

YARNUPINGS

ABORIGINAL HERITAGE OFFICE NEWSLETTER ISSUE #1 MARCH 2025

The Aboriginal Heritage office

25 YEARS



northern
beaches
council





YARNUPINGS

ABORIGINAL HERITAGE OFFICE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE #1 MARCH 2025

WELCOME TO THE FIRST ISSUE OF YARNUPINGS FOR 2025

25 Years! A quarter of a century!

Crikey that’s a long time!

Let’s celebrate all the years, the great work, the conservation, the education, the volunteers, the museum and the team.

We have new museum signage, stories from Karen, reminiscing from Phil and a delicious recipe to try.

Please enjoy the first edition of Yarnupings for 2025.

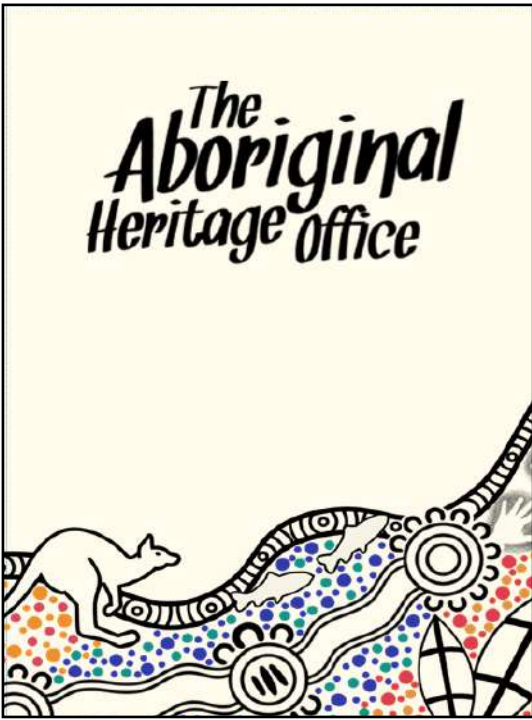
THE AHO TEAM– PHIL, KAREN, KYLE, SUSAN



IN THIS ISSUE...

- Picture of Serenity..... 4
- New AHO Signage..... 5
- Sandcastles.... 7
- Importance of AHO Volunteers 8
- Faces of Volunteering 12
- Singing 15
- A Short History—the Prequel 20
- Bush Tucker Garden 27
- WINGARU Egg Baskets..... 28
- Recipe Damien’s Damper..... 29





NEW SIGNAGE AT AHO MUSEUM

With great excitement we unveil new AHO signage at the Freshwater museum.

Kyle and Channy Nettleton created the design containing elements found across the partner Council boundaries: our gorgeous coastline, engravings both aquatic and terrestrial, the Sydney shield motif, hand stencils and grinding groves with connected mobs.

We invite you to come to the museum in Freshwater and see it for yourself.

AHO Museum
29 Lawrence Street
Freshwater NSW 2096



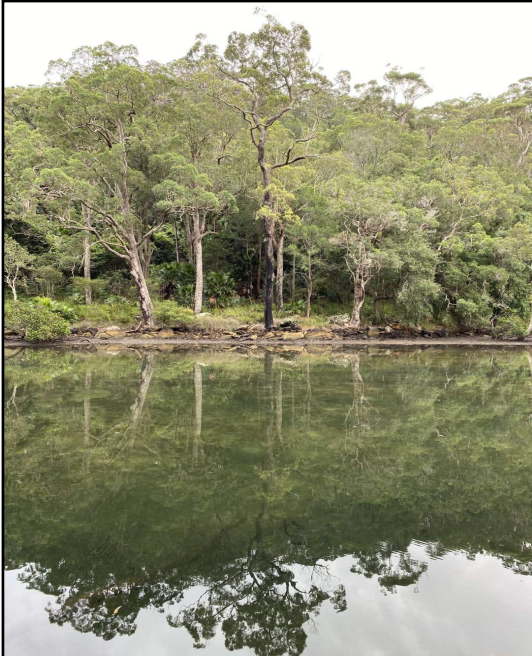
PICTURES OF SERENTIY

The pictures of serenity are an AHO newsletter tradition. We delight in sharing serene pictures from our field work with you. From a gorgeous rock platform to a winding river to a lovely overhang.

We know that not all our readers are able to enjoy the great outdoors, so we want to bring the outdoors to you.

If you have your own picture of serenity that you would like to share with our readers, please send to:

Volunteer@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au.



You never know, you just might inspire someone to take a walk in their local neighbourhood, go adventuring to a new area or to simply remember the great Aboriginal land upon which we live.

