

Walking 20,000 Years: A Cultural Interpretive Pathways Planning Strategy



KINJARLING ALBANYSTORIES

Upcoming Forums

Forums to discuss potential tourism and community development projects related to the Kinjarling Albany Stories Project will be held as follows:

- **Noongar Community Forum** – 12.30 pm, Monday, 30 November at South Coast NRM, Mercer Road, Albany.
- **General Community Forum** – 8.00 PM Tuesday, 1 December at Co-op Building, WA Museum, Residency Rd., Albany.

Part 1 Tasks Completed for the Kinjarling Albany Stories Project

The Consultant Team (Dennis Williamson and Jeremy Hunt of Scenic Spectrums and Richard Hammond of Evolve Solutions) spent 7 days in Albany during the last week of August. This followed their initial reviews of background literature and mapping of cultural and natural features and stories related to the Kinjarling Albany Trail.

The project involved several community forums and discussion groups during the Consultant's visit. Noongar and Wadjela (non-Aboriginal) community members participated. Two formal meetings with the Steering Committee were also held.

Through these meetings, a wide range of significant stories were identified along with natural and cultural features that represent and enrich these stories.

The Consultants also conducted extensive field inventories and assessments of the trail and significant sites, resulting in the identification of 14 "Story Precincts" extending from the Kalgan River, through Albany and around the Harbours to Torndirrup National Park.

Following their initial visit to Albany, the Consultant Team prepared a comprehensive Background Report and a Progress Report during September.

Initial interpretive themes, stories and market products or business opportunities were identified. The consultants' analysis of this information led to the short-listing of six Story Precincts, which were further narrowed down to four by the Steering Committee (refer to bottom of opposite panel).



Vernice Gillies, Cultural Tourism Lecturer of Great Southern TAFE and Lynette Knapp (both of AHRGAC) inform the Steering Committee about the Noongar Fish Traps Site of Oyster Harbour and other Noongar sites and stories when the Consultants' visited to Albany during August.

A Whale World Interpretive Guide relates whale stories to many interested visitors from overseas and interstate.



Priority Story Precincts Identified

The Kalgan – King, Old Albany, Mount Melville and Quaranup-Frenchman's Bay Story Precincts have been selected by the Steering Committee for more detailed focus following the project's Part 1 analysis. The Consultants will prepare concept plans for three of the precincts and develop linkage strategies for all four.

Major Themes of the Short-Listed Story Precincts

1. Kalgan & King Rivers Precinct:

- Noongar Themes regarding fish traps, campsites, corroboree grounds, traditional regional migration trails, archaeological sites, etc.
- French exploration, including early/first contact with the Noongar and the explorer Baudin
- The early river transport of produce and goods, the historical fruit and dairy industries of the area, etc

2. Quaranup – Frenchman’s Bay Precinct:

- Pre-contact Noongar life
- First contact – Vancouver’s landing & Point Possession
- Shore-based whaling and whaling stations
- Whale Dreaming & Indigenous Connections with whales and other flora and fauna
- Marine & terrestrial flora & fauna interpretation

3. Old Albany Precinct:

- Noongar life before European settlement and Mokare’s story
- Dependence on the maritime environment and maritime trade
- Strategic military importance & establishment as an Australian defence post

4. Mount Melville Precinct:

- Noongar Creation stories, Dreaming and life pre- and post-contact
- Noongar and contemporary interpretations of indigenous flora and fauna
- Implementation of aspects of the Mounts Management Plan (2006)

Part 2 Begins – Consultants Visit during 1st Week of December

Part 2 of the project has now commenced. Dennis Williamson and Peter Backshall will visit Albany for three days from 30 November to 2 December to work with the community and the Steering Committee. Their aim during this phase of work is to further scope and develop concepts and options for four potential high quality tourism development projects.

The focus of Part 2 will largely be on finding viable business and marketing opportunities to support the Trail. Preliminary concept plans, content, existing models and potential funding for short-listed products, sites and precincts will be presented and discussed.

The consultants will also conduct field reviews of trail routes, infrastructure and interpretation opportunities within the priority precincts.

Do You Have More Stories, History, Old Photos or Development Ideas?

You may have useful information or materials you could contribute to the project relating to the four short-listed precincts. Or you may have good tourism or business development product ideas. If so, please join us at the community forums (see page 1) or contact Dennis Williamson of Scenic Spectrums (contact below).

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