

External assessment 2023

Stimulus book

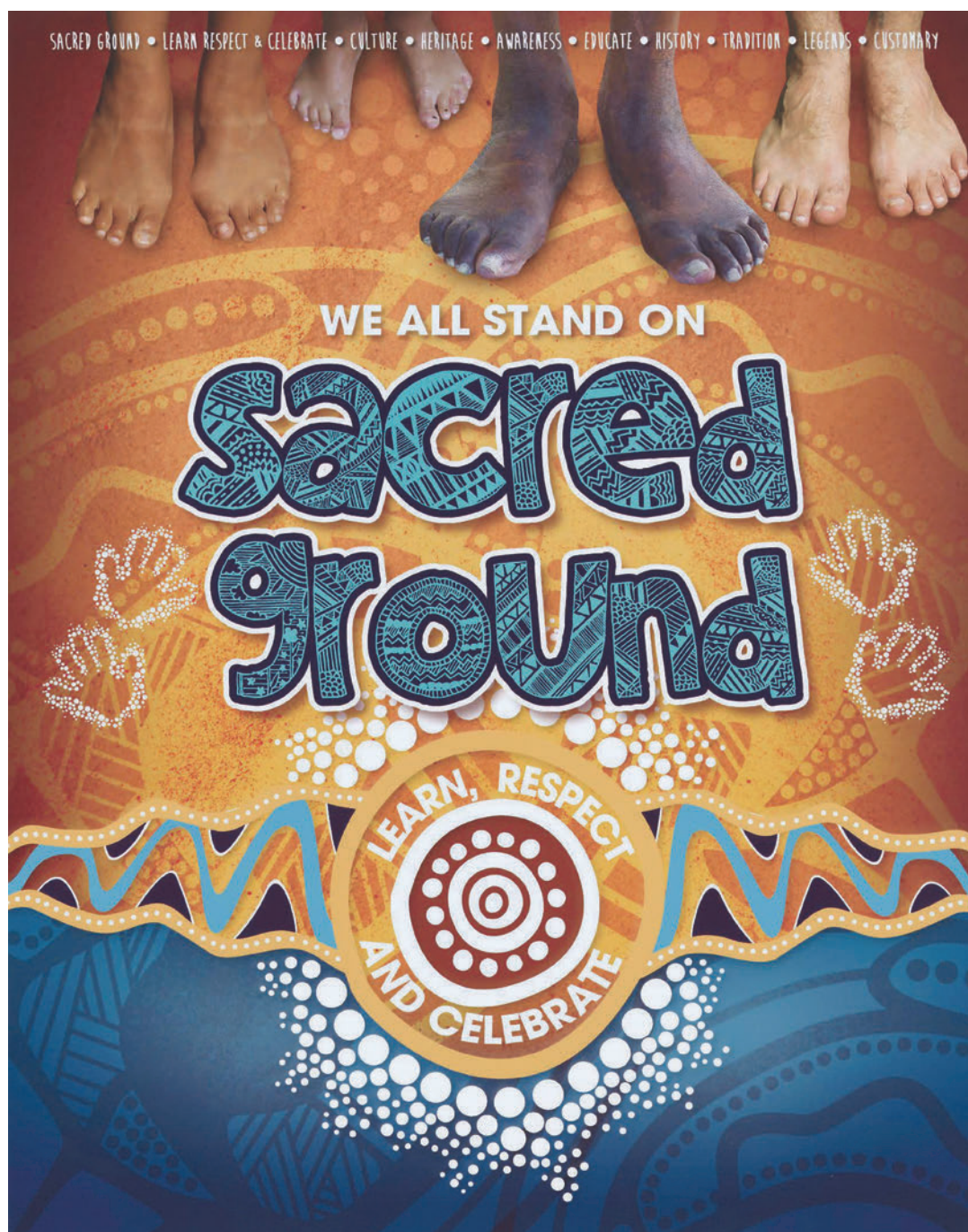
Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Studies

General instruction

- Work in this book will not be marked.

Source 1

2015 National NAIDOC Week poster *Our Steps of Respect* by Elaine Chambers, a proud Kuku Yalangi/Koa woman



Artist's statement:

'My artwork is a combination of my photography, drawings, and graphic design work — representing the ages and colours of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and their strong spiritual and cultural connection to the land and the sea. The feet represent the different people, from elders to the young and stories our elders shared of the significant sites and sacred places, and how all Australians should take the time to learn about our history and stories.'