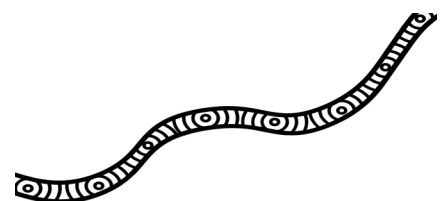
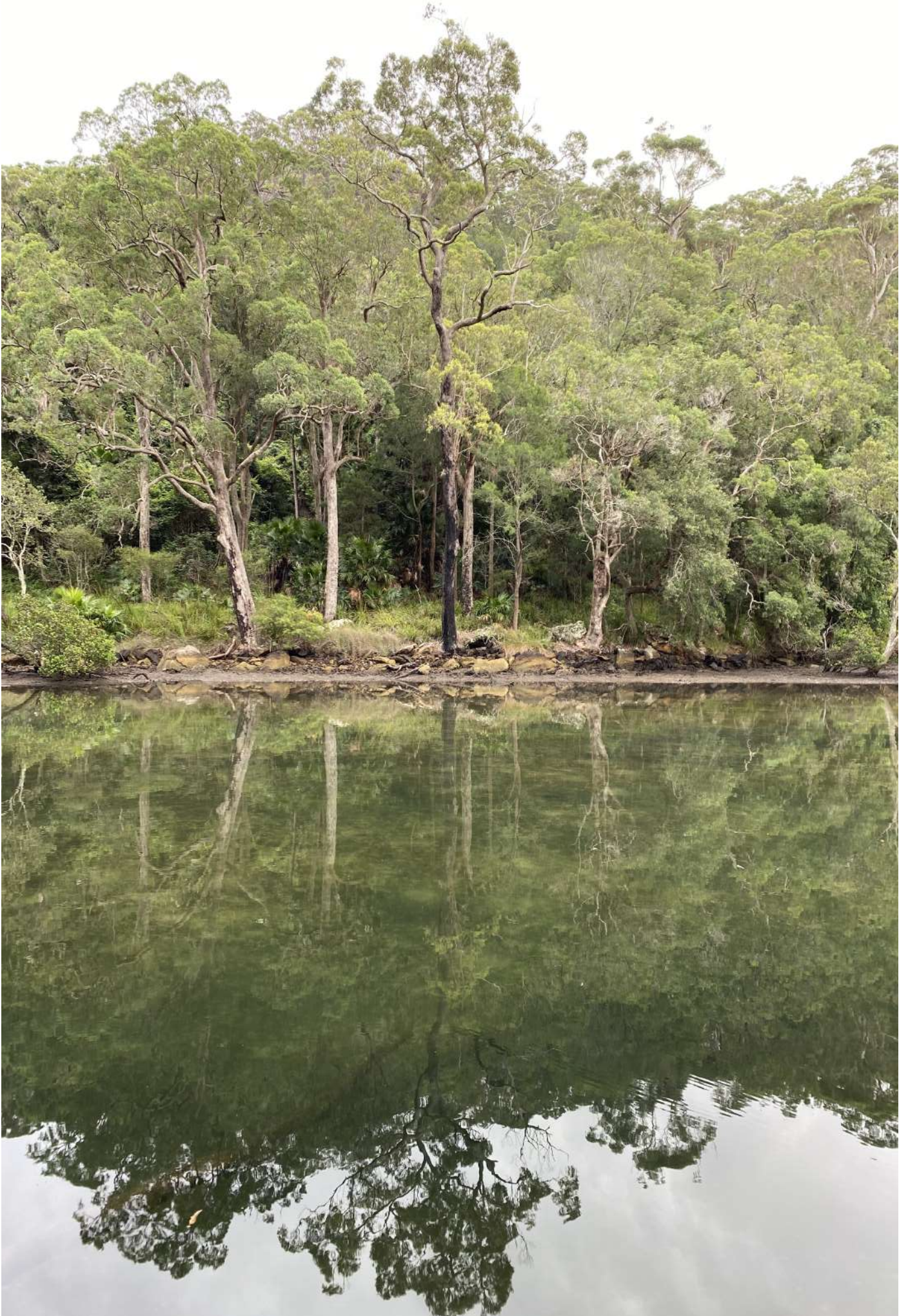
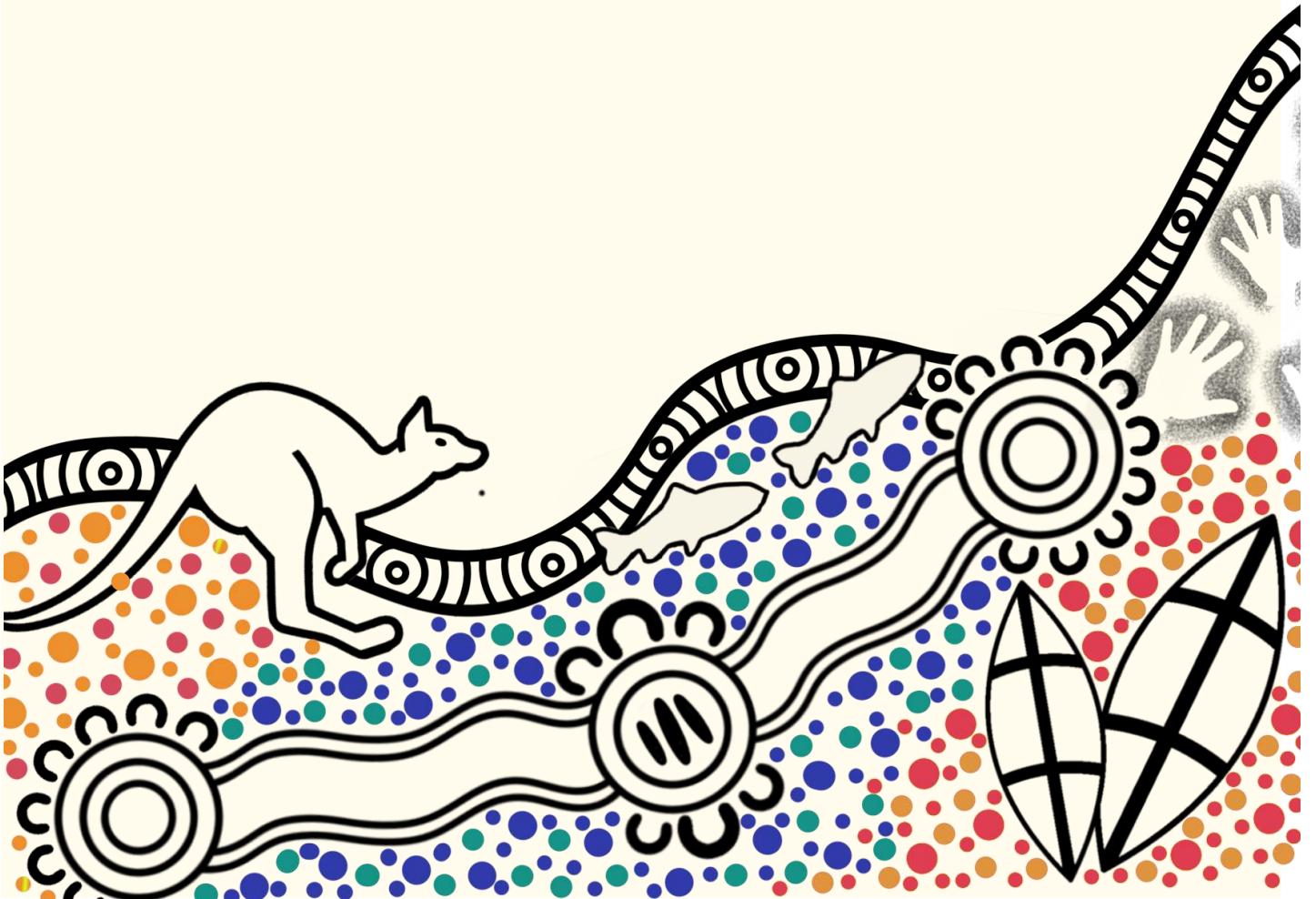
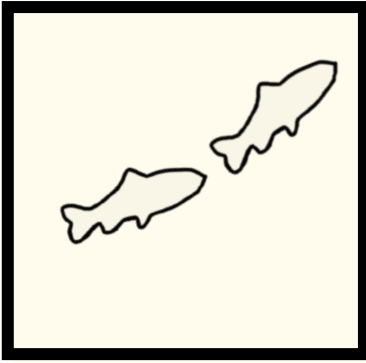


Image credit: Phil Hunt & Susan Whitby



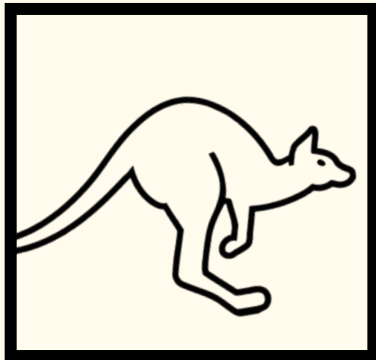
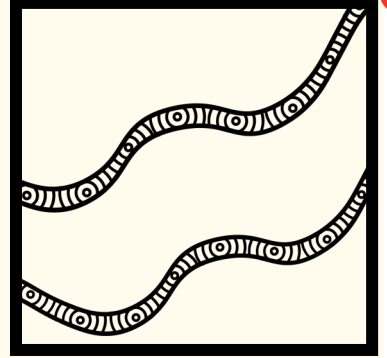
The Aboriginal Heritage office





