

MEDIA RELEASE

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Attention: News Editor

Noongar stories on the record

Noongar elders with connections to Gnowangerup are set to relate their experiences for a video record of Aboriginal life in the area.

With support from the GSDC, the Gnowangerup Aboriginal Corporation and the Gnowangerup Community Resource Centre successfully applied to be part of an Indigenous Community Stories Program delivered through the Film and Television Institute and ScreenWest.

Noongar elders will tell the stories of their life at the mission near Gnowangerup and the transition to the town reserve in the 1960s, including their relationships with townspeople, farmers and other Noongar people.

Elders from Perth, Albany, Gnowangerup and Katanning have expressed interest in taking part, all of whom have family connections to the Gnowangerup area.

Gnowangerup Aboriginal Corporation Chairperson Robbie Minter said the stories would be particularly important for young Noongar people who were at risk of losing their cultural connections.

“Without these sort of programs, our kids are going to lose their identities,” Mr Minter said.

“When I grew up, I was fortunate enough to have stories handed down to me.

“This program will give kids the opportunity to take something from the elders of today and have that available for the next hundred years.”

GSDC Chairman Peter Rundle said the resulting video would be a valuable record.

“These personal histories will become a feature at the Gnowangerup Heritage Centre,” Mr Rundle said.

“I am sure they will be a compelling part of the displays at the centre, which aims to deepen communication and understanding about Noongar heritage.”

The GSDC supported the recently-completed refurbishment of the Gnowangerup Heritage Centre.



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



Filming of the elders' stories will take place over four to five days in October at sites in and around Gnowangerup including the Gnowangerup Mission, the two reserves, Twisted Tree and Kebaringup worker hut.

Media contact: Bruce Manning



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