

KARRAWIRRA PARRI RECONCILIATION WALK: RIVER OF THE RED GUM FOREST

Marni naa pudni/ Welcome!

RESOURCE AIM

- to provide accessible, self-led engagement opportunities on Kurna Country
- to promote cultural understandings & learnings, within a Kurna worldview
- to understand local history
- to explore the walk, in and through the 8 Ways Aboriginal pedagogy framework.

What is 8 Ways Aboriginal pedagogy?

"8 Ways Aboriginal pedagogy framework" is expressed as eight interconnected pedagogies involving narrative-driven learning, visualised learning processes, hands-on/reflective techniques, use of symbols/metaphors, land-based learning, indirect/synergistic logic, modelled/scaffolded genre mastery, and connectedness to community. But these can change in different settings".

www.8ways.online/aboriginal-pedagogy-research-review



Figure 1.1 – 8 Ways Aboriginal Pedagogy Framework

ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Each activity in this educational resource may be adapted for an individual and/ or a group (small or large) with opportunity to differentiate the interactive experience across all years (Early Learning Years Framework, Primary Years, Secondary years). You can choose to do all of the activities or a selection of those that suit your group and time frame.

This experience offers interaction with the SA Curriculum: Cross Curriculum Priorities/ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Perspectives, Sustainability, along with learning areas; The Arts, HASS, English & Science.

HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE TOGETHER WITH THE INFORMATION AT EACH MARKER

You will need:

- a device with camera access to scan the QR code (along with data)
- Water
- Sunscreen
- Optional – A blue tooth speaker: for *Move on Country & Aboriginal Music playlist* activity (a phone may suffice)
- Optional – A4 paper, lead pencil & eraser – activity: *Draw the Birthing Tree*

MEET THE ELDERS

Uncle Ivan-Tiwu Waritya Copley (OAM, JP) is a Kurna/ Peramangk Elder and Cultural Consultant. Ivan is a nationally accredited Aboriginal artist, Chairperson of the TURKINDI Network of SA Inc, member of the City of Campbelltown Reconciliation Advisory Committee and other community reconciliation committees, and is an advocate for Aboriginal education, cultural learning, and acknowledging our collective history.

Uncle Frank Wangutya Wanganeen is a Kurna/ Narungga Elder & Cultural Consultant and cultural educator. His career spans across decades, contributing to the advancement of Reconciliation, Native Title, Aboriginal heritage, social justice and the revival of Kurna language and cultural heritage. Frank operates the Kurna Cultural Walking Tours.

Uncle Tamaru is a Narungga/ Kurna Elder and Cultural Consultant for Reconciliation Action Plans (private and public sector). Tamaru provides engaging educational Kurna cultural experiences to schools, universities and state and local government. Tamaru's Welcome to Country and smoking ceremonies are interactive and raise community awareness of Reconciliation.

Marni naa pudni/ Welcome

You are on Kurna Yarta

- Tread gently, listen and learn on Country
- Please do not disturb the environment around you: small bushes, the creek water and native animals
- Be curious and discover.

HOW TO ACCESS THE INFORMATION

INTRODUCTION – MARKER 0

Hover your camera device over the QR code, found on the markers along the walk, to access the online information.

Watch the YouTube video.

Walk across the wooden bridge or, cross the river using the river rocks, to find MARKER 1.

MARKER 1 – Kuma – (Koomah) – MEETING PLACE

Access the information via the QR code.

Head towards the logs. Sit.

ACTIVITY: CONNECT ON COUNTRY – SPACE & PLACE

HOW?

Find a place to sit comfortably. Take off your shoes. Close your eyes.

TOUCH – Feel the country beneath your feet. Wiggle your toes. **Consider the ancestors who have walked here before you.**

SEE – Take a deep breath in/ breath out: **What do you see?**

HEAR – Breathe in/ out: **Listen to the sounds around you? What do you hear?**

SMELL – Breathe in/ out: **What do you smell?**

TASTE – Breathe in/ Breathe out: **What can you taste?**

Share your experience with others.

 For Aboriginal people the elements of Country, land, seas, water, sky, stars, animals, plants, trees and spirit are connected to cultural wellbeing.

