



# Aboriginal Heritage Office Yarnupings

October 2013

Issue 5, 2013

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## Our Next Yarn Up

The AHO is happy to announce that we have another Yarn Up planned for 6pm, Wednesday the 23rd of October. There'll be a bit of tucker and a chance for everyone to meet and have a chat before we get underway.

For this Yarn Up, we're lucky enough to have Joanne Selfe join us. Joanne will be talking about her experience working for the NSW Judicial Commission's Ngara Yura Project as well as various projects with involving Aboriginal Affairs.

One of the main themes of this Yarn Up that we're hoping to shed some light on is the different ways in which the law has tried to incorporate understandings of Aboriginal culture. Pre-settlement, there were hundreds of language groups, each with different cultural practices. Not only is there a wealth of different cultures, but the workings of various forms of lore, totems, dreaming stories, ceremonies, bloodlines, dance, song, hunting and gathering practices are extremely complex and interwoven.

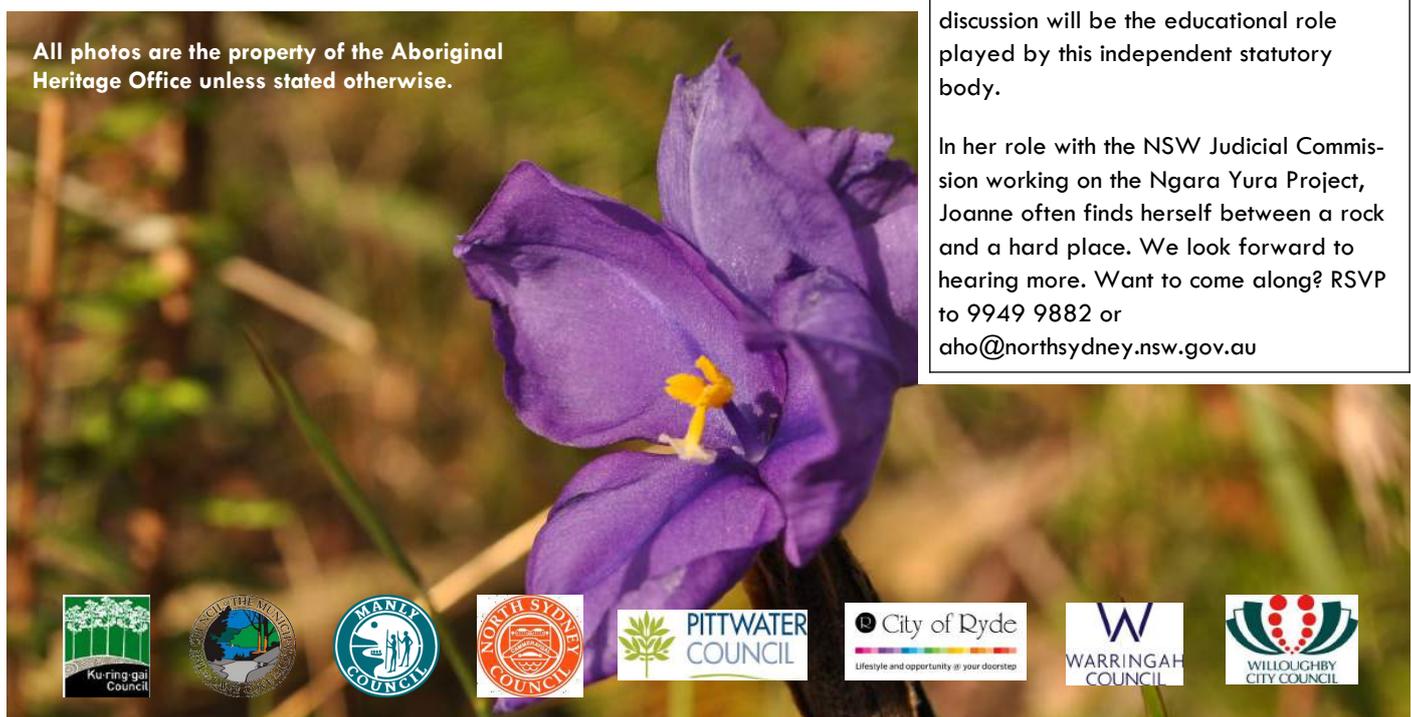
On the other hand, you have 'White man's' law. Disinterest, unbiased, standards of admissible evidence, process and burden of proof, arguably mere illusions, still play a major role in the rhetoric of Western law. So the question is, are the two systems of justice compatible? What has worked to successfully incorporate elements of one into the other? What needs to change? Are they as separate as we imagine?

