

Hope for title deal

\$1b for Noongar people

By LLOYD JONES

THE WEST Australian Government hopes to settle a long-running native title claim over Perth and the state's south-west this year with an estimated \$1 billion package of cash injections and land transfers to the Noongar people.

Outlining a Government offer made to Noongar negotiators before Christmas, Premier Colin Barnett said he was extremely optimistic of reaching a deal that would extinguish all future native title claims for the area, but benefit an estimated 35,000 Noongar descendants.

The WA Government wants the Federal Government to join in this year's negotiations with the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council and honour a long-standing promise to pay 75 per cent of native title settlements.

The proposed deal has received bipartisan support from WA's Labor Opposition.

Mr Barnett told reporters yesterday the deal would involve hundreds of millions of dollars in payments and land transfers, with a trust fund being the centrepiece of future benefits for the Noongar people.

"For the Noongar people this is relinquishing, surrendering their native title claim forever so it's a very profound decision that they'll be hopefully making," the Premier said.

Mr Barnett said the deal would include recognition of the Noongar people as the original inhabitants and traditional owners of the land and that would be enshrined in an Act of Parliament.

The state would make payments of tens of millions of dollars a year into a trust fund that could not be touched

for 10 years and would be a future fund to develop economic opportunities and improve the health and education of Noongar people, the Premier said.

There would also be a transfer of a large number of parcels of Crown land into Noongar ownership and a shared management of the conservation estate.

Mr Barnett said the deal would allow Noongar elders to again take charge of their communities and invest in Aboriginal business development.

"That is why it is not only a significant resolution of native title, it's also a very important act towards reconciliation."

WA Attorney-General Christian Porter, who has been overseeing the negotiations, said the negotiations would now begin in earnest.

He said the Federal Government would be invited to join the negotiations and to honour a promise from the time of the Keating government to pay 75 per cent of the costs of the native title settlement.

"With the Commonwealth's involvement obviously we can make that figure larger and fairer for the Noongar people," Mr Porter said.

SWALSC chief executive Glen Kelly said the offer put an end to a frustrating period of negotiations.

"The aim of Noongar negotiators was to set up a cultural, social and economic framework to become a strong people again," he said.

Opposition treasury spokesman Ben Wyatt said the Government offer appeared to be a positive and generous one made in good faith and was an opportunity to take a big step forward for reconciliation in WA. **AAP**

Lost treasures: Boyd family to exhibit private collection



Arthur Boyd's *Bride with necklace, drinking from Shoalhaven River* (1970-75) from the Boyd family's private collection.

By JULIANNE STRACHAN

FOR NEARLY 60 years a painting by Arthur Boyd lay hidden beneath an old art trolley.

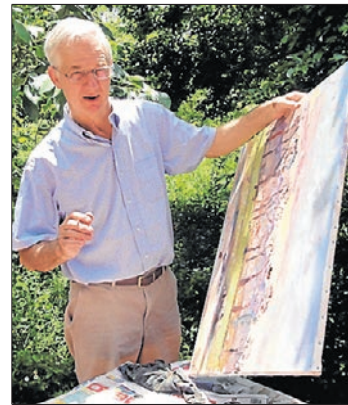
Now known as *The lost bride*, it was discovered by accident by his son Jamie Boyd, concealed on two pieces of board that were screwed to the base of one of Arthur Boyd's old art-trolleys.

It has been revealed as a missing piece from the acclaimed *Bride* series, circa 1955-57.

As a rare treat for art lovers, it will be shown to the public at Kangaroo Valley next month as part of a wider exhibition celebrating a century of work from the Boyd family.

Many of the works in the exhibition have rarely been seen outside of London.

The collection features more than 100 artworks that have been drawn from the private



Arthur Boyd's son and artist Jamie Boyd, left, and his late father's *Nebuchadnezzar on Fire* (1968), which is part of a powerful series focused on the human condition, above.

collection of the Boyd family, with counterparts from the Bundanon trust that are on loan.

It includes sculptures and paintings by various artists in the Boyd family, including Emma Minnie Boyd, Arthur Merric Boyd, William Merric Boyd, Arthur Boyd, David Boyd, Jamie Boyd, Lenore Boyd and

Nathaniel Boyd. The exhibition will be launched by former prime minister Bob Hawke at the Galeria Aniela Fine Art Gallery and Sculpture Park, 261A Mount Scanzì Road, Kangaroo Valley on March 24.

The exhibition will be free for public viewing until June.



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