

MEDIA RELEASE

Our Ref: T15:0032

28 May 2015

Attention: News Editor

New view of old story

Noongar people in Albany celebrated a new way to tell an old story when the Oyster Harbour Fish Traps project was officially opened on Thursday 28 May.

The historic fish traps site now boasts a cultural shelter, a boardwalk and interpretive signs that lay out the story of Aboriginal connection to the area.

Enhancing the fish traps site was a \$170,000 project of the Albany Heritage Reference Group Aboriginal Corporation (AHRGAC), which gained \$100,000 in State Government Royalties for Regions funding through the Great Southern Development Commission (GSDC).

GSDC Chairman Peter Rundle said the Oyster Harbour site was important in Noongar culture and in the Great Southern's early history.

Mr Rundle said the Menang group of Noongar people had probably used the site for thousands of years, and the fish traps were noted by explorer George Vancouver in 1791.

"The fish traps site is an iconic location and the GSDC is pleased to have supported a project that ensures that its importance will be more widely known and better understood," Mr Rundle said.

"Projects like this are part of the way that the GSDC builds the social and economic wellbeing of the Great Southern.

"Aboriginal culture is accorded due respect, tourism will benefit, and the project links to proposals for other locations that can be connected in a cultural trail.

"It's also great to see the contribution of local students to the design of the interpretive panels," Mr Rundle said.

The Oyster Harbour Fish Traps was one of the first sites declared a protected area under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972.

It comprises low stone structures on the harbour floor that were used to trap fish that swam in on the high tide and were unable to escape when the tide fell.



Building partnerships for regional prosperity

Albany Pyrmont House, 110 Serpentine Road, PO Box 280, Albany WA 6331. Phone: (08) 9842 4888 Fax: (08) 9842 4828 Email: gfdc@gfdc.wa.gov.au

Katanning 10 Dore Street, PO Box 729, Katanning WA 6317. Phone: (08) 9821 3210 Fax: (08) 9821 3334 Email: katanning@gfdc.wa.gov.au

Web: www.gfdc.wa.gov.au



The National Trust gave the fish traps back to the Noongar people through the AHRGAC in a ceremony in 2009.

Augmenting the GSDC's funding, the Oyster Harbour Fish Traps project was supported by Lotterywest, Department of Aboriginal Affairs (DAA), WA Museum, South Coast NRM and the City of Albany.

Media contact: Bruce Manning, ph. 9842 4888



Building partnerships for regional prosperity

Albany Pyrmont House, 110 Serpentine Road, PO Box 280, Albany WA 6331. Phone: (08) 9842 4888 Fax: (08) 9842 4828 Email: gfdc@gsdc.wa.gov.au

Katanning 10 Dore Street, PO Box 729, Katanning WA 6317. Phone: (08) 9821 3210 Fax: (08) 9821 3334 Email: katanning@gsdc.wa.gov.au

Web: www.gfdc.wa.gov.au