

Kurna Shelter Tree Project Summary

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

The project aims to:

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

Stage 1 (Funding Secured)

- Clear woody weeds from around the Kurna Shelter Tree. ✓
- Plant a native garden to protect the root zone using local native species. ✓
- Create a Kurna Place of Reflection and Reconciliation with two carved red gum log seats (Allan Sumner). ✓
- Interpretive signage to tell the Kurna story (to be finalised and installed).
- Kurna listing of the Birthing Tree on the Register of Aboriginal Sites and Objects.

Stage 2 (Partial Funding Secured, but additional funding of \$5,500 required)

Restoration of the eroded creek bank at the Kurna Shelter Tree in the most natural way possible, to help protect the tree and allow visitors to safely view the tree without entering it. This will involve the restoration of an existing dry stone wall and the construction of a new dry stone wall below to create a natural viewing area. Access tracks need to be constructed and balustrades installed.

Please note: The Kurna 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 Kurna 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 (see accompanying map).

Ron Bellchambers: BCA Kurna Shelter Tree Project Officer and Community Engagement Officer