

The Mungo Statement: Towards a Reconciliation

A record of discussion at the Willandra Research Publication Workshop

Thursday 22nd June '89

During the final session of the Willandra Publication Workshop held on the 22nd June, 1989, those researchers and Aborigines present discussed the future of archaeological research in the Willandra Lakes Region. Two suggestions, crucial to the future of research and Aboriginal Heritage were made.

Firstly, it was decided to embark on a course of reconciliation between archaeologists and Aborigines. It was recognised that Aboriginal people must have the final say whether research was done and what it might be.

One way to do this would be to establish an Aboriginal Research Committee. This committee might oversee and ratify research programmes dealing with the way people lived in the past and the kind of land they lived in. The committee could initiate its own research programmes and seek funding for them.

Secondly, Alan Thorne agreed that the Mungo skeletal remains should be returned to the Willandra, and suggested that the first step could be the addition of a second lock on the safe which presently contains the Mungo skeletal remains. The key to the second lock would be in the hands of the Aboriginal Research Committee.

Also discussed was the possibility of establishing at Mungo National Park a Keeping Place for the care and protection of Aboriginal skeletal remains. This Keeping Place could also have two locks. As a symbolic act of collaboration one key could be held by the Aboriginal Research Committee and one by a representative of the scientific community.

Alan Thorne

Marg Pappin

Lottie Williams

John Magee

Alice Kelly

Isobel McBryde

Jeannette Hope

Phys Jones

Ron Hyde

Alan Thorne

Harry Allen

Wilfred Shawson

Régine Hyde

Richard Gillespie

Caroline Rod-Wojciechowski

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