

An Aboriginal Heritage Manager has many responsibilities; one main aspect of the role is to give the Aboriginal people and non-aboriginal people involved with Council an avenue of approach to discuss issues or concerns they may have. An important part of my role is to communicate with school groups and teach children an ethos of understanding to appreciate the unique culture of the Aboriginal people. My role puts me in direct contact with the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council and its many resources. For further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

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Aboriginal Heritage Manager

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Above and Below: David Watts and Allan Madden, Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council Educational Officer, co-training various groups in Aboriginal Sites Awareness.



Your Aboriginal Heritage Office



Willoughby Council is one of four Councils which have in a progressive step jointly employed an Aboriginal Heritage Manager.

The role of the Aboriginal Heritage Manager is to ensure the protection of Aboriginal sites and cultural heritage within the council area.

A message from the Aboriginal Heritage Manager, David Watts.

The unity of Willoughby, Lane Cove, North Sydney and Warringah Councils implementing this position is at the forefront of protecting Aboriginal Heritage. As the Aboriginal Heritage Manager, my responsibilities are to ensure the protection of the approximate 1000 Aboriginal sites and cultural heritage in the four local government areas. This role brings me to the forefront with issues relating to Aboriginal culture and implementing measures to safeguard sites. Sites are under threat every day from development, vandalism and natural erosion. The sites can not be replaced, and once they are destroyed, they are lost forever.



As part of my work on a day to day basis Aboriginal Sites in your council area are monitored and long term management reports are developed to ensure preservation and protection of these sites. The sites that are located in Lane Cove, North Sydney, Warringah and Willoughby Council areas are still in reasonable condition and contain key secrets to our countries history.

The Guringai people, who once occupied this area, left important evidence of their past and way of life before colonisation. The sites are of significance to the Aboriginal people because they are evidence of the past Aboriginal occupation of Australia and are valued as a link with their traditional culture. An emphasis is placed on the scientific investigation into stone technology for a great deal of insight is obtained by studying the manufacture techniques and animals associated with them that reveal daily traditional life.



Photo above left: David Watts, Aboriginal Heritage Manger.

Photo above: Staff Members Albert Torrens (Volunteer).