

About the plants

The plants chosen for this exposed, north-west facing site grow well because they are 'at home', that is, they are native plants of the Adelaide Plains. The ground covers, grasses and sedges, small shrubs and trees create a habitat for small birds and include some of the food and fibres well known to Kurna and other Aboriginal families.



About the garden layout

Two specially-commissioned metal screens mark the entrance, each depicting plants native to the Adelaide Plains: she-oak (karku marngu), eucalyptus, quandong, knobby club rush, paper daisies, kangaroo grass and wattle. The traditional depiction of 'meeting place' in the left-hand screen is echoed in the circular paved area in the middle of the path which, in turn, recalls a track across the land.



Acknowledgements

Inspiration: Helen Munro, Toby Brown, Michelle Noronha, Kurna Warra Karrpanthi (KWK), Rev Dr Amelia Koh-Butler, Ms Margaret Brodie, Mr Jack Buckskin, Aunty Georgina Williams, Aunty Mona Olsson, Kevin Coleman, South Australian Museum

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Screen Artists: Joy Furnell, Cathy Brooks

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Contractors: Ground Landscaping, Regional Profile Cutters, Morgan's Cranes, Basket Range Quarry, Adelaide Electric, Advanced Trees, Mt Barker Steel, Signs Inc.

Design: Dreamtime Creative

Garden Maintenance: Madelena Lino

Project Coordinator: Margaret Gunn

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Enfield Uniting Church

Background

In 1854, the founding benefactors of this church included well-to-do colonists able to 'pay a sufficient price' for land to the South Australian Company.¹ While Mr Richard Haines 'kindly presented' land for the church, another, Mr Charles Folland, took up extensive holdings in North Adelaide, Walkerville and Enfield. His family was reportedly 'troubled by the aborigines' and he was 'speared in the leg.'² This is only a hint of the violent process of dispossession experienced by the Kurna people across the Adelaide Plains after 1836. Their story – and that of Australia's First Peoples – was not readily acknowledged for many generations.

In 2015, people of this church community began to ask: 'What do we mean when we acknowledge that this is the land of the Kurna People?' Relationships were growing between the people of the church community and local people with Aboriginal heritage – Kurna, Ngarrindjeri, Narugga, Peramangk – and other language groups across Australia.

We took our lead from the Uniting Church Assembly which had recognised the First Peoples of Australia in its Constitution in 1994. We began to listen and learn about contemporary national issues: constitutional recognition, the Uluru Statement, sovereignty, treaty. We held a community forum and art exhibition. Then someone asked: 'What next?' and the idea of 'Building a Garden – acknowledging Kurna land' emerged.

The project has transformed a 'derelict'³ place into a public thoroughfare, a neglected block into a place of respect and a hostile site into an oasis.

Horticultural students from Tauondi Indigenous College, leaders of the Kurna community including Kurna Warra Karrpanthi (KWK) and the United Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC) are among the many who have joined with Second Peoples in making this garden an expression of 'Maltunthi – Bring Close Together'.

¹ pir.sa.gov.au

² S. Hartley 1979 'Our Church at Enfield' p.15

³ comment by a member of the public



*In my skin, I live, I am.
In my culture, I breathe, I connect.
In my Spirit, I feel, I dream.
In my beliefs, I am strong.
I rise.'*

Margaret Brodie Kurna Senior

This garden honours the Kurna people of the Adelaide Plains who have cared for this land since time began.

Under white settlement, their land was stolen and their people scattered.

Today, the people of Enfield Uniting Church thank them, and other First and Second Peoples, for participating with us in restoring this garden and building new relationships.

God calls us to share our future together – built on respect, equality, trust and love.



'Maltunthi – Bring Close Together' is the name offered for this garden by the Kurna Warra Karrpanthi (KWK), the Association promoting the learning of Kurna language.



The logo for 'Maltunthi – Bring Close Together' was inspired by this wooden shield – one of only 45 Kurna artefacts held by the South Australian Museum (Item A31198). Their records show: 'South Australia, Enfield; half a mile from the Windmill Hotel. Found (1942) when digging an air raid trench at a depth of 4 feet'. (An air-raid shelter at Prospect Oval was constructed in 1942.)

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Before



After (August 2018)