The NSW Judicial Commission aims to ensure consistency in sentencing, provide education for judicial officers and examine complaints made against them. Pertinent to this

discussion will be the educational role played by this independent statutory body.

In her role with the NSW Judicial Commission working on the Ngara Yura Project, Joanne often finds herself between a rock and a hard place. We look forward to hearing more. Want to come along? RSVP to 9949 9882 or [aho@northsydney.nsw.gov.au](mailto:aho@northsydney.nsw.gov.au)

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# My Time in the Defence Force

Joel, one of our readers, has quite the story to tell...

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I served in the army for 5 years from December 2007 until January 2013 with multiple postings to different parts of Australia, multiple operations overseas and exercises within and outside of Australia. This is my experience as someone with an Aboriginal background.

To sign up to the army I first had to undertake a competency test which gave me a list of possible jobs that I could do whilst in the army. I chose to be an operator supply/Storeman. After acceptance I had to undergo a physical and medical examination. Once that was completed I got sworn in and left for Kapooka to start my 3 month basic training. Whilst in basic training we learnt multiple skills that would be needed throughout my army career, ranging from first aid training, ceremonial march, radio communication, firing a rifle and a lot more. On completion of basic training I moved to Albury/Wodonga where I started my initial employment training (I.E.T). I learned how to perform an operator job in Australia, on exercise and whilst overseas.

My first posting was in Townsville where I would spend the next 3 years. I was posted to 3<sup>rd</sup> combat support service battalion (3 CSSB) in the repair parts store (R.P.S). My main role was to order in and supply mechanical parts for the workshop to fix vehicles, weapons and other specialised equipment. In early 2009 I was selected to join the 86 rifle combat battalion (86 RCB) to do a 3 month exercise in Malaysia that specialised in jungle warfare. Whilst in Malaysia we undertook joint exercises with the Malaysian military, we also travelled to Singapore and did a training exercise with the Singapore military and we also went to Vietnam. In Vietnam we learned about the Vietnam War and visited multiple sites where Australia served during the Vietnam War. What I found very interesting was that Aboriginal people were used as trackers throughout Vietnam to find the enemy and their camps, they were also very integral in finding tunnels that the VietCong would use to hide and move around without detection.

In December 2009 I went overseas to Afghanistan where I spent 6 months in Tarin Kowt. While over there we worked with the Americans and the Dutch. It was a great experience and a great feeling to serve my nation on operations. After I got home from overseas I went back home to visit my family after my tour, everyone was very proud and relieved for me to be back home safely, especially my mother! I finished my posting in December, 2010. I then was posted to Singleton and Holsworthy in Special Forces Training Company (SFTC), where I worked with the Special Forces supplying them with equipment to train future Special Forces army members. I was posted there for a year and at the end of 2011 I was posted to Darwin to 8<sup>th</sup> Close Health Company. Being in Darwin was very fulfilling, it has a rich and great connection to the Aboriginal community. Whilst in Darwin I got to see the old defence force building and defences that were in place when Darwin was attacked by the Japanese. It was also very interesting to learn that the Aboriginal community played a big part in cleaning up and rebuilding Darwin after the attack.

As an ex member of the Australian Defence Force I have a great sense of pride about what I experienced and achieved. Having an Aboriginal background I have a great appreciation of the part that we have played in past, present and in future operations in Australia and overseas.



Facebook Image



Facebook Image

## Solution of the Month

During the drought, a Silverdale resident was asked for his opinion regarding the water levels in Warragamba Dam. He argued that the problem wasn't the low water levels but rather the high dam levels, "Drop the dam height down to where the water is and it goes from 35% full to 100% full, simple."

Juking the stats - an age old trick still being put to 'good' use.

A child's imagination is a marvellous thing. It can turn a cloud into a submarine dodging through a mine field, it can turn a pet into a pal and it can turn a long, thin rock into the bone of a long lost sea creature.

