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Ngarrindjeri Raukkan Resting Place Reference Group

Terms of Reference

Background

The South Australian Museum is caring for approximately 1,200 Old People taken from burial sites during the late 19th and into the 20th centuries within the Ngarrindjeri Native Title Determination area. A further approximately 350 Ngarrindjeri Old People returned from the University of Edinburgh Royal College of Surgeons are temporarily held in the Camp Coorong Keeping Place.

In the 2023/24 State Budget, the South Australian Government allocated funding over four years to support the *reburial, exhumation and reinternment of Aboriginal remains in a culturally appropriate manner*. Part of this funding can be used to establish resting places for repatriated Aboriginal ancestral remains with Aboriginal communities across South Australia.

The Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation and the Raukkan Community Council have agreed to work together with the South Australian Museum to establish a resting place within the Raukkan Community Council's cemetery for the reburial of the repatriated Ngarrindjeri Old People.

Development of the Raukkan Resting Place will be guided by a Ngarrindjeri Raukkan Resting Place Reference Group through phases of community co-design, construction and reburial ceremonies.

Terms of Reference

With a focus on Old People provenanced to Ngarrindjeri Country and held by the South Australian Museum, Camp Coorong Keeping Place and Attorney General Department - Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, the Ngarrindjeri Raukkan Resting Place Reference Group aims to guide a culturally appropriate process of development of an Aboriginal Resting Place within the Raukkan Community Council cemetery. The Reference Group will:

1. Identify the scope of Ngarrindjeri Old People to be reburied at designated land (Raukkan Resting Place) with the Raukkan Community Council cemetery.
2. Encourage Ngarrindjeri community members' involvement in a community led co-design process.
3. Identify the cultural protocols associated with the reburial of Old People at the Raukkan Resting Place that are consistent with Traditional Owners' expectations.
4. Provide advice on the preparation of the Old People for transportation and reburial.
5. Identify any expert stakeholders that need to be brought together to contribute to the project.
6. Identify any other key elements of a respectful development of the Raukkan Resting Place and reburial process.
7. Advocate and promote the project amongst community and professional networks, motivating others to share in this experience.

Membership

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|--------------------|---|
| Clyde Rigney Snr | Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation Chairperson |
| Uncle Major Summer | Ngarrindjeri Elder |
| Chantel Weetra | Raukkan Community Council Chairperson |
| Bill Wilson | Raukkan Community Council |
| Tash Sumner | Raukkan Community Council Program Manager |

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| Margi Sumner | Ngarrindjeri Ruwe Empowered Communities representative |
| Eunice Aston | Ngarrindjeri Lands and Progress Aboriginal Corporation representative |
| Harley Hall | Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority representative |
| Klynton Wanganeen | Aboriginal Lands Trust, Chief Executive Officer |
| Anna Russo | South Australian Museum, Aboriginal Heritage and Repatriation Manager |
| John Carty | South Australian Museum, Head of Humanities |
| Ali Abdullah-Highfold | South Australian Museum, Family History Officer (Ngarrindjeri) |
| Yolonde Tregenza | Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation Director or nominee |
| Kate Rice | Project Officer, South Australian Museum (Executive Officer) |

The SA Museum Aboriginal Partnership Committee will nominate a member (Joshua Haynes nominated on 5/8/2024) who may elect to participate in discussions and activity from time to time.

Chairperson

Meetings will be co-chaired by the Chairperson NAC and Aboriginal Heritage and Repatriation Manager SA Museum.

Meetings

Meetings will be called by SA Museum in consultation with the NAC chairperson. The Reference Group will meet at least monthly (either face to face or via Teams/Zoom). N.B. More frequent meetings may be required in the early stages of the project.

Reporting

The Ngarrindjeri organisations' representatives will regularly report progress to the Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation Board of Directors and Raukkan Community Council and other bodies.

The SAM Aboriginal Heritage and Repatriation Manager will regularly report progress to the SAM Aboriginal Partnership Committee before reporting updates to the Museum Board.

The Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation representative will regularly report progress to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation.

Project information may be published on the SA Museum's Aboriginal Heritage and Repatriation website and regularly reported in a SA Museum project newsletter.

Timeline

The work of the Reference Group should be completed within eighteen months of the first meeting.