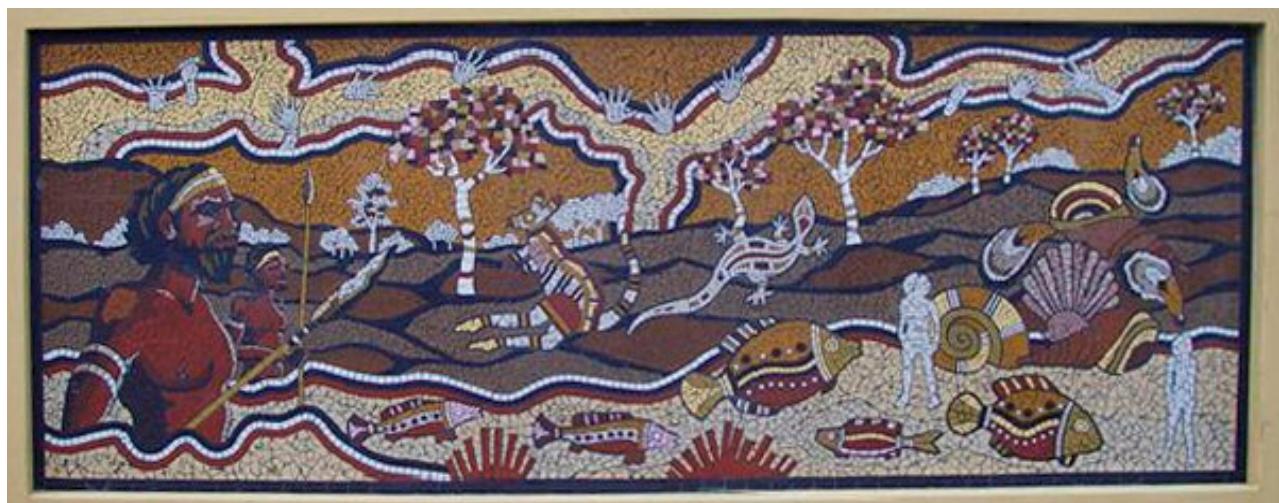


OUR INDIGENOUS MOSAIC

Do you know what a mosaic is? It's a work of art made by placing small pieces of cut mirror or tile into cement.

We have a mosaic in Gough Whitlam Park, Earlwood. It is one of many murals in Canterbury that celebrates our cultural diversity and unique heritage. This mosaic shows the Bidjigal people and their Country or *Ngurra*, which extended from the Cooks to the Georges River.



The Indigenous Mosaic in Gough Whitlam Park, Earlwood.

Photo: Ricc Rossi

The mosaic was designed by Danny Eastwood and made by Steven Vella. The big path at the top represents the spirit of the Bidjigal people, and the hands and footprints, their cave art. The river winds through the picture and the fish, shellfish, goanna and kangaroo represent bush tucker.

Shells mark the special places or middens where the Bidjigal sat to eat. Mostly these are on high ground next to the river.

Two Bidjigal males are shown. They are Pemulwuy and his son, Tedbury, who fought against the early British settlers. For the Bidjigal, they were courageous leaders.

Activity 1: Place a tick next to each feature or person as you find them in the mosaic.

spear scallop fish Eora rock Tedbury cockle
shell outcrops shell

Activity 2: Who were the two artists?

D _____ E _____ W _____ and
T V _____ E A.

Activity 3: With your teacher, discuss how the artists have chosen to represent the land and living things.

What shapes have been used?

What colours and patterns have been used?

The Aboriginal figures are of different sizes and the spirits of the river are smaller and white. Why do you think the artists showed them this way?

Overall, what were the artists trying to achieve?

Were they successful?

Activity 4: Your turn! Try your own artwork where you use similar shapes, colours and patterns to represent some special places in the Cooks River or Wollie Creek valley

Activity 5: You can find out more about this artwork and the Indigenous people in Canterbury and Marrickville using the Internet. There's lots of help on page 3 under, 'Further Research'.

Further Research

To find out more about this mosaic, go to the Canterbury Council website at: <http://www.canterbury.nsw.gov.au>

Click on 'Community and Residents' on the left navigation bar then 'Multicultural Programs and Services' then 'Street Mosaics' on the left navigation bar. Once in 'Street Mosaics', click the link to 'Indigenous mosaic'.

To find more general information about Aboriginal people of the Cooks River and Wollie Creek areas, click on 'Library and Heritage' on the left navigation bar then scroll to 'Aborigines in Canterbury'.

Also try Marrickville Council website at: <http://www.marrickville.nsw.gov.au>

Click on 'Community' on the top navigation bar, scroll to 'History' then 'Our Local History and the 'Cadigal-Wangal' website.

There are interactive maps and lots of information and images in the 'Native Landscape' section at:

<http://www.marrickville.nsw.gov.au/cadigalwangal/vegetation/biozones.htm>

- 'Land Use' at:
<http://www.marrickville.nsw.gov.au/cadigalwangal/vegetation/landuse.htm>
- 'Biological Zone' at:
<http://www.marrickville.nsw.gov.au/cadigalwangal/vegetation/biozones.htm>
- 'Bush Tucker' at:
<http://www.marrickville.nsw.gov.au/cadigalwangal/vegetation/bushtucker.htm>
- 'Healing the Land' at:
<http://www.marrickville.nsw.gov.au/cadigalwangal/vegetation/healing.htm>

You'll also see stories of Bennelong, Colbee and Barrangaroo.

See also 'The Cooks River'.

- Aboriginal Use at:
<http://www.marrickville.nsw.gov.au/cadigalwangal/river/use.htm>
- Early Exploration at:
<http://www.marrickville.nsw.gov.au/cadigalwangal/river/exploration.htm>