

March 2018

Issue 2



# Aboriginal Heritage Office Yarnupings

[www.aboriginalheritage.org](http://www.aboriginalheritage.org)



northern  
beaches  
council



STRATHFIELD  
COUNCIL



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*Mackerel Beach-West Head Loop*



# Shell Fish-Hooks

For at least the last thousand years BC (Before Cook) the waters of *Warringá* (Middle Harbour), *Kay-ye-my* (North Harbour), *Weé-rong* (Sydney Cove) and other Sydney estuaries were the scenes of people using shell fish-hooks to catch a feed. With no known surviving oral tradition for how and who would make the fish-hooks and use them in this area, the historical and archaeological records become more important.

## What do we know?

Shell fish-hooks were observed and reported on by a number of people from the First Fleet. They mention being made and used by local women.

“Considering the quickness with which they are finished, the excellence of the work, if it be inspected, is admirable”, Watkin Tench said on witnessing Barangaroo making one on the north shore.



First Fleet painting of fish-hook (T. Watling)

The manufacturing process involved the use of a strong shell. So far the only archaeological evidence is from the *Turbo* species. Pointed stone files were used to create the shape and then file down the edges to the recognisable form. Use-wear analysis on files has confirmed that they were used on shell as well as wood, bone and plant material. There is also a correlation between the presence of fish-hooks and the stone files in the archaeological record.



*Turbo* shell & manufacture process  
Photo: Paul Ovenden, Australian Museum



AHO museum shell



While other types of fish-hook were used throughout Australia, so far the archaeological evidence shows that shell fish-hooks in this region were used only from central NSW down to around the Victorian border. The southern limit of the *Turbo torquata* shell coincides with the shell-fish hook evidence and may be the reason why shell fish-hooks are not found elsewhere in Victoria. To the north, there appears to be no shell fish-hooks north of Port Stephens (although bone hooks were reported) until the Keppel Islands in Queensland. *Turbo* is found in northern NSW but its rocky shore habitat is rarer and the sandy shore environment of northern NSW may have been less suited to this kind of fishing and this may be a factor in the spread of shell fish-hook technology.

In terms of time frame, the reliable specimens of shell fish-hooks or files are all from within the last 1000 years. Shell tends to have a lower preservation rate than other archaeological materials and fish-hooks are small, rare and fragile. There are only 36 recorded sites in NSW with shell hook and file manufacturing technology, mostly with only a few examples (although over 200 were excavated in Kurnell (Botany Bay) and Birubi (near Port Stephens)).

### **What do we know?**

Did the technology develop locally or come from another part of Australia or further afield? There are parallels with shell fish-hooks from islands colonised by the Polynesians. Members of the First Fleet wondered at some possible connection as some women from Tahiti also had the last digit of the smallest finger missing like the Sydney coastal clans.

Despite living in the Information Age, with questions like these there are inevitably obstacles finding out the answers. Where the direct traditional knowledge link has been broken, we have to rely on the imperfect historical and archaeological record. Where there is traditional knowledge, there will be restrictions on how much information that knowledge-holders can reveal to the uninitiated. Armed with curiosity, patience and respect, we look where we can, be honest with the evidence and be fair with our deductions.

Dr Val Attenbrow from the Australian Museum concludes:

“at present I interpret the evidence as reflecting the relatively recent introduction of hook and line fishing with the inclusion of shell fish-hooks into the coastal tool kit almost 1000 years ago and their adoption by people in only a relatively restricted area of the NSW coast.”

### **Sources**

Attenbrow, Val, ‘Aboriginal fishing in Port Jackson, and the introduction of shell fish-hooks to NSW’, in *The Natural History of Sydney*, 2010, Royal Zoological Society of New South Wales

Australian Museum place name chart, <https://australianmuseum.net.au/place-names-chart>

When Strathfield Council joined the Aboriginal Heritage Office partnership, there was a ripple of concern when the results of the database search came back from the NSW site register (AHIMS). There were no recorded Aboriginal sites. None. Not a single site for the whole LGA (local government area). Usually a large part of the AHO's work lies in trying to find the recorded sites (often with poor locational information and no updates on their condition since the first recording, which can be decades ago) and then setting up monitoring programs and determining management needs. Trying to find recorded sites is time consuming. Trying to find unrecorded sites is a different technique entirely.

