



Wainiellup Restoration Project

(Walcliffe, Margaret River)

Report



- ◆ This project is a community-led heritage site restoration and management project.
- ◆ Wainiellup is known as “the Dying Place” to Wadandi. It is a sacred place, related to an ancestor’s story. It is also one of our burial grounds.





Impacts

- ◆ This place has been desecrated by inappropriate recreational use.
- ◆ Tour operator has been using this place to explain aspects of our heritage that is not accurate or sanctioned by Elders. This is cultural appropriation.
- ◆ Visitors have been stripping bark and disturbing a range of cultural plant systems that is causing instability to this fragile riparian zone.
- ◆ Climbers had been using the place for recreation, in and around our burial chambers in the limestone cave.
- ◆ Weeds are causing issues across this sacred place.
- ◆ Un-managed use is causing riverbank erosion and instability; impacting wildlife habitats, including fish refuges within the reed and roots systems.
- ◆ Rubbish, urine and noise are causing unrest to the Spirits that reside here.





Project Planning

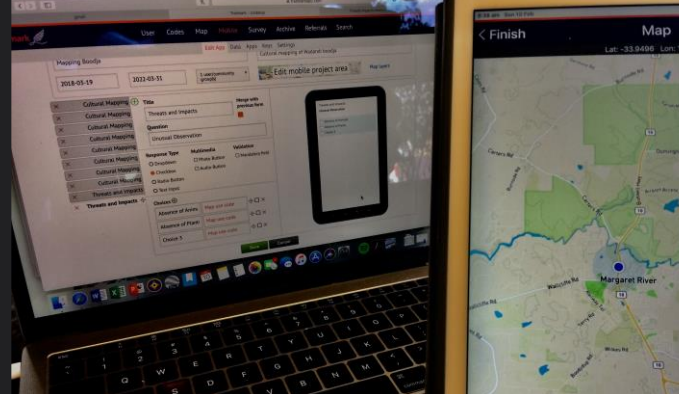
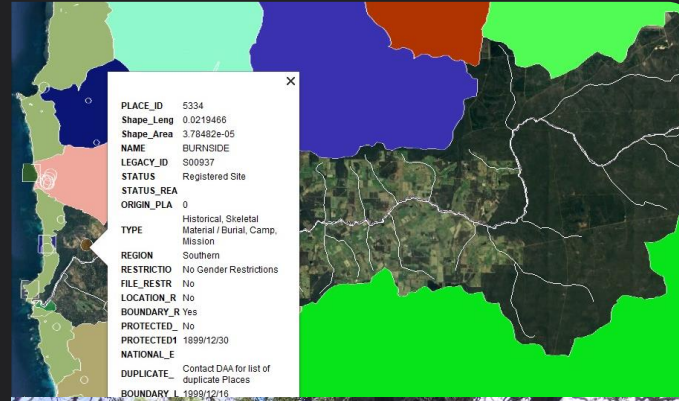


- ◆ A team of Custodians, facilitators, archaeologists and land care specialists carried out On-Country field trips to assess the area and develop a restoration plan.
- ◆ The team recorded impacts in the field and set up a monitoring database using the Undalup custom-designed field recording APP and interactive map.
- ◆ This system records threats such as weeds (Apple Sodom – bottom left), erosion, vandalism, while also recording cultural values and management actions.



Interactive Database and Map

- ◆ With our partners, we have developed a database of our cultural knowledge systems and places.
- ◆ We record our information on a custom-designed APP.
- ◆ This information integrates with archival and heritage databases.
- ◆ The information is organized under themes and categories.
- ◆ We can then search and analyse our data, carry out monitoring and cultural research.



Riverbank Stabilisation

- ◆ Biodegradable matting was used to protect eroded terraces and help with natural revegetation processes.
- ◆ Temporary signage was erected to keep kayakers and other visitors from using the area while under restoration.
- ◆ Black plastic matting was set up in selected areas to monitor the effectiveness of controlling invasive grasses that are choking out native vegetation.



Weed Control

- ◆ The team carried out a weed survey for long-term management actions.
- ◆ This survey identified urgent weed control actions that could take place with help from community volunteers and schools (see below).
- ◆ For example, an outbreak of Apple Sodom (a declared invasive weed) was mapped and observed to be nearing fruiting. Urgent control actions were required and this was reported to the Shire.







