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## Council's Kurna Emu Cloak loaned to Bay Discovery Centre

Town of Gawler has loaned the Kurna Emu Cloak, an art piece commissioned for inclusion in the inaugural Heritage Gallery exhibition 'Into the Light', to the Bay Discovery Centre in Glenelg.

City of Holdfast Bay, through the Bay Discovery Centre, requested the loan of the Emu Cloak for a period of six months for inclusion in the exhibition Tiatí Wangkanthi Kumangka. This exhibition, which was created in collaboration with the Kurna Nation, explores the parallel historical experiences of settlers and Aboriginal people during the colonisation of South Australia.

The emu cloak was a strong visual element of 'Into the Light', providing a female perspective to our understanding of the Kurna people and their connection to country. Crafted from emu hide and emu feathers, it was created by Kurna Elder Auntie Lynette Crocker and Artist Jodie Seiuli assisted by Nikki Fort.

The rich colours and textures of the emu cloak ensured that it was an appealing object with visitors to the Heritage Gallery. It was so popular that a touch tray with small samples of emu hide and feathers was installed a few months after the exhibition opened to enable visitors to experience these natural textile materials through their fingertips.

Mayor Karen Redman said, "The Emu cloak is a truly beautiful object that showcases the traditional skills and artistry of Aboriginal women through reinterpretation in a modern format. I am sure many people will enjoy seeing the cloak as part of the Tiatí Wangkanthi Kumangka exhibition".

"It is important for cultural organisations, such as the Gawler Cultural Heritage Centre, to share their collections with the wider community who may not be able to visit Gawler. This will be a further opportunity to showcase an important object in addition to future displays in the Civic Centre," said Mayor Redman.



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