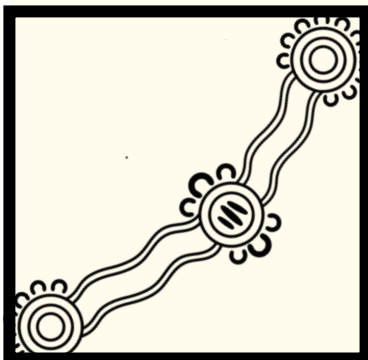
FISH ENGRAVING

COASTLINE



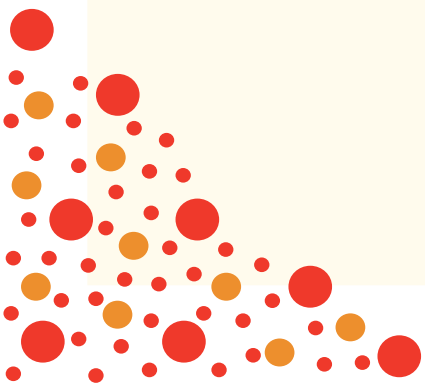
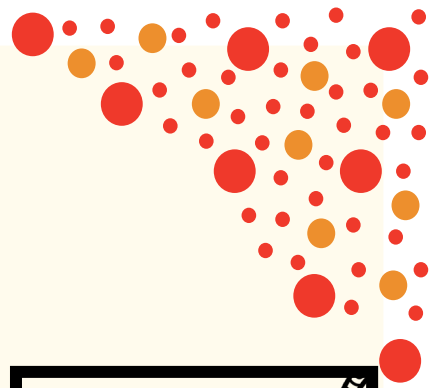
KANGAROO ENGRAVING

SHIELD ENGRAVING



CONNECTED MOBS W GRINDING GROOVES

HAND STENCIL



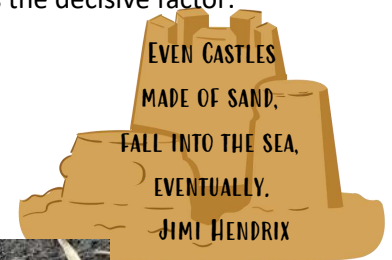


Coastal erosion continues to be a significant issue on Sydney's shores. Unfortunately this image of sandcastles and their finery is emblematic of what is happening on a much larger scale. As waves slosh along the shores, weaker areas erode. The roots of trees, shrubs and even grasses are undercut leading to collapse and further loss. It is a battle that can only have one winner. The land is fixed in place and reliant on its geological pedigree to shoulder the work.

Minute by minute the shore is wearied by sun and rain, wind and water. The sea is patient and relentless. Like some silver Terminator creature that transforms its shape at the change of tide, using the restless weather to open new flanks.

Those foreshore Aboriginal sites and places of cultural memory are also caught up in the landscape-wide battleground. Aboriginal peoples have seen sea levels change before, as well as weather patterns and climatic eras. This is a different era and the archaeological sites of tomorrow will be made up of different things. But part of this era includes the work of many who are trying to protect as much of past eras as possible.

It is confronting to see chunks of shore, mighty trees and millennia of Aboriginal history swept away. Reducing greenhouse gases is a big picture solution. On the smaller scale would be limiting waves from boat traffic. The only realistic protection is barriers and sea walls. Archaeological salvage is the way to 'rescue' physical items and their information potential. Site recording, monitoring and bearing witness are the relatively easy actions within our reach. If impermanence underlies everything, then how we ride its waves becomes the decisive factor.



Reference: AHO 2015, 2019, Coastal Erosion of Aboriginal Heritage, Northern Sydney

THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR AHO VOLUNTEERS

Sitting down to write this, I'm emotional. Really emotional. For a whole bunch of different reasons – the degradation of Aboriginal sites, the complexity of conserving them and the dedication of the Aboriginal Heritage Office's volunteers.

I'm sad to see the state of the rock art in urban areas. I'm rattled by the loss of such a special part of history; Aboriginal history, Australian history, world history. Urban sites are hit with so many challenges, the amount of foot traffic they have had to endure, continuing urban development, and graffiti – both malicious and incidental. I'm frustrated that we have limited capacity to conserve it yet I'm so incredibly grateful for the volunteers who care enough to record a part of history.

One of our lovely long-serving volunteers, Neil, sent in his regular volunteering report. A simple report with two clear, really nicely framed photos. I go to the file and load the images into his yearly volunteer report. I am shocked by the contrasting images. The handprint, so visible in 2008, is now so faded.

It's so sad to witness the eroding of sites, but to conserve them is an extremely complex process, involving many different (often understaffed) organisations. It can be difficult to get people to-

gether and it can be difficult to get approval for any works. Funding for conservation is also limited, further hampering efforts.

Much of the erosion is environmental. Wind, rain and salt; returning the sandstone grain by grain to its original sandy structure. The soluble salts in salt water are absorbed by the porous sandstone, crystallising as the water evaporates. This causes the stone to expand and crack. Change in climate conditions have resulted in more frequent larger storms, causing coastal sites to erode at an accelerated pace.

Some of the erosion is from pollution. The acidic air pollutants react with the sandstone, breaking it down. This is a unique problem for urban rock art sites and one I'm sure people may not realise.

Urban development continually puts urban sites under pressure. While legislation protects sites, urban sites are often visited by the general public. Many of the sites are in public places, along bush walk routes, in parks, or nearby to people's homes. Sydney has a population of more than 5.2 million people. Even if only a small number of people go for a bush walk, it's still a lot of human interaction. The love of Sydney's waterways results in an increasing number of water vessels



2008 ABOVE

Images by Neil H

2025 BELOW



THE IMPORTANCE OF THE AHO VOLUNTEERS

being used as people enjoy the ocean, harbour and rivers. These water vessels impact the water flow against the coastal sites, causing undercutting and collapse of many middens.

There are around 1000 sites across the AHO partner council areas and with only one and a half staff able to monitor them regularly, the AHO recruits volunteers to help with keeping an eye on the sites. The AHO volunteers contribute an enormous amount to the information legacy of the sites they monitor. Heading out to their allocated sites, the volunteers are able to record the sites at regular intervals, resulting in a photographic history of the site. The AHO volunteers need to be intrinsically motivated, heading out to monitor when they are able. We understand this can be challenging in the business of everyday life, so we are incredibly grateful for the time they dedicate to their volunteering role. Without their photographic record of the sites, they may be disappear without anyone noticing.

So this is why I'm emotional. I'm sad at the loss of history and culture, but I'm heart warmed by the people who are trying to conserve it.

References

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BECOME A VOLUNTEER

VOLUNTEER WITH THE AHO

Become a Volunteer Site Monitor and help the AHO preserve and protect the Aboriginal cultural heritage in the Northern Beaches, Lane Cove, Ku-ring-gai, North Sydney, Willoughby and Strathfield areas.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Email
[ahovolunteer@
northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ahovolunteer@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au)

THE FACES OF VOLUNTEERING

We're excited to introduce our volunteers. Such a delightful, dedicated, enthusiastic bunch. Quite often their efforts go unseen (but never unacknowledged). We've said it so many times, but we really are grateful for their contribution. We'll be showcasing some of our volunteers over the next few issues. This issue we chat with Jill and Lian. These two fabulous ladies are a continual source of integrity, enthusiasm and joy. We had a great time interviewing them.

