

AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY IN KAURNA LANGUAGE



A message from Eva Wilson, our Aboriginal Education Coordinator at the South Australian Museum

Naa Marni, ngadlu tampintheta ngadlu Kurna yartangka tikantheta, ngai narri, Eva Waryu Wilson, ngai wangkantheta marni naa pudni. Ngaityalya

Direct translation:

Hello everyone, all of us acknowledge that we all live on Kurna land, my name is Eva, second born female, Wilson, I'm saying it is good you all came. Thank you

I use the Kurna language out of respect for the Kurna people, I acknowledge the Kurna people as the traditional owners of the lands in which the South Australian Museum resides. It is also important to acknowledge every Aboriginal language group represented in the Australian Aboriginal Cultures Gallery. I acknowledge and pay respect to the culture, heritage, spirituality and contribution of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people past and present, the ancestors, our current leaders and our future leaders. I acknowledge my ancestors, the Mirning people of the Great Australian Bight and the Nullarbor Plains, on the maternal side of my family.

Niina Marni: Hello, are you good? (one person)
Niwa Marni: Hello are you good? (two people)
Naa Marni: Hello are you good? (Greeting more)

I'm often asked about the difference between Welcome to Country and Acknowledgement of Country so here is a quick guide.

Welcome to Country

A Welcome to Country ceremony – which may be a short-spoken statement or something more involved with traditional singing, dancing or a smoking ceremony – performed by an Aboriginal Elder, Traditional Owner or Custodian welcomes visitors to their traditional country. It is an essential cultural practice dating back many thousands of years.

Acknowledgement of Country

Acknowledgement of Country is where the host of an event, such as a meeting or gathering, acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which the event is being held. The Acknowledgement of Country can be delivered by a non-Aboriginal person, or an Aboriginal person, like me, who is not from that nation and can be formal or informal.

An Acknowledgement of Country can be a short statement or can be personalised to make it relevant to your own experience or the context of the gathering or event. You can use less or more Kurna language but it's preferable to ensure you at least say 'Hello' in Kurna. Have a go – it will always be appreciated!

To get you started on pronunciation and phonetics of the Kurna Language please visit :

Kurna Warra Pintyanthi



QR code for Kurna Introductions



QR code for Kurna Common Expressions

You can teach the response:

Marniai: I'm good
Ngai Narri: My name is (Eva Wilson)
Nakutha: See you later
Ngaityaya: Thank you



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