Looking at maps, aerial photographs and historical reports did not bring much joy either. There has been extensive development and there are very few bushland reserves and open space areas, especially when compared to northern Sydney.



The upper Cooks River in 1943 (left) and today (right)

Little rays of sunshine began appearing in the gloom when old aerial photography suggested that some landscapes had survived through to today. There were also areas that might offer some archaeological visibility (places where erosion or land modification has removed overlying vegetation, grass and leaf litter to expose historic soil levels that could contain archaeological material).

The next step would be to field test these locations.

In Hawkesbury Sandstone country, the key landscape features to examine are rock outcrops that could contain shelters and rock engravings, and foreshore areas where middens may survive. In shale country you are looking for reasonably level areas where people may have camped or spent some time manufacturing new stone tools or using stone tools to create other implements or prepare food. A river, creek or water source would increase the likelihood of the area being used.

Despite the significant levels of past disturbance, within 20 minutes the first artefact scatter was found. A surviving flat terrace above the upper Cooks River was the landscape feature, an area of eroded ground was the window to the past. The recording work, site cards and photos are the strings that reconnect the old to the new.

"What I really believe in, especially for kids these days is, follow your dreams, even if other people think that your dream is silly or they think that you haven't got the ability to achieve it, just don't listen to the negative stuff, you know you've got to follow your dreams because if you have enough determination you will get there, you will get there eventually - just don't let other people put you off."

**SALLY MORGAN, AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL**

At the end of the day we had two more artefact scatters.

What does this tell us? The stone tools and flakes found show the people of the area traded to get the material as it is not local and the material was reasonably 'expensive' because it was well used before discard. One 'core' had so many flakes struck off it that it was then put on an anvil to allow 'bi-polar' flaking to extract more blades. A large amount of force is required to knock a flake off a core. Holding the core in one hand and a hammerstone in the other, physics assures us that you can only fracture the rock under certain conditions. When the core becomes too small, the only other way is to place it on another piece of stone (an anvil – which could be someone's stone hatchet head) and strike the core with a narrow 'hammer' to create sufficient force.



Rotated bi-polar silcrete core .

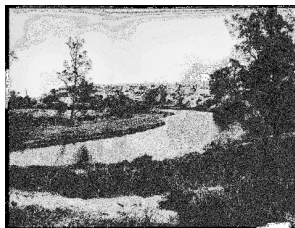
A diversity of stone tools .

Broken flake in eroded ground .

The results also add to the story of the Cooks River, where there was no archaeological evidence at this upper end. This is not a new discovery, it is simply the rediscovery of something old. It is not a remarkable finding, but rather the verification of a connection that the original owners never sought to lose.



The Cooks River Sydney c1858-1862, showing the dam across the river at Tempe



*Keep the Faith, The most amazing things in life tend to happen when you're about to give up hope.*

# It's A Funny World

In 1935 a fair-skinned Australian of part-indigenous descent was ejected from a hotel for being an Aboriginal. He returned to his home on the mission station to find himself refused entry because he was not an Aboriginal. He tried to remove his children but was told he could not because they were Aboriginal. He walked to the next town where he was arrested for being an Aboriginal vagrant and placed on the local reserve. During the Second World War he tried to enlist but was told he could not because he was Aboriginal. He went interstate and joined up as a non-Aboriginal. After the war he could not acquire a passport without permission because he was Aboriginal. He received exemption from the Aborigines Protection Act and was told that he could no longer visit his relations on the reserve because he was not an Aboriginal. He was denied permission to enter the Returned Servicemen's Club because he was Aboriginal.

**Source: Peter Read, from an Aboriginal Citizenship conference at the Australian National University, February 1996, cited on the website of the Australian Parliament House (accessed June 2005)**

You know, I don't play the race card a lot. I'm half-black, half-white, and I'm proud that my skin is brown. The world sees me as a black man, but my mother didn't raise me as a black man  
& She didn't raise me as a white guy.