JILL

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN VOLUNTEERING AT THE AHO?

Volunteering since early 2023

WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO VOLUNTEERING?

An event at St Ives Wildflower Garden, where I met Lian (now my midden monitoring mate), and found we shared similar interests in the environment and Aboriginal culture and history.

I was also an active member of the Yes Campaign at the time I volunteered, so it seemed another practical way to be of help and learn more about Aboriginal heritage.

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT MONITORING A SITE?

A sense of responsibility to look after an Aboriginal heritage site that had been for thousands of years very likely a happy place of gathering bountiful food from the harbour foreshore and feasting with their tribal group.

Now in contemporary times, I see the effects of so many people living and visiting the area, the plastic washed in from the harbour, the erosion of the foreshore from the many boats.

Besides observing the site on our visits, I always come away with a bag of the litter I've picked up,

another way for me to show respect to the site and the many people who lived here before colonisation.

WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU THINK IS AMAZING/ INTERESTING/ UNIQUE ABOUT THE SITE YOU MONITOR?

I find it interesting that most people wouldn't know it's a cultural site or why it is significant.



THE FACES OF VOLUNTEERING—JILL & LIAN

I like to reflect on how the site would have been used by First Nations people, how they would have enjoyed gathering together, and gazing out to the harbour, with such an abundance of food available from the foreshore.

HAVE YOU HAD ANY UNUSUAL EXPERIENCES WHILST MONITORING?

No - however it's definitely a time for reflection and some sadness for me, for all that has changed and been lost for our First Nations people.

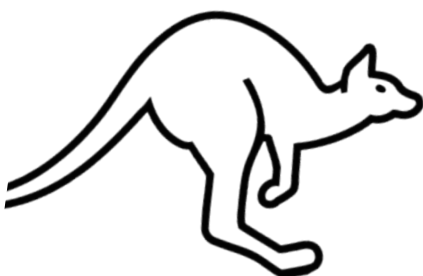
WHAT IS SOMETHING THAT IS INTERESTING ABOUT YOU THAT PERHAPS WE DIDN'T KNOW?

I love walking, it's like a meditative act, and some years ago I walked across England along the Coast to Coast Walk, with my husband and friends.

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE AHO AND THE WORK THAT IT DOES?

I feel like the work is a unique partnership between the AHO and 5 local councils, which allows Aboriginal heritage sites not only to be protected but also for the responsibility for the care of the sites to be shared.

The AHO partnership with Councils is an example of the trust and generosity of spirit that I often see in our First Nations people.



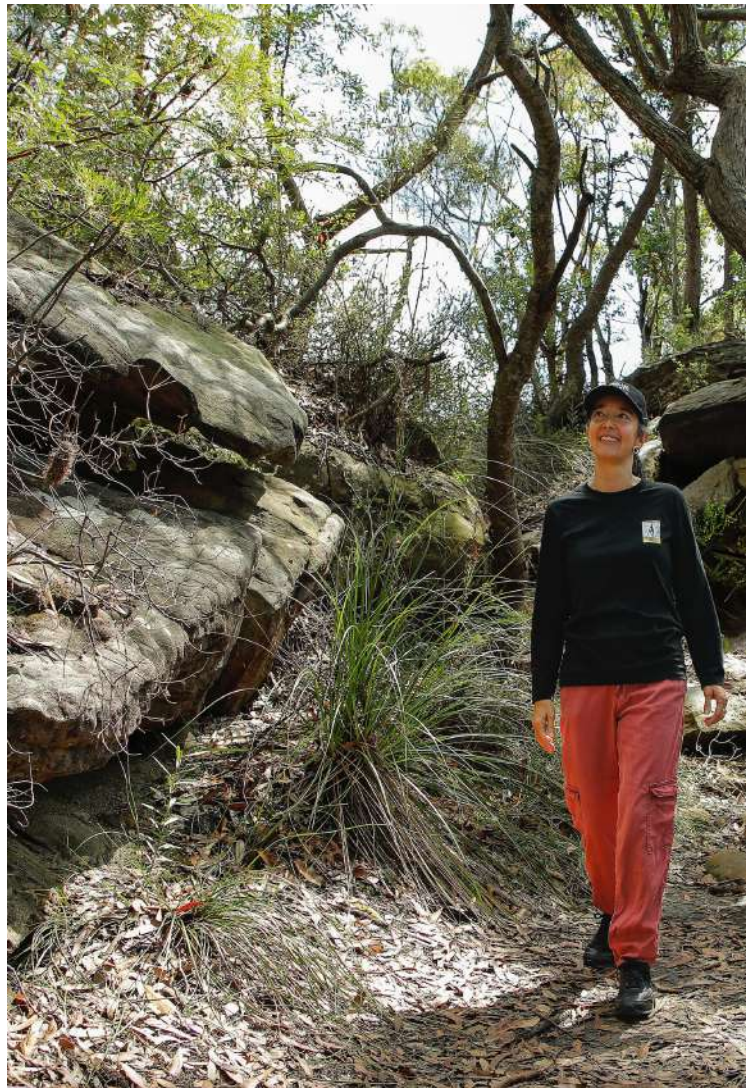
LIAN

WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO VOLUNTEERING?

I have always been interested in Aboriginal Culture and History dating back to over 25 years ago when I was a backpacker travelling here. Then about 4 years ago I attended one of Karens' (the Education Officer) talks as part of the Gai-mariagal Festival and found out about the Aboriginal Heritage Office and volunteer opportunities...but then Covid.

WHAT DOES VOLUNTEERING FOR THE AHO MEAN TO YOU?

It gives me a chance to be involved in caring for a place



THE FACES OF VOLUNTEERING—JILL & LIAN

that holds special significance to an enduring, unique culture stretching back for Millennia.

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT MONITORING A SITE?

I am proud of my (albeit) small role in its conservation and the connection I have to a place of cultural importance in my local area.

WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU THINK IS AMAZING/ INTERESTING/ UNIQUE ABOUT THE SITE YOU MONITOR?

The location. It is a waterfront midden and the views are stunning. Who doesn't like eating seafood by the water? You can just imagine people getting together there, enjoying each other's company and having fun in the water.

HAVE YOU HAD ANY UNUSUAL EXPERIENCES WHILST MONITORING?

I wish I could say yes, but no.

WHAT IS SOMETHING THAT IS INTERESTING ABOUT YOU THAT PERHAPS WE DIDN'T KNOW?

I speak Russian and have visited about a quarter of the countries in the World, including several Republics of the Soviet Union as it then was.

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE AHO AND THE WORK THAT IT DOES?

I think it is a great organisation and admire the work it does. It goes without saying that it should have more funding but I think it does an incredible job nonetheless. The staff are dedicated and knowledgeable and really care about their work. I always feel valued as a Volunteer and enjoy my interactions with them. I love visiting the AHO Museum and Keeping Place which has an impressive collection of artefacts and information.



