

Kaurna Shelter Tree Project Brief

This project is years in the making and follows the wishes of Kaurna Elders (see attached letter of support) and recommendations made in the *Kaurna Shelter Tree Management Plan*, Kym Knight Consulting Arborist Tree Environs, 25th May 2018, page 17 (see attached).

The project aims to:

- Protect the iconic Kaurna Birthing Tree, a 450-1,000 year old remnant River Red Gum, located at the entrance to Brownhill Creek Recreation Park / Wirraparinga.
- Respect living Kaurna Heritage by telling the story of the tree and establishing a Kaurna Place of Reflection and Reconciliation.
- Promote Kaurna engagement, employment and art.
- Create community connections and educational outcomes.
- Integrate the Kaurna Shelter Tree into the Wirraparinga Loop Trail tourism project.
- Ensure that the Kaurna Shelter Tree is listed on the Register of Aboriginal Sites and Objects.

Nicolle Flint MP helped Scotch College and Brownhill Creek Association (BCA) attain a \$20,000.00 grant under the Federal Communities Environment Program. Mitcham Historical Society, the Rotary Club of Brownhill Creek, the Suzanne Elliott Charitable Trust, BCA and the Friends of Brownhill Creek raised \$20,000.00 to match the grant.

The scope of works (see *Kaurna Shelter Tree Concept Plan* attached) is as follows:

- Clear woody weeds from around the Kaurna Shelter Tree.
- Plant a native garden to protect the root zone using endemic species.
- Install a boardwalk and possible viewing platform (additional funds to be raised) to prevent root compaction and allow the public to safely view the interior of the tree without entering and damaging the tree. None of the footings for the cantilevered viewing platform would be in the flood zone or root zone. Plantings would be used to reduce the visual impact of the viewing platform and low maintenance materials will be used. Alternative ways of controlling visitation and allowing visitors to view inside the tree are being investigated and Kaurna direction is crucial to any decision on infrastructure.
- Create a Kaurna Place of Reflection and Reconciliation with two carved red gum log seats and interpretive signage. Renowned Kaurna artist Allan Sumner is the creator.

The Kaurna Shelter Tree will be a key stopping point on the Wirraparinga Loop Trail, a 10km recreational, heritage and tourism trail, which will begin and end at Carrick Hill. The Kaurna Shelter Tree is set to become an integral part of an overarching local heritage precinct, comprising Carrick Hill, the Waite Campus (Urrbrae House, the Waite Arboretum etc),

Mitcham Historic Village, Springwood Park Estate (Ellison's Gully) and Brownhill Creek Recreation Park / Wirraparinga.