

# Geelong Advertiser

**GEELONG**

## Deakin University researchers to create multimedia experience of Western Beach

**The rich heritage of Geelong's Western Beach will be brought to life at the newly revitalised Western Beach Boat Yards.**

Staff writer, Geelong Advertiser

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 The men's baths at the historic bathing sheds at Western Beach.

THE rich heritage of Geelong’s Western Beach will be brought to life through an extended reality application at the newly revitalised Western Beach Boat Yards.

Deakin University researchers are working with the City of Greater Geelong to create a multimedia storytelling experience at the boat yards, historically a leisure precinct for swimming, bathing and rowing before becoming an industrial and boatbuilding centre.



 The men's baths at the historic bathing sheds at Western Beach.

The co-director of Deakin’s DesignMind, Professor Tuba Kocaturk, said despite the long and diverse history of the site, the remaining physical assets only hinted at the industrial and leisure precinct of days gone by.

“Through augmented and virtual reality as well as locative media technologies, visitors will be able to immerse themselves in the cultural heritage of the site and witness the rapid changes in the landscape over time,” Prof. Kocaturk said.

“The project will be the first of its kind in Geelong, and among the very few in Australia, where visitors will be able to live the stories, not just observe them.”



📷 Inside Ladies baths at old Western beach boat sheds.

Using a specially designed app that will be accessible through their smart phones and other digital devices, visitors will hear the sounds of the past and visually experience the buildings and the structures of the past.

The project is expected to be open to public in March next year.

To help recreate an authentic experience, DesignMind is asking people to supply stories that speak to the heritage of the site, from bathing to boat building. People can send their stories to DesignMind at Deakin University, waterfront campus, Locked Bag 20001, Geelong.