Singing

By Karen Smith

I was asked to write about my past career as a singer before I joined the Aboriginal Heritage Office. I am not sure how many of you will be interested but here it is.

I told my mother I was going to be a singer as a young child, and this became my soul aim in life. As we had left the city for the country many opportunities dried up. But I joined the choir at Cootamundra High School and went to Eisteddfods. In Canberra I joined the choir, joined a folk group and participated in all the musicals. The folk group toured aged care homes, but I never did get the coveted lead in any of the musicals. My peer group chose me as Janet in our 6th Form assembly take over and gave me a bikini to wear. Rocky Horror Show was all the rage and



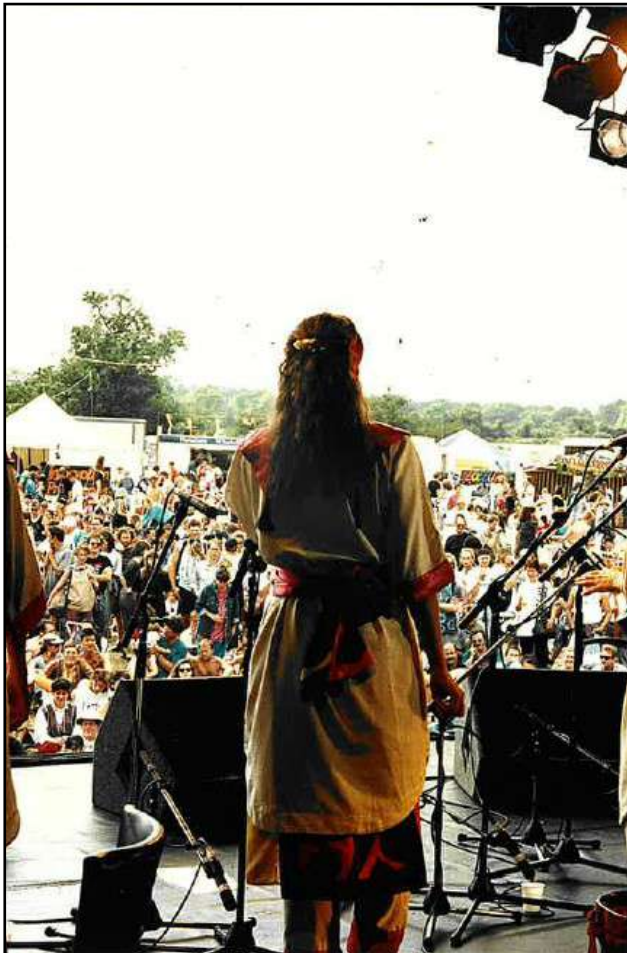
of course with very vigorous 'pelvic thrusts' we were thrown off the stage.

A few years later, back in Sydney, I joined a singing group which became Blindman's Holiday, an all-female a Cappella group. We were the first a cappella group but, now this is very common. We sang what is now called, 'World Music'. We collected the songs, danced, met the families, learnt the languages and pronunciation, and ate the food of the many cultural groups that lived and still live in Sydney. I can never thank those families

Singing By Karen Smith

We toured relentlessly, nationally and internationally. We managed ourselves and participated in live TV, live radio broadcasts and released two recordings. National tours along the east coast were wonderful during mango season. We were flying so often that I began to give the plane landings a score out of 10. We were hired and opened many major events or participated in major festivals in Brisbane Adelaide Melbourne Sydney Canberra and their states. We organised three international tours and sang our way across Europe. Major Festivals, Folk Venues, Arts Centre's, Australia House, International Schools, busking in the streets. We have even sang for food and accommodation at a beautiful rustic hotel above the tree line in Switzerland.

At the Redding Festival



At WOMAD



Singing

By Karen Smith

We sang on the backs of trucks, on floating stages in Dutch canals, in huge and small theatres, caves and sweaty tents. We busked in the streets and busked in the metro tunnels of Paris and were given the shirt of someone's back and moved on by the Gendarmes.

Blindman's Holiday also worked as a vocal ensemble for several groups. We sang with Stevie Wishart, learning the music of *Hildegard von Bingen*, an Abbess, artist, author, composer, mystic, pharmacist, poet, preacher and theologian. We worked with African band *Bubaca* and recorded *Macedonian Rap*. We performed and took turns in singing lead in South American band *Banana Republic*. We worked and toured with *Nakisa*, singing

Eastern European and World music. I sang with the *Bushwhackers* at the Opera House, which went live to air on ABC Radio.

Some high-lights were singing at the national and international WOMAD Festivals, being Australia's Representative at the South Pacific Forum on the island of Nauru, regular nights at the Harbourside Brasserie, participating in the annual live TV broadcast of Christmas Carols Concert at the Domain. being on the stage alongside Archie Roach and Ruby Hunter in Brisbane, the Adelaide Festival and Fringe Festival, opening South Bank in Melbourne, opening the Sydney Harbour Tunnel, singing in the Purcell Room in the South Bank Centre in London.

Blindman's Holiday



Singing

By Karen Smith

There are just too many highlights to mention.

We were proclaimed 'Australia's National Treasure' and were reviewed many times. Bruce Elder from the SMH said we were 'Four of the most Beautiful Voices Imaginable', these were our quotes we used in publicity.

After leaving Blindman's Holiday I began my own business 'Sounds Alive' and taught singing, ran 'How to Sing' Workshops at the Community Colleges, ran choirs and produced many workshops and major events as Sounds Alive, for Community and for Arts Festivals. I held an Annual Charity Christmas Concert and was an Artistic Director for Council for the Oceanic Festival, and the then Guringai Festival openings.

It was a wonderful time of my life, until I began to suffer from profound hearing loss which ended my career as a singer.

Learning how to sing in front of an audience was important training in helping me speak in front of audiences and schools in my current position as the Education Officer at the AHO. So, I am very fortunate to have had this experience.

I hope you have enjoyed these stories from your Aboriginal Education Officer.



