

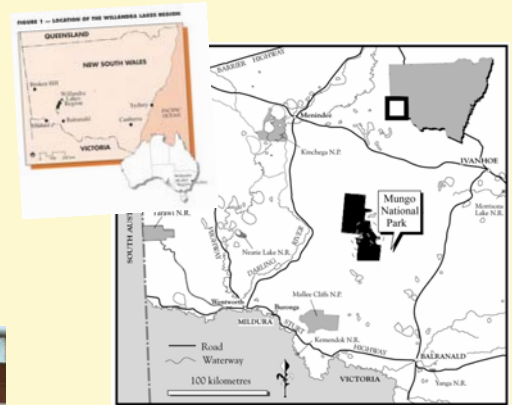


Connecting Back with Country The Discovery Ranger Program Mungo National Park Willandra Lakes World Heritage Area Australia

Warren Clark & Jeannette Hope
DECC & River Junction Research

Willandra Lakes World Heritage Area Mungo National Park

The WHA was inscribed for cultural and natural heritage: the dry lake lunettes preserve the oldest Aboriginal heritage in Australia, including the oldest human remains, as well as evidence of climate change through the late Pleistocene.



The Discovery Ranger Program

Discovery Rangers run guided tours at Mungo National Park in holiday periods. The program has for many years provided opportunities for young people especially students to work casually in the park system, and has been an important avenue of staff recruitment. For Aboriginal owned and managed parks, the program has provided employment for community members and an introduction to career opportunities.



At Mungo the Discovery Ranger Program has been transformed, as members of the 3TTG have taken over from non-indigenous Tertiary-educated park rangers, and faced the challenges of interpreting complex scientific information as well as Aboriginal culture. The success of the program with its positive impact on visitors can be attributed to the 3TTG Discovery Rangers' feeling of ownership and connection with Mungo.

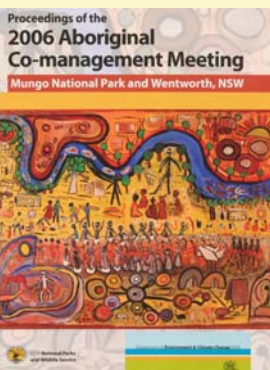


The Three Traditional Tribal Groups (3TTG)

The 3TTG are the Paakantyi, Ngiyampaa and Mutthi Mutthi. They jointly manage Mungo National Park, the Willandra Lakes World Heritage Area, and run the Discovery Ranger Program of guided tours.

Telling Mungo's Story

Telling Mungo's Story is a resource handbook prepared by Jeannette Hope specifically for the Discovery Rangers, about the land and people of the Willandra Lakes. In 2005-6 two training workshops were run at Mungo attended by 3TTG community members and park staff. These included cultural workshops on language, technical sessions on geology and archaeology and field trips.



Park Co-management

Mungo is one of 10 co-managed parks in New South Wales. Workshops are held between Aboriginal communities and the NSW government on management plans, employment and training, facilitation Aboriginal cultural practices etc.

NSW Tourism Award

In 2005, The Discovery Ranger Program, including 'Telling Mungo's Story', won the Indigenous section of the NSW Tourism Awards. Warren Clark, Executive Officer of the Mungo Joint Management Committee, accepted the award on behalf of the 3TTG.



More Willandra at WAC6

Leanne Mitchell, Tanya Charles and Michael Westaway
A Museum for Mungo?

Robert Biggs, Helen Healy and Michael Westaway

Archaeology, Deep Time and Reconciliation: Kid's teaching Kids at the Willandra Lakes World Heritage Area

Students from the Victorian College of Koori Education

Kids teaching kids – making archaeology real enough to matter

Contact us:
Warren: Warren.Clark@environment.nsw.gov.au
Jeannette: riverjunction@iinet.net.au

Photo credits: Moon over Mungo – Tim Fischer; others – Department of Environment & Climate Change, J. Hope. 3TTG Logo – Craig Charles.