops, a chair to the right, and headphones on either side.

VCE VET Integrated Technologies

VCE VET Integrated Technologies is next to the Music pedestal/listening station, along the north wall. There are 2 works in total of which 1 is audio described.



Image 54- a photo of the VCE VET Integrated Technology student works housed in clear acrylic case on a plinth.

VCE VET Furnishing

VCE VET Furnishing is next to the above along the north wall, and it is the wall area directly opposite the entrance. There are 2 works in total of which 1 is audio described.

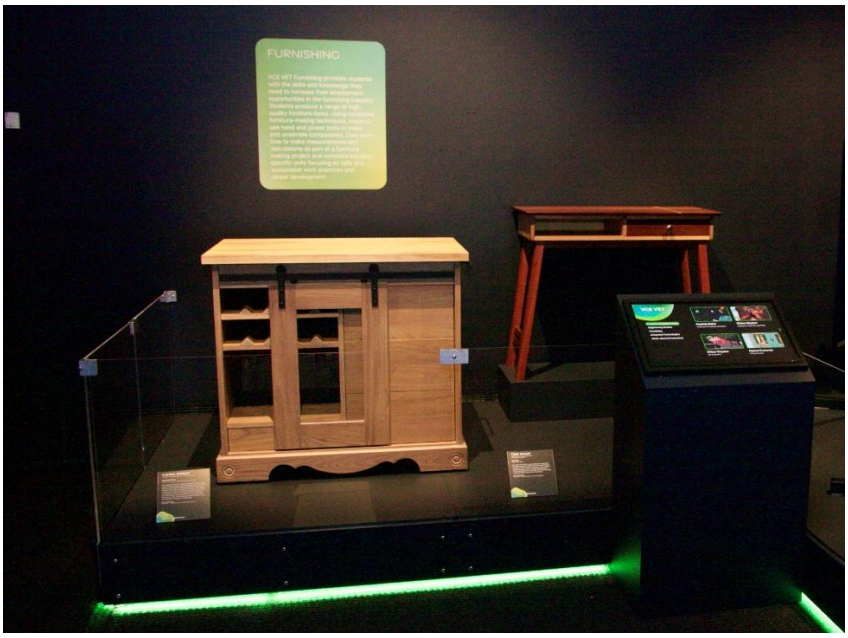


Image 55- a photo of the VCE VET Furnishing student works

VCE VET Engineering Studies

VCE VET Engineering Studies is the last display of this study area on the north wall before the Theatre Studies nook. There are 4 works in total of which 1 is audio described.



Image 56- a photo of the VCE VET Engineering Studies student works

VCE Theatre Studies (study banner purple)

Theatre Studies Showreel

The Theatre Studies showreel is projected on the wall in the nook on the north wall, right hand side of space. It is a 5 minute film featuring five student works, no dialogue or sound and is audio described.



Image 57- a photo of the Theatre Studies nook where the 5 minute showreel is projected on the back wall playing in loop.

Theatre Studies - set and costume design

Opposite to the Theatre Studies showreel nook, and on staging within the inner area on right side of space, are the set, prop and costume design displays of five students, of which 2 are audio described. You can however access a full description of these works by listening to the audio description of the Theatre Studies Showreel.



Image 58- a photo of the Theatre Studies set, costume and prop design works exhibited on staging behind clear acrylic barrier, opposite the Theatre Studies showreel nook.

VCE Visual Communication Design (study banner red)

Visual Communication Design student works span the remaining right hand end of the north wall, all along the east wall, and on the inner free-standing display walls that have been erected in the inner area right hand side. There are 15 works in total of which 3 are audio described.



Image 59- a photo of the right hand side of the north wall and east wall each displaying a number of Visual Communication Design student works



Image 60- photo of the inner free-standing walls on right hand side of space displaying Visual Communication Design student works on walls, and in cases on plinths.

VCE Systems Engineering (study banner blue/green)

Systems Engineering student works are located along the south wall in 4 windowed glass cases. There are 8 works in total of which 3 are audio described.

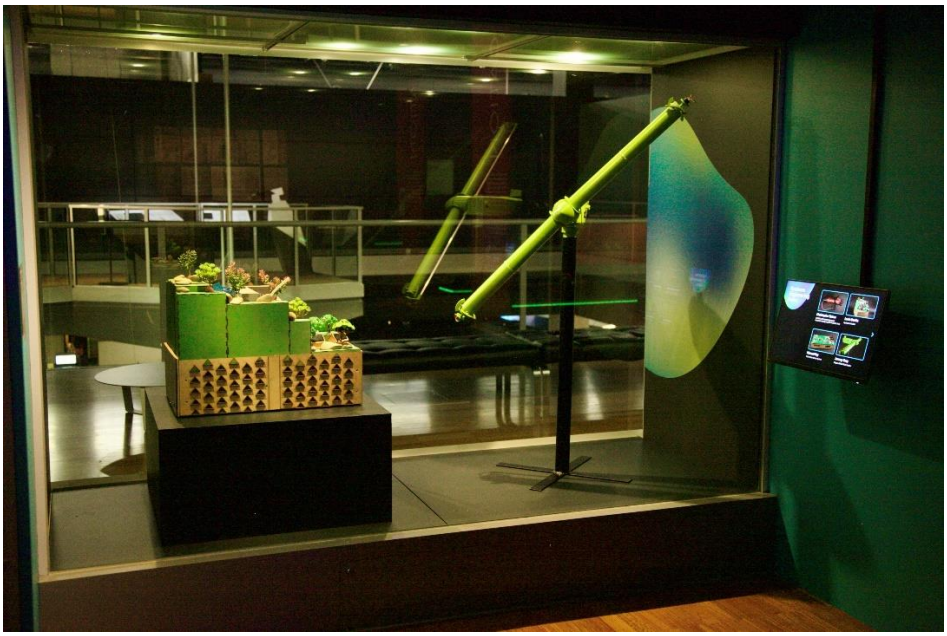


Image 61- a photo of the windowed glass cases where System Engineering student works are displayed. There is a wall-mounted small touchscreen on the right.

These works can also be viewed from outside the exhibition space from people passing through the Mind and Body Gallery.

VCE Product Design & Technology (study banner blue)

Product Design & Technology- Woods, Metals, Plastics

Student works are exhibited on the platforms in the inner area nearest to entrance, on left hand side. There are 7 works in total of which 2 are audio described.



Image 62 & 63- a photo of the staging where Product Design and Technology Woods, Metals and Plastics student works are exhibited. The staging is demarcated with a free-standing wall and frame, where one can see through to the other Textiles works displayed on mannequins on the other side.

VCE Product Design and Technology – Textiles

Student works are displayed on mannequins on the staging in the inner area on left hand side, behind the Wood, Metals Plastics works. There are 9 works in total of which 2 are audio described.



Image 63

Quiet Space

The Quiet Space is located on the Upper level, at the top of the escalators, near the Gandel Gondwana Garden and Mind and Body Gallery.



Image 64- a photo of a sign that reads 'Quiet Room', with the dorr ajar in background.

Turn left into and travel along the short bridge or walkway.

Enter the room where you will find a couch, side table and lamp that is dimly lit.



Image 65- a photo of someone sitting on couch in small room warmly lit by lamp on small side table.

Dining at Melbourne Museum

There is the dine-in only Mercury Restaurant and dine-in and takeaway Museum Market Café on ground level, each in close proximity to each other.

There is also the dine-in and takeaway Museum Station Café in the Children's Gallery, on ground level.

More information about opening hours and menus here.