Blindman's Holiday



Sound's Alive

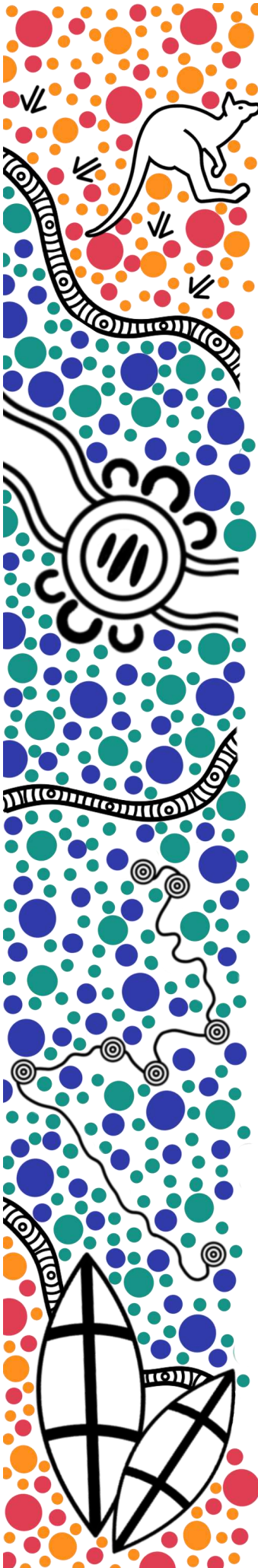
Singing

By Karen Smith



Blindman's Holiday





A SHORT HISTORY THE PREQUEL

BY PHIL HUNT

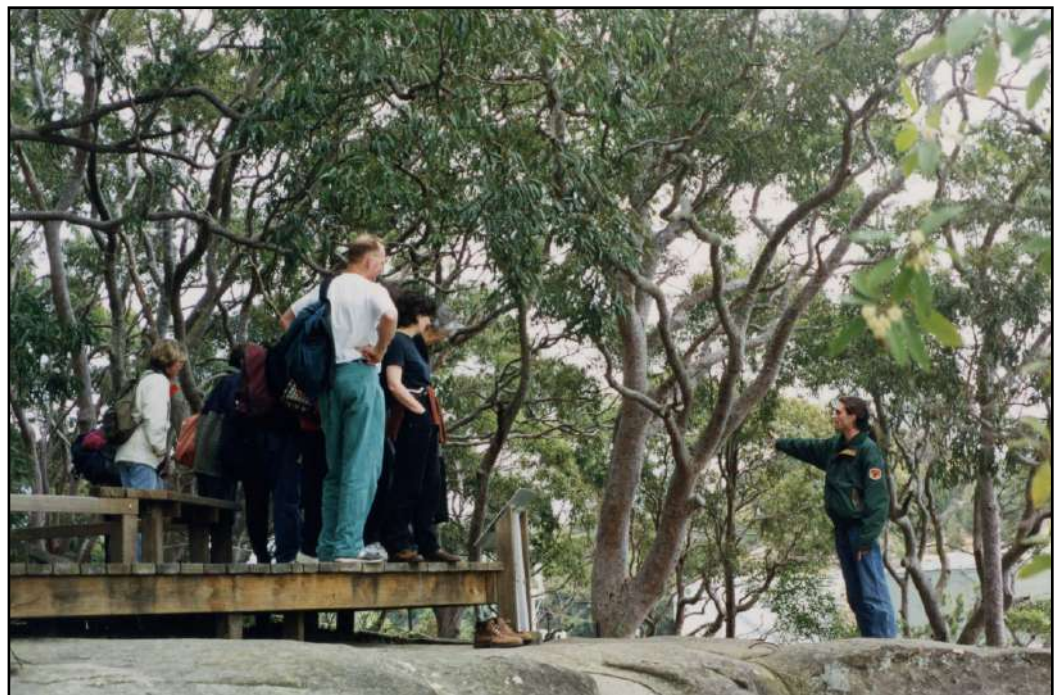
A celebration! But what to write about? To a large extent we've already written about the Aboriginal Heritage Office's unlikely yet unique story. ¹Perhaps it is time to go to the Prequel? We visited the AHO archives and had a look around. What happened before the AHO? What occurred before David Watts was employed in the new partnership between North Sydney, Willoughby, Lane Cove and Warringah Councils? Why did these Councils break ranks and do something so differently?

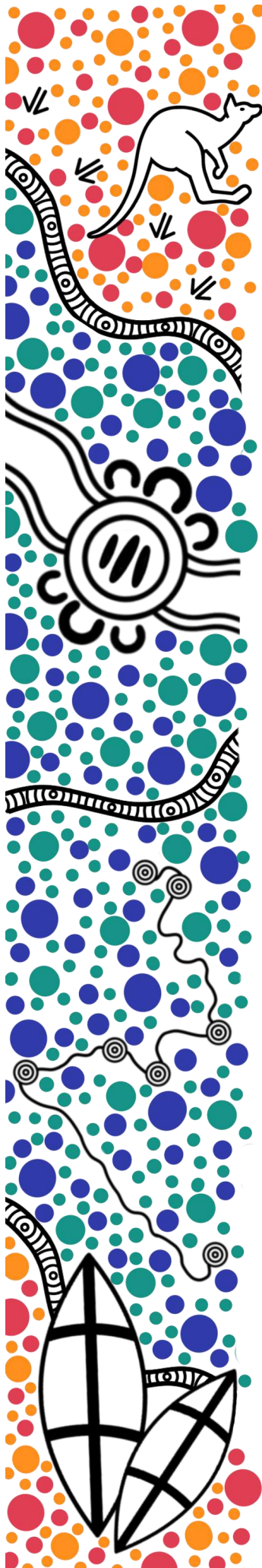
One folder is particularly informative. Let's go back to last century. To 1998 in fact. Before our museum officer Kyle Nettleton was born, he reminds

us. There's information here about a heritage grant. North Sydney Council is hoping to get funding to do a new Aboriginal Heritage Study. There's a smorgasbord of documents. There's a brochure on grants from the former NSW Heritage Office. Here's a fax from the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), the state government Aboriginal heritage department of the day, with a giant list of archaeological consultants. What's a fax? It starts with a 'fax cover sheet' from NPWS Archaeologist Phil Hunt (he sounds familiar).

More documents. There's a draft Aboriginal site management strategy (the proposed heritage study). Then letters out

Guided walk, Gadyan Track, 1997 (Photo: M.Park)





A SHORT HISTORY—THE PREQUEL BY PHIL HUNT

from Council's Bushland Manager Rob Mather² to some of the main archaeological consultants of that time. And also to some newer ones, an Aboriginal archaeologist and an Aboriginal organisation, already suggesting there's a motivation to find a different approach from the norm. Here's a draft document that looks more like the final strategy proposal. On the cover there's a photo of Aunty Jenny Munro, then Chairperson of Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council, and Genia McCaffery, then Mayor of North Sydney Council. They are opening the Gadyan Track at Berry Island, an Aboriginal interpretive walk, in September 1997.

Then there's a whole bundle of proposal documents by archaeological consultants pitching their approach to preparing an Aboriginal heritage study

for the Council. And what's this one? A fax cover sheet from one big consulting firm with a new consultant working with them, David Watts (former MLALC Sites Officer).

An Aboriginal heritage study is the normal method that Councils use to upskill on Aboriginal heritage in their local area. At the time this meant an archaeological consultant would review the known and potential Aboriginal archaeological site issues, add some Aboriginal history, a bit of geology, some planning advice and lots of recommendations for further work. While they are important documents, they were often pitched more to other archaeologists, had little Aboriginal community input, and invariably Council staff weren't really sure how to implement the next

Sites Awareness Training, D.Watts, P.Hunt, A.Madden, 1997





A SHORT HISTORY—THE PREQUEL BY PHIL HUNT

steps which came with hefty additional price tags. Most Councils couldn't raise the upfront costs and sought state government grants.