**Shemar Moore**

*"Being Aboriginal is not the color of your skin or how broad your nose is. It is a spiritual feeling, an identity you know in your heart. ... It is a unique feeling that is difficult for non-Aboriginal to fully understand."*

*Australian Aboriginal saying*

"We know we cannot live in the past but the past lives in us. "  
CHARLES PERKINS, Australian Aboriginal quote



## Is It Possible!

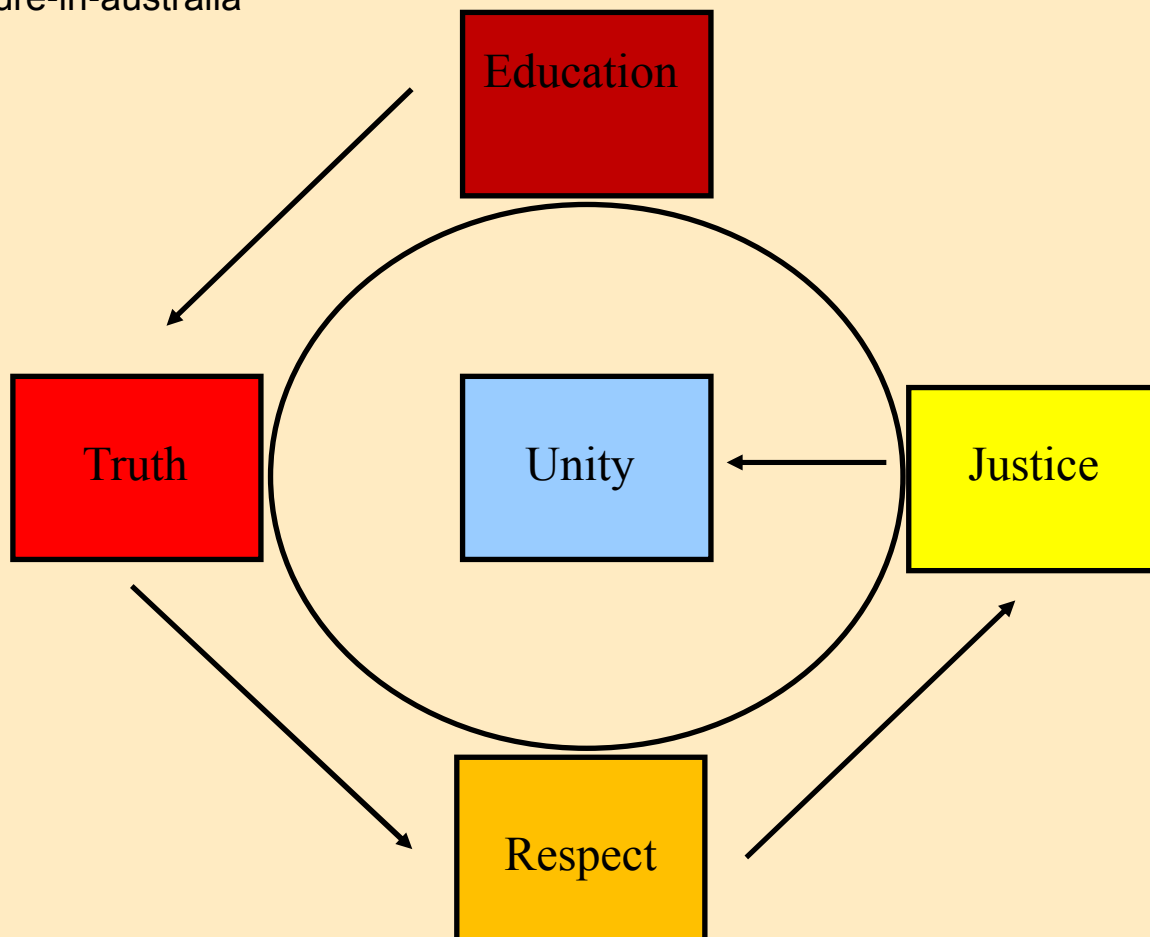
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Hello,

Well my turn for a bit of a spiel. I endeavor to get you (the reader) to imagine what its like to work at the AHO. All the staff here do their utmost to protect, educate and manage the huge work loads the office tries to cope with.

Weekly we get calls and messages asking questions about Aboriginal issues such as who are the traditional people of an area, how can we get an elder to come to our school, can the AHO provide welcome to countries and also way too often we have people either emailing, phone calls or people at the door wanting to know the answers to questions such as why are all Aboriginal people lazy? why don't they want to work? why they don't stop feeling sorry for themselves? And why can't they just get over it?


