



Waddamoolie!

On behalf of Western Kangoulu Traditional Owners, we welcome you to our Country.

Our Ancestors have lived in connection to Country for thousands of years in a full and rich culture. Our culture is integrated with Country, including landscape, water, plants, rocks and the living systems around us. Our people interacted with the trees, rivers and water, animals, rocks, quarries and outcrops, vegetation, sky, spirits of places and more.

The artefacts shown here are a few examples of the artefacts of our ancestors lives and our heritage often described as Gordon Downs. They are precious and priceless to us, shaped by our Ancestors own hands and lives on this land, and they are as real to us today as when they were formed.

Our hope in creating this booklet is to share a part of our heritage and culture with you, and to pass on our great respect and awe for our Ancestors, Culture and Country as we work to preserve our culture for the present, future and emerging. We hope you enjoy learning and interacting with these artefacts, and we encourage you to think on the human hands and culture which shaped and formed them many years ago.

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HAMMERSTONE

This small hammerstone is classified as a micro-tool. It has evidence of impacts on both ends, indicating use for diverse knapping practices. Due to its size, and the size of its striking surfaces, this hammerstone is ideal for manufacturing small artefacts and finely retouching stone tools.



SCAN TO REVEAL IN 3D



WESTERN KANGOULU
CULTURAL ARTEFACTS



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MULLA & GRIND PLATE

These artefacts are a mulla (handheld grindstone) and a grind plate. They were used as a mortar and pestle for processing grains into flour or breaking down ochre, and the grind plate could also be utilised for sharpening ground-edge stone tools. Polish and striations are present on the grinding surfaces of both, indicating the extensive use of these tools.



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SCRAPER

This is a scraper, used for working sticks and animal skins. It has been retouched to sharpen and serrate the edges, with many of the flake scars being created after the tool was initially produced. The material is a very fine-grained matrix-supported silcrete, which is a hard, durable, and sharp rock. Silcrete is one of the most common types of rock used for stone tools in Australia.



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MULTI-TOOL

This artefact represents a multi-purpose tool. Polish and striations indicate it was used for grinding, probably grains. One edge has been sharpened, suggesting use as an axe, though it is not waisted for hafting. The opposite edge has pitting, which evidences use as a hammerstone. Hammerstones are hard, heavy rocks, usually with smooth round surfaces. They are used to produce stone tools by breaking flakes off of another rock. The flakes themselves can be used as tools, as well as the larger rock which is being shaped through the knapping.



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GROUND-EDGE AXE HEAD

This is a large ground-edge axe head. The visible groove, or waist, was created for hafting the stone onto a stick to make an axe. The right edge has been chipped, possibly during use. The entire axe head shows signs of polish, suggesting it has been thoroughly worked during manufacture and maintenance. Ground axe-heads come in many shapes and sizes, though they are most commonly round or oval. They can have one or more cutting edge, and may or may not have a waist. They are most commonly made from hard types of stone, such as basalt and greenstone.



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CHISEL

This artefact is a chisel for working with wood. The cutting edge has been shaped and sharpened on a grindstone. There is evidence of impacts on the blunt end, indicating it was also utilised as a hammerstone for working wood and/or stone. Chisels in this form are less common than axes and would have served a more specific purpose than other ground-edge tools.



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BLADE

This artefact is a blade, defined as a tool which is twice as long as it is wide. It has been shaped with retouch around both edges. The material is fine-grained matrix-supported silcrete with porous inclusions. Points such as this may have been hafted on the tip of a spear and thrown by itself or with a woomera. Alternatively, it may have been hafted onto a shorter handle as a knife, or simply used as a standalone tool for working plant or animal material.