Here, the folder continues. A letter of support from Steve Free, NPWS' cultural heritage unit Acting Manager. Significantly this is an Identified Aboriginal position that was created in a recent restructuring of the NPWS³. This document is an unexpected blast from the past for me as Steve was one of two Aboriginal students doing honours in archaeology at ANU in the same group as me. I had forgotten that he was my Acting Manager at the time that the support letter was written. The first manager was Bill Lord in I think 1997.

Reminiscing can be hard to pull out from! Back to the old documents.

Here's the next, oh, but this one isn't so good! It's a 'regret to inform you' from the funding body. Despite all the goodwill and enthusiasm, North Sydney Council didn't get its hoped for grant money. What happens next?

Here is the answer. Letters to each of the candidates for the project explaining that it has been cancelled. With only \$200,000 available for Aboriginal heritage projects across NSW, according to a brochure, North Sydney was up against it to get the \$40,000 required for such a study at that time.

Like so many good ideas, this too had run aground on a lack of money. Yet sometimes the disappointment of what was possible becomes the catalyst for something more impossible yet more rewarding.

Guided walk, Gadyan Track, 1997



200 Miller Street
North Sydney NSW 2060
Telephone: 9936 8112
DX10587 North Sydney
Facsimile: 9936 8118



All correspondence to:
Mayor's Room
North Sydney Council
PO Box 12
North Sydney NSW 2059

23 September 1999

(CS) (6510)

His Worship the Mayor
Mr Pat Reilly
Willoughby City Council
DX 29596 - CHATSWOOD

Dear Mayor

PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL - JOINT ABORIGINAL HERITAGE MANAGER POSITION

I am writing to invite you to consider partnering with North Sydney Council in an exciting new program.

Over the last six months, North Sydney Council has employed an Aboriginal Heritage Officer. This is a much needed role and unique in Local Government. The position was established to initiate four principal objectives:

- Aboriginal Site Protection & Development Policy Review
- Liaison & Relationship Building with Relevant Stakeholders
- Education (Council Staff, Public, Commercial Sector)
- Community Services Support

The North Sydney community has greatly benefitted from this new position. We are developing a program to identify and protect sites of Aboriginal cultural significance within the Council area, including a procedural review to ensure fulfilment of our statutory responsibilities toward this part of our heritage. Training programs have been implemented for Council staff, and a wide range of public education programs have been undertaken. Community support for Council's Aboriginal heritage initiatives has been overwhelmingly positive, with co-operative relationships being established among various stakeholders, and public events continuously over-subscribed.

North Sydney Council is now seeking to ensure that the Aboriginal Heritage position is not only retained, but its scope widened. We propose to form a partnership with three other Northern Suburbs Councils to create the position of an Aboriginal Heritage Manager to jointly provide a specialized service to each of the four local government areas participating. Preliminary discussions of the concept have already taken place with a number of local government areas, resulting in excellent levels of interest expressed. The NSW Department of Education & Training has also been approached to assist financially with the establishment of this position under its Local Government Aboriginal Employment & Career Development Program. A decision on this application for financial assistance is imminent.

[I:\DOCS\MJC\mjc94469MRG.wpd]



A SHORT HISTORY—THE PREQUEL BY PHIL HUNT

From the forlorn pile of unripened plans comes another folder of aspirations and activities. North Sydney was committed to doing something. They were still actively engaging with stakeholders. The folder shows that they were hosting the pilot Aboriginal Site Care Committee, a new initiative attempting to emulate the successful 'bush care' volunteer programs but aiming to have volunteers help with Aboriginal heritage site monitoring instead. The committee included North Sydney Council (Rob Mather), MLALC (David Watts and Allen Maden), NPWS (Phil Hunt) and an independent bush regenerator (Geoff Bake-well). There are agendas and minutes from far more meetings than I remember!

Looking at these files from the familiarity of 2025 it could seem like the AHO partnership was obviously going to take


place. Yet this was definitely not the case. Seeing familiar names in various places back then and then those associated for so long with the AHO gives the illusion of a neat continuity. Again, definitely not so. If North Sydney Council didn't have the funds for a one-off heritage study, how could an Aboriginal heritage position be conceived? Who would gamble with employing a non-archaeologist to come out with all the desired archaeological reporting and documentation? And also in doing something as probably a world first - an Aboriginal person employed at local government to specifically work on Aboriginal heritage, not in social issues or as a liaison officer or a community role. Heritage.

The attached letter from North Sydney inviting Willoughby to join a partnership demonstrates that the courage and wis-

1998 Heritage Assistance Program

helping the community to conserve its heritage

Guidelines



Purpose of the Heritage Assistance Program

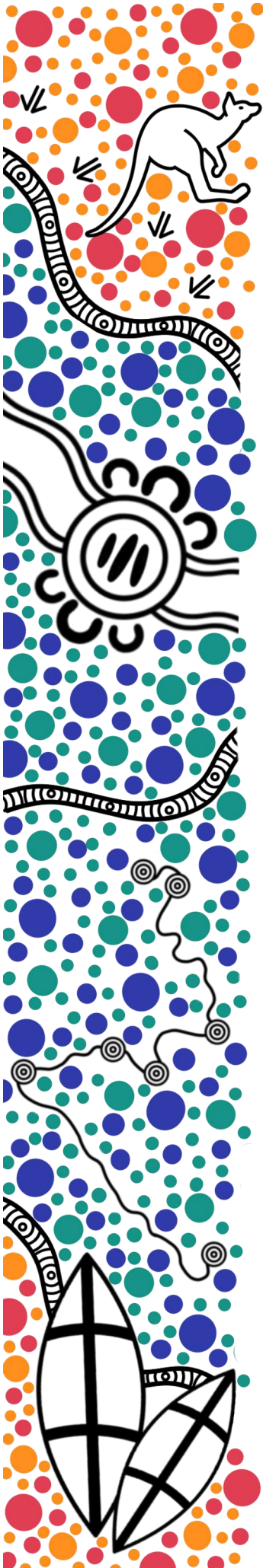
To conserve the heritage of NSW for the enjoyment and benefit of current and future generations by assisting its identification, conservation, interpretation, management and promotion.

Eligibility for funding

Your project must fit into one of the following 7 categories set out below. For the guidance of applicants the notional funding available for each category is also given.

1. **Aboriginal heritage projects** - \$200,000 allocated to the following areas:

- * educational and promotional projects
- * oral history
- * site work or interpretation projects
- * local government area-wide site surveys
- * Aboriginal artefact collections



A SHORT HISTORY—THE PREQUEL BY PHIL HUNT

dom shown back then had paid off. The work that David Watts did in that year was so noticeably beneficial and popular that North Sydney sought to make it more permanent and try and build a partnership to make it viable. Three other Councils made quite brave choices to commit and in March 2000 this new entity was born. It would be another 5 years before the AHO name came about. In the meantime it was mostly just one person slowly growing the role and the reach to match a vision.

Twenty-five years is a long time in comparison with some things, and a ridiculously short time when compared to others. The AHO's existence is now more than 10% of Australia's modern history since the arrival of the ships at Sydney in 1788. It is more than 20% of the history of modern Australia since Federation in 1901. This is a reminder of just how young the modern nation is.

