Belmont Museum
Aboriginal Liaison Update

Local History Curator
Key Action 155: Engage with the Aboriginal community to capture valuable local history knowledge of the City.

**Methodology Considerations:**
Local History Curator will liaise with the Aboriginal Liaison Officer to determine Aboriginal Elders for inclusion in the Oral History Project.

**Measure of Success:**
Consultation with local Aboriginal communities will be undertaken.

**Target:**
Annual discussions with Aboriginal community during NAIDOC week celebrations.
Engaging with City of Belmont Stakeholders

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<th>The Jacaranda Centre</th>
<th>Perth Airport</th>
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<td>▪ A not for profit, grass roots community organisation serving the community since 2000.</td>
<td>▪ Supports NAIDOC Week celebrations and provides cultural awareness talks to children.</td>
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<td>▪ Services provided for people living in the City of Belmont with 80% being Aboriginal and Aboriginal people from the wider metropolitan area.</td>
<td>▪ Sponsors a Scholarship Program supported by Edith Cowan University.</td>
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<td>▪ The Local History Curator has had several discussions with Lyndsey Fitzgerald, CEO at the Jacaranda Community Centre.</td>
<td>▪ The Local History Curator is in continued discussions with Kobi Bradshaw, Senior Environment and Aboriginal Engagement Advisor at Perth Airport.</td>
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<td>▪ Lyndsey has been actively promoting the Oral History Program on behalf of Belmont Museum.</td>
<td>▪ The Oral History Program is a priority both for the City of Belmont and the Perth Airport.</td>
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Liaising with the Museum and Heritage Community

- Museums Australia (WA)
- WA Museum (Perth and Fremantle)
- Battye Library
- South West Aboriginal Land & Sea Council
The Local History Curator met with Denise Cook, Researcher and PhD Candidate at the South West Aboriginal Land & Sea Council, based at Murdoch University.

- Statistics on Aboriginal populations in the Belmont area from the 1920s onwards.

- Oral Histories referring to the City of Belmont area.

- Lands & Surveys Department maps of the area outlining Aboriginal names in the City of Belmont.

- Battye Library has advised that these place names were probably recorded by Daisy Bates over 100 years ago. The Whadjuk Noongar word for Belmont was also discovered - Goorgyp.
Established in 1976, the Berndt Museum holds one of Australia's most important collections of Aboriginal art, cultural materials, photographs and sound recordings.

In July 2012 the Local History Curator met with Eve Chaloupka, Assistant Curator and Professor John Stanton to assess the significance of several items in the Belmont Museum collection.

In May 2014 the Local History Curator and Museum Clerk met with Barbara Bynder, Deputy Curatorial Director, to view the Allawah Grove collection and discuss options for future collaboration on exhibitions.
Allawah Grove Stories
1958-1969

- A settlement on Kalamunda Road in South Guildford, on the border of the Perth Airport.

- Given the location of the Allawah Grove settlement, a joint research project and touring exhibition might be appropriate to tell these stories. Neighbouring areas such as Bassendean, Maylands, Midland and Guildford, which have been mentioned in Allawah Grove literature, would be ideal co-partners.

- The Local History Curator is conducting research to establish if there is enough interest in such a joint project, and if grant funding would be available to develop it. A grant could allow us to employ an Aboriginal researcher to help us collect and preserve these local stories.
NAIDOC Celebrations at Belmont Museum

Several activities were planned to be held at the Belmont Museum, in consultation with the Aboriginal Reference Committee (ARC) and the NAIDOC working group. These activities were moved due to inclement weather.

The Museum’s NAIDOC celebrations continued as planned:

- An exhibition of maps showing Noongar words for areas around Belmont.
- A Kids’ Zone where kids were invited to colour in and display their pictures on the wall.
- Beanbags and Aboriginal story books for all ages.
- Free copies of “On the Outskirts: Photographs of Allawah Grove Aboriginal Settlement, Perth” were made freely available to the public.
Thank you! 😊

Any Questions or Comments?