

Noongar social history on film

Indigenous stories recorded in the Great Southern in March will remain as cultural learning tools for generations to come.

That is the hope of the Wirlomin Noongar Stories and Language Regeneration Project steering committee, the group behind an expansive video voyage featuring two local elders.

The video, currently being edited, was designed to help the elders share their stories, cultural knowledge and language with their family and community.

The elders were recorded in environments significant to their family and community telling Dreaming stories, giving a social history of the area and demonstrating bush tucker secrets.

During the voyage, the participants visited significant sites in places including Doubtful Island Bay, Needilup, Jerramungup, Bremer Bay and Gairdner River.

One of the elders featured was former Great Southern local, the late Lomas Roberts, who had a long career in farming and as a Noongar leader.

Steering committee member Mary Gimondo said it was just as important for non-indigenous people to hear the stories and all the participants had got a lot out of the process.

“To be in the country of origin of



One of the senior cultural elders featured in the Wirlomin Noongar Stories and Language Regeneration Project video voyage, Lomas Roberts recently died.

the story was spiritually rewarding for all of us and reinforced the cultural significance of all of the stories,” Ms Gimondo said.

“Being on the beach with the elders, family and crew, was a reminder that we were united in the process of the regeneration of an ancient language,” she said.

Ms Gimondo said the video, which

will be completed later this year, would remain as a tribute to Mr Roberts, who would be remembered for his significant contribution to the region.

The video was sponsored by the Indigenous Heritage Program of the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, the WA Department of Indigenous Affairs and the Aboriginal Lands Trust.