You may laugh, however, that latter mentioned marvel of imagination was precisely what occurred right here in Northbridge. While walking along the shoreline of Clive Park with his mum, Toby, a young Northbridge resident, spotted something that caught his eye. There, lying in the sand was a curiously shaped object that would have been left forgotten if it had not been for the curious eye and fertile imagination of this young lad. What he pulled out of the sand looked like a curved bone. It had a concaved, joint-like end on one side and the other trailing off to a dull point. It was also beige, however the weight of this anomaly suggested that it was far too heavy to be bone.

All these queries didn't bother our little archaeologist. For over a week, he carried the object around religiously, proudly showing off his treasure to all who would ask. Eventually it was suggested by another resident of Northbridge that it could be interesting to show the bone to the staff of the Aboriginal Heritage Office.

The strange object had our manager, geologist, archaeologist and bone expert Yorrick completely bamboozled. So with great stoicism, the young lad agreed to part with his treasure while it was sent off for closer inspection by the forensic anthropologist at Sydney University's Shellshear Museum.

Initial reports suggest that the find could in fact be a fossilised dugong bone and more testing is to come! So the moral of the story? Let your imagination run wild, you never know where it will take you. If your imagination isn't quite as fervent as it used to be, well you can always enjoy the company of those young ones who have still got it.



AHO palaeontologist, Yorrick.

## Schön dich kennen zu lernen...

After finishing high school, most of us simply kicked back, maybe travelled a bit or enjoyed the break before starting a job or further studies. Our new intern Jill decided to do all these at once. She is undertaking an internship with us at the AHO not due to a course requirement but simply to gain a bit of useful experience in an area she's interested in. With this kind of initiative, we couldn't refuse and look forward to having her around. Here's what she has to say about herself...

Hey my name is Jill Hofmann and I'm from Germany. I live near Frankfurt with my younger sister and my parents. I'm 18 years old and this May I finished my A-Levels (High school certificate equivalent) in economics & administration. After my A-Levels I decided to go to Australia for one year. I didn't want to just work and travel, so I thought about something else that I could do. My father recommended an internship. So I talked to my organisation about what I want to do. I told them that I would like to do something different to what I've done for my A-Levels. I'm very interested in the Australian and Aboriginal culture and heritage. Also I thought it would be better not to put all my education away so I decided to combine administration and culture. After a while my organisation told me about the Aboriginal Heritage Office. I'm very excited to learn about the Aboriginal culture and history and I hope I gather as much experience as I can.



# Meet Our New Intern Dara.

My name is Dara and I am currently studying abroad in Sydney. I am from Los Angeles, CA and attend the University of California, Davis. So far Australia has been an amazing experience! Sydney seems to have everything from gorgeous beaches and friendly people, to unusual wildlife and delicious chocolate! Being from Los Angeles, I didn't think Sydney would be as diverse but I am surprised at how many different cultures and nationalities are present.

I was attracted to Australia because of its pioneer history which mirrors the frontier identity of the United States. As a history major, I have always been fascinated by the similarities and differences between the United States and Australia. Both countries have Indigenous origins which enrich and define their respective identities. Native American history is quite controversial and often distorted and I am curious to see how receptive Australians are to their own Indigenous history.



So far I am impressed by how much the average Australian knows about their country's Aboriginal heritage. It is great to see numerous Aboriginal sites and carvings within Sydney that are easily accessible! The caves near the Coal Loader at Balls Head are easily accessible and offer a great view of the bay.

Although American's and Australian's share histories as British colonies, they developed independently and now include diverse and multicultural populations. I am specifically interested in learning more about the role of Aboriginal culture in contemporary Australian society. During my stay in Australia, I will be studying Australian history, literature, and film. To compliment my studies I am interning at the Aboriginal Heritage Office where I hope to gain invaluable insight into Australia's Aboriginal origins and help with the preservation of Aboriginal sites and traditions. I am excited to be a part of this community and hope to help raise awareness and appreciation for Australia's heritage.

# Recipe of the Month- Show Us Ya Mussels

### Ingredients:

- 1 onion.
- 4 heads of garlic.
- 1 bulb fennel.
- 2 bay leaves.
- 2 tins diced tomatoes.
- 1kg bag of ready to cook mussels.
- Zest of 1 small lemon.
- Small handful of chopped basil.
- Small handful of chopped parsley.