ACTIVITY: READ A BOOK ON COUNTRY

- Borrow the Aboriginal cultural resource boxes from the Campbelltown Library (ELYF, PY, SY)
- Borrow a book written by an Aboriginal author from the Campbelltown Library: For example, *Coming Home to Country* – Bronwyn Bancroft (Bundjalung), *The Land Recalls You* – Kirli Saunders (Gundai).

 Sit in a circle: share the book/writings/readings; ask each student to read a page.

ACTIVITY: MEETING PLACE – Inparilla

DISCUSS

- What is a **meeting place**? What activities occur at a meeting place? Why are they important?
- Consider significant meeting places in history (local, regional, national, international)
- Where and what is **HOME** to you?

The Aboriginal cultural symbol for **meeting place** or **places of meeting** is usually marked as a circle or set of co-centric circles signifying places where people come together. These markings can symbolise a bonfire, campsite or waterhole or a journey of some kind, whereby travellers stop at a series of locations.



www.commonground.org.au/article/communicating-through-art-first-nations-symbols



Find a drawing implement (stick or stone): draw the symbols in the earth.

Create the Aboriginal symbol for *meeting place*, using natural materials from the environment (ephemeral art)

ACTIVITY: MOVE ON COUNTRY: Embody

MATERIALS: Bluetooth speaker, music, your body

HOW?

Source an artefact (leaf, stick, stone) from the environment around you.

Examine its features: shape, length, size, colour, texture.

Brainstorm words to describe it.

Choose one of the descriptive words and create a physical gesture to represent the word.

Embody the gesture to the count of 4 (1,2,3,4).

Create a new physical gesture at each station.

When you reach **MARKER 9**: Sequence all 8 physical gestures together, holding or repeating each gesture for 4 counts.

EXTENSION

- Notate and record the movement sequence
- Add music, for example: *Beginning of Day* – Frank Yamma (Pitjantjatjara), *Black Smoke* – Emily Wurramara (Warnindhilyagwa).



Use your created movement sequence as an Acknowledgement of Country.

ACTIVITY: SONGS ON COUNTRY – Create a Karrawirra Parri Reconciliation Walk playlist

Explore and include Aboriginal musicians creating and playing on Kurna Yarta.

For example, Tilly Tjala Thomas (Nukunu), Katie Aspel (Ngarrindjeri/ Gunditjmara), Nancy Bates (Barkindji), Nathan May (Arabana/ Yawuru), Dem Mob (APY Lands) & Rob Edwards.

MARKER 2 – Purlaityi – (Pur-Lar-Chi)

ACTIVITY: DRAW THE BIRTHING TREE

MATERIALS: A4 paper & pencil

DISCUSSION

- *Examine the features of the birthing tree: age, size and life story*
- *Can you find red ochre in the area nearby?*

HOW?

Fold an A4 piece of paper into 4. On each fold focus on a different feature of the tree

- 1) Sketch the tree: consider the line, form, shapes and angles of the branches, markings
- 2) Storying: List all the activities which may have occurred here
- 3) Share your thoughts

What else do you see?

- 4) Find 3 other elements surrounding you in your environment and draw in the other 3 blank squares
- 5) Change it up – Draw one element in one box and pass it on to a friend: reclaim it on the fourth rotation
- 6) What story can you make connecting all 4 of the elements drawn on the paper?

MARKER 3 – Marnkuti – (*Marn-Cor-Chi*) – SHEOAK/ KARKU

ACTIVITY: GATHER

Identify the *Casuarina Equisetifolia* pine needle tree

- Other names; “*Whispering Tree*” or “*Singing Tree*”
- Medicinal uses: Antimicrobial, anti-diabetic, antioxidant, gastro-protective, anti-diarrhoeal
- Gather natural materials from the environment. Leave your collected findings as an offer back to nature (ephemeral art)
- TASTE: Sweeten your water with the *Casuarina* pine needles



ACTIVITY: BUILD A WURLIE – Make, build & create

Aboriginal Huts, or “Wurlies” were constructed by Kurna people for shelter.