Source 2

Excerpt from *Welcome to Country* by Marcia Langton, 2019

Professor Marcia Langton AO, an anthropologist, geographer and academic, is a descendant of the Yiman and Bidjara nations of Queensland. Since 2000 she has held the Foundation Chair of Australian Indigenous Studies at the University of Melbourne.

NAIDOC Week, Australia's annual celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and cultures, is held in the first week of July every year. It is a way to make sure that we never return to the dark days of the Australian colonies, when the efforts to wipe out our peoples almost succeeded.

...

These celebrations are organised by Indigenous Australians and reflect those issues that matter the most to us: cultural survival, wellbeing, our political rights, our languages and our children.

Source 3

Excerpt from an article by Ella Archibald-Binge, a Kamilaroi woman, 2018

New human rights legislation has been tabled in Queensland's parliament after years of lobbying.

...

Human rights advocate [Gubbi Gubbi and Butchulla man] Les Malezer told NITV News the new laws were a step in the right direction.

'For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, ever since there was formation of governance in Queensland and the federation of Australian parliament, we've been in need of human rights legislation in Queensland,' he said.

'I think this is a wonderful milestone with this bill¹ going in, and I hope the momentum continues in the right direction.'

...

Queensland is the third state to move to enshrine a Human Rights Bill, following Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory.

¹ when passed into law, the Bill became the Queensland *Human Rights Act 2019*

Source 4

Excerpt from Queensland's *Human Rights Act 2019*

Preamble

6. Although human rights belong to all individuals, human rights have a special importance for the Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples of Queensland, as Australia's first people, with their distinctive and diverse spiritual, material and economic relationship with the lands, territories, waters, coastal seas and other resources with which they have a connection under Aboriginal tradition and Ailan Kastom.²

...

Section 2.28 Cultural rights — Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples

1. Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples hold distinct cultural rights.
2. Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples must not be denied the right, with other members of their community —
 - a) to enjoy, maintain, control, protect and develop their identity and cultural heritage, including their traditional knowledge, distinctive spiritual practices, observances, beliefs and teachings; and
 - b) to enjoy, maintain, control, protect, develop and use their language, including traditional cultural expressions; and
 - c) to enjoy, maintain, control, protect and develop their kinship ties; and
 - d) to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual, material and economic relationship with the land, territories, waters, coastal seas and other resources with which they have a connection under Aboriginal tradition or Island custom; and
 - e) to conserve and protect the environment and productive capacity of their land, territories, waters, coastal seas and other resources.
3. Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples have the right not to be subjected to forced assimilation or destruction of their culture.

² the body of customs, traditions, observances and beliefs of some or all Torres Strait Islander peoples

Source 5

Excerpt from an online article, 2019

This stimulus has been redacted for copyright reasons

Source 6

Institutions approached by the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) as part of its Return of Cultural Heritage (RoCH) project, 2020

100 000 + Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander objects have been identified in:

199 + overseas collecting institutions with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage collections



124
institutions

Shared
information
about their
collections

73
institutions

Eager to
establish
a relationship

45
institutions

Expressed
an interest
to return

Source 7

Excerpt from a journal article by Dr Rhett Loban, 2022

Dr Loban is the creator of Torres Strait Virtual Reality (TSVR), a virtual reality experience that uses the Tombstone Opening ceremony⁶ as the basis for its storyline. Loban is a Torres Strait Islander person with family links tracing back to Mabuiag Island and Boigu Island.

Factoring cultural understanding into the development of games is important as in the past there has been a trend of often misleading or offensive cultural depictions of non-western cultures in some games.

...

Community engagement and the Indigenous Elder involved in TSVR helped drive the direction and content of the project ... The author of TSVR sought input, guidance and permissions from an Indigenous Elder, the community and his family. Having a Torres Strait person as the project lead and developer influenced the Indigenous focus and the cultural-centred approach.

...

A stream of continuous and iterative input from the Torres Strait Elder and Indigenous community helped refine and reconfirm the value and authenticity of the knowledge reflected in the game. Feedback from non-Indigenous students helped reconfirm the uniqueness and importance of the knowledge in the game which may have been previously unknown to them.

...

Engagement and approval of the game's content from the Indigenous Elder and community helped fulfil cultural protocol and improved the cultural authenticity of the game.