This is a great web link you can use to learn the facts about those common Myths <https://www.creativespirits.info/aboriginalculture/busting-myths-about-aboriginal-culture-in-australia>



*Don't waste words on people who deserve your silence. Sometimes the most powerful thing you can say is nothing at all.*

# For The Kids

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K	O	O	K	A	B	U	R	R	A
O	L	D	F	S	O	F	J	O	H
A	W	C	A	N	O	E	Y	C	U
L	Z	V	P	Q	M	I	L	K	L
A	X	E	S	T	E	E	L	S	K
	S	P	E	A	R	Z	A	S	J
L	A	O	M	X	A	P	W	H	Y
M	I	D	D	E	N	G	K	A	L
Q	D	P	E	D	G	U	N	Y	A

Kookaburra

Koala

Axes

Midden

Canoe

Rocks

Law

Gunya

Eels

Spear

Maps

Old

Milk

Odd

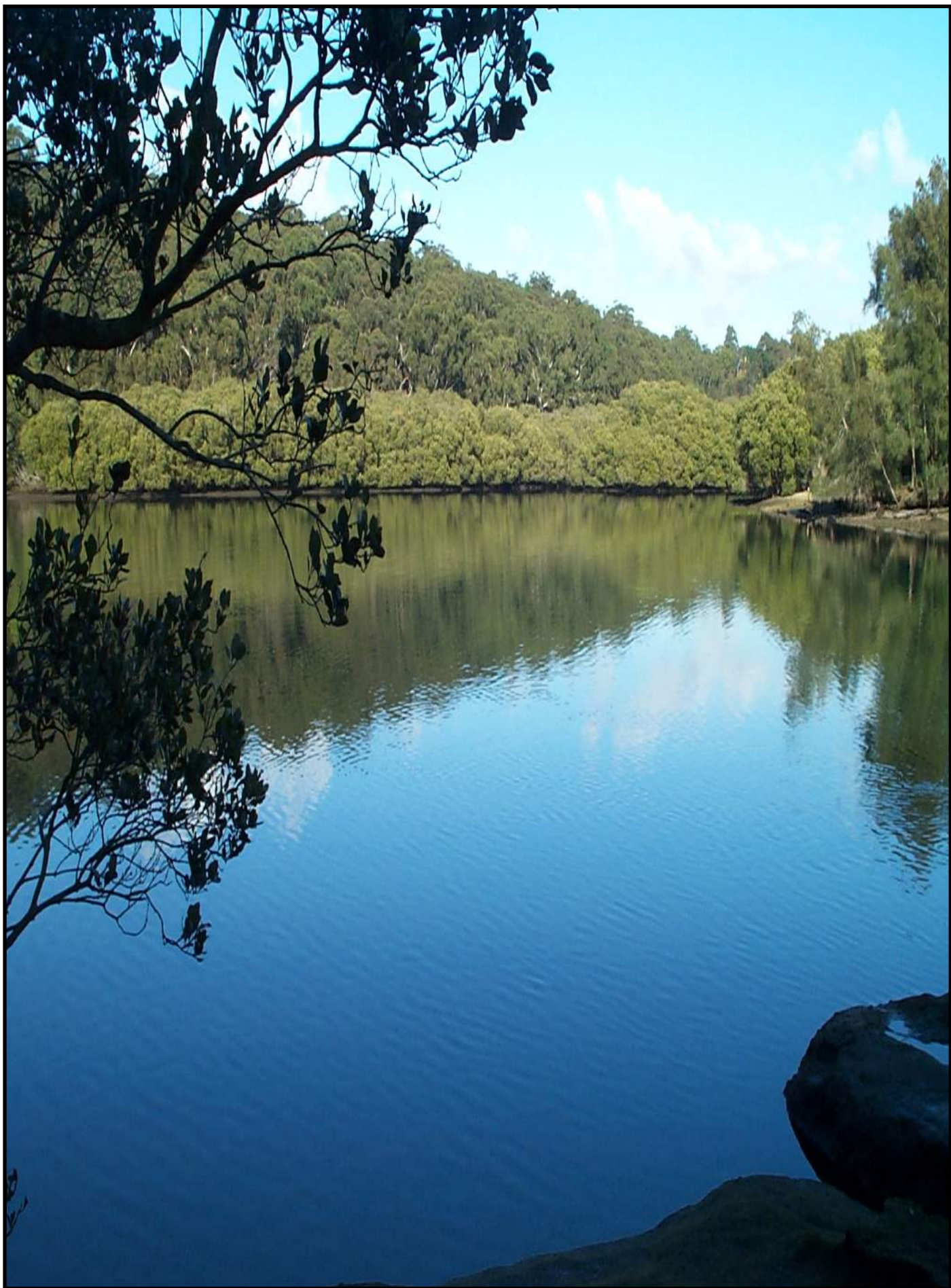
Nay

Hay

Said

Life is like a difficult puzzle, you can try to solve it all, but there's always gonna be those missing pieces.



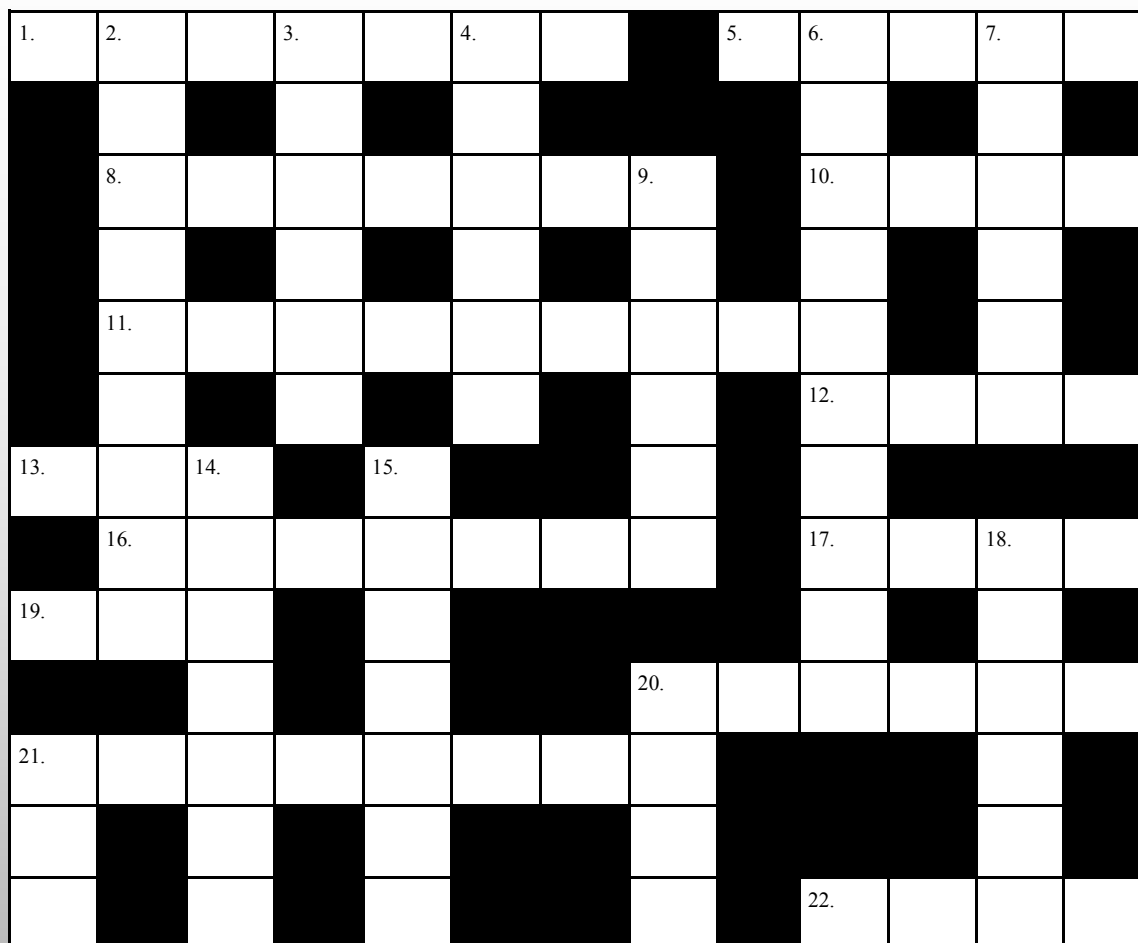


Take a few seconds to let nature speak

# Crossword:



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Answers in our next edition!

