

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.

Project:

- Protect the iconic Kurna Shelter Tree, a 450+ year old remnant River Red Gum, located at the entrance to Brownhill Creek Recreation Park - Wirraparinga, and improve native biodiversity and habitat.
- Respect living Kurna Cultural 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, involve volunteers and achieve educational outcomes.
- Integrate the Kurna Shelter Tree into the Wirraparinga Loop Trail and seek heritage listing.

The scope of works is as follows:

Stage 1

- Clear woody weeds from around the Kurna Shelter Tree (March 2020). BCA, Scotch, Federal CEP Grant.
- Plant a native garden to protect the root zone (2020 and 2021). BCA, Scotch, SECT, CEP Grant, volunteers.
- Create a Kurna Place of Reflection and Reconciliation with two carved red gum log seats (Allan Sumner) and interpretive signage (Auntie Lynette Crocker) to tell the Kurna story (seats installed in October 2020 and signage installed in August 2022). BCA, Scotch, Brownhill Creek Rotary, Mitcham Historical Society and SECT.

Stage 2

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 in a culturally sensitive manner.

- Dry stone walls were constructed by 30 June 2022 to retain the eroded bank and create a viewing area. National Parks & Wildlife Service SA funding. Contractor Cr Andrew Tilley with volunteer Greg Szymaniak.
- Bollards installed in October 2022 to allow the community to safely view the tree and a pedestrian bridge installed in May 2023. Federal Government SCP7 Grant, BCA and Mitcham Rotary Club.
- An additional 1,000 native plants were planted in June 2022 (Green Adelaide Grassroots Grant and SECT) to control erosion along the creek bank and improve native biodiversity and habitat. Bush tucker planted including 200 Yam Daisies - Ngampa (Auntie Lynette, Steven Hoepfner and volunteers).

Brownhill Creek Association's Project Partners: Kurna Nation; Kurna Elders Auntie Lynette Crocker, Uncle Jeffrey Newchurch, Uncle Mickey O'Brien, Uncle Lewis O'Brien along with First Nations artists Uncle Allan Sumner and Brad Darkson; Scotch College Adelaide; Mitcham Historical Society; Suzanne Elliott Charitable Trust (SECT); Friends of Brownhill Creek Recreation Park; Rotary Club of Brownhill Creek; Mitcham Rotary Club; National Parks & Wildlife Service SA; Green Adelaide, Green Adelaide Education and Green Adelaide Grassroots Grant; Federal Government CEP and SCP7 Grants; Support from BCA's Education & Revegetation Committee, including Scotch College, Mercedes College, Urrbrae Agricultural High School, Mitcham Primary School and Mitcham Girls High School; local volunteers.

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