

Aboriginal Culture and Heritage Preservation Forum



Date: Wednesday, 2 August 2017
Time: 9.00am - 3.30pm (Registration from 8.30am)
Venue: Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre, 21 Mounts Bay Road, Perth

ABOUT THE FORUM

Please join us for this fantastic opportunity to hear from organisations involved in the preservation of Aboriginal culture and heritage. The event will provide information to assist Local Governments to better engage with Aboriginal groups when planning and undertaking projects in their municipalities. Speakers for the day include representatives from WA's Aboriginal Land and Sea Councils, the Department of Aboriginal Affairs, the Western Australian Indigenous Tourism Operators Council, and the local governments of Perth, Swan and York. The event will include a morning tea and lunch break where attendees can meet and network with others in their field, and question sessions with all presenters.

PROGRAM

- 8.30am Registration
- 9.00am Welcome and Introduction**
Melanie Davies, Biodiversity and Sustainability Project Officer, WALGA
- 9.05am Welcome to Country**
Professor Len Collard, School of Indigenous Studies, UWA
- 9.20am Strengthening Noongar culture, heritage and society through engagement**
Wayne Nannup, Chief Executive Officer, SWALSC
- 9.45am Administration of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* as it relates to Local Government**
Cesar Rodriguez, Manager Heritage Projects, DPLH)
- 10.10am Purpose of Noongar Standard Heritage Agreements**
Peter Nettleton, Lawyer, SWALSC
- 10.35am Panel Question and Answer Session**
- 11.00am Morning tea
- 11.30am How representative bodies can facilitate meaningful partnerships**
*Ben Fordyce, Senior Heritage Advisor; and
Lawrence Hillary, Heritage Officer, YMAC*
- 12.00pm Retaining Aboriginal culture through tourism**
Robert Taylor, Chief Executive Officer, WAITOC



- 12.30pm** **The City of Swan Indigenous traineeship program: journey through the eyes of a trainee**
Michael Cook, Supervisor Bushland Maintenance and Indigenous Trainees; and Matthew Kickett, Indigenous trainee, City of Swan
- 1.00pm Lunch
- 1.45pm** **Engaging with Aboriginal groups in remote areas of Western Australia**
Trevor Donaldson, Native Title Cultural Project Manager, GLSC
- 2.15pm** **Development of cultural and historic awareness through interpretive projects**
Jenna Lynch, Cultural Heritage Officer - Activation, City of Perth; and Gina Pickering, Consultant, Latitude Creative Services
- 2.45pm** **Building long-term relationships through cultural projects: perspectives from a small regional shire**
Carol Littlefair, Arts and Cultural Heritage Officer, Shire of York
- 3.15pm** **Close of Event**

PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

Wayne Nannup, Chief Executive Officer, South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC), will discuss the key activities of SWALSC, the native title representative body for the Perth metropolitan area and south west region of Western Australia. SWALSC aim to strengthen Noongar culture, heritage and society by close engagement with Local Government Authorities and the wider community on a range of projects and initiatives. SWALSC has extensive experience in natural resource management projects through the Australian Government Caring for Country programs, and cooperate closely with catchment councils and community groups. Wayne will discuss how local governments can successfully engage with local Noongar groups, and provide case studies of positive collaborations.

Cesar Rodriguez, Manager Heritage Projects, Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH), will provide an overview of the key sections of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and how the Department administers the legislation. The presentation will include a discussion on the tools that are available to Local Government Authorities to facilitate decision making in situations where Aboriginal heritage needs to be considered, including for Registered Aboriginal Sites and other heritage sites.

Peter Nettleton, Lawyer, South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council (SWALSC) will discuss Noongar Standard Heritage Agreements (NSHA's), introduced in June 2015. State Government Departments are required to establish NSHA's with SWALSC to provide a uniform and efficient approach to heritage surveys on Noongar Lands, and streamline land approvals in compliance with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*. In the absence of Aboriginal Reference Groups, Local Government Authorities are also encouraged to consider using NSHA's in order to determine the presence of Aboriginal Heritage Sites, and therefore whether projects may require Noongar consultation and a Section 18 application under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*.



