

Media Release
25th July 2019

Return of Kurna Old People - A Special Cultural Occasion- Reburial

Major Kurna traditional activity at Kingston Park on 1st August 2019

From Jeffrey Newchurch, Kurna Elder and Traditional Owner

For many years the ancestral remains of Aboriginal Kurna old people and neighbouring Nations were collected by museums and universities across the world for the purpose of scientific research.

There currently appears to be ancestral remains of over 800 Kurna old peoples held at the South Australian Museum's bulk store.

I have been working for many years on the return of Kurna old people and one day I hope all ancestral remains of the Kurna old people will be returned to Country.

The remains of eleven Kurna old people have been located and will be returned to Kurna land on 1 August 2019 at Kingston Park, south of Adelaide.

The remains of these Kurna old people were held in the United Kingdom and South Australian Institutions. The Federal Government has coordinated the return of these old people from overseas to Canberra.

About 25 Kurna people will collect and escort these old people from Canberra to Adelaide on 31 July 2019.

It is humbling to be able to lay to rest these Kurna old people to Country, as close as possible to the location from where they were originally taken.

The City of Holdfast Bay, the South Australian Museum, the South Australian Department of Premier and Cabinet, the City of Adelaide, the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management (NRM) Board and LendLease have sponsored the reburial of the old people at the Kingston Park.

The burial will be near the Tjilbruke Spring at Kingston Park-a sacred area for the Kurna people. I hope that the repatriation and reburial of our Kurna old people will continue strongly in future.

The official part of the reburial occasion will be at 10am on 1 August 2019.

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