Australia is a young new nation overlain on the foundations of hundreds of ancient nations. There are still many trees on this continent that are much

older than this young and still quite new nation.

Knowing your history is important. Knowing it in depth can be very helpful in understanding why things really are the way they are. Yet it is also important to look the other way. Away from the interests and fond memories of the past. Above and out from the sometimes overwhelming onslaught of things of the present. To look to that which we cannot see but still to look ahead. Closer and then further, to work out what things need to be done now to make that future one to be proud of. Not just for ourselves but the many who come next, who are dependent on these actions we make today.

And we shouldn't forget Rob Emerson, Director of NSC's Open Space and Planning, who helped Dave and was very involved in creating the first MoU and engineering the partnership. You often won't know individual Council workers and no one works for Council for praise, but I'm a big fan. Councils do amazing things, much that we take for granted. You have to learn to look to really appreciate how much local government does to make our world better.

References:

1. [Yarnupings Sept 2022; March 2021, March 2020](#)
2. [Yarnupings Apr-May 2013](#)
3. [Yarnupings Feb 2024: 12](#)



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BUSH TUCKER *Garden*



After a long hot summer, the AHO Bush Tucker Garden has been enjoying some Autumn rain.



Images by Susan Whitby





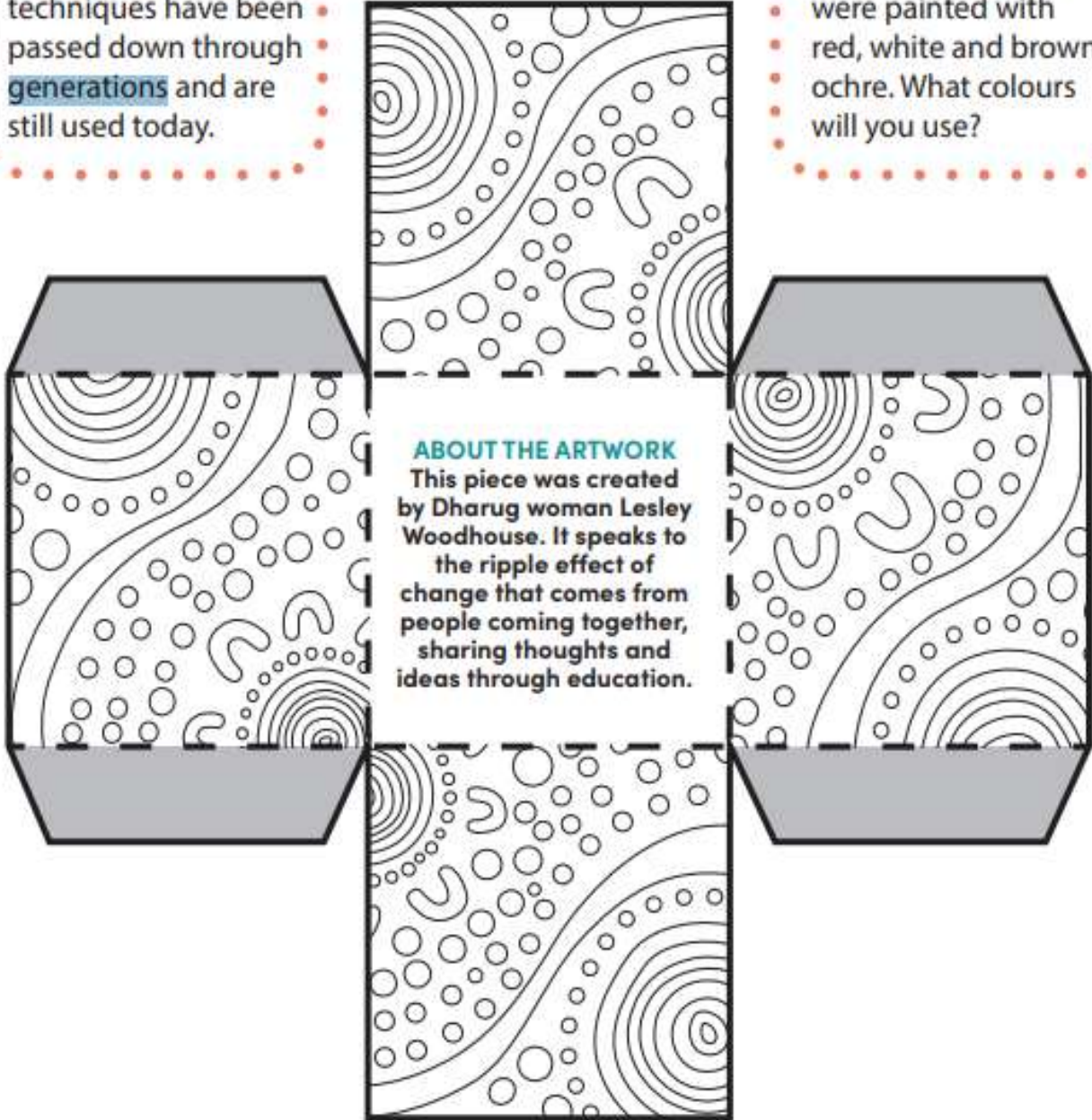
WINGARU EGG BASKETS

Didge Ya Know?

Aboriginal weaving techniques have been passed down through **generations** and are still used today.

Didge Ya Know?

Traditionally, baskets were painted with red, white and brown ochre. What colours will you use?



ABOUT THE ARTWORK
This piece was created by Dharug woman Lesley Woodhouse. It speaks to the ripple effect of change that comes from people coming together, sharing thoughts and ideas through education.



INSTRUCTIONS

1. Cut along the outside lines and fold along the dashed lines.
2. Put glue on the shaded sections and join up the sides.
3. Attach your handle with glue or staples.

DAMIEN'S DAMPER

Prep Time: 15 mins

Cooking Time: 15 mins

Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons macadamia or lemon myrtle infused oil
- 300-350ml water
- 500g self-raising flour, plus extra for dusting
- pinch of salt
- 2 tablespoons roasted and ground wattleseed (or lemon myrtle, strawberry gum, bush tomato, or saltbush)

Method:

1. If using the oven, preheat to 220°C.
2. Mix the oil and water in a jug. Sift the flour into a large bowl, and mix through the salt and wattleseed (spice). Slowly pour in the oil and water, and mix to make a dough.
3. Turn out the dough onto a floured surface and knead until smooth. Dust with flour, place on a baking tray and bake in the oven for 15-20 minutes, or ideally wrap in foil and cook on a fire in the ashes. Damper is always best eaten hot with lashings of butter.

These Autumn months have us yearning for campfires and starry skies. Delicious cosy foods, earthy and handmade. Of course, damper sprung immediately to mind.

I came across this ideal recipe at Warndu. I'm looking forward to adding in the bush tucker ingredients. I'm especially looking forward to adding the lashings of butter!

We would love to know how your cook up goes. Send in your photos to aho@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au or send us a message or tag us on Instagram [@aboriginalheritageoffice](https://www.instagram.com/aboriginalheritageoffice).

Please enjoy the Damien's Damper recipe from www.warndu.com.