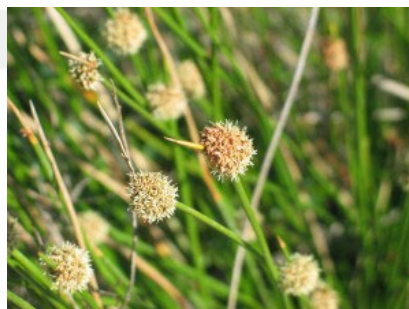


Image: Alexander Schramm. South Australian Museum (SAM)

Marker 4 – Yarapurla – (*Yah-Rah-Poor-Lah*) – SPEAR/ KAYA

ACTIVITY: *Witi: Knobby Club Rush* – Weave or draw

Witi or “Knobby Club-rush” (*Ficinia nodosa*) provides valuable habitat for pilyapilya/ butterflies and the stems are used for weaving baskets, fishing nets and various other practical purposes.



TASK

Find a long strand of Witu/ Knobby Club Rush and split it into 3 parts or/ find 3 pieces of Witu and weave together.

Aboriginal weaving techniques include: **Coiling** involves sewing plant fibres around a foundation material; each row is stitched onto the one below it. **Twining** entails wrapping and twisting two or more horizontal strands (wefts) between vertical strands (warps). **Plaiting** involves holding the three ends together. Cross the right strand over into the middle, then cross the left strand over into the middle again and cross the right strand into the middle.



Weave with 3 friends, each taking responsibility for your own Witu strand.

Additional resources

Lyn Lovegrove – (City of Campbelltown resident featured in the Women of Campbelltown)

www.campbelltown.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0017/1115162/10-Women-of-Campbelltown-2022-Lyn-Lovegrove-Niemz.pdf

Carly Takari Dodd (Kurna, Ngarrindjeri, Narungga)

makeaward.au/carly-takari-dodd/

Sonja Rankine (Ngarrindjeri, Ngadjuri, Narungga & Wirangu) – Lakun Mara

www.lakunmara.com.au/

Tjanpi Desert Weavers

Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (NPY) Women's Council, working with women in the remote Central and Western deserts

www.agsa.sa.gov.au/education/resources-educators/resources-educators-ATSlart/tjanpi-desert-weavers/

MARKER 5 – Mila – (Mill-ah) SPEAR/ KAYA

ACTIVITY: ANIMAL LIFE – small and big

Can you identify;

The Waatji Pulyeri/ Blue Fairy Wren



Cunningham's Skink (*Egernia cunninghami*)



australian.museum/learn/animals/reptiles/cunninghams-skink/

The **Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo** is easily identified by its mostly black plumage and yellow edged body feathers, yellow cheek patch and yellow panels on the tail.

Female characteristics - larger yellow cheek patch, pale grey eye-ring, white upper bill.

Male characteristics - pink eye ring, grey-black bill, black marks in the yellow tail panels.

birdlife.org.au/bird-profiles/yellow-tailed-black-cockatoo/

The **Grinder stone** is an Aboriginal tool used for grinding seed into flour for bread making, cracking of animal bone for the extraction of marrow, for pulverising cartilage and small animals.



www.firstpeoplesrelations.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-04/Aboriginal-Grinding-Stones-Fact-Sheet.pdf

Note: If you think you may have discovered a grinding stone, please contact the Council

ACTIVITY: KAURNA LANGUAGE

Animals <i>Kuula</i> – Koala <i>Kadnu</i> – Bearded dragon <i>Kalta</i> – Sleepy Lizard <i>Muka</i> – egg <i>Pirlta</i> – Brushtail possum <i>Tarnta</i> – Male Kangaroo <i>Tarana</i> – Large duck <i>Pardu Paitya</i> – Big (meaty) snake <i>Kalta</i> – Shingle back lizard	Birds <i>Ngauwaka</i> – Rainbow Lorikeet <i>Kurraka</i> – Magpie <i>Ngungana</i> – Kookaburra <i>Kurdaki</i> – White Cockatoo <i>Yutika</i> – Black Cockatoo <i>Pilyapilya</i> – Butterfly <i>Ngarridla</i> – Parrot
Environment <i>Tinkyu</i> – leaves <i>Karra</i> – River gum <i>Parri</i> – Creek <i>Ngayirda</i> – sky <i>Maku</i> – cloud	Fish <i>Ngaltaitya</i> – Yabbie <i>Tuku Kungkurla</i> – Prawn <i>Kuya</i> – Fish