## Across

1. Recycle
5. Short for Didgeridoo
8. Place for hanging people
10. Tied Game
11. Australian 400m freestyle Olympics Champ
12. Rugby League Rothmans Medallist from Toomeah .... Mcgrady.
13. Higher Power
16. James Bond Actor ..... Dalton
17. Milo and ....
19. Employment agency who changed name to DEET in 1987.
20. Australian
21. Night Light
22. Sundown

## Down

2. Give a hard time
3. Capacity
4. Increase
6. Aboriginal
7. Googar (NSW)
9. Leisurely
14. Days of old
15. Adios
18. Nincom-poops
20. After Prayer
21. Wife, Girl-friend



“Realize deeply that the present moment is all you have. Make the NOW the primary focus of your life.”

# Quizerama #1:



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1. What does Yaama commonly mean in Aboriginal Lingo?  
**A. Hello B. Tree C. Canoe D. Family**
2. What is the population of Aboriginal people in NSW?  
**A. 912,000 B. 464,000 C. 178,000 D. 216,000**
3. How many different Aboriginal Clan groups are there in Australia? **A. Approx 50 B. Approx 500 C. Approx 2000 D. Approx 180**
4. In which state or territory will you find Tennant Creek, Humpty Doo and Gove?  
**A. Western Australia B. Northern Territory C. Queensland**
5. Brooke Peris, the younger cousin of Nova Peris is an Olympian in which sport? **A. Athletics B. Basketball C. Hockey D. Football**
6. Which town is the oldest inland settlement in Australia?  
**A. Dubbo B. Mudgee C. Bathurst D. Cessnock**
7. What is the animal emblem for Queensland?  
**A. Turtle B. Crocodile C. Dugong D. Koala**
8. In which year did Lionel Rose defeat Fighting Harada to win the World Bantamweight Boxing Title? **A. 1990 B. 1982 C. 1968 D. 1956**
9. Which city is closest to Melbourne? **A. Adelaide B. Hobart C. Canberra**
10. If you were having Lunch at Fox Studios Moore Park, What land would you be on? **A. Gweagal B. Garigal C. Darramurragal D. Gadigal**

Answers in our next edition!



I couldn't quite remember how to throw a boomerang. But eventually it came back to me.



## Crossword Answers Dec Issue:

**ACROSS:** 1. Treaty 4. Yam 6. Ra 7. Mabo 8. Gullible  
10. Top 12. Terra Nullius 14. Eel 16. Reform 18. Mungo  
20. Bring 22. National 23. Descendant

**DOWN:** 1. Together 2. Tribal 3. Yabun 4. Yothu Yindi 5. Map 7.  
Me 9. Lore 11. Claim 13. Recognise 15. Yolngu (Typo) 17. Equal 19.  
Wave 21. Roma

## Quizerama Answers Dec Issue:

1. Cathy Freeman 2. C. Wiradjuri 3. Uluru 4. Kangaroo & Emu  
5. Adam Goodes 6. B. Too Deadly 7. Clinton Pryor 8. Mob  
9. D. Archie Roach 10. A. Meehni, Wimlah and Gunnedoo  
11. Waratah 12. C. Common Krait



"We're all gifted with the opportunity to succeed. But you get further if you extend the hand of friendship."  
The Late JIMMY LITTLE



*YARNUP February 21st 2018*  
*Special Guest: Tjimpuna*

*The Aboriginal Heritage Office was very pleased to have Anangu woman Tjimpuna from the APY Lands in Central Australia as our Guest Speaker at The Dee Why Council Chambers on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> Feb 2018.*

*Tjimpuna spoke to a turnout of 50 people on the different aspects of Tjukurpa (Anangu Law & Culture), Cultural Identity, Cultural Heritage & Cultural Kinship from an Anangu perspective.*

*She also educated us on **SONGLINES** and what they mean to all the different Indigenous cultures around the world and how all our **SONGLINES** here in Australia start from Uluru. This was very intriguing and she answered quite a few questions on this.*

*Tjimpuna also spoke on the relationships shown between the Anangu people and all others so that we can co-exist in harmony and respect other cultures and the place they have in our society today and in the future.*

**"Privilege could be as harmful to the future welfare of Aborigines as discrimination."**  
**JOH BJELKE-PETERSEN, 1973**

# *A Fortunate Life by A.B Facey*

*The* Life story of Albert Facey, A World War 1 veteran who passed away in 1981 at the age of 87. This book tells us he was a man who never let life keep him down, always rolled with the punches and continued to push forward through any life challenges that he faced.