Empowering Youth

- ◆ The team coordinated field trips with youth from various schools, including several participants enrolled in the *Follow The Dream* program.
- ◆ This involved a group kayak to the site, collective weed control actions, additional stabilisation matting, signage, and brushing.
- ◆ At the same time, the youth learned about Wadandi cultural protocols, connections, history and heritage.



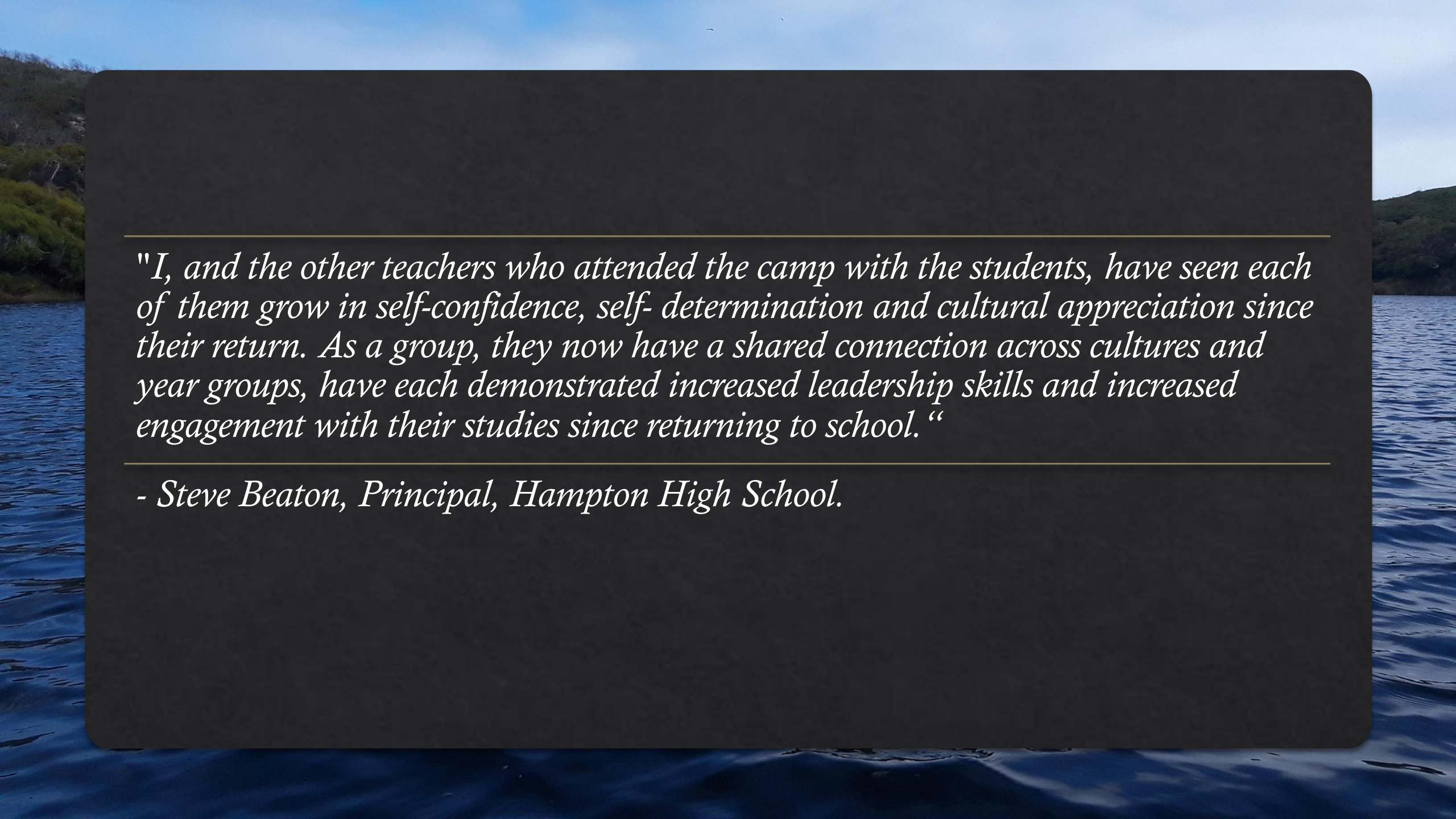




Impact

- ◆ This project is a case study in the importance of projects that are developed and implemented under cultural leadership, while empowering youth by connecting them to culture, heritage and caring for boodja.
- ◆ The impact of the youth from these experiences is summarized by the Principal of Hampton High School:



The background of the slide is a photograph of a calm body of water, likely a lake or a wide river, with gentle ripples on its surface. In the distance, there are rolling hills or mountains under a clear, light blue sky. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic.