MARKER 6 – Murra – (Mur–Rah) – RIVER/ PARI

ACTIVITY: THE KAURNA SEASONS

The Kurna Seasonal Calendar

- *Warltati* – Summer (approximately January, February, March)
- *Parnati* – Autumn (approximately April, May, June)
- *Kudlila* – Winter (approximately July, August, September)
- *Wirltuti* – Spring (approximately October, November, December)



Additional resources

Indigenous Weather Knowledge

www.bom.gov.au/iwk/calendars/kurna.shtml

ACTIVITY: IDENTIFYING A SCAR TREE & THE KAURNA *Murlapaka*/ Shield

The **scar** may be more-or-less regular in shape, often with parallel sides and slightly pointed or rounded ends. The amount of bark regrowth may help you tell the age of the scar. Sometimes, if the scar is very old, it will be completely covered by regrowth. Aboriginal scar trees are protected by legislation.

TASK

1. Can you identify and locate a shield carving?
2. Estimate the age of the tree
3. How many people will it take, with their arms outstretch, finger to finger to circle the tree trunk?
Consider other methods of informal measurement.

Additional resources

Murlapaka, Kurna People, Art Gallery of SA

www.agsa.sa.gov.au/education/resources-educators/resources-educators-australian-art/murlapaka-kurna-people/#:~:text=The%20Murlapaka%2C%20one%20of%20two,shape%20with%20elongated%20tapering%20tips

MARKER 7 – Wangu – (Wung-Goo) FOOD/ MAI

ACTIVITY: NATURE'S SUPERMARKET – Mai / food

TASK

Identify Bush Tucker – Pick a plant sample. Smell it, grind it. Rub the plant between your fingers.

Find a stone, grind the plant and release the fragrance.

**Consumption warning: guidance recommended.

RUBY RED SALT BUSH/ ENCHYLAENA TOMANTOSA

The red berries taste like candy: grind over mortar and pestle and pour over ice-cream.

tuckerbush.com.au/ruby-saltbush-enchylaena-tomentosa/



Question: What happens when you eat the yellow berries? **Answer:** Clears your bowels.

KANGAROO THORN/ Family name: FABACEAE, Family name: ACACIA PARADOXA

Do you remember what this plant is used for? (Answer: Wart removal & protection: birds and intruders!)

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acacia_paradoxa



Additional resources

Kaurna Country traditional foods, medicines and remedies

catalystfoundation.com.au/wp-content/uploads/Catalyst-Foundation-Kaurna-Country-Traditional-Foods-Medicines-and-Remedies.pdf

MARKER 8 – Ngarla – (Nar-Lah) – HOME/ WARDLI

ACTIVITY: ALLYSHIP – Change Agent

Allyship is when someone takes action to support a group they are not part of. They develop strong ties to that group while remembering they are in a supportive role and advocate to support their needs.

DISCUSS:

- *How can someone become an ally?*
- *Where is your commitment to change, reconciliation and truth telling?*
- *How can you champion change: as an individual, group and with community?*

 Consider the steps you will take to educate yourself and support others in learning about Aboriginal culture.

MARKER 9 – Pauwa – (Pau-Wa) – Medicine

Find a eucalyptus leaf – fold it in half, smell the scent.

ACTIVITY: CELEBRATE COUNTRY – Movement

AIM: Celebrate on Country

TASK

At this final station, celebrate your new knowledge.

Sequence your 9 physical gestures, hold or repeat each gesture for the count of 4 (1, 2, 3, 4). Perform the sequence with music.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Create a poem to share your own connection to place and Country
- Create a commitment to Reconciliation statement: what can you do?
- Respond to the SA Curriculum and experience the walk “in and through” the 5 art forms: Visual Art, Music, Dance, Performing Arts & Media Arts
- Tell your friends, family, Teachers and school about the walk
- Send us photos of your time exploring the Karrawirra Parri Reconciliation Walk
- Did you try something different? Share your ideas, pictures or drawings with us.

Ngaityalya! / Thank you

Eliza Lovell

Community Arts Project Officer

elovell@campbelltown.sa.gov.au

March 2025