

# **WANDANA**

## **ULTIMATE ARTEFACTS**

### **INFORMATION**





# THANK YOU!

Thank you for your purchase of our Wandana Aboriginal Artefacts and Education kit. We trust these authentic, individually crafted artefacts and Education materials will inspire your school community for generations. We have been supporting local Aboriginal Elders, craftsmen and communities for over thirty five years. This allows for our Aboriginal communities to remain on and connected to "Country" as well as honouring their traditional customs and methods, and also allows our Aboriginal communities to share their infinite wisdom and support our Wandana intention to:

**Empower Teachers, inspire students and leave a legacy!**

Our First Nations people were some of the first inventors. Wood and rocks were used to make tools for hunting and gathering, including axes, clubs and boomerangs. Canoes were made from large pieces of bark, sealed with resin to make them watertight. David Unaipon, found on the Australian \$50 note, created a Handpiece for sheep shearing and came up with helicopter designs years before the first helicopter was built

Here's a brief description of your Artefacts



## COOLOMON

This is a multi-purpose wooden bowl with curved sides of size approx 30-70cm in length. Aboriginal women use the Coolomon to carry water, collect fruit, nuts and other foods as well as for preparing food. It is also used to mix ochre paint for Ceremony as well as for Smoking Ceremonies. Babies would also be wrapped in possum or kangaroo skin and placed in the Coolomon to sleep with the wood being a great insulator from extreme ground temperatures.



## BULLROARER

Commonly known as the bush telephone, the Bullroarer is an ancient musical instrument and device used for communicating over vast distances. The Bullroarers were used only by men and spun above their head to create a whirring sound which could be heard over long distances. The sound also serves as a warning for the uninitiated to keep clear and to cleanse the area before Ceremony.





## DIDGERIDOO/ YIDAKI

Didgeridoo is the western name given to this unique musical instrument called Yidaki.

Created from a branch or trunk of a tree, hollowed out by hand or tool or naturally by termites.

Originating in the Northern Territory, the Yidaki is a wind instrument which was developed over 1,500 years ago. A clear rock painting on the northern edge of Arnhem Land, Northern Territory, from the freshwater period which began around 1,500 years ago shows a Yidaki player and two Songmen participating in Ceremony.



## WOOMERA

The Woomera is a traditional wooden spear throwing device. It acts as an extension of the human arm and creates a leverage effect to enable the spear to be thrown at a greater speed and force. Typically the Woomera is 60-90cm in length and 8cm wide.

The woomera was traditionally decorated with incised or painted designs that indicated belonging to a particular linguistic group, which would be returned to if found abandoned. The Woomera has been used for over 5,000 years and is still used in some remote areas of Australia today. The Woomera were also used for carrying water, soaked vegetable matter which could be later sucked for its moisture. Many Woomera had a sharp stone or bone on the end which would be used for cutting up food and even wood. This cutting stone or bone was attached with a black gum from the troidia plant.



## BOOMERANGS

The boomerang is a wooden device used for hunting, sport and entertainment by Aboriginal people. A returning boomerang would have been thrown above long grass to scare birds to fly into a waiting net. Depictions of boomerangs being thrown at animals can be seen in some of the oldest rock art in the world in the Kimberley region of the Northern Territory dating up to 50,000 years old.

The boomerang is believed to have been first encountered by white man at Port Jackson in December 1804 when the weapon was witnessed during a tribal skirmish. The oldest surviving boomerang was found in a peat bog in South Australia and dates back 10,000 years.



## HUNTING BOOMERANGS

The hunting boomerang is a non returning boomerang used for hunting game. The hunting Boomerang actually flies on a straight and level flight path towards its target out to 100m and more.

Non returning boomerangs were used to take out the legs of larger animals during hunting.



## NULLA NULLA

The nulla nulla (Bundi Stick) is a heavy, wooden club made by both men and women. It was used for hunting, hand to hand combat, making fires, mixing ochre paint and grinding seeds.

Generally around 40cm to 1m in length and sometimes had a stone attached with bees wax.



## CLAPSTICKS

Commonly known as Bilma, the clapsticks are wooden sticks around 20cm in length and used to create rhythm for someone playing the Yidaki. Commonly played by women by cracking them together or also hitting the earth.



