

What is Warali Wali ?

Warali Wali is an exciting cultural initiative of interpretive Aboriginal artworks on Prospect Creek cycleway in Western Sydney.

Warali Wali is a series of four artworks and path markers telling stories of the local Aboriginal people, the Darug. These stories tell of the native flora and fauna of the local waterway, Prospect Creek. The artworks and markers were developed by Aboriginal artists with the support of the Darug Elders, the Traditional Custodians of these lands and the wider Indigenous community.

'Warali Wali' is a Darug word for possum, which is a Traditional Totem, or symbol, of the Darug people.

Where is Warali Wali?

Warali Wali is located on Prospect Creek cycleway, part of the Sydney wide cycleway network. The artworks are sited along an 8 kilometre stretch of the cycleway - between Gipps Road, Smithfield and Fairfield Road, Fairfield. A possum marker on the cycleway indicates the location of each artwork. All artworks are accessible by wheelchair except for 'Mananga', which is a short walk from the cycleway. Refer to the location map for local access roads.

Call 131 500 or visit www.131500.com.au for public transport information. Visit the RTA website www.rta.nsw.gov.au for cycleway information.

Traditional Stories

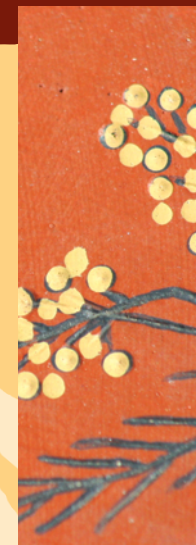
Darug culture has long been taught through Traditional story-telling. These stories are kept safe in the minds of the Elders and are passed down from one generation to the next. The complete stories are not written down out of respect to the Traditional Custodians.

1 'Yandel'ora' by artists, Jean and Jon South

Yandel'ora is the story of the Ravens and the Crows, and how these birds came to be separated by the mountains, represented by the sandstone boulders. The story tells of the clans between the River of Eels and the River of the Black Rock. The Seven Warriors, who help defeat one of the clans, are symbolised by seven different gum trees. The backdrop of trees and adjoining grass slopes form a natural amphitheatre and quiet resting place.



'Yandel'ora'



Detail from 'Mananga'



Photos: Anita Winter

2 'Mananga' by artists, Clive and Jason Groves

The story of Mananga, the Eagle Warrior, is depicted in this circular artwork surrounded by sandstone paving. The story tells of the Eagle Warrior's defeat of an evil magician and his followers, and the warrior's transformation into the protector of these lands.

3 'Dahl'wah' by artists, Clive and Jason Groves

Dahl'wah is the story of the Casuarinas, or 'She Oaks', which are native trees with fine needle-like leaves. The three panels tell how women make string for hunting tools, including fishing nets, from the Casuarina leaves by rubbing them on their legs. The women first remove leg hair using the rough leaves of the 'Tam'nun' or 'Sandpaper Fig'. Mothers teach their children that, should they become lost, they should find a stand of Casuarina trees and sit there until they are found. The soft leaf mat formed by the fallen leaves protects them from harmful animals such as snakes.



Detail from 'Dahl'wah'





Detail from 'Boo'kerrikin'

4 'Boo'kerrikin' by artist, Joe Hurst

Boo'kerrikin is the story of local wattles. The artwork depicts a man called 'Bulung', represented by the central rock, who devoted his life to identifying the differences between the Wattle Sisters, represented by the three pillars. All Bulung's attempts failed. The secret of the Sisters' differences is told in the ceramic tiles on the pillars.

All trees relating to the stories are sited near their artworks.



Artists: (from left to right) Jason Groves, Clive Groves, Jon South, Jean South and Joe Hurst at the 'Boo'kerrikin' artwork

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Special thanks is extended to the following for their contribution to the development of this project:

- Community Cultural Development New South Wales (CCDNSW)
- Darug Custodian Aboriginal Corporation (DCAC)
- Darug Elders
- Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council
- D'harawal Traditional Descendants' and Knowledge Holders' Council
- Earth Spirit Indigenous Services
- Fairfield City Council
- Gandangara Local Aboriginal Land Council
- Holroyd Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Consultative Committee (ATSICC)
- Holroyd City Council
- Holroyd's National Aboriginal and Islander Day of Celebration (NAIDOC) Working Party
- The wider Indigenous community

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Welcome to Warali Wali

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