A lot of people steer clear of mussels, put off by worries of beard cleaning or an overly 'fishy' taste. Don't be deterred. They're cheap, delicious, good for you and now that you can get them fresh, cleaned and ready for the pot in 1kg cryovac bags, there's nothing stopping you. Thinly slice your onion, garlic and fennel. Gently cook them off in a large pot with a small knob of butter and a dash of olive oil for about 20 mins or until they are soft, sweet and golden. Then add your tinned tomatoes and bay leaves, crack in a fair bit of pepper and allow to cook away for about 5-10 mins so allowing the flavours to come together. Open up your bag of mussels and drain them off in a colander, discarding any broken ones. Chuck em in the pot, giving them a gentle stir to coat them in your sauce. Put a lid on the pot to help the steam cook the mussels and after a few minutes give them a gentle stir. Lightly tapping the mussels that have remained closed should pry those stubborn buggers open. When it looks like most of them have opened up, throw in the lemon zest, basil, parsley and check if it needs any salt and pepper. The reason that no salt has been added until the last minute is that the mussels have a natural saltiness and any more may be over doing it. Serve straight out of the pot with a few lemon wedges and some garlic or herb bread and you've got yourself a rather fancy, cheap dinner that is good for the soul.

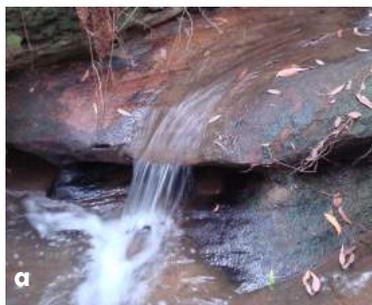
# Ya Learn Something Everyday

Bear Grills ain't got nothing on the First Australians. See if you can work out some of the ways each tool or plant was used...

Link up the left image...

...with the corresponding text...

...then to the right image.



These seeds were ground using this stone tool to produce a flour.

1



Traditionally used by women for fishing.

2



Traditionally called a Yidaki from this area of Australia.

3



Method of leaching poisons out of these seedpods.

4



Resin from this plant used to make this...