⁶ a significant and emotional tradition, usually performed one year after the loss of a loved one. During the ceremony a headstone representing the memory of a loved one is 'Opened' or 'unveiled'. It marks the end of the mourning period and involves many days of preparation, lasts a whole day, includes the whole family, and ends with feasting and traditional dancing

Source 8

Excerpt from an article from CSIRO, 2019

Rhett believes for his generation, and those after him, there needs to be a shift to a digital mindset. As a result, new ways of learning and teaching visually and experientially will come about.

...

Teachers at the University of New South Wales used TSVR [Torres Strait Virtual Reality] as teaching material for several different courses. They used it to engage both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students to share the perspective and knowledge of Torres Strait Islander peoples, and to encourage an understanding of cultural diversity.

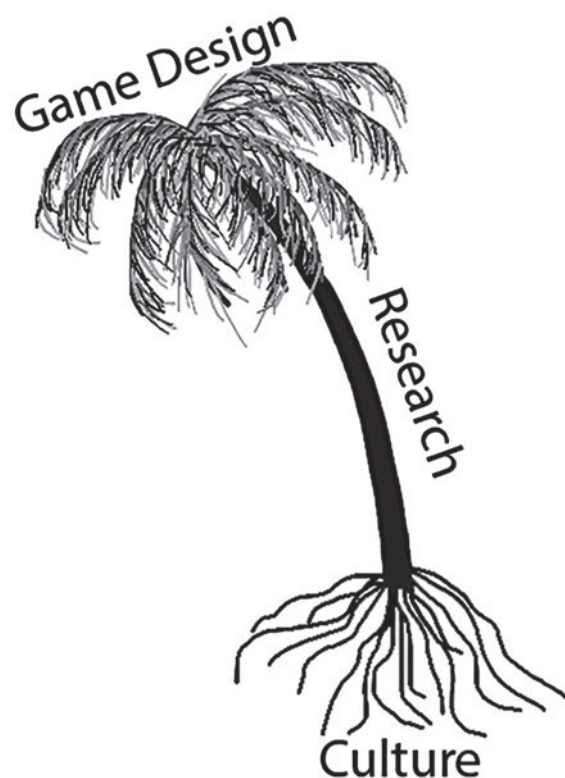
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To build TSVR, a Torres Strait Islander concept called the cultural tree guided Rhett. The tree signifies the shifting and transformative nature of culture. In this concept, the roots symbolise deeply bedded traditions and history. Conversely, the new growing branches represent new expressions of these traditions and history. For example, new takes on Torres Strait art, music and other forms of cultural practice.

