THE ABORIGINAL PREHISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY OF ROYAL NATIONAL PARK
AND ITS SURROUNDING LANDSCAPES

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Natural History of the First National Park
A Family of New South Wales from a sketch attributed to Governor King. In Hunter 1793.


New Holland: New South Wales. Caves, hunting and fishing by the people of Port Jackson, by CA Lesueur (artist), 1824.

**HISTORICAL OBSERVATIONS**

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES IN ROYAL NATIONAL PARK

Curraurang Rockshelter with shell midden. Photograph Val Attenbrow

North Era Midden – shells and hearth stones. Photograph Val Attenbrow

Red fish in rockshelter. Photograph Illawarra Prehistory Group 2007

Grinding grooves beside rock pool. Photograph Illawarra Prehistory Group 2007

Engraved anthropomorph at Jibbon. Photograph Val Attenbrow
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

DISTRIBUTION OF ABORIGINAL SITES IN THE SYDNEY REGION, 2002

Royal National Park

Map produced by Val Attenbrow with Neville Baker and Gavin Martin, AMBS
DISTRIBUTION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES WITH COASTAL AND ESTUARINE SHELL IN EASTERN CATCHMENT OF SOUTHWEST ARM, RNP

Figure 16 from 2008 report by Illawarra Prehistory Group
Modified *Nerita atramentosa* shell. (a & b) Bundeena Beach excavations (WR Harper 1899; Aust.Mus. Reg. No E.08582). and (c) Bundeena UC Midden (Paul Irish 2007: Figure 2).

Microscopically analysed *Nerita atramentosa* shells from Cooks Stream, Kurnell (From L-R: P6/180-N1, D6-N1, D8-N1 & D8-N2). (Irish 2009 Figure 4.30).

*Nerita atramentosa* shells from Little Bay (Farquharson & Brown 2010)

Engraving interpreted as shell rattle or sistrum with two shields at Allambie Heights (Campbell 1899, Plate 12)
1960s EXCAVATIONS
CURRACURRANG 1

Curra curran g 1. Rock shelter from north east showing trenches excavated in the 1960s (Photograph by JVS Megaw, in documentation held at Australian Museum)

Curra curran g 1, Cutting 10: north and west sections showing three main occupation levels (Photograph by JVS Megaw, in documentation held at Australian Museum)
RADIOMETRICALLY DATED EXCAVATED SITES IN ROYAL NATIONAL PARK & SOUTH SYDNEY

(and other places mentioned; green dots are undated sites)
ROYAL NATIONAL PARK & SOUTH SYDNEY: RADIOMETRIC AGES

Graph 1

RNP & SS NO OF RADIOMETRIC AGES IN EACH MILLENNIUM (N=57, EX 4 'MODERN' AND 1 DOUBTFUL)

Graph 2

RNP & SS NO OF HABITATION SITES ESTABLISHED IN EACH MILLENNIUM (based on earliest ages N=25 sites)

Graph 3

RBP & SS NO OF HABITATIONS OCCUPIED IN EACH MILLENNIUM (assuming continual occupation, and excluding short-term events. N=25 sites, 57 ages)
STONE TOOLS INDICATE CHANGE OVER TIME –
e.g. BACKED ARTEFACTS

Backed artefacts. appear in SE Australia ~8500 BP; proliferate ~3500 BP; disappear or decline (regionally variable) ~1500 BP. Photographs Carl Bento, Australian Museum. Scale bar 1 cm.
STONE TOOLS INDICATE MOVEMENT OF GOODS AND/OR PEOPLE e.g. GROUND-EDGED IMPLEMENTS

Manly hatchet indicates hafting method; most archaeological specimens are found unhafted. Earliest ground-edged tools are ~3500 BP; Increase in numbers occurs ~1500 BP.
From turban shell to shell fishhook. Archaeological specimens from Captain Cooks Landing Place (BB4) and Bass Point (BP).

Shell fish-hooks and stone files first appear in coastal shell middens 900-1000 years ago. In NSW, they are only found between Port Macquarie in the north and the NSW-Victorian border in the south.

All photographs by Paul Ovenden, Australian Museum

Stone files from Boat Harbour (AM Reg No E49945-3); North Head (E.60718-11); Curracurrang 2; Quibray Bay (E.39230)

Shell fish-hooks from Aboriginal shell middens around Port Jackson (North Head and Woolwich) and Botany Bay (La Perouse, Kurnell).
REFERENCES


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