



Aboriginal Leaders and Artists to Gift the First Australian Sculpture to Japan's Nagasaki Peace Park.

Bridging links between Japanese and Australian atomic survivor communities

On April 14, a delegation of Australian representatives, including Anangu artists and leaders such as Chairman Jeremy Le Bois (Maralinga Tjarutja Council) and City of Fremantle's Deputy Mayor Josh Wilson, will travel to Japan to present Australia's first sculpture gift to Nagasaki Peace Park.

The sculpture originates in the Anangu Aboriginal communities of Yalata and Oak Valley/ Maralinga in South Australia (SA), and has been accepted by Nagasaki City government after a 12-month proposal process. The sculpture will be formally gifted by the City of Fremantle in collaboration with participating Anangu communities, Mayors for Peace Australia, and the Cities of Cockburn and Subiaco.

Nagasaki Peace Park is an internationally renowned sculpture park frequented by thousands of visitors annually, featuring large-scale peace sculptures from around the world. To date there is no Australian presence. This project will change this, and provide a permanent Indigenous Australian sculpture contribution to the Peace Park.

The *Tree of Life: Gift of Peace* sculpture was inspired by the 70-year commemorations of the atomic bombings in Japan, and creates links between Japanese and Australian atomic survivor communities. The unique international peace initiative recognises atomic survivors worldwide, and acknowledges the sustained impacts on nuclear-affected communities, as well as the resilience and efforts of these communities to forge a global peace movement.

The sculpture represents the Anangu communities' own search for peace and harmony, as Australian atomic survivors, and is linked with an existing community arts project being run with remote Indigenous communities whose recent history relates to the British nuclear tests of the 1950s at Maralinga. The project is funded by the Australia Council for the Arts, and in 2015 was awarded the Graham F. Smith Foundation's annual major grant prize.

The Yalata Aboriginal Anangu Community is hoping to raise \$30,000 to support their participation and attendance through their 'Gift for peace' crowdfunding campaign. **See the compelling 3 min project video, including artists' story and crowdfunding campaign:** <https://www.chuffed.org/project/giftforpeace>

For the Yalata Men's sculpture group leading the design and artwork, the gifting holds considerable meaning: the cast bronze sculpture depicts a piti (dish), originally from carved wood, being cradled by the branches of a local 'cadja' tree. The piti, used for carrying babies, food, and water, represents the gift of peace, with the tree its ultimate donor. It represents the sharing of resources between families, communities and nations for peace and harmony.

Interviews with Anangu Aboriginal artists and leaders available, and Mayors from the local government partners.

The gifting has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body, and is administrated by Sydney-production company Alphaville through the Nuclear Futures program www.nuclearfutures.org

With Cities of Fremantle, Cockburn and Subiaco, Mayors for Peace Australia, & Graham F. Smith Peace Foundation.

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