Source 9

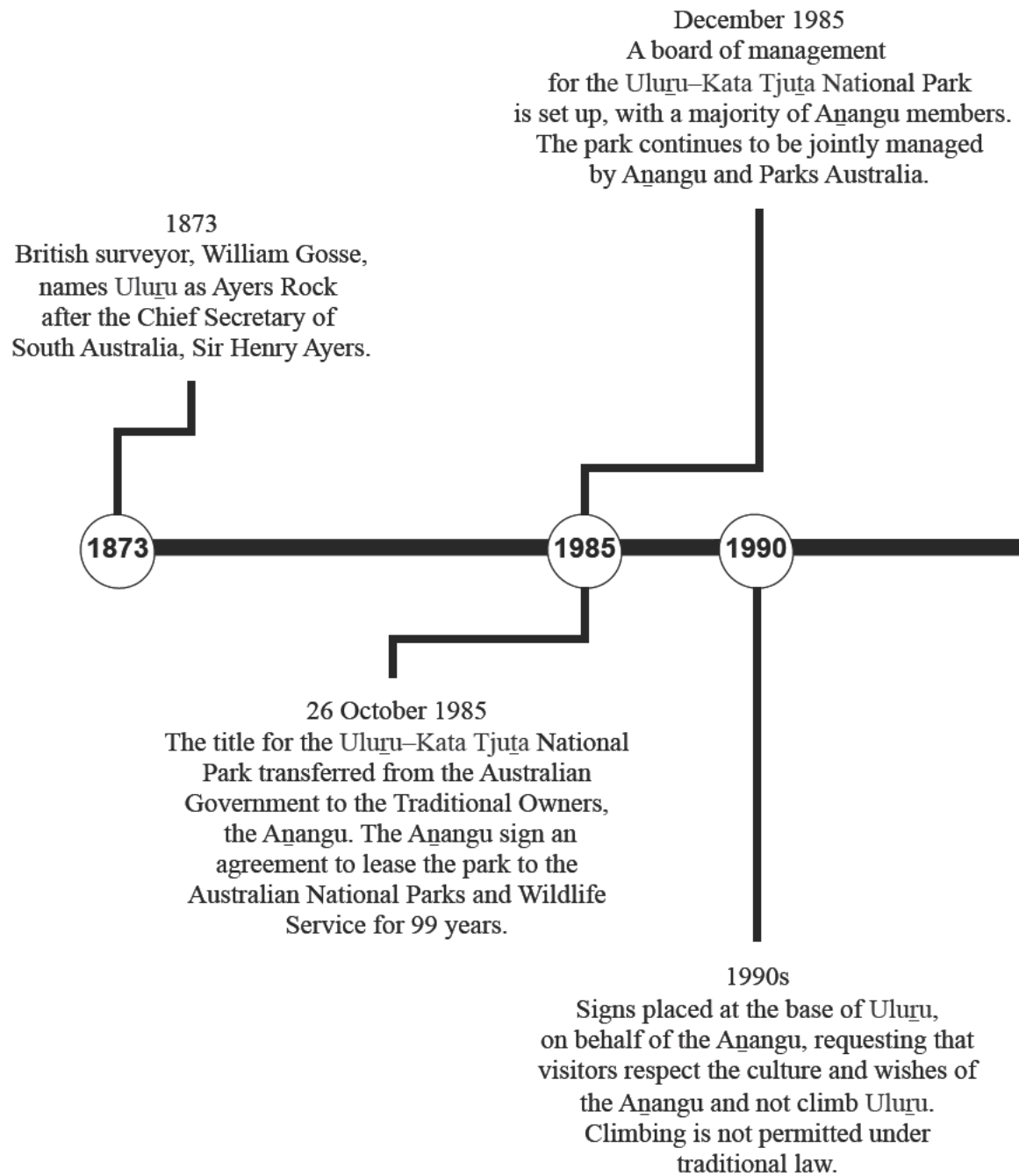
Torres Strait Cultural Tree, 2022

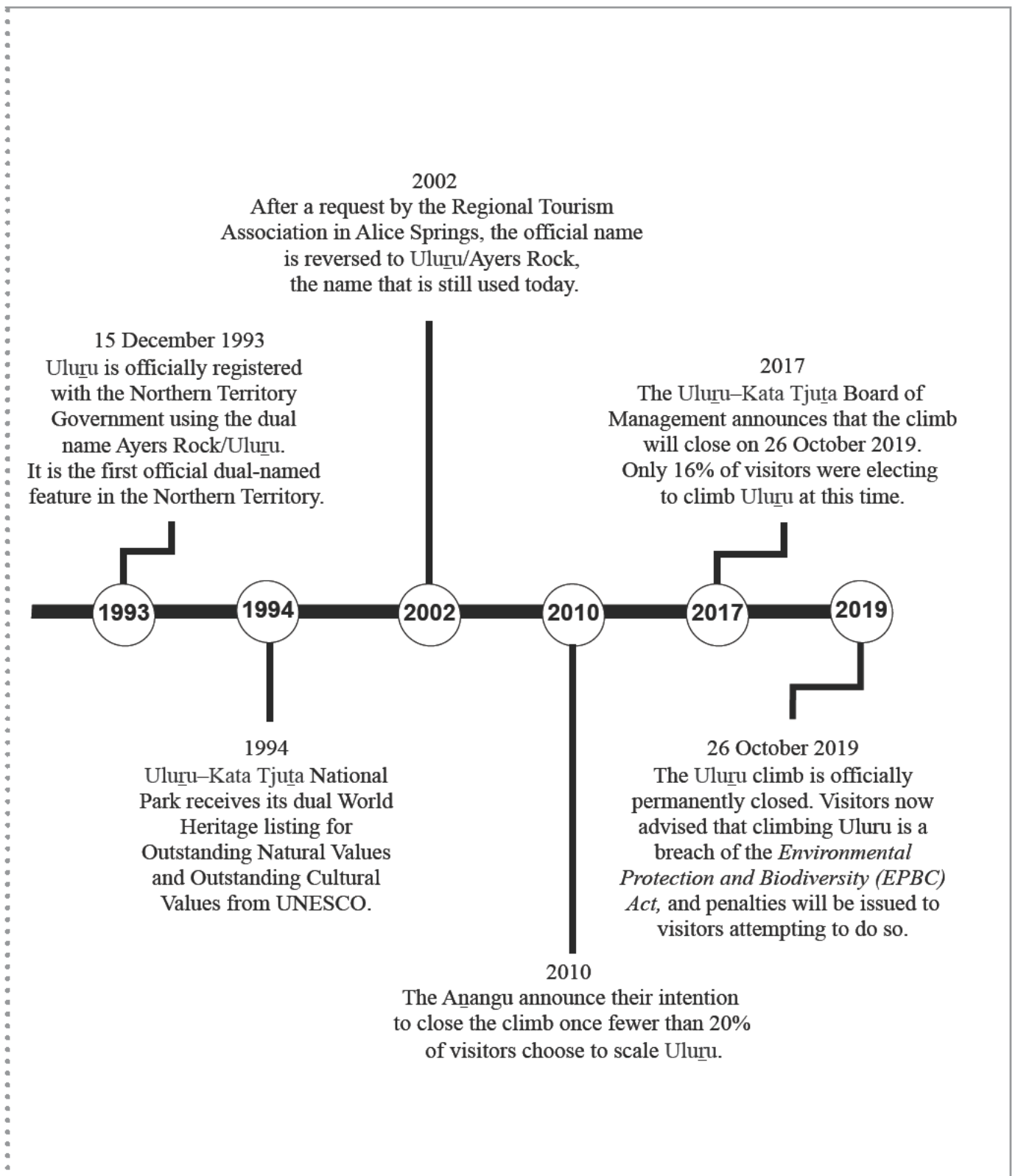
In his journal article about Torres Strait Virtual Reality, Dr Rhett Loban reimagined the Torres Strait Cultural Tree as a representation of the intersection between culture, game design and research.