5



# 'Passing Time'

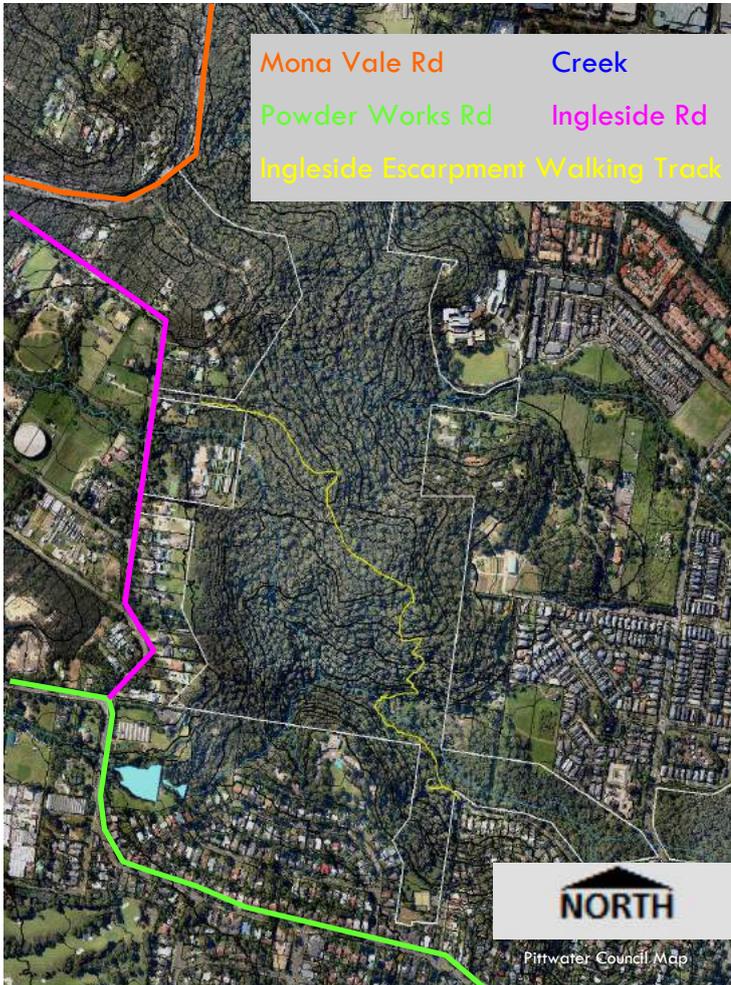
## Track of the Month

### Ingleside Reserve-Pittwater

It was a surprise to find that Ingleside Reserve, together with the adjoining Irawong Reserve, is the largest parcel of continuous bushland in the Pittwater Council area. For most residents of the Northern Beaches it remains an undiscovered wonder. However many of you may drive past sections of the park everyday as you head along Mona Vale Rd. There are parking spots off Ingleside Rd just near the trail head. From here, the track runs along a ridgeline before a steep drop-off down towards Mullet Creek. It's fascinating to see the vegetation change between these two distinctly different ecological zones. Some may prefer the ridge top bushland, peppered with *Xanthorrhoeas* and *Eucalypts*. Others may prefer the quiet shade and lush steeps of the lower escarpment filled with *Macrozomias*. Pittwater Council outdoor staff have been putting a lot of hard work into providing stairways but it will pay to stay mindful of the steep gradient in some places.

**Medium difficulty walk, 30 mins.**

**Always take water, hat, swimmers and sun screen.**



## TV Review

### The Wire (Season 1-5)

"You play in dirt, you get dirty."

The Wire is the best TV series I've ever watched in my entire life. This is all I really need to write but for the sake of satisfying a word count and avoiding an awkward empty space, I'll elaborate. You have to persist for a few episodes, but once you're in, there's no turning back. Set in Baltimore, this show looks at drugs and crime from all sides. From the street to the Mayor's office, from the school department to the homicide department, from the cops to the gang bangers and from the front page to the dockyards-the series tells the story of all affected by the pervasiveness of drugs and crime. If you liked Mad Men, Oz, The Sopranos or West Wing then get on The Wire. This months reviewer-Gareth.

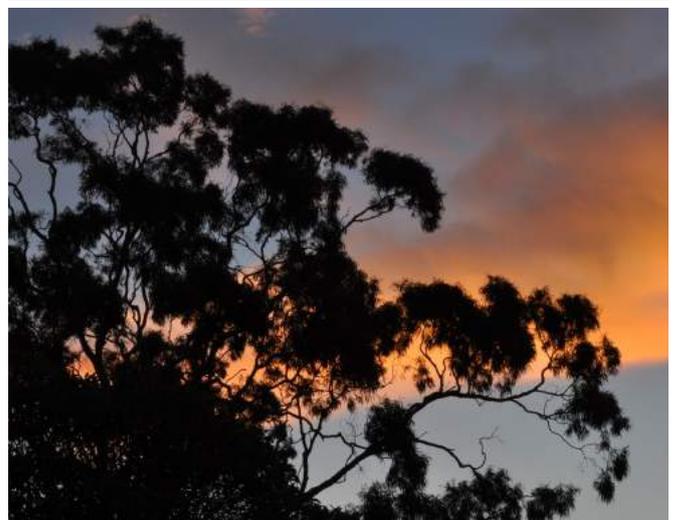


## Volunteers- Next Step

We finally have our insurance policy up and running for the volunteer monitoring program. For all those volunteers who have been waiting, we send our apologies. These things always seem to take longer than they should.

The next step is to get everyone to sign the new forms and, for those who haven't already, be given a proper induction.

Over the next month, all volunteers will be mailed the forms with some instructions about what to do with them. Then, at a suitable time during the week we can give our volunteers a call to chat about some of the things to be aware of, run through a safety induction and probably discuss site allocation while we're at it. While it is quite a process, it does give us a good opportunity to get in touch, have a yarn with everyone, see if a new site is preferable and just remind everyone about some of the safety issues.



ABORIGINAL HERITAGE OFFICE

# Mini Doco

# Competition

# 2013

Create a 2-3  
minute doco on  
Aboriginal  
history, heritage,  
sites or culture,  
etc...

Win an Apple iPad

Entries to be sent on disc or thumbdrive with completed application form to PO Box 12, North Sydney NSW 2059 before 5pm Thursday 31st October 2013.