Ben Fordyce, Senior Heritage Advisor, and Lawrence Hillary, Heritage Officer, Yamatji Marlpa Aboriginal Corporation (YMAC) will discuss the importance of early engagement with Aboriginal Traditional Owners during project planning, and assistance available to Local Government Authorities. In many cases, proponents leave engagement with Aboriginal Traditional Owners until late in their planning, whereby the process of consultation becomes more of a 'tick the box' exercise than meaningful engagement. This can have a detrimental effect on long-term relationships between developers and Traditional Owners and lead to difficulties in future project approvals. As the native title representative body for the Pilbara, Murchison and Gascoyne regions, YMAC is well placed to assist in the facilitation of early engagement with Aboriginal Traditional Owners and can act as an intermediary between parties and when negotiating heritage agreements.

Robert Taylor, Chief Executive Officer, Western Australian Indigenous Tourism Operators Council (WAITOC), will discuss retaining Aboriginal culture through the Aboriginal Tourism Development Program. The Aboriginal tourism sector has been operating in Western Australia for a long time, with the strongest concentration of tourism businesses in the Kimberley region. These operators have found that tourism is a great way to keep culture thriving and for communities to keep their language and caring for country alive. Through tourism, Aboriginal people educate their own people, the wider community and national and international visitors. This form of tourism is invaluable in raising cultural awareness through getting out on country and gaining experience first-hand from a traditional owner, who have a unique connection to their own country. WAITOC is the only organisation of its kind in Australia, and Rob will share insights from the successful governance and mentoring system that has supported Aboriginal tourism ventures and encouraged both national and international investment.

Michael Cook, Supervisor Bushland Maintenance and Indigenous Trainees, City of Swan and Matthew Kickett, Indigenous trainee, City of Swan, will discuss the City of Swan Indigenous trainee programme. The program commenced in 2008 to build the skills and knowledge of local Aboriginal people interested in a career in horticulture and environmental conservation. Michael will discuss the origins and evolution of the program over time, and some of the highlights, challenges and learnings. Matthew will share his journey from before he started the program with the City of Swan, his experience as a trainee and his plans for the future.

Trevor Donaldson, Native Title Cultural Project Manager, Goldfields Land and Sea Council (GLSC) will discuss the key activities of GLSC, the native title representative body for lands that extend from Wiluna to Esperance. The region's Aboriginal people have a diversity of language and custom, and the rangers and elders at GLSC have unique knowledge, responsibilities and skillsets that add great value to land and natural resource management in the region. Trevor will provide information on how Local Government Authorities can effectively engage with Aboriginal people in these remote areas of the state to plan and deliver projects and services for their communities.

Jenna Lynch, Cultural Heritage Officer - Activation, City of Perth and Gina Pickering, Consultant, Latitude Creative Services will discuss the City of Perth's cultural heritage initiatives, focusing on a project that celebrates the life of a Noongar Elder woman: 'Fanny Balbuk Yooreel: realising a Perth resistance fighter'. Jenna will speak about the concept development and outcomes of the project in terms of stakeholder relationships, community engagement, and development of cultural and historic knowledge. She will also showcase how the city leveraged from the project to deliver interpretative materials for the



City's art and cultural heritage collections and through the engagement of local creatives. Gina will provide an overview of the Fanny Balbuk Yooreel project from its inception and her experience working with Noongar Elder women and other partners. Gina will focus on the role stakeholders played in the aims of the project and how this supported the 2017 Australian Heritage Festival (WA).

Carol Littlefair, Arts and Cultural Heritage Officer, Shire of York, will discuss how a small regional Shire's continual focus on Aboriginal culture and history has helped to build trust and develop long-term relationships with the Ballardong Noongar community in York. Projects include integrating Aboriginal cultural heritage at the Local History Museum, a Noongar Six Seasons garden, Indigenous Art workshops with the community and school students, and interpretive material on community infrastructure. Though small in themselves, collectively they have enabled ongoing relationships with key Aboriginal Elders and artists in the community. Carol will discuss how financial support has been provided through various State and Commonwealth government grants.