"I, and the other teachers who attended the camp with the students, have seen each of them grow in self-confidence, self-determination and cultural appreciation since their return. As a group, they now have a shared connection across cultures and year groups, have each demonstrated increased leadership skills and increased engagement with their studies since returning to school. "

- Steve Beaton, Principal, Hampton High School.



Revegetation

- ◆ The team developed a revegetation plan based on Wadandi Knowledge Systems and in collaboration with the Geographe Community Landcare Nursery.
- ◆ A species list was developed and a revegetation zone map was developed.
- ◆ An order for seedlings has been placed and revegetation work will take place at the right season (Djeran – May/June).





Fencing

- ◆ To protect the sacred burial chambers in the limestone cliffs, an area is planned to be fenced with wooden posts as part of a larger collaborative undertaking endorsed by the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River.
- ◆ The team have organized the design and materials and are working with the local prison to engage the construction and installation of the fencing.





Signage

Installing signs provided by DPLH



Government of Western Australia
Department of Indigenous Affairs

REGISTERED ABORIGINAL SITE

You are on or near an Aboriginal Site

Please respect the importance and significance of this site to Aboriginal people and to the cultural heritage of Western Australia.

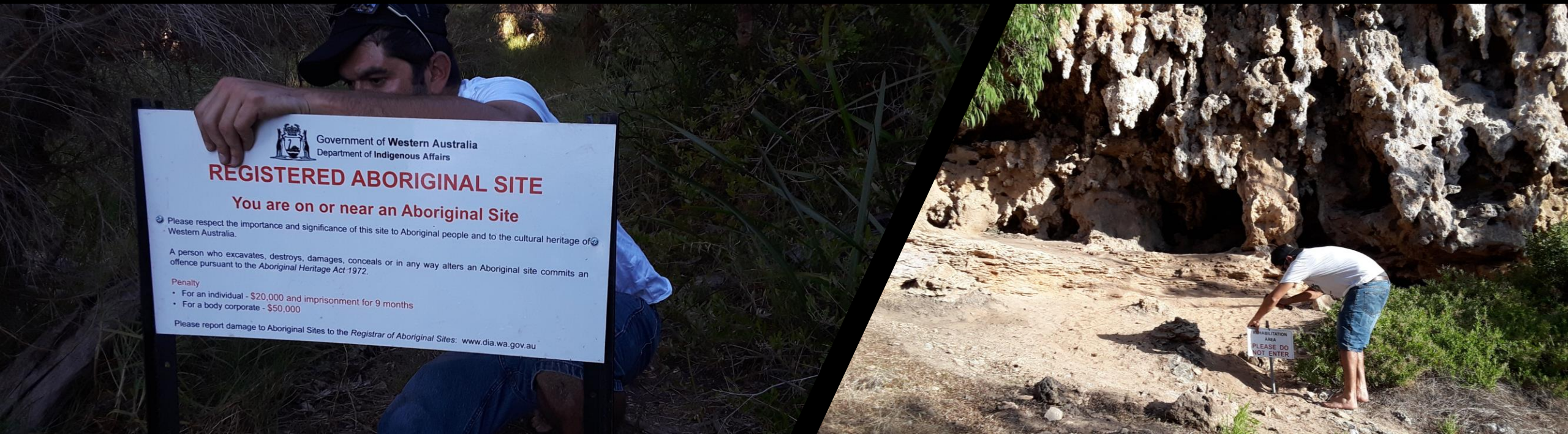
A person who excavates, destroys, damages, conceals or in any way alters an Aboriginal site commits an offence pursuant to the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972.

Penalty

- For an individual - \$20,000 and imprisonment for 9 months
- For a body corporate - \$50,000

Please report damage to Aboriginal Sites to the Registrar of Aboriginal Sites: www.dia.wa.gov.au







Long-term Monitoring

- ◆ The team are now working with the Shire to develop long-term monitoring and management program.
- ◆ This requires ongoing support under a cultural leadership model, and integrating with broader cultural planning, environmental management, and social enterprises such as the Wadandi Cultural Ranger program.