Source 10

Timeline relating to the closure of the Uluru climb





Source 11

Excerpt from the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for Uluru–Kata Tjuta National Park, World Heritage Committee, UNESCO

This statement features quotes from two Anangu elders in Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara language.

-
- 5 the foundation of Anangu life and society; the creation period when ancestral beings created the world. Provides answers to important questions and rules for behaviour and for living together

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References

Source 1

NAIDOC 2015 Poster ‘Our Steps of Respect’ © Elaine Chambers, licensed to the Commonwealth as represented by the National Indigenous Australians Agency available for non-commercial purposes under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 licence (CC BY-NC-ND 3.0).

Source 2

Langton, M 2019, *Welcome to Country: An introduction to our First Peoples for young Australians*, Hardie Grant Explore, pp. 156–7.

Source 3

Archibald-Binge, E 2018, ‘Queensland human rights act to protect Indigenous culture’, NITV News, 31 October. <https://www.sbs.com.au/nitv/article/queensland-human-rights-act-to-protect-indigenous-culture/9dudrf9kk> © NITV 2018. Used with permission.

Source 4

Queensland Government 2019, Human Rights Act 2019 (Qld), Sourced from the Queensland Legislation website at 16 June 2023. For the latest information on Queensland Government legislation please go to <https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au>. This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Licence.

Source 5

Adams, GK 2019, ‘Manchester Museum to return 43 sacred objects to Aboriginal communities’, *Museums Association Journal*, 10 October, www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/2019/10/10102019-manchester-museum-repatriation.

Source 6

Data sourced from: AIATSIS 2020, ‘Geographical distribution of collecting institutions approached by AIATSIS’, Return of Cultural Heritage Project 2018–20, pp. 15-16, https://aiatsis.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-09/return-cultural-heritage-20182020-report_0.pdf.

Sources 7 and 9

Loban, R 2022, ‘Torres Strait Virtual Reality: A reflection on the intersection between culture, game design and research’, *Games and Culture*, vol. 17, no. 3, pp. 311–327 Used with permission.

Source 8

Eynon, M 2019, ‘Game On: Torres Strait Island life enters virtual reality’, CSIROscope (blog), 26 November, <https://blog.csiro.au/torres-strait-island-virtual-reality-game> Used with permission.

Source 11

UNESCO World Heritage Convention 2021, Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park: Outstanding Universal Value, <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/447>.



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