## OCHRE

The Sacred, clay like material used for body paint ups and Ceremony. The ochre would be used to decorate the body with particular designs of significant meanings.



## EMU CALLER

The emu caller was a small 30cm section from a Yidaki or hollow branch which would be used for hunting. The sound created by hitting an open hand on one end would create the emu sound used to entice the animals out into the open space. Once the male emu was enticed away by the sound of the emu caller, an emu egg or two could be safely retrieved.





## DIGGING STICK

The digging stick is a thin wooden stick around 1m in length with multiple uses.

Commonly used to dig up vegetables and roots, drive out animals from burrows and also to create symbols in the dirt which formed the basis of stories being passed on to other generations.



## MESSAGE STICK

The message stick was a thin or semicircle slice of wood around 30-60cm in length which was engraved with or painted with a message indicating a particular tribal area. These message sticks were used by some tribal people when they travelled to different areas to show where they were from. They would also be used to communicate why they were traveling to another Aboriginal land including trade or marriage.



## KANGAROO & POSSUM SKIN

The kangaroo and possum skin had several uses including general clothing and for wrapping up a baby for sleep time. They were also used as Ceremonial cloaks, sometimes with detailed stories painted or burnt onto the underside of the skin.



## EMU FEATHERS

Aboriginal people used the emu feathers to make skirts which were made from bundles of emu feathers tied together and then fastened onto a vegetable fibre string belt. Some were also decorated with red ochre. The skirts were worn by Aboriginal girls and women.



## STONE AXE

Aboriginal people used axes to cut down small trees, chop wood, remove tree bark for canoes and shelters, butcher larger animals as well as other tasks. They were also used as weapons, ceremonial objects and valuable trade items. Various types of stones were attached to a wooden handle using animal tendons and cemented with plant resin and Sinue heated over a fire.



## SHIELD

Aboriginal shields come in many different forms depending on the tribe that made them and their function. Aboriginal shields generally come in two (2) main types, Broad shields and parrying shields. Parrying shields are made to deflect blows from a club and are generally thick, strong and narrow. Broad shields block spears and are generally wide but thin. These broad shields are sometimes used for hunting and used to shelter behind



## SPEAR

Aboriginal spears are typically made from saplings or vines. A wooden barb or stone tip is attached using kangaroo sinew and/ or spinifex resin. The opposite end is tapered to fit into the Woomera (spear thrower). And spears are typically 2.5-3m in length.



## EMU AND CROCODILE EGGS

Both emu and crocodile eggs are rich food source for Aboriginal people. With Emu's being the second largest bird in the world (after ostriches) their eggs are a sizable 600 grams on average. One emu egg is equivalent to roughly eight (8) chicken eggs and can feed up to six people. The yolk is very rich in fat, amino acid and protein.





## DILLY BAG

The dilly bag is a traditional Aboriginal bag generally woven from plant fibres . Dilly bags are mainly designed and used by women to gather and transport food, and are most commonly found in the northern parts of Australia. In Arnhem Land, Queensland, the Northern Territory and northern Western Australia, the plant species called Pandanus genus are often used. They are sometimes lined with animal feathers or animal fur to stop small pieces of food from falling through holes in the weave.

Although mainly used by women to gather food, they are sometimes used by men to help carry tools for hunting, hold personal items or sacred artefacts.



## FIRE STARTER

Sometimes referred to as Fire drills, the Aboriginal people had various methods to create fire.

Some tribal groups used flints or sharp stones to create sparks that would create fire. Other Aboriginal people used Fire drills or starters made from pieces of hardwood that were rubbed or spun on a piece of softwood to create friction. The resulting friction was enough to create fire.



## LINSEED OIL

The linseed oil included is to protect and preserve your precious artefacts. Gently wipe the artefact surfaces every six months, to ensure grain of the wood is penetrated by the linseed.

# IMPORTANT LINKS



<https://www.wandana.net.au/wandana-kits/kit-gallery/>

Here's the link for our video explanation of your  
Wandana artefacts and how they are made.



<https://www.wandana.net.au/wandana-kits/wandana-artefact-booklet/>

Here's a link for your Wandana e-book  
of the details above.





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