Albert Facey was born on August 31<sup>st</sup> 1894. He was the youngest of seven kids and moved to Western Australia from Victoria as a child in the early 1900's. Albert did very little schooling and pretty much taught himself how to read and write. Albert writes about the setbacks he faced as a child after leaving the care of his old grandmother who was his rock early on in life, the beating he took as a 10yr old kid that nearly took his life and the different opportunities he was given that led him to being an experienced bushman by the age of 14.

Albert tells us about his sporting talents, playing a bit of footy (Australian Rules) and also travelling the countryside as a boxer who was unbeaten. He tells us of being lost on a cattle drive in the middle of Australia struggling with little food or water and also about joining the Australian Imperial Forces to fight in Gallipoli and all the turmoil war brought to his life.

On arriving home from world war one Albert meets the love of his life Evelyn Mary Gibson. Evelyn and Albert marry a week before his 26<sup>th</sup> birthday and they start a family and a journey that will last 60 years. Truly a remarkable man.

I enjoyed this book from start to finish and would give it 5 out of 5...

**Must Read!!**

**(Review by ED Daley)**

"I find television very educating. Every time somebody turns on the set, I go into the other room and read a book."

Groucho Marx



# Chicken Pot Roast

SERVES 4 PREPARATION 20MIN COOKING

1hr 45MIN SKILL LEVEL EASY



- olive oil, for cooking
- **1.5 kg** free-range chicken
- **200 g** flat pancetta, cut into batons
- **1** brown onion, thinly sliced
- **2** carrots, thinly sliced
- **1** head garlic, halved horizontally
- **1** stick celery, thinly sliced
- **500 ml** (2 cups) white wine
- **1** bay leaf
- **1** small bunch thyme
- **10** peppercorns
- **8** small new potatoes, washed and halved
- **½** bunch baby turnips, washed, trimmed and halved
- **½** bunch radishes washed, trimmed and halved

In a large saucepan, big enough to snugly fit the whole chicken, heat a little oil over high heat. Place the chicken in the pot and brown it all over as best you can, then remove it and place it to one side.

Add the pancetta to the pan and sauté until browned, then add the onion, carrot, garlic and celery and continue cooking until soft.

Deglaze the pot with white wine and add the chicken back in. Top with as much water as needed to submerge the chicken. Add the thyme, bay and peppercorns. Bring the liquid to the boil, then reduce to a simmer, cover and cook for 1 hour.

Next add the potatoes and turnips and continue cooking for 20 minutes, then add the radishes and continue cooking for another 10 minutes. The chicken and all the vegetables will be cooked by this stage.

Remove the chicken from the broth and either shred the meat or break it up into rough portions.

To serve, spoon some vegetables and broth into bowls and top with the chicken. Serve with a fresh green salad, bread and Dijon mustard.

**“Nothing is so aggravating as calmness.”**  
**— Mahatma Gandhi**





by Edward Daley

The largest modern day co-oboree we have here in New South Wales is the annual NSW Koori Knockout which is held over the long weekend in October. We have around 4000 Rugby League players and over 15,000 spectators who attend this event every year. This Knockout has been running

now since 1971 and is a big part of the Koori Calendar.

This year The Koori Knockout will be held on Gods Country (Wiradjuri Land) at Dubbo and it will be hosted by the 2017 Knockout Winners the Newcastle Yowies who hail from Awabakal Country. The Yowies along with R.A.B (Redfern All Blacks) and W.A.C (Walgett Aboriginal Connection) have probably been the three most dominant sides of recent times with N.A.B (Newcastle All Blacks) also pretty strong every year.

Ever since I was young the last week in August to the first week in October has always been the most exciting time of the year for me. I'd be playing semis through early August then most years our Grand Final. After that The NRL semis would roll around which meant Aboriginal Knockout time. This would comprise of a couple of weekends of smaller knockouts then The Big Knockout played the same weekend of the NRL Grand Final. It's at this Knockout where you would see some of the best Rugby League played.



