

THE WIRADJURI PEOPLE

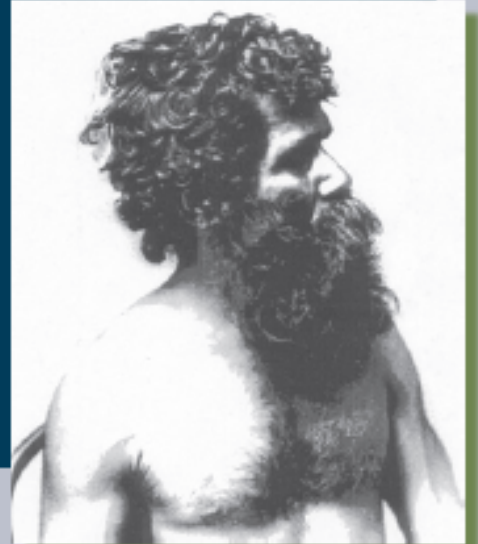
The Wiradjuri are the Traditional Custodians of the land and waters of the Shire. The Wiradjuri people are the first inhabitants of this area and have been living here for tens of thousands of years. The Wiradjuri are the largest Aboriginal group in central New South Wales, by area and population. The people of the Wiradjuri country are known as "people of three rivers" being the Macquarie river (Wambool), Lachlan River (Kalari) and the Murrumbidgee River (Murrumbidjeri) which border their lands. The Wiradjuri people became custodians of this Country a long time ago, nurturing the land, creating language, customs, stories, music, dance and songs whilst seeking knowledge and happiness and leading a spiritually based life.

*Emptied of us the land,
Ghostly our going,
Fallen, like spears the hand
Dropped in the throwing.*

The Waradgeri Tribe
Mary Gilmore



A Coolamon is an oval-shaped carrier made from bark that is used to store and carry seed, water and honey and even as a baby's cradle.



Wiradjuri Man
Kerry King Collection
Copy held and provide by AIATSIC

A plan showing the western boundary of Coolamon [Coolamon] Holes Run in 1870 by W G Commins shows a cluster of numerous water holes which he referred to as 'Coolamon Holes'. These Coolamon Holes are believed to be responsible for the town's name



THE GULLAMAN COLLECTION



STONE TOOLS

Stone objects were part of an Aboriginal tool kit which people used across Australia over a period of at least sixty thousand years. They challenge people to imagine the deep past, to visualise how people lived in the pre-industrial world. The diversity of Aboriginal cultural and linguistic groups in Australia produced a variety of tool types. The diversity of stone source materials and the practical knowledge of the different material properties of different forms of stone show an intimate engagement with and knowledge of the Australian landscape. Through countless hours of craftsmanship, ingenuity and practical necessity the makers of these stone tools transformed a common element of the Australian landscape into objects that employed functional, symbolic, philosophical and spiritual purposes. Wiradjuri people have used stone tools for many purposes, including getting and preparing food, making wooden artefacts and fighting. Stone tools demonstrate the resourcefulness and skill of their makers, and reveal a detailed understanding of the environment. They were crafted with a specialist knowledge that maintained connection to country and an adherence to cultural knowledge and protocols. Stone Tool makers have a detailed knowledge of the properties of stone, and how to work with each one.

Grinding - Using a muller stone to mill seeds and other items against the base stone (plate)

Hammer-Dressing - Gently tapping one stone against another (knapping)

Percussion flaking - striking one stone with another

Pressure flaking - pressing a wood or bone tool against the edge of a stone to remove small flakes

Anvil - A portable flat stone that a core is rested on when knapping. These tools have crushing abrasions in the middle

Axe Heads - running hard stone (dark stone or similar) axe against a softer stone (sandstone or similar) to achieve a sharpened edge for cutting

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European settlement has disturbed the connection that the Wiradjuri have with their Country and culture, and we now find that too much of their history has been lost or buried. One way we can preserve this fundamental part of our heritage, is by leaving any Wiradjuri sites or objects intact and in the place where they are found.

The Gullaman Collection was a joint collaboration between local Indigenous knowledge holders, Wiradjuri Elders, the Office of Environment and Heritage and the Coolamon Shire Council. Every effort has been made to uphold the values of respect, understanding and learning when developing this display. This display was created with the intention to educate, and celebrate Australia's shared history.

Coolamon Shire Council wish to thank the Clark family for their ongoing support and knowledge.

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