For more information see the 'Terms and Conditions'

Email us at [aho@northsydney.nsw.gov.au](mailto:aho@northsydney.nsw.gov.au)

Open to residents and students of the Councils below:



### Terms & Conditions for the AHO Mini Doco Competition.

1. USER AGREEMENT-By entering the competition you are deemed to have read and understood these Terms & Conditions and agree to be bound by them. 2. ENTRANT ELIGIBILITY-By entering this competition you warrant that you: (a) Have the permission of your parent or guardian if you are under the age of 18; (b) Study or reside in one of the 8 partnering Councils of the AHO being either Ku-ring-gai, Lane Cove, Manly, North Sydney, Pittwater, City of Ryde, Willoughby or Warringah Councils; (c) Are an individual and not a company or organisation. Where the winner is a group, note that one prize is issued. Division of the prize is at discretion of group; (d) Employees of the Promoter and any person associated with the competition, and any organisation or individual associated with the provision of the prizes are not eligible to enter. 3. ENTRANT REQUIREMENTS-The following is required from each entrant prior to submission of their short video to the AHO: (a) A completed Entry Form; (b) Required permissions for use of images or music owned by others. 4. PRIZES-First prize in the competition will be an Apple iPad. Prizes are not transferable. No component of the prize can be redeemed for cash. In the event that any component of the prize becomes unavailable, the AHO reserves the right to provide a similar product to the same or greater value as the original prize, subject to any applicable laws or written directions made under applicable legislation. The AHO may, at its discretion, refuse to award a prize to any entrant who fails to comply with these Terms and Conditions. 5. DURATION OF THE COMPETITION-The promotion will commence in August and entries must be received before competition close at 5pm Thursday, 31st of October 2013. Finalists will be notified by email, phone or letter. The winners will be announced before the end of November 2013. 6. COMPETITION PROCESS-(a) Entry into the competition is free. (b) Competition entrants should submit short videos via DVD or USB. The DVD or USB thumbdrive must be mailed to The Aboriginal Heritage Office, North Sydney Council, PO Box 12, North Sydney NSW 2059 or dropped off at Unit 39/137-147 Sailors Bay Rd, Northbridge, NSW, 2063. (c) **Any music and images used must be appropriately credited/acknowledged. All music & images used must be accompanied with the appropriate permissions and clearances.** All music and images must be original, permitted or copyright-free. It is the entrant's responsibility to ensure they do not infringe (including but not limited to) the copyright or intellectual property of another person, group or entity. Music and images on the web cannot be used without first obtaining the appropriate permission from the owner. If an entrant obtains permission from the copyright owner to use copyrighted music or images, evidence of such permission must be provided to the AHO. (d) All entrants must ensure that there are no corporate names or logos used in the video; this includes anyone wearing and/or displaying corporate names or logos. Entrants are advised to remove or obscure labels/brand names for any commercial products used in their videos. (e) The Judging Panel will be made up from the Aboriginal Steering Committee Members by representation from each of the Partnering Councils of Ku-ring-gai, Lane Cove, Manly, North Sydney, Pittwater, City of Ryde, Warringah and Willoughby. Judgement will be based on the creativity, relevance and originality of the entry. (f) The panel's decision will be final and no further correspondence will be entered into. (g) The AHO shall not be liable for any loss or damage whatsoever which is suffered (including but not limited to indirect or consequential loss) or for personal injury which is suffered or sustained as a result of entering the promotion or taking the prize, except for any liability which cannot be excluded by law. 7. OWNERSHIP OF VIDEO-All entries become the property of Aboriginal Heritage Office and at anytime the entries, and or reproductions of the entries, may be used as the Aboriginal Heritage Office sees fit for promotional purposes and/or public display without payment of any fee to the entrant.



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Cut here

Cut here



### Aboriginal Heritage Office Mini Doco Competition Entry Form

I study or reside in the following Council (please tick a box):

Ku-ring-gai

Manly

Pittwater

Willoughby

Lane Cove

North Sydney

City of Ryde

Warringah

Entrant's Full Name (Please -----)

Entrant's Address : -----  
-----

Phone: ----- E-Mail: -----

Signature—Resident -----  
Signature—Parent/  
-----

Parent/Guardian Full Name\* (please print)  
-----

Cut out and send with DVD disc or thumbdrive to:

**Aboriginal Heritage Office, North Sydney Council, PO Box 12 North Sydney NSW 2059**