I'm from Wellington (Wello) which is bang in the middle of Orange, Dubbo, Mudgee and Parkes. A lot of the footballers I idolised as a kid were from the Wellington Wedgetails (Champions 1998) or the Dubbo Pacemakers (Champions 1983), two teams who a lot of my mob played for. I loved watching the guns from both teams especially my Uncle Adrian Daley, Clinto Elemes, Adi Newman, Mick Peachey and 'SonBoy' Peckham. Favourites from other sides included Lindsay Munro (Moree Boomerangs) Rob Walford (Walgett B.A.C) Christo Binge (Moree Boomerangs) and Ewan McGrady (Toomelah Tigers) Walford and Binge were the sort of forwards you need in Knockouts and Munro and McGrady were two blokes that had incredible footwork speed and skills.

With the amount of talent on show it's not surprising that a lot of scouts are out and about soaking up the weekend and doing their best to find the next Nathan Merritt or the next Greg Inglis.

I believe since 2007 after the Redfern All Blacks Cec Patten - Ron Merritt Memorial Team went on their four year winning run the knockout has become a lot harder to win. They were so dominant a lot of teams were getting stacked to try to knock them off therefore teams were training earlier and harder; the majority of guys are eating healthier, players in the last ten years are much fitter and healthier and I reckon Wes Patten and Nath Merritt

"If you can imagine the one family continuously occupying the same land for 40,000 years or more, using it not just to sustain life but as a place of reverence and worship, where every tree, rock and water-hole had significance, you will get some understanding of the importance of land to indigenous people."

TANIA MAJOR, *Australian Aboriginal quote*



deserve a pat on the back for this This year will probably be the last year I get to play in one provided I am fit because I turn 40 in October and I always said I'd retire in my 30's, First things first I must get myself really fit to have a crack at winning my second big knockout.

The first time I won was twenty years ago with the best side I've ever played with , The 1998 Wellington Wedgetails. I was nineteen years old just about to turn twenty and at the time thought we were going to win a stack of them having about a dozen blokes under the age of 21. I haven't played in a Semi Final since let alone a Final. We were led by Mick Peachey and Rod Gundy Frail, two of the best knockout footballers you've ever seen. It was a real privilege to play in a side led by them. The side I will be barracking for this year if I'm not playing will be Nanima Common Connection. I really think we will give it a good shake and we all know a side from Wello is due to win it. I think the Yowies deserve favouritism but something is telling me a side whose name has never been on the trophy is going to win it this year, Maybe NCC, Cabbage Tree Island or Griffith 3 Ways.



When it comes to the ladies, I always love watching my little cousins play, Jenna Dungay, Rhianna Sutherland and The Shaw sisters Missy, Katie, Jess and Maddy. Some terrific players in the ladies game in recent times I think are Caitlyn Moran, Mahalia Murphy, Chloe Big Hits Caldwell, Nakia Davis Welsh and Lavina O'mealey who I think is the most talented player in the Womens game. I think we'll have to see a pretty stacked side this year if anyone is going to stop R.A.B's Four year unbeaten run. They were gone for all money last year but they just never say die and ended up getting the win after being down in the dying stages. Champion team.

In saying all of this, I love Rugby League but in recent times I don't remember watching a game from start to finish at the Knockout without missing something because so many friends and family that you haven't seen in a long time just come out of the woodwork and I'm too busy catching up to worry about what's going on out on the field and love re-connecting.

If you're young and heading to Dubbo for this years Big Knockout be careful. You might just end up meeting the love of your life and in ten years be the Mum or Dad of three or four beautiful children, But don't be too careful I've seen it happen before and it's a good thing.

GO NANIMA COMMON

In life,  
as in football,  
you won't go far  
unless you know  
where the goalposts are.  
*Arnold H. Glasow*



The difference between  
a successful person and  
others  
is not a lack of strength,  
not a lack of knowledge,  
but rather a lack of will.  
*Vince Lombardi*

CONNECTION!!!!

*A lot of Football success is in the mind,  
You must believe you are the best and then make sure you are  
Bill Shankly*



# Walk of the Month

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Mackerel Beach  
West Head Loop  
Enjoy!!!



Please wear suitable clothing, protective skin cream and always carry a bottle of water and a fully charged phone in case of an emergency...

“The man who moves a mountain begins by carrying away small stones.”

— Confucius,